



Visalia Learning Center

Newsletter
January 13, 2012

Volume 10, #11



Teachers: Click here to request items to be delivered to your school

Location: 630 S. Atwood (Behind VUSD district office)

Hours: 8 AM-5 PM Monday – Friday

Closed Monday January 16, February 13, 20

Call us at 730-7688

We are open to all Visalia, Ivanhoe, and Goshen residents and all employees of Visalia public and private schools.

[Search the VLC Collection](#)

[George Pilling](#) is responsible for this newsletter. Please [email comments or suggestions](#).

Need reference sources? Check these out, which have been purchased for you by the VLC:

[World Book Online](#) | [Discovery Education Streaming](#) | [Toucan Fact Cards](#) | [Search the VLC Collection](#)

Use our [Materials Request Form](#) to request items from our collection to be delivered to your site.

Tulare County History Site

for third grade social studies

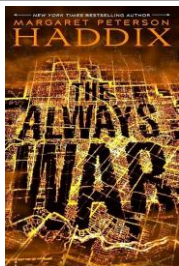
<http://visalia.k12.ca.us/library/tchistory> or www.tularecountyhistory.org

This site is under construction and needs your input! contact George for more information

Teachers! Parents! Check the Instructional Coach web site at <http://www.vusd.org/Academics.cfm?subpage=16104> for links to the textbook publishers' pages about your students' books. (Go to Curriculum Tools, Textbook Support.) Most of these include practice pages, help, and lesson planning advice for teachers.

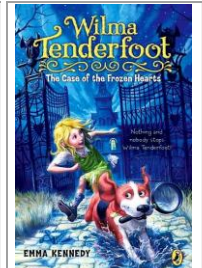
Spotlight on New Books

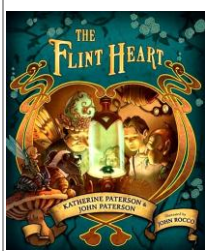
Fiction



The Always War by Margaret Peterson Haddix In a war-torn future, fifteen-year-old Tessa and two friends enter enemy territory and discover the shocking truth about a war that began more than seventy-five years earlier.
RL 4.3 grades 6-10

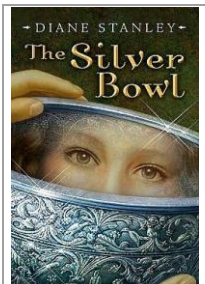
Wilma Tenderfoot: The Case of the Frozen Hearts by Emma Kennedy. Ten-year-old Wilma is a budding detective looking for the mystery of who her parents are and finding answers to other mysteries along the way.
RL 5.8 grades 3-6





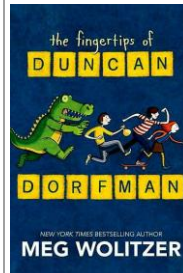
The Flint Heart by Katherine Paterson and John Paterson. Charles and his sister Unity must find a way to rescue the humans, fairies, and animals from a magical amulet that brings power and despair to those who touch it.
RL 6.4 Interest level grades 3-8

The Tanglewood Terror by Kurtis Scaletta. When a giant glowing fungus attacks thirteen-year-old Eric's small town, he and friends try to stop it--and figure out what happened to the Puritan town that had mysteriously disappeared from the same spot.
RL 4.5 Interest level grades 3-6

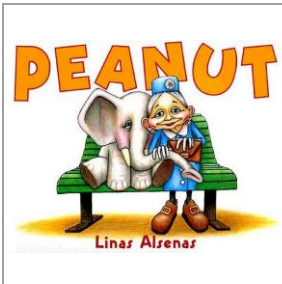


The Silver Bowl by Diane Stanley. From the age of seven when she became scullery maid in a castle, Molly has seen visions of the future which, years later, lead her and friend Tobias on an adventure to keep Alaric, the heir to the throne, safe from a curse.
RL 6.0 Interest level grades 5-8

The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman by Meg Wolitzer. Three twelve-year-olds meet at the Youth Scrabble Tournament where, although each has a different reason for attending and for needing to win, they realize that something more important is at stake than the grand prize.
RL 5.7 Interest level grades 4-7

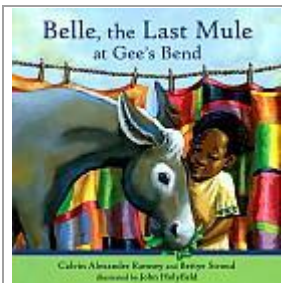
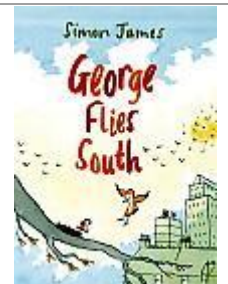


Picture Books



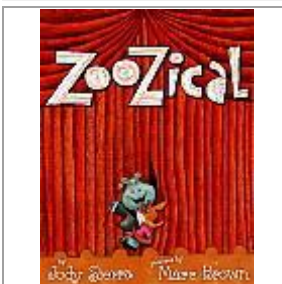
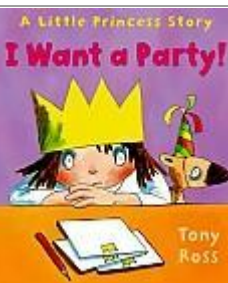
Peanut written and illustrated by Linas Alsenas. A lonely old woman mistakes a stray elephant for a dog and tries to keep it as a pet.
RL 2.1 Interest level K-3

George Flies South written and illustrated by Simon James. George does not feel ready to learn to fly, leave his nest, and go south with the other birds, but when a strong autumn wind takes the nest, he has no choice.
RL 1.6 Interest level K-3



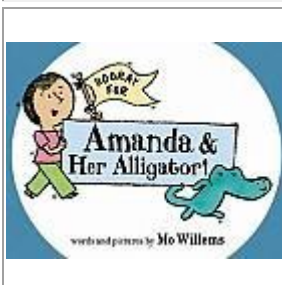
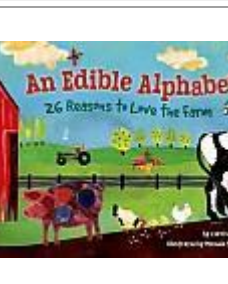
Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend by Alexander Ramsey and Bettye Stroud, illustrated by John Holyfield. In Gee's Bend, Alabama, Miz Pettway tells young Alex about the historic role her mule played in the struggle for civil rights led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
RL 2.4 Interest level K-3

I Want a Party! written and illustrated by Tony Ross. A little Princess story. The Little Princess decides to throw a party, but after all her efforts to organize everything, she forgets one important detail.
RL 2.4 Interest level P-2



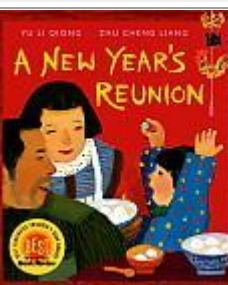
ZooZical by Judy Sierra, pictures by Marc Brown. A very small hippo and a young kangaroo decide to stage a "ZooZical," a show to display their singing, dancing, acrobatic, and other talents to the people of Springfield.
RL 3.2 Interest level P-3

An Edible Alphabet by Carol Watterson, illustrated by Michela Sorrentino. A rhyming alphabet that names things related to modern farming, and provides background information on each one.
RL 4.8 Interest level P-2



Hooray for Amanda and Her Alligator written and illustrated by Mo Willems. Amanda and her alligator have lots of fun together, but when Amanda's grandfather buys her a panda, Alligator must learn to make new friends.
RL 2.6 Interest level P-2

A New Year's Reunion by Yu Li-Quong, illustrated by Zhu Cheng-Liang. A visit by her father who works far away brings joy to Little Maomao during Chinese New Year.
RL 2.8 Interest level K-3

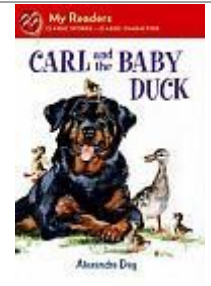


Beginning Readers



Frog and Friends by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Josée Masse. Frog and his friends are alarmed by a strange object that appears on his pond, share a thoughtful--if scratchy--gift, and meet a hippopotamus that has run away from the zoo in several chapters
RL 1.7 Interest level K-2

Carl and the Baby Duck by Alexandra Day. Carl the dog searches the park in an effort to help Mama Duck locate a missing baby duck.
RL 1.4 Interest level K-2

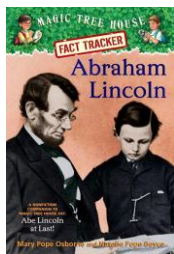
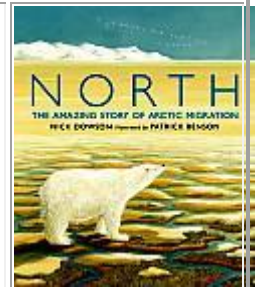


Non-Fiction



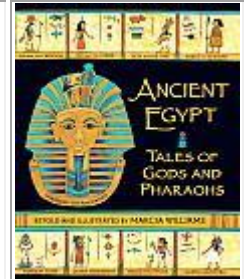
Just a Second by Steve Jenkins. Describes a series of events in the natural world to provide an exploration of how people think about time.
RL 4.7 Interest level grades 3-6

North: the Amazing Story of Arctic Migration by Nick Dowson, Illustrated by Patrick Benson Celebrates the migration of millions of animals to the Arctic tundra.
RL 4.7 Interest level grades 3-6

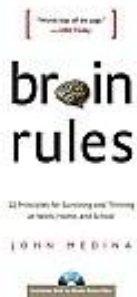


Abraham Lincoln by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce. These Fact Checker books go along with the very popular Magic Treehouse series.
R.L. 5.6 Interest level grades 3-6

Ancient Egypt: Tales of Gods and Pharaohs retold and illustrated by Marcia Williams. Provides insights into ancient Egyptian civilization through retellings of nine myths. Presented in comic strip style.
RL 4.5 Interest level Gr. 4-8

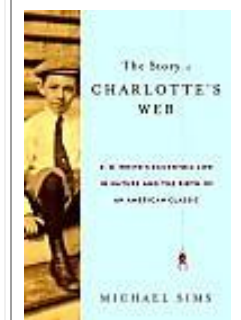


Professional Reading



Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School by John Medina. Contains 12 principles for keeping your brain healthy and working properly.

The Story of Charlotte's Web: E.B. White's Eccentric Life in Nature and the Birth of an American Classic by Michael Sims. Chronicles the life of author E.B. White, describing how his animal-rich childhood, years with "The New Yorker," farm in Maine where he lived with his wife, and his love of the natural world all inspired him to write his most popular book, "Charlotte's Web."



Visalia Community Bank donates new bags to the VLC

The Visalia Community Bank has given 400 cloth bags to the Visalia Learning Center. We use these bags for our patrons to take books home. Teachers and parents appreciate the bags greatly; we have gone through several hundred bags this year already.

If you have a cloth bag you can donate to the VLC, they are gladly accepted. And – if you have any of our bags that you forgot to return, please bring them back next time you are here.

Teachers

Did you know that we can send books to your school library on the subjects that you are about to teach? During your class library time, your students can check out the VLC books as well as the ones in your school library. Let us know in advance if you would like this service.

You can also request books to be sent to you for your classroom at particular levels. Just email [Judy](#) or [George](#).

Goings on About Town

- [Imagine-U Children's Museum](#) is open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Wednesday-Friday and 12-4 on Saturdays.
- [The Enchanted Playhouse](#) presents **The Little Mermaid** February 3-18. Classes – reserve your places now!
- [Arts Visalia and other art venues](#) have great things going on for all ages!
- [The Tulare County History Museum](#) in Mooney Grove is a great place to take kids to learn more about Tulare County History. Call 733-6616.
- [Impact Center](#) (ongoing) multi-media free shows that support and enhance the curriculum. 733-6433

Author Visits

Kate Hovey, poet and classicist, will be here at Willow Glen School on February 17.

Quote of the Month

“Books are the door of escape from the forest.” - E.B. White

[Click here for a printable sheet of quotes from children's books](#)



Cash for Cartridge Clunkers



There's nothing that's more of a clunker than a used ink cartridge. But don't toss it away. We will turn them into books for our Visalia school libraries. The VLC makes about \$70 per month by recycling inkjet and laser cartridges. **Inkjet cartridges are worth as much as** laser carts, so don't forget to put them in an envelope for us! **You can also send in old cell phones, which will be recycled.**

Web Sites of the Month

- **Tulare County History** <http://visalia.k12.ca.us/library/tchistory> Third grade history web site. This is a cooperative venture – teachers and historians are asked to contribute! Let us know what you think.
- **Martin Luther King web resources for all grades** <http://visalia.k12.ca.us/library/collaboration/martinlutherking.htm>
- **Slime Kids** – www.slimekids.org Great compilation of resources for elementary students.
- **Free and Open Source Software** http://www.4dmo.com/w/index.php?title=Free_and_Open_Source_Software A collection of free and open source software categorized by educational use. From Kathy Schrock <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguide/sos.html>.
- **WebRangers** <http://webrangers.us> This National Park Service site for kids is full of activities and games. From Kathy Schrock <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguide/sos.html>.

