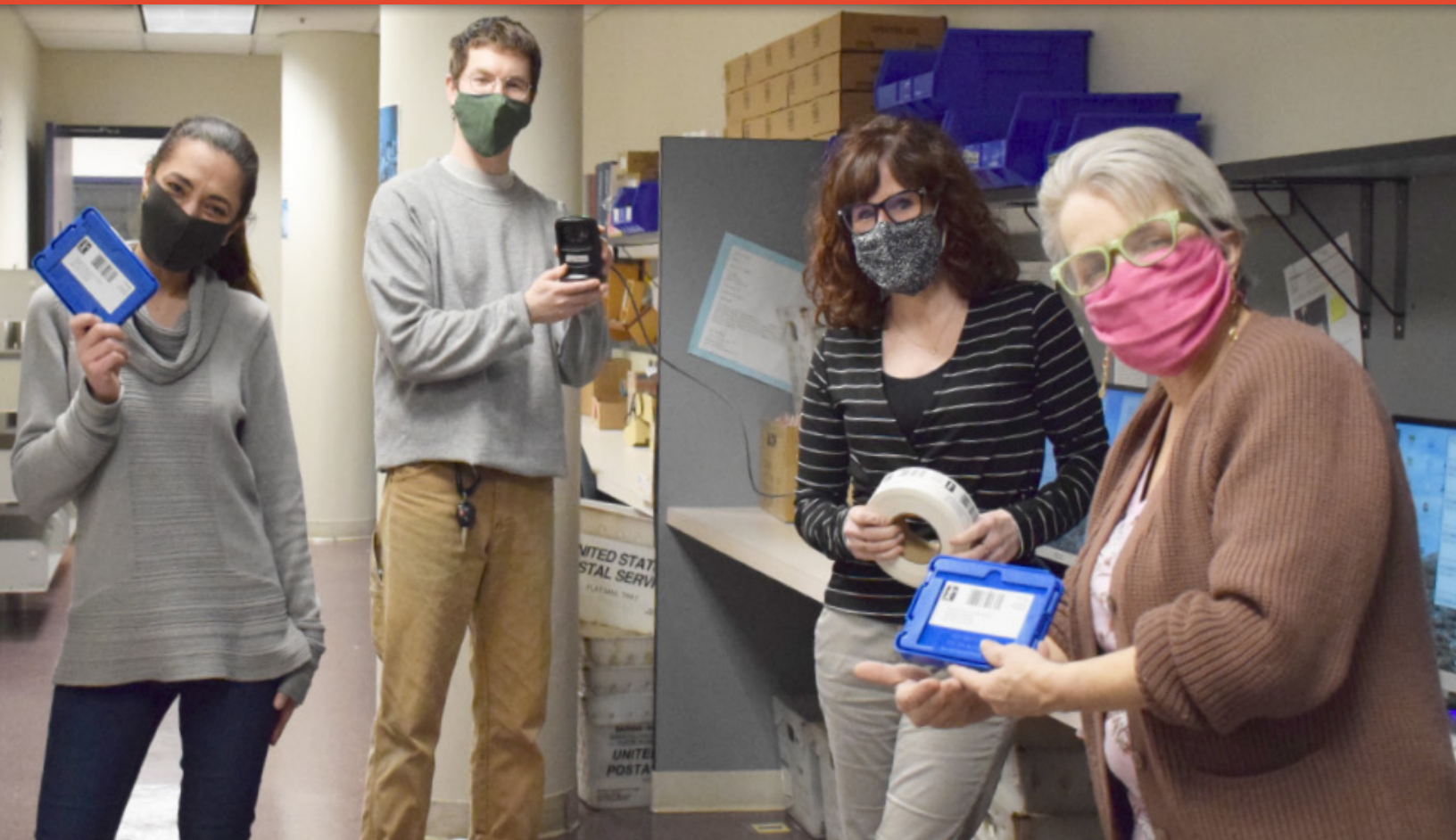


READING MATTERS

Winter
2021



WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-2783

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

Phone: (206) 615-0400 • Toll free: (800) 542-0866

wtbbl@sos.wa.gov • www.wtbbl.org



That All May Read

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY DANIELLE MILLER



As we reflect on this past year, it is very clear that in times of uncertainty and stress the need for our books is even greater. We frequently receive notes from patrons or family members letting us know how much the WTBBL service means in their lives. We hear comments like, "Talking books are a lifesaver," and "[WTBBL] gives me a whole new world out there." About BARD: "I used to always have a big, fat book with me. Now I still have that, in my iPhone!" We are grateful for the opportunity to provide such valuable services to our patrons. While 2020 was a challenging year, it was a year of growth, and there are exciting things on the horizon.

We are well underway in our transition to duplication-on-demand service for our audiobook patrons. This service provides multiple books on one cartridge and makes our entire collection available to readers at all times.

For our braille readers, we are excited to participate in the second phase of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) Braille eReader pilot. We will loan Zoomax braille eReaders to interested patrons so they can access our electronic braille collection. The devices have 20 cells, connect to Wi-Fi, and are USB- and SD card-compatible for downloading books directly from BARD. For patrons without Wi-Fi, or who do not use BARD, we can send books on a cartridge that will connect to the eReader with a cable.

In order to make more titles available in languages other than English, we are also participating in an NLS pilot of the Global Book Service hosted by the Accessible Books Consortium. In this limited pilot, we will be able to access audio titles in many languages under the Marrakesh Treaty. We are extending our Bookshare pilot another year and adding 50 more memberships. We are committed to providing as much access to reading material as possible, and in the formats that work best for you.

I wish everyone all the very best for 2021, and I hope you'll join us for our book club meeting in March.

On the cover: WTBBL's Alycia, Shane, Danielle and Sally Jo in the Duplication on Demand station (see page 3).

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YOUTH SERVICES NEWS

BY ERIN GROTH

Winter is wonderful at WTBBL Youth Services!

Late November saw the launch of Virtual Multisensory Storytime. Each week, excluding holidays, we posted a new 20-minute program with singing, dancing, storytelling, and more. Patrons interested in early literacy were offered free Multisensory Storytime Kits to be used while viewing the programs. These were so popular that we had to restock our materials twice! Kits included egg shakers, dancing scarves, dinosaur puppets, playdough, bubbles, and a list of songs and action rhymes. If you have a preschooler or toddler at home who would like a kit, please contact Youth Services for more information. All Multisensory Storytime videos are available to watch on WTBBL's YouTube and Facebook pages.

In December, WTBBL hosted a virtual dog mushing event with former Iditarod competitor Karen Land. The hour-long program was full of information about dog sledding, how the dogs stay warm by wearing boots, and how the race works. Attendees loved "meeting" the sled dogs and learning all about this very cool sport.

The Teen Advisory Board met again in January, and the spectacular art project they had a hand in creating was displayed at WTBBL. "Lend a Hand

So That All May Read" was a project fueled by our youth patrons' creativity. Children and teens from across the state made tactile handprints and sent them to WTBBL for framing. We got so many hands back that we were afraid they wouldn't fit on the wall in our public area! We made it work though, and this truly inclusive project showcases our youth patrons' diversity and artistic talent. We cannot wait until we are open to the public again so that visitors can experience the art installation in person.

Our first-ever virtual Braille Challenge will be held in late February for participants statewide. We will have information from the Braille Institute, virtual Zumba classes led by members of the Northwest Association of Blind Athletes, and, of course, a fun celebration of braille literacy. If you're a braille reader age 6-18 and would like to participate, contact Youth Services as soon as possible in order to register.

Want more information on Youth Services? Subscribe to DOTS: WTBBL's Youth Patron Newsletter via the link on the Youth Services page of the library's website for more information on the goings-on at WTBBL.

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CUSTOM CARTRIDGES ARE HERE

BY ALCIA ENSMINGER

Last fall, WTBBL implemented custom cartridges for over 6,000 patrons. Instead of receiving one book per physical cartridge, all patrons who signed up for this service are now receiving multiple digital talking books on a single cartridge. If you haven't received your first custom cartridge, but would like to, call us. This new delivery method will increase access to our collection for patrons who prefer to listen to books through our mail delivery service and enables us to leverage our resources in new ways.

When you call and speak to our readers' advisors, be sure to tell them about the types of books you enjoy. The titles on your custom cartridge are chosen from your preferences and requests, so the more information you provide, the better we can serve you.

Returning your custom book cartridge is simple: instead of turning over the mailing card, just remove it, as the library's address is printed on the container. If you find the cartridge is broken or there is a problem with the digital talking book, please wrap a rubber band around the container so our shipping department can pull it out of circulation.

If there is a change of status to your account, call the library and speak to a readers' advisor. Notes placed inside the cartridge container may not be seen by staff. Writing notes on the container label damages it and requires us to replace the entire container. We need your help keeping the custom cartridge materials in good condition for reuse.

We hope you are enjoying the new service, and we are excited to hear from you. Call us at (800) 542-0866 or (206) 615-0400, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., to discuss your service and to add more books that you enjoy to your account.

Check out our 2020
Annual Report online
at wtbbl.org!

Print copy available
on request by calling
(800) 542-0866.

“HAVE YOU READ”

BY KELEIGH RUSSELL



From classic to contemporary, the new “Have You Read” Collection has a little something to interest everybody.

I am a library science graduate from the University of Washington, and I have been working hard to create an assortment of books that will have something to offer for everyone who likes to read. It could be a mystery novel about a cat, an adventure set in the Pacific Northwest, or a riveting political biography.

The project began late last summer when I was looking for an idea. I needed something to work on for my culminating degree project but was overwhelmed with possibility. I was lucky to meet WTBBL Director Danielle Miller at a career fair, and for months I couldn't stop thinking about the library. I knew I wanted to do something that involved talking books!

Luckily there was a project that had already been envisioned — a collection that could give anyone a story to love.

I had some big questions on my mind when I started. I wondered, “How can I balance the diversity of topics that interest readers? How can I account for the genres that an individual might not like?”

I started by analyzing the most popular genres by looking at which books get checked out the most. While the collection is meant to give anyone something they'll like, I knew that it was important to tailor it to the people that read books from WTBBL. Based on what I found, I proportionately represented the most-loved genres and books. I also heavily considered popularity. Books that are wildly popular can often transcend the boundaries of genre, even for those who may feel strongly about fantasy novels or memoirs, for example.

There's a lot of possibility in the “Have You Read” tag. It can be a great way to revisit old favorites or explore a new genre. Because I chose books that are popular, you're sure to find something to buzz about, whether it's a hot-on-the-scene science-fiction book like *An Unkindness of Ghosts* or a well-known, romantic favorite like *Pride and Prejudice*. Why not roll the dice and find what awaits?

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NEW BOOKS IN BRAILLE

BY ED GODFREY

WTBBL's Braille Production Department and its volunteers have been working hard to make more locally produced books available to our patrons. Here are some of the latest titles:

BRW 8729 *A House on Stilts* by Paula Becker.

Hunter was a bright kid with a loving family, but he pushed boundaries until he pushed too far. His mother describes how he lost himself despite all the efforts to save him. Strong language. UEB. 2019. Transcribed by Joan Moritz. Also available in audio as DBC 15699.

BRW 8721 *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J.K. Rowling.

The first part of the summer after his fourth year at Hogwarts — covered in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (BRW 8720) — finds Harry back with the Dursleys, isolated in the Muggles' world. But that changes after he is attacked by Dementors. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 2003. Transcribed by Karen Hara. Also available in audio as DB 92233.

For Younger Readers:

BRW 8687 *Lobos: A Wolf Family Returns to the Wild* by Brenda Peterson.

The true story of a Mexican gray wolf family, known as lobos, with pups born at a sanctuary in Washington State near Mount Rainier and their eventual release into the

wild in Mexico. For Grades 2-4 and older readers. 2018. Also available in audio as DBC 15737.

BRW 8693 *Eggs and Chicks* by Fiona Patchett.

Which bird lays the biggest egg and how do chicks learn to fly? Learn all about eggs, chicks, and birds in this nonfiction book for beginner readers. For grades K-3 and older. 2003. Also available in audio as DBC 205.

BRW 8696 *Hazel and Twig: The Birthday Fortune* by Brenna Burns Yu.

Twig's first birthday is coming up, and her whole family — especially her older sister, Hazel — is eager to see what she will choose at her Doljabi. Whatever item Twig chooses will tell her fortune, but what will she pick? For preschool-grade 2. 2018. Also available in PRINT/BRAILLE as BRJ 1517, and in audio as DBC 15744.

BRW 8732 *Let's Talk About Body Boundaries, Consent, & Respect* by Jayneen Sanders.

Teaches young children about body boundaries, both theirs and others, and explores these concepts with children in a child-friendly and easily understood manner, providing familiar scenarios for children to engage with and discuss. For preschool and older readers. 2018.

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Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

BRJ 1528 *C is for Consent* by Eleanor Morrison.

A simple lesson about body boundaries appropriate for a wide range of ages. Boardbook. PRINT/BRAILLE. For preschool and older readers. 2018. Also available in audio as DBC 19052.

BRJ 1513 *Paul and His Ukulele* by Robert Broder.

Paul receives a ukulele as a gift and falls in love with music. His travels take him to a new town — and an unexpected adventure. PRINT/BRAILLE. For K-3. 2018. Also available in audio as DBC 15736.

BRJ 1516 *Chibi Samurai Wants a Pet* by Sanae Ishida.

Meet Little Kunoichi's buddy, Chibi Samurai. Inspired by Little Kunoichi's relationship with her pet ninja bunny, Chibi Samurai sets off to find a companion for himself. He explores many possibilities from Japanese culture — both real and mythical — thinking

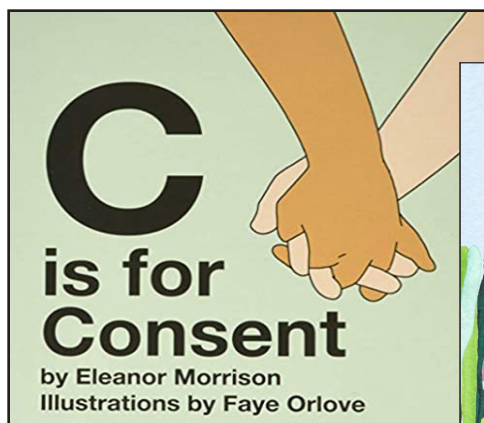
about how each creature might be as a pet. PRINT/BRAILLE. For preschool and older. 2017. Also available in audio as DBC 15739.

BRJ 1526 *I Think I Can* by Karen S. Robbins. Aardvark and Mouse learn to sing and read in this conversation-style book. Simple text. PRINT/BRAILLE. For preschool and older readers. 2019.

BRJ 1523 *The Gentleman Bat* by Abraham Schroeder.

Join the charismatic gentleman bat and his friends on a night time stroll down cobblestone streets where the town is lively and energetic. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades 2-4. 2014. Also available as BRW 8683, and in audio as DBC 15747.

BRJ 1529 *The Skin I'm In* by Pat Thomas. A simple explanation of racism, its basic causes, and the ways in which it can lead to unfair practices. For preschool and older. PRINT/BRAILLE. 2003. Also available in audio as DBC 19051.



NEW AUDIO BOOKS FROM WTBBL

BY JOHN PAI

With the change in seasons, it's a good time to rediscover some older titles that are newly available in the NLS catalog. Here in WTBBL's Audio Book Production Department, we are in the process of uploading local books produced before BARD was available. Now older titles will be available to all patrons. Here are a few classic highlights.

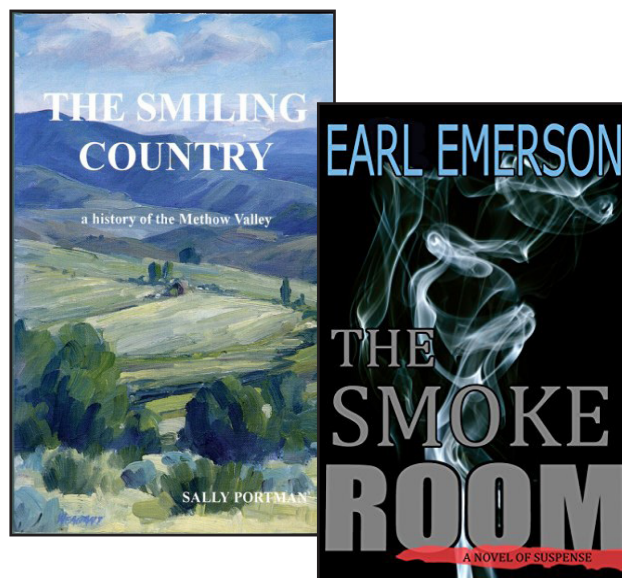
DBC 7065 *The Smoke Room: A Novel of Suspense* by Earl Emerson.

Some might call it a sign that Jason Gum began his new job as a firefighter with a call to clean up the remains of a pig that had fallen 11,000 feet through the roof of a Seattle home. Mistakes and social foibles compound as this noir mystery unfolds, introducing the star-crossed Gum to villainy, life-threatening challenges, and a love affair with a seductive older woman. 2005. Narrated by Steve Hunziker. Also available in braille as BRC 1197 and BRW 1301.

DBC 16871 *Greywalker* by Kat Richardson. When Seattle private investigator Harper Blaine is brutally assaulted, the two minutes she spends clinically dead alters her perceptions. Her new ability to move in between the world of humans and the Grey, the world of ghosts, begins to attract otherworldly clients. 2006. Narrated by Mary Schlosser.

DBC 7125 *The Smiling Country* by Sally Portman.

A comprehensive history of Washington State's Methow Valley. Includes information on the geology, wildlife, Native Americans, early explorers, settlers, and development of the Winthrop area. 2002. Narrated by Floyd Hutton.



DBC 16933 *The Kiss of the Bees* by J.A. Jance.

Diane Ladd Walker and her family are again pursued by a vicious killer, tutored by the villain in the previous book, *Hour of the Hunter* (DBC 12861), as the story alternates between the past, the present, and tales of Arizona Indians. 2000. Narrated by Eileen Gruhn.

DBC 7121 *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister.

Eight students gather in Lillian's Restaurant for a weekly cooking class. Each one seeks

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a recipe for something beyond the kitchen. Claire, a young mother, struggles with a demanding family; Antonia, an Italian kitchen designer, adapts to American life; and Tom mourns the loss of his wife to breast cancer. Chef Lillian helps them create dishes whose flavor expands into the secret corners of her students' lives. 2009. Narrated by Karen Manarolla.

DBC 7135 *My Name is Mary Sutter* by Robin Oliveira.

Traveling to Civil War-era Washington, D.C., to tend wounded soldiers and pursue her dream of becoming a surgeon, headstrong midwife Mary receives guidance from two smitten doctors and resists her mother's pleas for her to return home. 2010. Narrated by Rick Sipe.

DBC 16879 *A Life Wild and Perilous: Mountain Men and the Paths to the Pacific* by Robert Marshall Utley.

This vivid and heroic chronicle about the exploration of the American West tells the story of a small but distinctive group of mountain men whose knowledge and experience of the Trans-Mississippi West extended the national consciousness to continental dimensions. 1997. Narrated by Carter Bentley.

DBC 16850 *Food Pets Die For* by Ann M. Martin.

The author reveals the unsavory ingredients found in commercial pet foods that are potentially dangerous for the animals who

eat them. Book includes recipes to cook for cats and dogs. 2008. Narrated by Holly Chaffin.

DBC 16847 *First Person Plural* by Cameron West.

A candid memoir by a psychologist about his development of Dissociative Identity Disorder, the experience of living with multiple personalities, and his treatment. 1999. Narrated by Ed Kennedy.

For the younger folks we have:

DBC 16860 *Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator* by Jennifer Allison.

During the summer before ninth grade, intrepid Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his thirteen-year-old daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower. 2005. Narrated by Jennifer Harkins.

DBC 6769 *The Return of the Killer Cat* by Anne Fine.

Ellie's cat, Tuffy, always claims innocence, or at least justification, in all his actions. This time a vacation caretaker seems to think dried-out food is edible and a neighbor girl manages to waylay him for a humiliating game of dress-up. 2007. Narrated by Laurie Bialik. Also available in braille as BRW 1300.

NEW AUDIO BOOKS (CONT.)

DBC 16859 *Geography Club* by Brent Hartinger.

Russel and other closeted gay students form the "Geography Club" at their intolerant small-town high school as a way for getting together in secret to talk. They welcome several straight kids, too, who feel pushed out and pushed around in the sometimes mean social scene. Through his rise to popularity as a "straight" jock and his fall to exile as "the gay kid," Russel learns about love, betrayal, cruelty and forgiveness. He figures out what kind of person he wants to be. 2003. Narrated by Robert Phillips.

DBC 16865 *Grape Thief* by Kristine L. Franklin.

1925, Roslyn, Washington. Twelve-year-old Slava Petrovich is upset that he must soon leave school to help support the remaining members of his coal mining family. Joining other boys in stealing grapes from a yearly freight train, he and a friend decide that riding the rails back to California might offer them their best chance to find well-paid work. 2003. Narrated by Marilyn Mason.

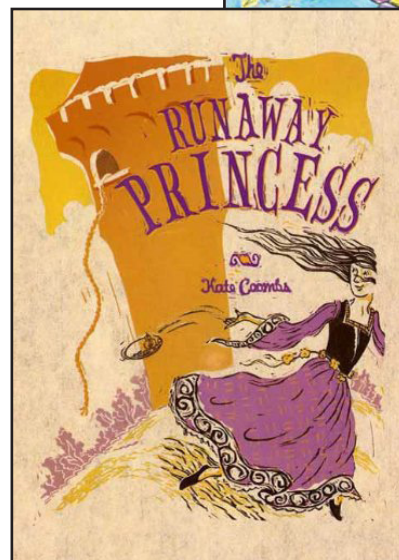
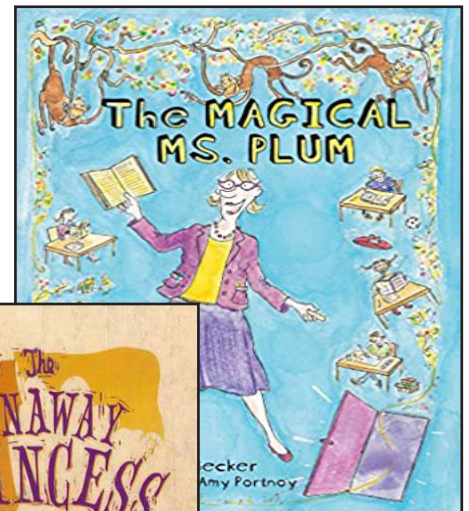
DBC 7104 *The Magical Ms. Plum* by Bonny Becker.

The third grade students know two things: there is something very magical about their classroom and Ms. Plum knows that

every year her new class will be the best one ever. Every year, she is right! 2009. Narrated by Zoanne LeRoy.

DBC 7120 *The Runaway Princess* by Kate Coombs.

Princess Meg resents being the prize offered to the prince who rids the kingdom of a witch, a dragon, and Robin Hood-like bandits, and besides would rather protect those things than destroy them. With the help of friends, she escapes the tower where she is "sequestered" to take on that challenge. 2006. Narrated by Sydney Allrud. Also available in braille as BRC 624 and BRW 1274.



QUARTERLY PATRON BOOK CLUB

BY DANIELLE MILLER



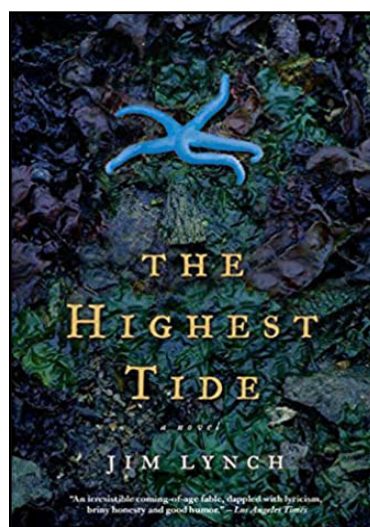
**WTBBL Director Danielle
will lead the Book Club**

The WTBBL Book Club is a fun, entertaining and lively discussion of a book by a Northwest author or with Northwest interest. The titles we read will be available in audio and braille, both on BARD or for you to order from the library. The next meeting of the book club will be Wednesday, March 24, from 2 to 3 p.m. Patrons can participate by telephone using our free conference-call service. You can join the discussion by calling (800) 920-7487, participant code 39258344#.

We will read *The Highest Tide* by Jim Lynch (DBC 15783/BRC 733). One moonlit night, 13-year-old Miles O'Malley, a speed-reading insomniac out looking for tidal specimens in Puget Sound, discovers a giant squid stranded on the beach. As the first person to see a giant squid alive,

he finds himself hailed as a prophet. But Miles is really just a kid on the verge of growing up, infatuated with the girl next door, worried that his bickering parents will divorce and fearful that everything, even the bay he loves, is shifting away from him. As the sea continues to offer up discoveries from its mysterious depths, Miles struggles to deal with the difficulties associated with the equally mysterious process of growing up.

Let us know if you would like to participate so we can contact you with any updates or schedule changes. You can request a copy of the book or let us know you will be joining us by calling (800) 542-0866 or emailing wtbbl@sos.wa.gov. We look forward to talking about books with you!



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Thank You to Our Donors from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 2020

Thank you to all our donors, patrons, and champions. The past year has been challenging for all of us, and we appreciate the amazing support we've received from all of you. Every donation is appreciated, no matter the amount, and helps us better serve you. You can send a check to: WTBBL, 2021 9th Ave., Seattle, WA 98121-2783, or you can give securely online at www.wtbbl.org.

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Stella Eckley
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Nancy & David Edwards
David Egan
Shirley Elliot
David Elliott
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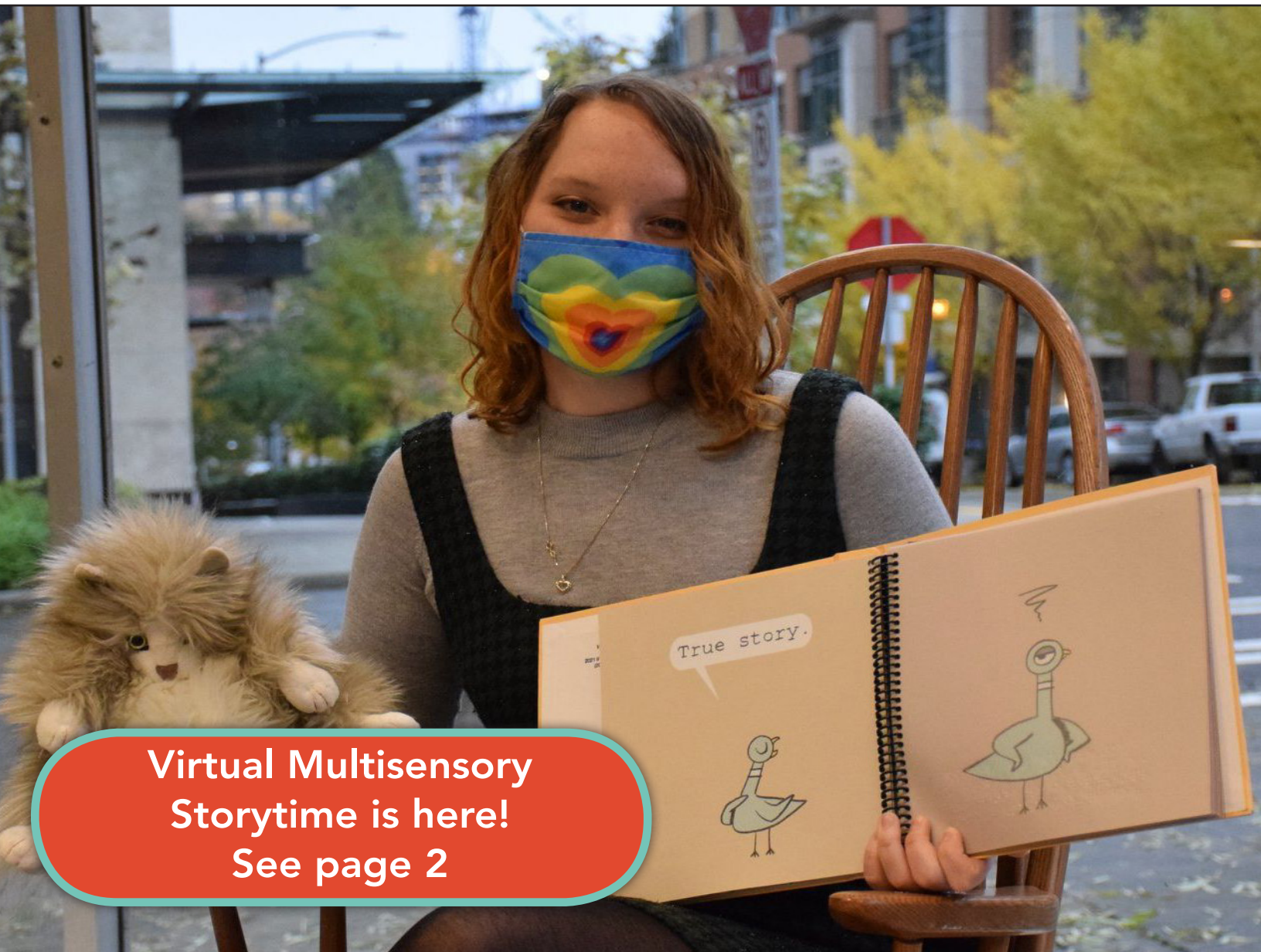
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