

*teen*  
MOSAIC

Literature & Art by Pinellas County Teens  
FALL 2019

The pages of the Mosaic are insight into the minds and artists of our future. By supporting, encouraging and guiding young talent you can make tomorrow more beautiful...ENJOY!

Analiese Gundry

# Lovebug

Safety Harbor Public Library

Age 13, Eighth Grade



Jasmine George

# In A Moment's Time...

Largo Public Library

Age 17, Twelfth Grade

Sitting in darkness,  
I stared  
The clock ticked  
Hours waning from the day.

A thin bed occupied the room,  
A wasted life on top of it.  
My body remained still as my soul panicked.  
Unfortunate, unfair, unreal.

I blinked in disbelief,  
As if it would change something.  
Anything.  
A tick and a blink go by.

In a moment's time,  
I was transported.

I was in an opulent ballroom,  
Crystal chandeliers glimmering.  
I stepped to the center,  
Accompanied by my lover.

We look our stances.  
A record player clicked,  
Silence enduring for a moment's time.  
The instruments breathed and began.

We tiptoed around each other, shy in our ways.  
I spun into him,  
finally grasping his hands.  
The two of us moved to the thumping timpani.

He swirled me around him,  
My cerise dress billowing.  
The music took a dramatic fermata,  
Followed by a caesura.

We held each other, eyes gazing,  
A winter's dusk.  
A summer's dawn.  
Spring sprung as we smiled.

In a moment's time,  
The two of us were moving again.

The tempo picked up to an allegretto.  
We dipped and swirled.  
A hand on the nape of his neck.  
A hand on the small of my back.

He picked me up;  
Graceful as a swan, gentle as a potter.  
He twirled me around with loving care, as if vermilion  
ribbon.  
He set me onto the marble softly, still gliding.

The ardor between us guided our steps, creating a path.  
Where?  
I didn't know.  
I didn't care.

In a moment's time,  
We were free.

Free to love, feel, be.  
Our life was illuminated through passion,  
Our passion was illuminated through life.  
Life.

A moment's time had passed.  
I was back in the dark room.

Honey hair was replaced with sickly baldness.  
Zeal was replaced with despair.  
A blushing smile twisted into a painful grimace.  
Fate had played its sad strum.

In a moment's time,  
A machine droned one continuous sound.

In a moment's time,  
My lover was dancing in the skies.

Malyssa Ollar

# We All Float Down Here

Palm Harbor Library

Age 13, Eighth Grade



Natalie Rutherford

# Pure Blue Ridge

Safety Harbor Public Library

Age 13, Eighth Grade



## Tangerine Sunset

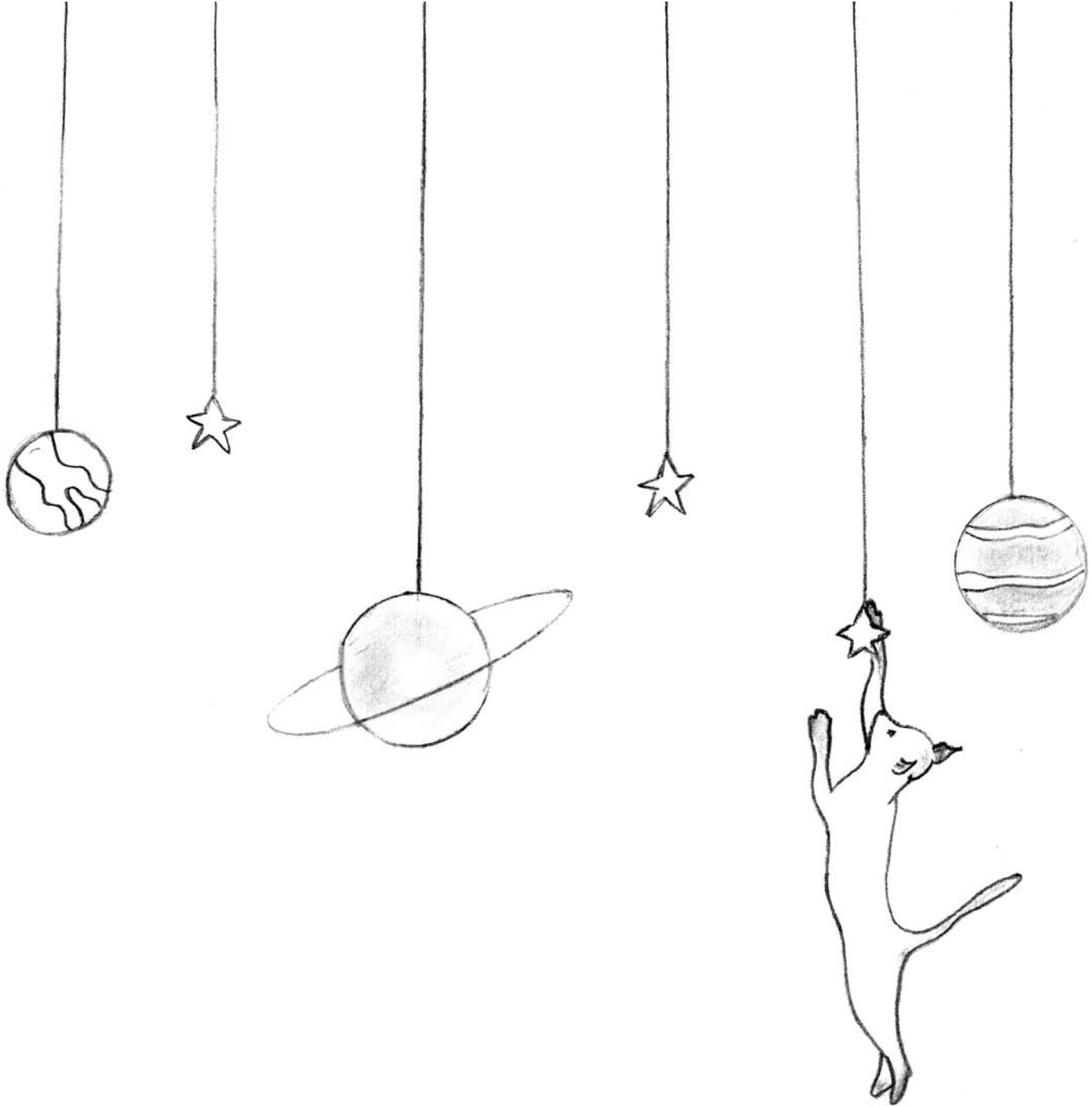


Priscila Picard

# Le Siamois étoilé

Tarpon Springs Library

Age 15, Twelfth Grade



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Angelica Underwood  
**African Sunset**

Safety Harbor Public Library  
Age 13, Eighth Grade



Arni Kumar

# Blue's Delight

Barbara S. Ponce Public Library

Age 15, Tenth Grade





# BFF's

Dunedin Public Library

Age 12, Seventh Grade

Lea sat on the couch with her laptop perched on her knees. The coffee table was overflowing with junk. Lea didn't mind though, this was the only time of day that she could go through emails without any distractions (AKA four sisters). Lea clicked the most recent from the editor of BAM magazine. Lea applied for a contest BAM sponsored. The winner's designs would be featured in an issue. For Lea that was a dream come true. She stopped and pulled out her phone. "Jacob..." Lea said to herself. Jacob Gordon was Lea's business partner and best friend. Like Lea, he loved fashion. Jacob and Lea hadn't been friends for long, but Jacob had bluntly stated he wanted to be more than friends repeatedly. Lea told him she just wanted to be friends, so Jacob stopped trying to woo her.

Guess what? The editor of BAM just emailed me, Lea typed. She waited for a response.

Jacob: OMG!!! I just checked my e-mail.

Lea eagerly poured over the message.

Lea couldn't believe it. The owner of BAM wanted her and Jacob's designs in her magazine!

Lea texted Jacob.

OMG!!! They want us.

Jacob: I know. We must come up with a name.

Lea: Make that two names.

Jacob: So, do you want to have dinner Saturday night?

Lea: Sure, where?

Jacob: How about that steak place on the corner of 66th and New York Rd?

Lea: Sounds good.

Jacob: Is it okay if Nichelle comes?

Lea rolled her eyes. Jacob had been going out with Nichelle Noodlemack for two months. Nichelle was in Lea's art and math classes, but she and Nichelle didn't speak. Lea didn't know why but, she hated everything about her. Lea was about to text, "No", but Jacob might bring Nichelle along anyway.

Lea: Sure, the more the merrier (smiley face)

Jacob: Awesome: See you then.

Lea: Any dress code?

Jacob: Fancy

Lea: Great.

Saturday came quickly. Lea rifled through outfit after outfit. She regretted not making an outfit during the week, but she had so much work to do and too many distractions. Upstairs her older twin sisters Luna and Lura were fighting. Lucy and Lydia, her younger twin sisters, were banging on the door demanding to be let in. "Be quiet!" Lea yelled. Lea leaned against the door as her eyes fell onto a mannequin. On the mannequin was a black dress. The sleeves were knit with black mesh and the waist had a zig zag stitch. On the skirt the word Love was written in capital letters with a cloud cartoony form. Lea smiled deviously. When discussing the collection over dinner, why not wear a dress from the collection itself.

Lea got out of the cab. She wore a purple coat over her dress. Outside the restaurant stood Jacob and Nichelle. Jacob wore a blue coat with a white shirt and matching blue pants. Nichelle wore a red dress with a golden border on the waist, she had golden earrings. Her chocolate colored hair was in a high pony tail. "Finally." Nichelle said rolling her green eyes and clutching her black and white cheetah print coat around her body. Without heels, Nichelle was a taller than Jacob, so in those red three-inch heels she was a giant. "I'm five minutes early." Lea said. Nichelle blew air out of her lips. "Come on. Let's go inside." Jacob said.

When Lea took off her coat, "Number 27 Little black Graffiti." Jacob noted. They took a seat at a table. A woman with blonde hair came up to them. "Hello welcome to Golden Stars I'm Irish and I'll be your server?" She said in a Boston accent. "What can I get you?" "I'll have a chilled water, extra ice, and pomegranate flavored." Nichelle said. Irish nodded and wrote it down. "Except Room temp, no ice, and no pomegranate." "So just water." Irish said. "No!" Nichelle said rudely. "I want water chilled, extra ice, and pomegranate flavored." "Just no ice, room temp, not pomegranate flavored." Nichelle said. "Sweetie," Jacob said. "That is just room temp water." "No, it isn't!" Nichelle exclaimed. "Okay." Jacob said defensively. "Jeggings." He

cursed under his breath. “For you Miss.” Irish asked Lea. “I’ll have a Shirley Temple.” Lea said. Irish wrote it down. “Calories.” Nichelle murmured. “Excuse me?” Lea asked. “Do you hate your body?” Nichelle asked. “Sugar is bad for you.” Lea rolled her eyes.

This was going to be the longest dinner ever. “So, I think we need a name for the collection.” Jacob said. “I was thinking Modern Classic.” Lea said. As Irish brought out their drinks. “Since all of our outfits are classics with a modern pop.” “I was thinking a similar name like Iconic Pop.” Jacob said. “Oh, here’s one how about Flash Gardens.” Lea said. Nichelle rolled her eyes. “I think you’re being dismissive of Jacob’s ideas.” She said. “I’m not being dismissive.” Lea said. “I was thinking..” Jacob started. “I have an idea.” Nichelle cut in. “How about Ellehcin.” “My Name spelt backwards.” “Absolutely not!?” Lea yelled, a bit too loudly. A few people turned their heads. “As you know my birthday’s coming up.” Nichelle said. “Nichelle your birthday is seven months away.” Jacob said. “Well, consider it an early birthday present.” Nichelle said. “Why does Jacob need to get you an early birthday present?” Lea asked not trying to hide the rudeness in her voice. “Because I plan on dumping him.” Nichelle said. “Excuse me?” Jacob said. “Sorry honey, but Brodie Kurtus asked me out today and I said yes.” Nichelle said. “So now we’re over.”

Jacob just stared in shock. The hurt in his eyes angered her. Lea picked up Nichelle’s cup of water and dumped it on her head. Nichelle jumped up and screamed. “What was that for?” She yelled. Lea jumped up. “I was hoping you’d melt, you little witch!” Lea shouted. That caught everyone’s attention. “Jacob is a great guy and you don’t deserve him!” Lea yelled. “He’s sweet, kind, and has an awesome fashion sense.” “What do you care?” Nichelle asked. “Jacob told me he asked you out and you rejected him.” “I care because I love him!” Lea yelled. “I love him like a brother!” “And when you mess with the bull you get the horns!” Lea picked up a customer’s cake and shoved it in Nichelle’s face and grabbed some pudding and shoved it all over her dress. She screamed. “Check please.” Mrs. Gordon said.

The next day, Lea sat on her couch a remote in one hand and cherry soda in the other. She kept switching channels but nothing appealed to her. Lea turned it off. She couldn’t stop thinking about Jacob. Laura walked in. “Hi”, she said. “Hey”, Lea said. Lura had black hair and a pale complexion like her twin sister Luna. “I heard about what happened with Jacob.” Lura said. “Ah ha.” Lea said. “How’s he doing?” Lura asked. “I don’t know. I haven’t seen him since he left the restaurant.” Lea said. “Maybe you should give him a call.” Lura suggested and walked away. Lea sat there for a moment. Maybe she should call Jacob. Lea fished her phone out of her pocket and called Jacob. No answer. No matter, she knew exactly where he was. Lea grabbed her and sprinted to Chelsey’s.

Chelsey’s was a replica of a 1950’s drug store a popular hangout. Lea entered. Jacob sat at the counter drinking shots of chocolate milk. Lea sat next to him. “Hey.” She said. Jacob murmured a greeting. “How’s it going?” Lea asked. A waitress placed another small cup in front of Jacob, he took a swig. “I really just want to be alone.” He lied. “No, you don’t.” Lea said. Jacob nodded. “I’m so sorry Nichelle dumped you.” Lea said. When Jacob didn’t respond; Lea saw that he was crying. “Oh Jacob.” She patted his back. “It hurts a lot.” He cried. “I know.” Lea said. “Really?” Jacob asked, not convinced. “Yeah”, Lea said. “My first boyfriend Keith Klarkson dumped me for Marilynn Taylor. I was heartbroken, I thought I’d never get better”, Lea said, “but I did.” Jacob didn’t look up. Lea placed her hand on his shoulder. “Hey it’s her loss.” Lea said.

Jacob raised his head with tears on his cheeks. “I have a question.” He said. “What is it?” Lea asked. “At the restaurant, did you mean it when you said I’m like your brother?” He asked. “Every word” Lea said. “Thanks for sticking up for me.” He said. “What can I say,” Lea said. “you’re my best friend.” Jacob smiled. He was still sad, but Lea being there made him feel better. “Let’s ditch this place, go to my house eat ice cream, watch funny shows and listen to sad songs.” Lea said. “Okay.” Jacob said. “but only if it’s Full House.” “You got it dud.” Lea joked. Jacob laughed and off they went.

Jackson Wethington  
**Strange Dream**

St. Petersburg Main Library

Age 16, Eleventh Grade



Elija Sutherland  
**Bright Lights**

Safety Harbor Public Library  
Age 15, Ninth Grade



Jasmine George

# Fight of Flight

Largo Public Library

Age 17, Twelfth Grade

My heart was beating rapidly when I woke up. I frantically looked around, my vision slightly blurred. I noted I was in a horribly cold room. The walls were probably made out of metal for a reason I didn't know. I tried to get up, but I was strapped to a gurney. My panting grew as I realized I was trapped. Before I can vocalize my confusion, a dark man in a lab coat came to my side.

"I see you are awake. Please state your name," he said with an annoying calmness.

"Wh-where am I? I have to get out of here," I asked.

The man silently flipped through a file. "I see. Your name is Adrian Eren, you're from Aldera and your mother died when—"

"That's none of your business!" I said frustrated. I didn't know who this man was or how he had my information in a file. "Just tell me where I am already! I didn't sign up for this!"

The man shrugged his arms flippantly. "Sorry, can't do that. Just calm down," he said, tightening the straps on my gurney.

I had to get out. I tried to rip myself away from the restraints. The chafing leather around my arms was too tight to break loose. I began to panic. "Help! Somebody help me! I have to get out of here!" I shouted to anyone.

Large men in white uniforms ran into the room. They tried to hold me down to the gurney, but I wouldn't give up. There was no way I was going to stay here any longer. I kept shouting and pleading for my freedom as they inserted a needle into my skin. It felt as if my lungs were constricting as I tried to breathe. I panicked more and more until a shroud of darkness concealed everything.

I jumped as my eyes snapped open. This time they strapped me with chains. I quickly recounted what happened, convinced it wasn't a dream. I noted my surroundings while trying to clam myself. I was in another room, still cold and made of metal. I noticed this time I was sitting up in a chair. My sweaty limbs slid around in the chains as I tried to break free.

"Not so fast, Adrian Eren," another lab coat wearing man said. "Don't leave. You just arrived," he slurred.

I was silent, too afraid to speak. I gathered myself and asked the same question as before, "Where am I?"

The new doctor had slick blonde hair. His skin was rough and pale, along with his eyes. "I'm afraid I can't answer your question. The good news is that you don't need that answer anyway," he answered in a menacing voice. "Now, before you try to make another disappearing act, you're going to answer some of my questions."

I didn't look at him, choosing to stare directly at the wall in front of me. "O-okay, what's your question?"

The doctor answered by laughing. It was a small heckle, unsettling while it lasted. His twisted fingers thumped a syringe. "This won't physically hurt," he said as he injected the liquid into me.

I would have asked what he meant, but my world began to swell. The room grew bigger in width and height. All of a sudden, everything began to spin. Blooms of color began to appear in my vision. It was like everything was spinning at the speed of sound, lights and colors shouting at me.

I screamed out in an unfathomable type of pain. The chaos was unbearable. I didn't know how to get rid of it. I couldn't hear my screams any more, only the ache in my throat as I yelled. I couldn't see anymore, but I felt two pairs of hands drag me out of the area. I felt my body hit the ground, the impact breaking me away from the sights and sounds. I barely stood up from the ground, my legs trembling. I found myself among others, just as confused and scared as I was. I wasn't the only one.

A lady's voice spoke overhead, all of us turning our attention to a large screen. The lady's brown hair bounced as she spoke. I didn't hear any of what she said other than "fight or flight." A high-frequency pitch blared through the speakers. I grabbed my ears in utter agony. The sound pulsated throughout my head. I saw the others grabbing their ears, many writhing on the ground. Some began to have seizures, other beginning to bleed. Under the sound were the cries and pleads to stop the sound. I dropped down to my knees, too weak to stand. Soldiers burst through the doors, chaining up the ones foaming or bleeding. I felt myself about to pass out. I couldn't take it anymore. Before I succumbed, the pitch ended. My vision became clear as well as my head.

The lady appeared back on the screen. I listened fervently this time, “Look around you,” she said. I did as I was told, noticing the group was significantly reduced. “You are among the strongest in our society. Congratulations, you have completed the tests.”

One door opened, a bit of light showing. Everyone rushed toward it, running with relief. I didn’t know what to do. It didn’t seem right. I stood where I was, staring

at the open door. I didn’t know why my feet didn’t run toward the light. The door shut quickly, and I realized I was alone again. I heard screams of terror and pain ringing out from behind the door. There were sounds of shots and splatters of something. My skin chilled as I froze. Tears began to stream down my face as I realized what their fate was, and what mine was soon to be.

“Smart boy, the lady said, “you’re accepted.”

Isabel Asztalos

# Little Brown Bat

Dunedin Public Library

Age 13, Eighth Grade



Angelica Underwood  
**Sunset Beach**

Safety Harbor Public Library  
Age 13, Eighth Grade



Natalie Rutherford

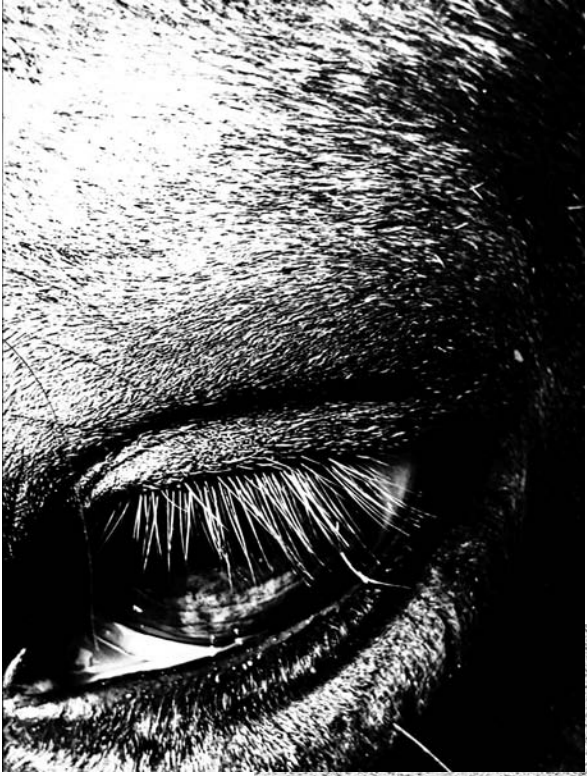
# Toledo Flamingo

Safety Harbor Public Library

Age 13, Eighth Grade







Sierra Venezia

# Window to Love

Dunedin Public Library

Age 11, Sixth Grade

## Summer Side Eye



Chloe Gutsch

# Kuroi Bara (Black Rose)

Dunedin Public Library

Age 12, Sixth Grade



## MEMBER LIBRARIES

### Clearwater Public Library System

100 N. Osceola Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33755  
P: (727) 562-4970  
[www.myclearwater.com/cpl](http://www.myclearwater.com/cpl)

### Dunedin Library

223 Douglas Avenue  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
P: (727) 298-3080  
[www.dunedingov.com/library](http://www.dunedingov.com/library)

### East Lake Community Library

4125 East Lake Road  
Palm Harbor, FL 34685  
P: (727) 773-2665  
[www.eastlakelibrary.org](http://www.eastlakelibrary.org)

### Gulf Beaches Library

200 Municipal Drive  
Madeira Beach, FL 33708  
P: (727) 391-2828  
[www.gulfbeacheslib.org](http://www.gulfbeacheslib.org)

### Gulfport Library

5501 28th Avenue South  
Gulfport, FL 33707  
P: (727) 893-1074  
[www.mygulfport.us/gpl](http://www.mygulfport.us/gpl)

### Largo Library

120 Central Park Drive  
Largo, FL 33771  
P: (727) 587-6715  
[www.largopubliclibrary.org](http://www.largopubliclibrary.org)

### Oldsmar Library

400 St. Petersburg Drive East  
Oldsmar, FL 34677  
P: (813) 749-1178  
[www.oldsmarlibrary.org](http://www.oldsmarlibrary.org)

### Palm Harbor Library

2330 Nebraska Avenue  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
P: (727) 784-3332  
[www.palmharborlibrary.org](http://www.palmharborlibrary.org)

### Pinellas Park Barbara S. Ponce Library

7770 52nd Street  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781  
P: (727) 369-0669  
[www.pinellas-park.com/library](http://www.pinellas-park.com/library)

### Safety Harbor Public Library

101 2nd Street North  
Safety Harbor, FL 34695  
P: (727) 724-1525  
[www.safetyharborlibrary.com](http://www.safetyharborlibrary.com)

### St. Pete Beach Library

365 73rd Avenue  
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706  
P: (727) 363-9238  
[www.spblibrary.com](http://www.spblibrary.com)

### St. Petersburg Public Library System

3745 Ninth Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713  
P: (727) 893-7724  
[www.splibraries.org](http://www.splibraries.org)

### Seminole Library

9200 113th Street North  
Seminole, FL 33772-2800  
P: (727) 394-6905  
[www.spcollege.edu/scl](http://www.spcollege.edu/scl)

### Tarpon Springs Library


138 E. Lemon Street  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
P: (727) 943-4922  
[www.tarponspringslibrary.org](http://www.tarponspringslibrary.org)

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[www.pplc.us](http://www.pplc.us)

A Publication of  
 **PPLC**  
Pinellas Public Library Cooperative

