

Roseburg Public Library Celebrates Love
Aurora Ropp and Kris Wiley for The News Review

Valentine's Day provides the perfect opportunity to read books about love. As a bonus, all of our picks this month are written by literary icons – writers who get a lot of love from readers whenever they publish a new title.

Board Book

“Ooo, Baby Baby!: A Little Book of Love” by prolific children’s book author and illustrator Sandra Boynton is a great book to share with your little one.

This book depicts a mother telling her child how much she has loved them from the beginning, loves them now, and will continue to always love them. They show love for each other while snuggling, exploring and sharing books together.

Illustrated with Boynton’s classic comic style, this mother and child duo are rabbits in human clothing. The story is a great reminder of love for young children, babies through 4 years old, to share with a parent.

Middle Grades

“Remember Us” is the latest junior novel by powerhouse author Jacqueline Woodson. It is a love letter to a community from the perspective of a 12-year-old girl living in Brooklyn during the Bushwick fires in the 1970s.

Sage always has felt comfortable playing basketball with the boys in her neighborhood, but as she matures she wants to bond with the girls in her school. That turns out to be more challenging than Sage expected when she is pressured to give up her favorite sport.

Fortunately, she becomes friends with Freddy, a boy whose family has moved into the area, and their bond helps them both through a life-changing time.

Woodson, a MacArthur Fellows Program (MacArthur “Genius”) recipient, brings her trademark poetic prose to this narrative of a remarkable, relatable tween girl who has a deep love for the community that raised her.

Young Adults

David Levithan is a titan in the teen book world. With solo publications such as “Every Day” and co-authored titles such as “Nick and Norah’s Infinite Playlist” (with Rachel Cohn), Levithan’s books resonate with young adults.

His latest title, “Ryan and Avery,” revives characters who first appeared in the award-winning “Two Boys Kissing,” which was published in 2013.

Ryan and Avery are high schoolers navigating their first 10 dates as they deal with all of the other obligations most teenagers face: family, extracurricular activities, jobs, friends.

They have extra things to handle because Ryan and his parents haven't communicated well since he came out, and Avery continues to work through his feelings as a transgender boy.

I enjoyed the nonlinear plot – the book opens on the fifth date – and the large cast of characters that added depth to the narrative. This is a sweet love story that will resonate with readers who have waded into the dating pool.

All of these books are available at the library. Place holds at roseburg.biblionix.com, or contact library staff at library@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7050 for assistance.

This Month's Youth Programs

10:15 a.m. every Wednesday – Storytime with Aurora

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10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6 – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7 – Artist exploration for K-5th graders

3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 – Building & Legos for all ages

3-5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 – Maker space time for all ages

4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14 - Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 4th through 8th graders

3-5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15 – Teen volunteer hours

10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20 – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21 – STEAM program for elementary students

3-4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 – Seasonal kids crafts and Celebration of Literacy

4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28 - Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 4th through 8th graders