

What is happening at JPL?

- Chat & Craft: [May 6](#)
- Economic Security Outreach Worker Visit: [May 15](#)
- SNAP Outreach Visit: [May 16](#)
- Tiny Library Desk- A JPL Teen Concert: [May 30](#)

The Library will be closed May 26 for Memorial Day. View the [online calendar](#) for MORE events for Children, Teens & Adults.

You should know...

Joplin Reads Together Final Look

Thank you all for another amazing Joplin Reads Together! Your enthusiastic participation has made this program a success each year. Joplin Public Library loves encouraging our community to read together and enjoy all the benefits of ongoing discussion and awareness of Library resources. Cheers to *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* and to you!

Participation

Webpage Users: 683
Facebook Group Members: 202

Circulation

JPL Books: 45
JPL Audiobook: 3
JPL Book Kits (10 books): 2
Libby eBook: 35
Libby eAudiobook: 51
Books sold by Friends: 51

Author Visit

103 attendees

Attendees	Event
24	PAL: My Midwest Reception (exhibits from March 27-April 27)
38	Chat and Craft: Cookie Cutter Stamped Tea Towels
35	Friends of JPL From Page to Post- Celebrating The Lager Queen with Local Brava
26	MSU Dr. Megan Beaver - "Beer, Bodies, and Being: Gender and Identity in American Culture"
60	Take Home Kit: Painted Cork Coasters
100	Pie Making with Corie from Big R's Pies
100	Midwestern Tales & Maple Ale: DTF Brewed in a Bag
12	Let's Dish Book Discussion (2)
36	Deutsche Kinow Midwestern Trium Night

Events

10 events
431 attendees

Community Engagement

Appearances on Living Well and Good Morning Four States, coverage by Joplin Globe, Show Me Magazine, Community Scavenger Hunt with local businesses




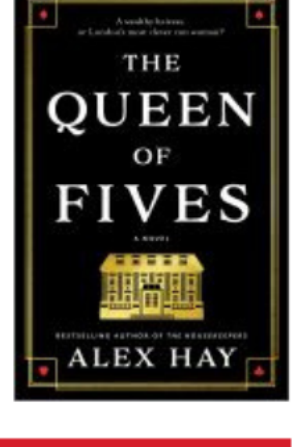

Survey Said

"There was something for everyone - from craft to lectures to food & drink"
"Enjoy the community involvement - anything to get people reading"
"Love your creativity in programming"
"This is my 3rd! I love them!"


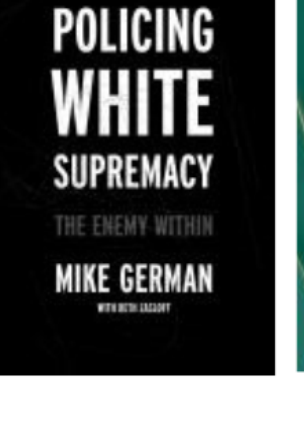

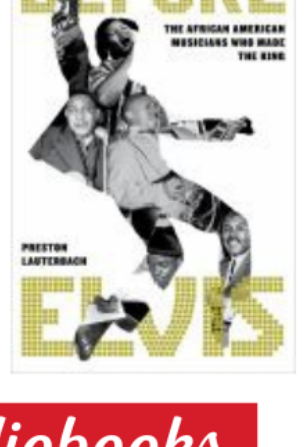
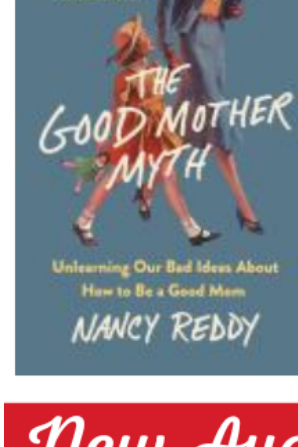
New & Upcoming

New Items In Our Catalog





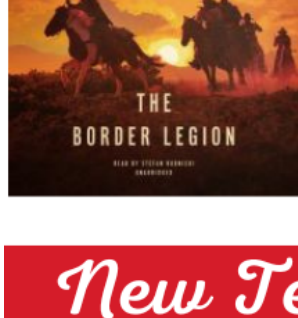
New Fiction





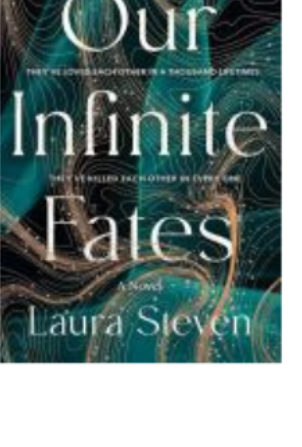

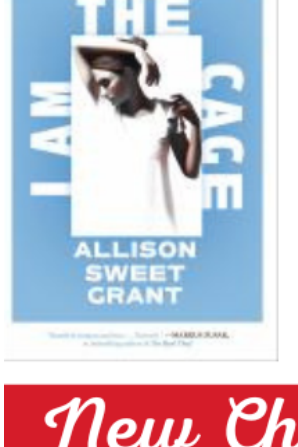
New Non Fiction






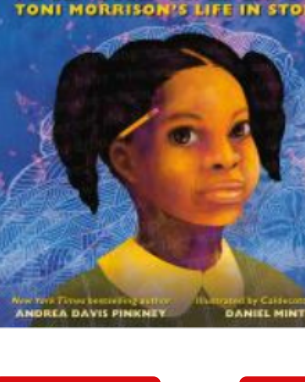
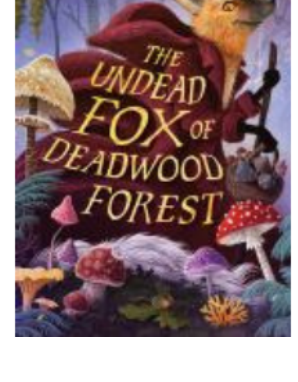
New Audiobooks



New Teen



New Childrens



For more NEW Titles, check out each area in our catalog!

Fiction

Non Fiction

Audiobooks

Teen

Children's

Resource Spotlight

Graphic Novels

by Youth Services Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson


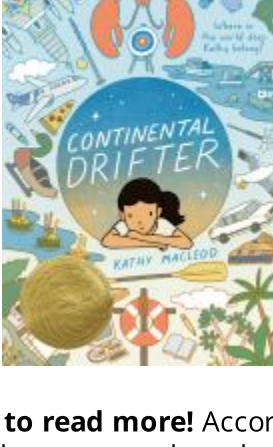
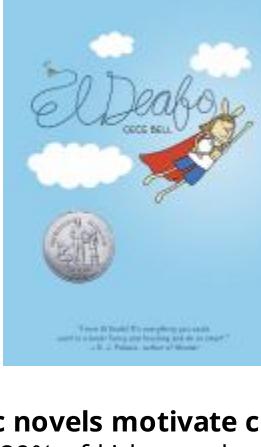
Is your 9 year old Dog Man-obsessed? Does your teen reader spend all their time in the graphic novel section of the library? If you have spent any time around younger readers, you have likely witnessed the increased interest in graphic novels and manga. According to almost 900 school and public library staff surveyed by *School Library Journal* (2023), youth interest in these formats has risen over 50% in the last few years. As a direct response, libraries are purchasing more of these titles.

In my daily interactions with parents and caregivers, I overhear many concerns about the validity of graphic novels. Parents often wonder whether they have literary merit or are a waste of time.

(First, I should note that parents and caregivers should decide what works best for their family and individual readers. My goal is to, hopefully, alleviate some concerns about the quality of graphic novels.)



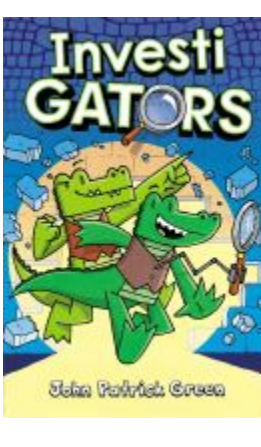
Research shows that children are learning when they read graphic novels (Scholastic, 2024). Graphic novels can include rich vocabulary, complex plotlines, and multiple perspectives. Several graphic novels have even won top awards. In 2020, Jerry Craft's *New Kid* was awarded the Newbery Medal for "the most distinguished contribution to literature" (ALA.org). This graphic novel addresses issues ranging from fitting in at a new school, family and friend dynamics, and acceptance of and respect for differences. The characters look critically at stereotypes of various friend groups and learn the danger in assuming things about certain groups of people. Even a series as silly as *Dog Man* requires a reader to understand character development, cause and effect, and storytelling techniques and vocabulary (Scholastic, 2024).

Graphic novels can also foster empathy in young readers. Children can read and learn about a variety of experiences through graphic novels. They can learn about what it's like to have hearing aids in the Newbery Honor-winning *El Deaf* by Cece Bell. They can learn about what it's like to move to a new country from books like *Continental Drifter* and *Uprooted* by Ruth Chan. Readers can also analyze facial expressions to determine how a character is feeling.



Graphic novels motivate children and teens to read more! According to Scholastic's Kids and Family Reading report, 89% of kids say that their favorite books are ones they chose themselves.

Dog Man is mostly funny, and that's okay! I have worked in the Children's Department for 10 years, and I don't know that any other book has turned so many reluctant or non-readers into readers. When they inevitably read the last book in the series or arrive to find that all the **Dog Man** books are checked out, we are ready and willing to recommend other, similar books. John Patrick Green's *InvestiGATORS*, Mac Barnett and Shawn Harris' *The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza*, and Aaron Blabey's *Bad Guys* have all filled the half-man, half-dog shaped hole for many readers. When they start to read those in one sitting, they will inevitably check out more books so they don't run out in between library visits.



Finally, reading a graphic novel can be less intimidating for both new and seasoned readers. Kids who feel confident while reading are more likely to want to continue reading. Their length and visual elements make reading seem more feasible for kids and teens who are less confident readers or simply have less time. Between school, sports, and other extracurriculars, it can be difficult to find the time to read. If a young person is choosing a graphic novel (or any book) over any of the other things vying for their attention, I think that's pretty incredible.

Come today & see!

Summer Reading: Color Our World

Joplin Public Library is excited to announce the **2025 Summer Reading Program** theme: "Color Our World"! For 2025, we invite you to embark on a journey of art and creativity, celebrating the many ways in which art enriches our lives. Summer Reading is designed to inspire and engage readers of all ages to find their creativity at the Joplin Public Library!

Summer Reading has something for everyone, and the best part is that it's all available at no cost to our community! In fact, our Summer Reading program includes **FREE LIBRARY CARDS FOR EVERYONE!**

Anyone who signs up and spends time reading from May 27-July 20 gets the chance to turn those minutes into fabulous prizes! Along with prizes, the library offers a variety of events to attend, including movies, entertainers and presenters both fun and educational, an end-of-summer bash, and more.

While fun, Summer Reading Program provides more than just entertainment. It helps children and teens retain academic skills during the break, improves reading comprehension and vocabulary, and fosters a lifelong love of reading. The program also encourages community engagement for families and individuals alike.

