

You shop local and eat local ...



2020/21 challenge with KidLit Creators from Maryland, Washington D.C. & Virginia

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# Read LOCAL CHALLENGE KidLit Creators



**Tami Lewis Brown** (Washington, DC) has rescued a dozen Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and always writes with one (or three!) dogs beside her.



**Barbara Carney-Coston** (Washington, DC) is a time-traveler treasure hunter when she does research!



**Author Monique Chheda** (Bethesda, MD) was named after a soap opera character!



**Lisa A. Crayton** (Oxon Hill, MD) became an avid reader only after getting her first pair of eyeglasses in 3rd grade.



**Lulu Delacre** (Silver Spring, MD) still thinks and dreams in español after 40 years in the States! When English becomes hard, she draws.



**Tricia Elam Walker** (Takoma Park, MD) practiced law for 16 years before she recovered and became the writer she was born to be!



**M.K. England** (Charlottesville, VA) always plays half-elf characters in Dungeons & Dragons.



**Rebecca Evans** (Severna Park, MD) likes to make fairy houses for her garden!



**Claudia Friddell** (Baltimore, MD) went to schools in Kansas City, Virginia, North Dakota, and Minnesota!



**Laura Gehl** (Chevy Chase, MD) likes to eat her meals in reverse. She prefers ice cream for breakfast and cereal at night.



**Tim Grove** (Falls Church, VA) loves to visit historic sites.



**Author Nadia Hashimi** (Rockville, MD) made it to the state spelling bee but was foiled by the very elusive bird/word: "nightingale."

## 2020 -2021



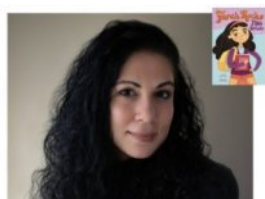
**Awesome illustrator Veronica V. Jones** (Manassas, VA) loves tromping through the woods for inspiration with her dogs Honey and Ollie.



**Deborah Kalb** (Chevy Chase, MD) started reading when she was 3 and never stopped!



**Kathy MacMillan** (Baltimore, MD) co-authored her latest book, SHE SPOKE, with her best friend, who lives in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



**Susan Muaddi Darraj** (Baltimore, MD) is an avid collector of stationery supplies, especially gel pens and cool notebooks!



**Jennifer O'Connell** (Bethesda, MD) paints BIG things to show kids at schools, like a life-size baby blue whale and a humpback's tail.



When author **Ginger Park** (Springfield, VA) isn't writing, she's usually at her sweet shop, Chocolate Chocolate, nibbling dark chocolate.



**Laura Renauld** (Leesburg, VA) played four different band instruments throughout her school years, and also sang in the choir!



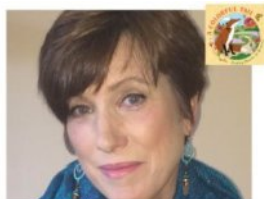
**Breeana Shields** (Gaithersburg, MD) had collected over 200 books by the time she was five years old!



**June Smalls** (Washington, DC) has ridden camels, fed tigers and bears, and swam with sharks - all for research!



**Kat Spears** (Richmond, VA) wrote stories for 30 years before sharing them with others. That first work she shared was her debut novel, SWAY.



**Joan Waites** (Silver Spring MD) once marched in a parade in Disneyland.



When **Timothy Young** (Easton, MD) was in high school he was a "ghoul" in the Haunted Castle at Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey.

# Read LOCAL CHALLENGE KidLit Creators

## Picture Book:

**Tami Lewis Brown** (Washington, DC) has rescued a dozen Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and always writes with one (or three!) dogs beside her.

**Book:** *INSTRUCTIONS NOT INCLUDED: How A Team Of Women Coded The Future*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/tami-brown/>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/tamilewisbrown/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/AuthorTamiLewisBrown/>

**Website:** <https://tamilewisbrown.com/resources/>

Author **Monique Chheda** (Bethesda, MD) was named after a soap opera character!

**Book:** *Bindiya in India*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/monique-chheda>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/mkchheda/>

**Website:** <https://www.drmoniquechheda.com/supplementary-material>

**Lulu Delacre** (Silver Spring, MD) still thinks and dreams in español after 40 years in the States! When English becomes hard, she draws.

**Book:** *Luci Soars*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/speakers/lulu-delacre>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/LuluDelacre>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/luludelacre/>

**Website:** <https://www.luludelacre.com/author-visits>

**Tricia Elam Walker** (Takoma Park, MD) practiced law for 16 years before she recovered and became the writer she was born to be!

**Book:** *Nana Akua Goes to School*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/tricia-elamwalker>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/TriciaBreathing>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/triciawriting/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Tricia-Elam-Walker-317443892397055/>

**Website:** <https://www.triciaelamwalker.com/>

**Rebecca Evans** (Severna Park, MD) likes to make fairy houses for her garden!

**Book:** *Is 2 a Lot: An Adventure With Numbers*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/speakers/rebecca-evans>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/RebeccaEvansArt>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/rebeccaevansart/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RebeccaEvansIllustration/>

**Website:** <http://www.rebeccaevans.net/parents-teachers/is-2-a-lot-resources/>

**Claudia Friddell** (Baltimore, MD) went to schools in Kansas City, Virginia, North Dakota, and Minnesota!

**Book:** *Saving Lady Liberty: Joseph Pulitzer's Fight for the Statue of Liberty*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/claudia-friddell>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/claudiafriddellauthor>

**Website:** <http://claudiafriddell.com/teachers-librarians/>

**Laura Gehl** (Chevy Chase, MD) likes to eat her meals in reverse. She prefers ice cream for breakfast and cereal at night.

**Book:** *MAY SAVES THE DAY*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/laura-gehl>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/AuthorLauraGehl>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/authorlauragehl/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/AuthorLauraGehl/>

**Website:** <https://lauragehl.com/free-resources-for-educators-and-caregivers/>

Awesome illustrator **Veronica V. Jones** (Manassas, VA) loves tromping through the woods for inspiration with her dogs Honey and Ollie

**Book:** *Baby Bear's Adoption*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/veronica-jones>

**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/vvjonez>

**Instagram:** <http://www.instagram.com/vvjonez/>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/moonshines.fantasy.art/>

**Kathy MacMillan** (Baltimore, MD) led a Library Bookcart Precision Drill Team that performed at fairs and parades.

**Book:** *The Runaway Shirt*

**Book:** *She Spoke: 14 Women Who Raised Their Voices and Changed the World*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/kathy-macmillan>

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/kathys\\_quill/](https://twitter.com/kathys_quill/)

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/kathys\\_quill/](https://www.instagram.com/kathys_quill/)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/kathysquill/>

**Jennifer O'Connell** (Bethesda, MD) paints BIG things to show kids at schools, like a life-size baby blue whale and a humpback's tail.

**Book:** *The Eye of the Whale - A Rescue Story*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/Jennifer-oconnell/>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/jenniferoconnellart/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/JenniferOConnellArt/>

**Website:** <http://www.jenniferoconnellart.com/activities>

When author **Ginger Park** (Springfield, VA) isn't writing, she's usually at her sweet shop, Chocolate Chocolate, nibbling dark chocolate.

**Book:** *The Royal Bee*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members/ginger-park/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/chocdc>

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/gingerpark\\_/](https://www.instagram.com/gingerpark_/)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/chocolatedc>

**Website:** <https://www.parksisters.com/speaking-presentations/>

**Laura Renauld** (Leesburg, VA) played four different band instruments throughout her school years, and also sang in the choir!

**Book:** *FRED'S BIG FEELINGS: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MISTER ROGERS*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/laura-renauld>

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/laura\\_renauld](https://twitter.com/laura_renauld)

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/laurarenauld/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/kidlitlaura/>

**Website:** <https://laurarenauld.com/educator-resources/>

**June Smalls** (Winchester, VA) has ridden camels, fed tigers and bears, and swam with sharks - all for research!

**Book:** *She Leads: The Elephant Matriarch*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/speakers/summer-berry>

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/June\\_Smalls](https://twitter.com/June_Smalls)

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/june\\_smalls/](https://www.instagram.com/june_smalls/)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/JuneSmallsAuthor/>

**Website:** <https://junesmalls.com/books>

**Joan Waites** (Silver Spring, MD) once performed in a Disney Land parade.

**Book:** *A COLORFUL TAIL, Finding Monet in Giverny*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/joan-waites>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/joanwaites>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/joanwaites/>

When **Timothy Young** (Easton, MD) was in high school he was a “ghoul” in the Haunted Castle at Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey.

**Book:** *I Hate Picture Books!*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/speakers/timothy-young>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/TimSYoung>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/timothyyoungauthor/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/timothy.young.author>

**Website:** <https://creaturesandcharacters.com/FunStuff.html>

## **Middle Grade:**

**Barbara Carney-Coston** (Washington, DC) is a time-traveler treasure hunter when she does research!

**Book:** *To the Copper Country--Mihaela's Journey*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/barbara-carney>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/barcrn>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/barbara.crn/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/bcarneycoston/>

**Website:** <https://www.barbaracarneycoston.com/new-page>

**Lisa A. Crayton** (Oxon Hill, MD) became an avid reader only after getting her first pair of eyeglasses in 3rd grade.

**Book:** *Wangari Maathai: Get to Know the Woman Who Planted Trees to Bring Change*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/lisa-crayton-2>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/SpiritLedWriter>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Author-Lisa-A-Crayton>

**Tim Grove** (Falls Church, VA) loves to visit historic sites.

**Book:** *Star-Spangled: The Story of a Flag, a Battle, and the American Anthem*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members/tim-grove/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/timgroveauthor/>

**Website:** <https://timgrove.net/140-2/star-spangled-extras/>

Author **Nadia Hashimi** (Rockville, MD) made it to the state spelling bee but was foiled by the very elusive bird/word: “nightingale.”

**Book:** *The Sky at Our Feet*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/speakers/nadia-hashimi>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/nadiahashimi?lang=en>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/NadiaHashimiBooks/>

**Website:** <https://nadiashimibooks.com/>

**Deborah Kalb** (Chevy Chase MD) started reading when she was 3 and never stopped!

**Book:** *Thomas Jefferson and the Return of the Magic Hat*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/deborah-kalb>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/deborahkalb>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/deborahskalb/?hl=en>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/deborahkalbauthor/>

**Susan Muaddi Darraj** (Baltimore, MD) is an avid collector of stationery supplies, especially gel pens and cool notebooks!"

**Book:** *Farah Rocks Fifth Grade*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/speakers/susan-muaddidarraj>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/SusanDarraj>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/susandarraj/?hl=en>

**Website:** <https://susanmuaddidarraj.com/school-visits/>

## Young Adult:

**Breana Shields** (Gaithersburg, MD) had collected over 200 books by the time she was five years old!

**Book:** *The Bone Charmer*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/breana-shields>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/BreanaShields>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/breanashields/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/breanashieldsauthor>

**Kat Spears** (Richmond, VA) wrote stories for 30 years before sharing them with others. That first work she shared was her debut novel, SWAY.

**Book:** *Sway*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/speakers/katarina-spears>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/katwritesbooks>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/katbooks/>

**M.K. England** (Charlottesville, VA) always plays half-elf characters in Dungeons & Dragons.

**Book:** *Spellhacker*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/megan-england>

**Twitter:** <http://www.twitter.com/GeektasticLib>

**Instagram:** <http://www.instagram.com/m.k.england>

## Questions?

Contact Challenge Coordinator **Veronica Bartles:** [mddewv-ara@scbwi.org](mailto:mddewv-ara@scbwi.org)

**Veronica Bartles** (Catonsville, MD) used to catch horned toads in the field behind her house.

**Book:** *The Princess and the Frogs*

**SCBWI Profile:** <https://www.scbwi.org/members-public/veronica-bartles>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/vbartles>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/vbartles/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/AuthorVeronicaBartles>

**Website:** <http://vbartles.com/events.htm>



# Read Local Challenge 2020/21

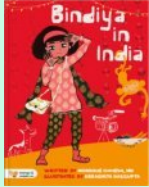
featuring KidLit Creators from Maryland, Washington D.C. & Virginia

Read Local Challenge sponsored by:

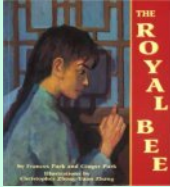
find out more about the challenge on our website: <http://mddewv.scbwi.org/read-local/>



## Picture Books



The sweet story of a young Indian-American girl who travels to India for the first time to attend a wedding.



An underprivileged boy in late 19th century Korea eavesdrops at the door of the royal school and learns how to read and write.



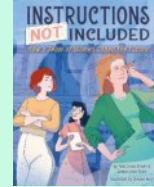
Laundry is a chore, but when a child climbs in the basket, everything becomes a game!



With her trusty bag of letters, May is an expert at changing words to save the day all by herself! Until a tornado looms...



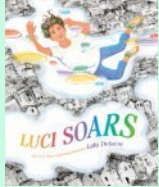
Max is upset at his picture books and thinks he should throw them all away! Will he change his mind?



With no instructions, and barely any access to the machine, three young women programmed the world's first computer.



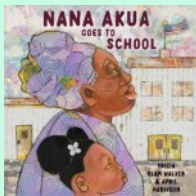
A quiet boy with big feelings grew up to become the beloved creator and star of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.



An emotionally resonant picture book about learning that what sets you apart is often what makes you great.



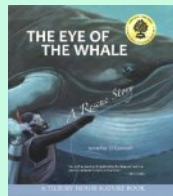
When a baby bear loses his family, scientists must convince a mama bear to adopt the cub as her own.



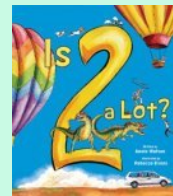
A little girl learns to appreciate her grandmother's cultural differences when she visits her school.



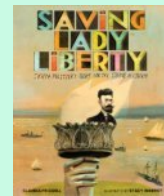
Follow the elephant matriarch on a lyrical journey as she guides her family through the wilds of Africa.



When four divers risked their lives to rescue an entangled whale, there was a rare demonstration of interspecies communication.



Joy's mom explains numbers, and imagination transforms an ordinary car ride into a trip through a land of make-believe.



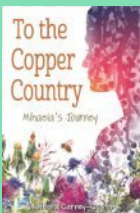
The story of how one immigrant brought together young and old, rich and poor, to raise funds to complete the Statue of Liberty.



A fox living in Giverny, France learns to capture the garden's beauty with the help of the artist Claude Monet.



## Middle Grade



Eleven-year-old Mihaela and her family struggle with unexpected immigration in 1886 Northern Michigan.



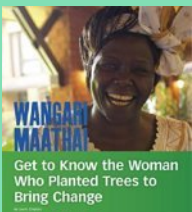
Farah is applying to the elite Magnet Academy, but when the new girl in school bullies her brother, can she leave him behind?



Oliver goes back in time to meet Thomas Jefferson and learns about history and about getting along at his new school.



This #ownvoices novel tells the affecting story of an Afghan-American boy who believes his mother has been deported.



Get to Know the Woman Who Planted Trees to Bring Change

Biography of an African woman who inspired the planting of more than 51 million trees



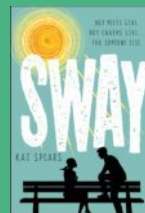
A unique nonfiction picture book that allows readers to hear the words of inspiring women at the touch of a button.



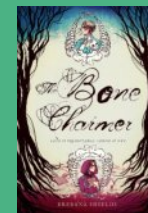
The little-known and inspiring story behind the national anthem and the stars and stripes.



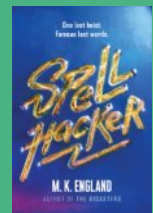
## Young Adult



An updated Cyrano De Bergerac set in a contemporary high school with noir undertones.



Fate is predictable. Choice is not.

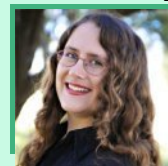


A lovable band of misfits? Check. High-tech magic? Check. Last heist ever? ... Try again.



## Questions?

Contact Challenge Coordinator Veronica Bartles:  
[mddewv-ara@scbwi.org](mailto:mddewv-ara@scbwi.org)



**Veronica Bartles** (Catonsville, MD) writes all of her first drafts by hand, with pencils that she started collecting in the second grade!

She is the Assistant Regional Advisor for the MD/DE/WV region of SCBWI and the author of *The Princess and the Frogs* and *Twelve Steps*.



Princess Cassandra wants a frog, but when she kisses them goodnight, they turn into princes instead. Princes aren't pets!



Tired of living in the shadow of her perfect sister, Andi creates a 12-step program to steal the spotlight!

Discover activities, printables, and other resources for our Read Local books:  
[https://mddewv.scbwi.org/read-local/downloadable\\_resources/](https://mddewv.scbwi.org/read-local/downloadable_resources/)

# 2020/21 Read Local CHALLENGE BOOKS

## Picture Books:

**INSTRUCTIONS NOT INCLUDED: HOW A TEAM OF WOMEN CODED THE FUTURE** (Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 10/8/2019 ISBN: 978-1368011051) by Tami Lewis Brown - *With little guidance, no instructions, and barely any access to the machine, three young women programmed the world's first computer.*

**BINDIYA IN INDIA** (Mango & Marigold Press, 10/6/2019 ISBN: 978-1645437130) by Monique Chheda - *The sweet story of a young Indian-American girl who travels to India for the first time to attend an Indian wedding.*

**LUCI SOARS** (Philomel, 8/4/2020 ISBN: 978-1984812889) by Lulu Delacre - *An emotionally resonant picture book about learning that what sets you apart is often what makes you great.*

**NANA AKUA GOES TO SCHOOL** (Random House, 6/16/2020 ISBN: 978-0525581130) by Tricia Elam Walker - *A little girl learns to appreciate her grandmother's cultural differences when she visits her school..*

**IS 2 A LOT: AN ADVENTURE WITH NUMBERS** (Tilbury House Publishers, 6/4/2019 ISBN: 978-0884487159) by Rebecca Evans - *Joey's mom explains the context of numbers, and imagination transforms an ordinary car ride into a trip through a land of make-believe.*

**SAVING LADY LIBERTY: JOSEPH PULITZER'S FIGHT FOR THE STATUE OF LIBERTY** (Boyd's Mills & Kane Calkins Creek, 3/18/2020 ISBN: 978-1684371303) by Claudia Friddell - *The inspiring story of how one immigrant brought together young and old, rich and poor, to raise funds to complete the Statue of Liberty.*

**MAY SAVES THE DAY** (Capstone, 8/1/2020 ISBN: 978-1684461028) by Laura Gehl - *With her trusty bag of letters, May is an expert at changing words to save the day all by herself! Until a tornado looms...*

**BABY BEAR'S ADOPTION** (Arbordale Publishing, 9/10/2018 ISBN: 978-1607187264) by Veronica Jones - *When a baby bear loses his family, scientists must convince a mama bear to adopt the cub as her own.*

**THE RUNAWAY SHIRT** (Familius Press, 9/1/2020 ISBN: 978-1641702515) by Kathy MacMillan - *Laundry is a chore, but when a child climbs in the basket, everything becomes a game!*

**THE EYE OF THE WHALE: A RESCUE STORY** (Tilbury House, Publishers, 5/1/2013 ISBN: 978-0884483359) by Jennifer O'Connell - *When four divers risked their lives to rescue an entangled whale, there was a rare demonstration of interspecies communication.*

**THE ROYAL BEE** (Boyd's Mills & Kane formerly Boyd's Mills Press, 2/1/2000 ISBN: 978-1563978678) by Ginger Park - *An underprivileged boy in late nineteenth century Korea eavesdrops at the door of the royal school and learns how to read and write.*

**FRED'S BIG FEELINGS: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MISTER ROGERS** (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1/14/2020 ISBN: 978-1534441224) by Laura Renauld - *Fred Rogers was a quiet boy with big feelings who grew up to become the beloved creator and star of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.*

**SHE LEADS: THE ELEPHANT MATRIARCH** (Familius, 5/26/2020 ISBN: 978-1641702324) by June Smalls - *Follow the elephant matriarch on a lyrical journey as she guides her family through the wilds of Africa.*

**A COLORFUL TAIL: FINDING MONET IN GIVERNY** (Schiffer Kids Publishing, 3/28/2019 ISBN: 978-0764357053) by Joan Waites - *A fox living in Giverny, France learns to capture the garden's beauty with the help of the artist Claude Monet.*

# 2020/21 Read Local CHALLENGE BOOKS (continued)

**I HATE PICTURE BOOKS!** (Schiffer Publishing, 3/28/2013 ISBN: 978-0764343872) by Timothy Young - *Max is upset at his picture books and thinks he should throw them all away! Will he change his mind?*

## Middle Grade:

**TO THE COPPER COUNTRY: MIHAELA'S JOURNEY** (Wayne State University Press, 9/11/2017 ISBN: 978-0814343630) by Barbara Carney-Coston - *Eleven-year-old Mihaela and her family struggle with unexpected immigration in 1886 Northern Michigan.*

**WANGARI MAATHAI: GET TO KNOW THE WOMAN WHO PLANTED TREES TO BRING CHANGE** (Capstone, 1/1/2020 ISBN: 978-1543591132) by Lisa A. Crayton - *Biography of African woman who inspired the planting of more than 51 million trees*

**STAR-SPANGLED: THE STORY OF A FLAG, A BATTLE, AND THE AMERICAN ANTHEM** (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 5/26/2020 ISBN: 978-1419741029) by Tim Grove - *The little-known and inspiring story behind the national anthem and the stars and stripes.*

**THE SKY AT OUR FEET** (Harper Collins, 3/6/2018 ISBN: 978-0062421937) by Nadia Hashimi - *This #ownvoices novel tells the affecting story of an Afghan-American boy who believes his mother has been deported.*

**THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE RETURN OF THE MAGIC HAT** (Schiffer, 9/28/2020 ISBN: 978-0764360190) by Deborah Kalb - *Oliver, the new kid in town, goes back in time to meet Thomas Jefferson--and learns about history and about getting along at his new school.*

**SHE SPOKE: 14 WOMEN WHO RAISED THEIR VOICES AND CHANGED THE WORLD** (Familius Press, 3/1/2019 ISBN: 978-1641701310) by Kathy MacMillan - *A unique nonfiction picture book that allows readers to hear the words of inspiring women at the touch of a button.*

**FARAH ROCKS FIFTH GRADE** (Capstone, 1/1/2020 ISBN: 978-1496583390) by Susan Muaddi Darraj - *Farah is applying to the elite Magnet Academy, but when the new girl in school starts to bully her little brother, can she leave him behind?*

## Young Adult:

**THE BONE CHARMER** (Page Street, 5/21/2019 ISBN: 978-1624147371) by Breeana Shields - *Fate is predictable. Choice is not.*

**SWAY** (Macmillan, 9/15/2015 ISBN: 978-1250051424) by Kat Spears - *An updated Cyrano De Bergerac set in a contemporary high school with noir undertones.*

**SPELLHACKER** (HarperTeen, 1/21/2020 ISBN: 978-0062657701) by M.K. England - *A lovable band of misfits? Check. High-tech magic? Check. Last heist ever? . . . Try again.*

# What if you discovered that your favorite author also liked to hang out at your favorite frozen yogurt shop?

Authors and illustrators aren't magical creatures that live in a land of fairy dust and sparkles. We often visit these lands in our imaginations as we write and draw, but we're people just like you. We love connecting with readers! We hope you'll find a new favorite book or two as you Read Local this year, and we hope to see you at one of our (in-person or virtual) events near you!

## Here's how the challenge works:

**Choose a challenge level, and start reading.** It's really that easy! There are no pledges to sign, no quizzes to take, and lots of great books to make reading fun! Read one book or two ... or every book in your selected challenge level. You can even take the ultimate challenge and read all 25 books!

**Nominate a school or library to win.** Each book you read gives the school/library you nominate one more entry into a drawing for a selection of Read Local Challenge books from us, purchased from the independent bookstore closest to the winning school/library! (*We reserve the right to award prizes to more than one group, if possible.*)

### Fill your Read Local Challenge Passport and redeem it for an amazing reward!

- Pick up a Read Local Challenge Passport from your participating school, library, or bookstore.
- Fill the required number of passport spaces by reading books from our Read Local Challenge list, attending events (in-person or online) to meet local authors and illustrators, visiting your library or bookstore, and more. (Boxes can be signed by the authors you meet, booksellers and librarians you talk to, your teachers, or your parents!)
- Prizes & participating bookstores: <https://mddewv.scbwi.org/read-local/read-local-challenge-passport-program/>

### Meet a local KidLit Creator, in-person or online!

- Check out the Read Local Challenge calendar to find our already-scheduled events.
- Or **Adopt a KidLit Creator** to connect an author or illustrator with your class for this challenge year (10/1 - 5/31).
- All Read Local Challenge authors and illustrators offer a 10% discount on our individual speaking rates to any group participating in the challenge. (See our websites for more information, or contact us for current rates.)

**Make it a competition!** Gather a group of friends together or challenge your class (or even your whole school) to a reading race! What will you choose for a prize? A pizza party? A pajamas & popcorn party? A book for the classroom library? Bragging rights? **It's your challenge! You get to decide the rules!**

**Teachers, Librarians, & Group Leaders: Request your FREE Read Local Challenge Starter Kit.** You will receive Read Local Challenge posters, passports, stickers, etc. – **You may also “adopt” a KidLit Creator** to connect with your class through letters, emails, or an informal Q&A (virtual, or in-person when conditions permit).

The books on this list come from many different publishers (Harper Collins, Macmillan, Penguin Random House, etc.), but they have one thing in common. **All of the books in the challenge were written and/or illustrated by members of the SCBWI from Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, Delaware, and West Virginia.**

And this is the perfect time to meet us! All KidLit Creators participating in the challenge have offered a 10% discount on our individual speaking rates to any group participating in the challenge. (See our websites for more information, or contact us for current rates.)

**Multi-author/illustrator visits at special rates are also available.** If you'd like to set up a special multi-author/illustrator panel for your school, library or organization, please contact Read Local Challenge Coordinator Veronica Bartles at [mddewv-ara@scbwi.org](mailto:mddewv-ara@scbwi.org), or click the link on our website: <http://mddewv.scbwi.org/read-local/>

*Read Local Challenge sponsored by:*





# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Read Local Challenge?

A reading incentive program sponsored by the MD/DE/WV region of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, featuring traditionally-published authors and illustrators in Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, Delaware, and West Virginia. The challenge consists of three levels: Picture Book, Middle Grade, and Young Adult, and it runs from October 1st through May 31st each year.

### **Read Local Challenge KidLit Creators will:**

Connect with ONE (1) class or group, either in-person, online, or via the mail at least TWO (2) times during the Read Local Challenge year (October 1st through May 31st). *As an example, you might schedule a 15-minute Zoom meeting at the beginning of the challenge to introduce yourselves to each other, and then exchange letters at some later point in the challenge year. It is up to you and your adopted KidLit Creator to decide how, when, and how often you will connect.*

Send ONE (1) signed copy of their Read Local Challenge book to the school or library associated with the class/group to which they are assigned.

Offer a 10% discount on their speaking fees to ANY school/library/group who mentions the Read Local Challenge (even if it's not the one that "adopted" them)!

### **Schools/Groups agree to:**

Read along with us! With so many local authors and illustrators in 3 different challenge levels, we have something available for all readers.

Share opportunities to meet with Read Local Challenge authors/illustrators in your area, or online, when appropriate.

Show respect! We love meeting with our readers and making real-life connections. Please remember that we are people too, and show the same courtesy to our KidLit Creators as you would like people to show you!

## **How do I sign up? Do I have to make an account or something? What will you do with the information you collect?**

No sign-ups necessary. No pledges to sign or quizzes to take. Just grab a book from our current challenge list and start reading!

You can read individually, with a small group of friends or family members, or as a team with your entire class/school/group!

We won't collect personally-identifying information from individual readers, so you don't have to worry.

## **If there are no sign-ups, what makes it a challenge?**

You can challenge yourself or compete against your friends, your family, or your entire school. Who will win in your group? Will it be the one who reads the most? The one with the best book-themed Halloween costume? The one who recommends the most books to help their classmates find *their* new favorite books? It's YOUR challenge, so YOU get to make the rules!

## **How does the Read Local Challenge Passport work?**

Pick up a Read Local Challenge Passport from your participating school, library, or bookstore to keep track of your reading progress. — Or download a passport [here](#).

Choose a challenge level, and read at least one book from our list. You don't have to read them all, but with so many amazing books, you may want to!

Fill the spaces on your passport by completing any of our suggested passport challenge activities – or create your own! Spaces may be signed by the KidLit Creators you meet, or by a parent, teacher, librarian, or bookseller.

## **Are there prizes?**

Yes! Bring your completed Read Local Challenge Passport to a participating bookstore to redeem it for prizes like a discount on your next purchase, a free cookie from the café, or even a free advance copy of an upcoming book!\*

\* Each participating bookstore has set its own prize for the challenge, so be sure to check out our Read Local Challenge Partner pages to find out the details for your favorite bookstore! Don't see them listed? Share this link and encourage them to sign up.

### **I heard there was a really big grand prize. How do I sign up for that?**

Just click to Nominate a School or Library! Tell us where you live (just the state—no personally-identifying information will be collected!) and which books you have read. If a whole class / group reads a book together, you may enter once for EACH person in that class / group, which gives your nominated school or library extra entries!

You may nominate ANY school or library to win our Grand Prize, even if it's not YOUR school! We will pick one winner to receive a collection of Read Local Challenge books, purchased from the independent bookseller closest to the winner!\*\*

\*\*The grand prize winner will be selected from all schools, libraries, and other literacy-minded organizations nominated within the Maryland / Virginia / Washington DC / Delaware / West Virginia area. We reserve the right to also choose one or more secondary winners from all schools / libraries / groups nominated, if funds allow.

### **How do I connect with authors and illustrators?**

Meet local KidLit Creators by attending (in-person or virtual) events sponsored by your local bookstores or libraries. Check out our Read Local Events calendar for details on upcoming appearances and virtual events.

Or invite a local author or illustrator to your school, library, bookstore, or group meeting. For both in-person and virtual events, every participating KidLit Creator has agreed to give a 10% discount on their speaking fees for the entire challenge year (October 1st through May 31st).

## For Teachers & Librarians

### **What is the Adopt a KidLit Creator program?**

Each participating KidLit Creator will connect with up to ONE class for this challenge year. Teachers, school librarians, or administrators may sign up by filling out this form.\*\*\* You will have the opportunity to choose one class from your school to connect with the author or illustrator via short emails, informal video chats, or by mailing letters during the challenge year.

This is a celebration of literacy, and a chance to get to know one of our Read Local Challenge KidLit Creators in an informal setting. The connections are meant to be informal interactions between new friends, not writing workshops or presentations.

If you would like to have your adopted KidLit Creator speak to your whole grade, or your whole school, or if you would like to take advantage of one of our many amazing writing workshops and presentations, now is the time! Each participating author and illustrator has agreed to give a 10% discount on their speaking fees to any schools, libraries, or groups participating in the Read Local Challenge.

\*\*\*Preference for connections will go first to schools within the MD/VA/DC/WV/DE region. If space allows, upon request, we may connect our KidLit Creators to classes outside our Read Local Challenge region. Connecting with one of our Read Local Challenge KidLit Creators is not a guarantee. If all of our authors and illustrators are already assigned to classes, you may sign up to get on our wait list for next year.

### **What if we want to schedule an author panel or invite an individual author for our upcoming event?**

To invite an individual author to your event, please contact them directly. You can find their contact information on their SCBWI Speaker Profiles, which are all linked here. – Make sure to mention the Read Local Challenge to request your discount!

To set up a panel of KidLit Creators for your event, you may email our Read Local Coordinator, Veronica Bartles (mddewv-ara@scbwi.org). Please use the subject line “Read Local Challenge Request” and provide as many details as possible, including:



\*date & time for your event

\*number of KidLit Creators requested

\*budget for the event (please specify whether this is a per-creator honorarium, or total budget for the event)

### **Our school / library has a very small budget. How can I participate in the Read Local Challenge?**

You may request a Read Local Challenge Kit and/or sign up to Adopt a KidLit Creator for free. We will happily send you posters, passports, and stickers for your students. The challenge is designed to allow for great flexibility so that readers in many different circumstances can participate together.

If you would like to invite our KidLit Creators to give a more formal presentation, there are lots of grants and other funds for the arts that might help supplement your budget. Look for opportunities to apply for those.

And each of our KidLit Creators has agreed to give a 10% discount on their speaking fees for the entire challenge year, so now is the time to act, if your budget is tight.

We are committed to building a love of reading in our communities, and we would be happy to work with you to figure out how to best serve your needs!

### **Can my scout troop / homeschool group / co-op sign up to adopt a Read Local KidLit Creator? Does it have to be a school or library?**

We want to connect with our readers, wherever they may be. If you have a group of readers, we want to meet you! Feel free to fill out the form to request a connection. Please note: school classes within our Read Local Challenge geographical area will have top priority in assigning KidLit Creator matches. If we have more requests than we can fulfill, you may not be matched with a creator this year. We will still send you a Read Local Starter Kit, and we encourage you to come to our events, and/or to invite any of our Read Local Challenge KidLit Creators to your events for a discounted rate.

## **Can we still participate if we can't adopt a KidLit Creator or invite one to do an event with us?**

Yes! If you represent a school, library, homeschool group, scout troop, book club ... or any other group that would like to promote a love of reading, you may request a Read Local Starter Kit by emailing our Read Local Coordinator, Veronica Bartles, or filling out this form.

We will send you a package with 2 full-color Read Local Challenge posters, a classroom set of 25 Read Local Challenge Passports, stickers, and more. (You may request more posters and/or passports while supplies last.)

And please check out our Resources page for games and activities that can be used in your classrooms to promote a love of reading.

## **For Authors & Illustrators**

### **I'm a KidLit Creator! How can I participate in the Read Local Challenge?**

If you are a Published and Listed member of SCBWI within the MD/DE/WV or Mid-Atlantic regions, you may click here to sign up for the next challenge! (You will need to provide the link to your SCBWI profile page to verify that you are a PAL member of our regions.)

#### **You are eligible to be a featured KidLit Creator if you...**

- \* Have a traditionally-published book currently in print
- \* Live in Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, West Virginia, or Delaware
- \* Are a Published and Listed member of SCBWI (check your member profile for your membership level, if you are unsure)

### **My book is still in print, but it was published last year (or earlier). Can I participate?**

Yes! We firmly believe that books never expire! And since our reach with the Read Local Challenge expands every year, there are always new readers to introduce your books to! Feel free to promote one of your backlist titles, if you would prefer, as long as it is **in print**, and available for bookstores/schools/libraries to order. – (*Books must be*

*in print! You wouldn't want frustrated readers who can't order copies of your book!)*

**I live in this region, and my book is traditionally published, but I'm not a member of SCBWI. Can I be a part of this challenge?**

Unfortunately, no. Because the challenge is sponsored by our local SCBWI region and run exclusively by volunteers with day jobs, family commitments, and writing careers of our own to juggle, it is easiest for us to coordinate the challenge through established SCBWI channels. We will link to each participating author/illustrator's [SCBWI speaker profile](#) to make it easy for schools/libraries to contact them, and for readers to find their books. If you aren't a PAL member of SCBWI, even if we know and love your books, you won't have the appropriate profile for us to link to ... which means extra work for our volunteers.

But good news! It's *really* easy to join SCBWI, and if your book for children has been published by a traditional publishing house that meets SCBWI's PAL Publisher Guidelines (see SCBWI's [PAL Publishers](#) list), you will automatically be granted Published and Listed status and be eligible for the Read Local Challenge.

**My book is self-published, but it's sold lots of copies, and it relates to real events that happened locally. Can I be a part of this challenge?**

Your book sounds amazing, and we probably have it on our "To Be Read" lists, if we haven't already read it! Unfortunately, most self-published books aren't readily-accessible to schools and libraries for purchase, as they aren't in the systems that these buyers typically use when creating their book purchasing plans. (This is the "listed" part of the "published and listed" designation.) It's frustrating for readers and authors alike when a challenge book is difficult to find, and joining the Read Local Challenge wouldn't be the best use of your marketing resources in this case. It might even hinder your efforts!

But in promoting our challenge, we do sometimes have people reach out to us with opportunities to showcase indie authors! When this happens, we love to forward the invitations to the many talented, self-

published folks in our area through our SCBWI regional emails and social media platforms.

**My book is published by a small press that isn't on SCBWI's list, even though they deserve to be. I asked SCBWI to add them to the list, but they haven't yet. I can prove that my publisher is legitimate. (I have receipts!) Can I be a part of this challenge? I don't want to miss out on a chance to promote my book!**

Your publisher might very well fit the criteria that SCBWI follows for the publishers on the list. And if that's the case, they will be added once the very busy volunteers at SCBWI headquarters have a chance to finish researching/verifying the status.

**Please be patient!** We understand that sometimes it feels like this is an arbitrary restriction meant to reward the "elite" authors who check off the right boxes, but I promise we have your best interests at heart!

Unfortunately, not all small publishers (*even legitimate ones!*) have their systems set up for their books to be readily-accessible to schools and libraries for purchase. If they aren't in the systems that these buyers use when creating their book purchasing plans, your book can't be purchased for their collections, no matter how good it is. The volunteers at SCBWI headquarters have to make sure the systems are in place for this wide distribution before they verify the publisher on the list. Sometimes it feels like this process takes forever, but patience really does pay off. Believe us, it's frustrating for readers and authors alike when a challenge book is difficult to find. And we would hate to have schools and libraries write you off completely because they couldn't find you! Sometimes, it's better to wait. (We'd love to have you join us *next year!*)

**My book is out of print, but I bought out all of the remaining stock, so schools and libraries can still buy copies from me. Can I be a part of the challenge?**

Unfortunately, no. Most school and library purchasing systems are not set up to buy books from individuals, so they won't be able to take advantage of your generous offer. And as we mentioned above, it's frustrating for readers when they can't find the books listed in our challenge.



But don't worry! When your next book is ready, you can join us again!

**I was a part of the challenge last year. Can I sign up again?**

**Yes!** As long as your book is still in print!

Our connections with schools, libraries, and bookstores are constantly growing, and there may be a new school/library participating this year that is looking for a book **JUST LIKE YOURS!**

**Is there a cost to participate, as an author or illustrator?**

Yes. There is a fee for all Read Local Challenge authors/illustrators to help offset the costs of the program. Some of these costs include:

- \* Full-color Read Local Challenge Posters
- \* Passports, stickers, & other items to promote the Read Local Challenge books
- \* Postage for sending Read Local materials to interested schools/libraries/bookstores, etc.
- \* Purchasing a selection of Read Local Challenge books for the grand prize winner, from a local independent bookstore

**I have more than one book coming out this year. Can I sign up to feature more than one book?**

You may enter up to two books in TWO different challenge levels (PB & MG, for example). You will need to fill out the form TWICE (once for each book), and please enter the SAME information in the "about the author" section.

We want to feature as many different authors/illustrators as possible in each category, so if you have 2 picture books, or 2 middle grade novels, for example, we ask you to pick only ONE. We hope that the readers who take our challenge will enjoy your books enough to keep reading other titles you may have available, and we will list others in a "suggested reading" list, so your other book(s) may be included there.

## **What is required of me, as a Read Local Challenge KidLit Creator?**

All read local challenge authors & illustrators agree to:

- \* Offer a 10% discount on their speaking fees to anyone participating in the Read Local Challenge for the entire challenge period (10/1 – 5/31)
- \* Connect with ONE (1) local class as an “Adopted KidLit Creator” at least TWO (2) times during the challenge year (Connections can be in-person, online, or by email ... or even via good old-fashioned letters! For instance, you might have a 15-minute Skype visit to introduce yourself early in the challenge year, and then exchange letters later.)
- \* Send ONE (1) signed copy of their Read Local Challenge featured book to their adopted class
- \* Commit to promoting ALL Read Local Authors/Illustrators throughout the challenge period via:
  - Social media blasts (share your favorite Read Local books online)
  - Instagram and/or Facebook Takeover events (you will take over the Read Local Challenge Instagram or Facebook page to share your book and let our readers get to know you better)
  - Newsletter shares (if you have an author/illustrator mailing list, you can mention the challenge—and your favorite Read Local Challenge books!)
  - Other opportunities, as they arise

## **Am I required to offer Skype/Zoom visits if I sign up to participate in the challenge? I’ve never done this before, and I don’t know how.**

We *encourage* you to offer virtual visits, but it is not *required*. We know readers are excited to make live connections with our KidLit Creators in this increasingly-digital world. We would like to encourage this as much as possible.

If you would like to offer virtual visits, but you’re nervous about trying something new ... don’t worry! We can ease into it together. 😊

## **What else do you need from me?**

Please have the following available when you fill out the sign-up form:

- \* a high-resolution (300 dpi & at least 4-inches) author photo
- \* a high-resolution (300 dpi & at least 4-inches) image of your book cover
- \* book details (1-paragraph blurb, publisher, publication date, ISBN, and an indie-bound or bookshop.org link to your book, plus 140-character 1-line description for our book list)
- \* author bio (2 versions: 1-paragraph intro bio, plus 140-character author “fun fact” for our poster)
- \* link to your SCBWI profile

- \* links to your website and social media profiles
- \* email address for which you would like to receive ALL Read Local Challenge updates
- \*\* You will receive an invitation to submit your payment once all of the information has been received/verified

**So that's it? I just have to sign up, and you'll promote my book and schedule events for me throughout the challenge period? This sounds too good to be true!**

Wouldn't it be great if it WAS that easy? The Read Local Challenge is a great way for local authors and illustrators in our region to *connect with local readers*, but it only works if we ALL work **together**. It's far too much work for any one person to handle alone!

We will print up the full-color Read Local Challenge posters and distribute them to schools/libraries/booksellers. **We offer FREE Read Local Starter Kits** (with full-color posters, Read Local Challenge passports, stickers, etc.) **to any school/library/group who requests one**. We will coordinate requests with author/illustrator availability to match hosts with authors/illustrators for their events. We will also reach out to conferences and festivals, whenever possible.

However, the success of our challenge depends upon the participation of ALL of our featured authors/illustrators. Post the links on your websites/social media. Sign up for a chance to take over our social media feeds for the day. Celebrate the successes of your fellow authors/illustrators. Talk up the challenge with your friends / neighbors / schools / libraries / favorite bookstores. (I even carry a stack of Read Local bookmarks with me when I run errands. You never know when you might meet a reader while waiting in a long line at the grocery store!)

## For Booksellers

### **My store isn't open physically to customers right now. How do I participate?**

We would love to coordinate virtual events with you! Join our “Pass the Book” promotion. Schedule a virtual panel with authors and illustrators. Partner with us for online writing workshops. ... There are so many possibilities (maybe even something we haven't thought of yet!)

### **How can my customers fill in their passport spaces for attending author events if we're not open physically?**

Virtual events count too! Even when we're apart physically, we can still connect through digital workshops, panels, and our “Pass the Book” initiative.

### **What is this “Pass the Book” initiative I've been hearing about? How can I participate?**

This initiative is a fun way for our readers to meet this year's KidLit creators and the fabulous books on our list, while also getting to know the booksellers and librarians that can help them find their new favorite book. It's easy to join in the fun!

Send us an introduction video, where you introduce yourself and your bookstore (or library). Then, pick up one of your favorite Read Local Challenge books from this year's list, show it to the camera, say something about why you love it (if you would like), and then pass it offscreen. We will match your video up with one from the author or illustrator, where they will receive the book passed to them from offscreen and introduce themselves or their book before passing it along.

They can either “pass it back to you” (you will record a second video where you receive their book, and then pick up another book to pass to the next author), or they can “pass it along” to the next author in the cycle. The last author (we have found that a grouping of 2-4 authors per “Pass the Book” compilation works best) will pass the book back to you for a wrap up. For this, you will need to send us another video where you will invite the readers to come Read Local with us in your store.

For some examples of Pass the Book video compilation options, [click here](#).

**I want to “Pass the Book” with you, but I’m really busy this week (or month). What is the deadline?**

We’ll be celebrating a love of literacy and the community-building relationships that form when we read books by local KidLit creators all year long! If you can’t send us a video this week, that’s okay. Our Read Local Challenge goes from October through May each year, and we would love to put together a Pass the Book video with you anytime!

**Am I the only Read Local Challenge Partner Bookstore in my area? How many bookstores are you accepting into the program?**

We believe that the strongest community bonds grow when we connect with as many people and groups as possible. Our readers might find the perfect community connection with you, or with the bookstore across town. Or both. And when we strengthen our communities, we all benefit! We invite you all to join us in building a strong community of readers.

**What if I want to schedule an author panel for my upcoming event? Or invite an author to do a workshop in my store ... How do I schedule these?**

To invite an individual author to your event, please contact them directly. You can find their contact information on their SCBWI Speaker Profiles, which are all linked [here](#).

To set up a panel of KidLit Creators for your event, you may [email our Read Local Coordinator, Veronica Bartles \(mddewv-ara@scbwi.org\)](mailto:mddewv-ara@scbwi.org). Please use the subject line “Read Local Challenge Request” and provide as many details as possible, including:

- \*date/time for your event
- \*number of KidLit Creators requested
- \*budget for the event (please specify whether this is a per-creator honorarium, or total budget for the event)

Couldn’t find an answer to your question? Please email Veronica Bartles, Assistant Regional Advisor for SCBWI MD/DE/WV and Read Local Challenge Coordinator, at [mddewv-ara@scbwi.org](mailto:mddewv-ara@scbwi.org)