



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE  
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015



# THE JOY OF READING



ALCOVE 3

## INSIDE

That All May Read  
Books Go to War

## PLUS

- 🕒 The First Great American Reader
- 🕒 Take Me Out to the Ball Game
- 🕒 The John W. Kluge Center at 15



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

[WWW.LOC.GOV](http://WWW.LOC.GOV)



Young Readers Center head Karen Jaffe shows students a special copy of Dr. Seuss's "Green Eggs and Ham" with braille pages during a "Read Across America" event at the Library. *Shawn Miller*



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE

Library of Congress Magazine  
Vol. 4 No. 5: September/October 2015

**MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

The mission of the Library is to support the Congress in fulfilling its constitutional duties and to further the progress of knowledge and creativity for the benefit of the American people.

**Library of Congress Magazine** is issued bimonthly by the Office of Communications of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, donors, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. Research institutions and educational organizations in other countries may arrange to receive *Library of Congress Magazine* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-4100. LCM is also available on the web at [loc.gov/lcm/](http://loc.gov/lcm/). All other correspondence should be addressed to the Office of Communications, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-1610.

e-mail [pao@loc.gov](mailto:pao@loc.gov)  
[loc.gov/lcm](http://loc.gov/lcm)  
ISSN 2169-0855 (print)  
ISSN 2169-0863 (online)

JAMES H. BILLINGTON  
*Librarian of Congress*

GAYLE OSTERBERG  
*Executive Editor*

AUDREY FISCHER  
*Editor*

JOHN H. SAYERS  
*Managing Editor*

ASHLEY JONES  
*Designer*

SHAWN MILLER  
*Photo Editor*

*Contributing Writers*

- DEZIREE ARNAIZ
- JOHN Y. COLE
- MARIA COMÉ
- KATE DiCAMILLO
- JENNIFER GAVIN
- MARK HARTSELL
- KAREN KENINGER
- OCTAVIA SPENCER
- JASON STEINHAEUER
- STEPHEN WESSON

# In This Issue

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

## FEATURES

**8 The Joy of Reading**  
The Library of Congress promotes literacy nationally and internationally.

**14 Books in Action**  
When America sent its soldiers overseas to fight World War II, it sent great books along, too.

**16 Dots and Sound**  
Braille, talking books and other technological advances make reading universally accessible.

## DEPARTMENTS

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>2 Books That Shaped Us</b>      | <b>21 My Job at the Library</b> |
| <b>3 Favorite Places</b>           | <b>22 Library in History</b>    |
| <b>4 Trending</b>                  | <b>24 Around the Library</b>    |
| <b>6 Technology at the Library</b> | <b>25 News Briefs</b>           |
| <b>7 Page From the Past</b>        | <b>26 Shop the Library</b>      |
| <b>13 Expert's Corner</b>          | <b>27 Support the Library</b>   |
| <b>20 How Do I?</b>                | <b>28 Last Word</b>             |
| <b>20 For You at the Library</b>   |                                 |

**ON THE COVER:** Top, Children's author Ellen Oh explores the Library's Young Readers Center. Bottom, The Library's Main Reading Room shelves house the General Collections. Photos | *Shawn Miller*

### CONNECT ON

- Twitter:** [@librarycongress](https://twitter.com/librarycongress)
- Youtube:** [youtube.com/libraryofcongress](https://youtube.com/libraryofcongress)
- Facebook:** [facebook.com/libraryofcongress](https://facebook.com/libraryofcongress)
- Flickr:** [flickr.com/photos/library\\_of\\_congress/](https://flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/)

- Pinterest:** [pinterest.com/LibraryCongress/](https://pinterest.com/LibraryCongress/)
- Library of Congress blogs:** [blogs.loc.gov](https://blogs.loc.gov)
- LCM online:** [loc.gov/lcm](http://loc.gov/lcm)



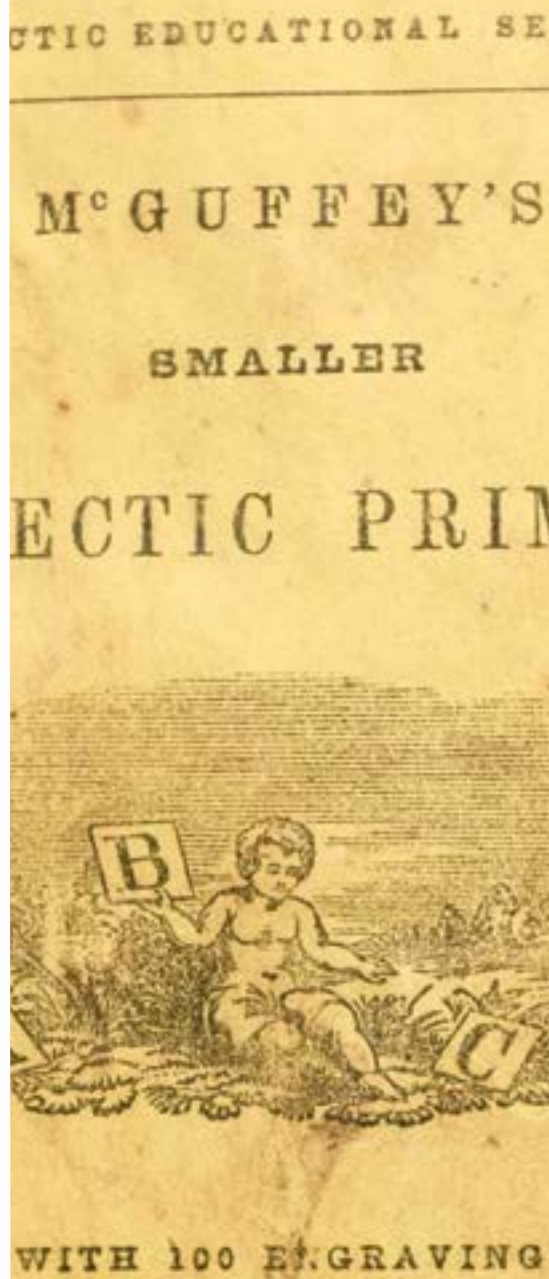
**4** President Woodrow Wilson



**22** John W. Kluge



**28** Octavia Spencer



## THE MCGUFFEY READERS

**THE LIBRARY'S LIST OF "BOOKS THAT SHAPED AMERICA" SPARKED A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON BOOKS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN OUR LIVES.**

The McGuffey Readers, one of the nation's first series of textbooks, not only taught reading but shaped the morals, societal standards and character of generations of Americans.

The books emerged in the early 19th century to address the needs of American teachers, who often taught students of varying ages and abilities in one-room schoolhouses with few resources other than the Bible. To assist them, the Cincinnati publishing firm Truman and Smith commissioned Ohio college professor and Presbyterian minister William Holmes McGuffey to produce a series of progressively more complex primers to instruct the nation's children.

Published between 1836 and 1837, McGuffey's four "eclectic readers" progressed from phonetic instruction for teaching basic vocabulary words to excerpted literature from well-regarded British and American writers. The texts were brimming with moral and spiritual guidance that illustrated the rewards of hard work and the consequences of vices like lying and stealing.

One student who was profoundly influenced by the McGuffey Readers was manufacturer Henry Ford (1863-1947). During his lifetime, Ford collected over 468 copies of 145 different editions. In 1934, Ford paid to have McGuffey's log-cabin birthplace outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, moved to the grounds of the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

The McGuffey Readers, in various editions, sold more than 120 million copies by 1960—numbers comparable to the Bible and Webster's Dictionary. Since then, they have continued to be published at a rate of about 30,000 a year, mainly for use in homeschooling and in private schools.

For their broad and continuing influence on American society, the McGuffey Readers are on the Library of Congress list of "Books That Shaped America." Housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, the Library's collection of more than 195 editions of the McGuffey Reader was acquired in 1937 as a gift from a Detroit schoolteacher.

—Deziree Arnaiz is a program assistant in the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

**▶ MORE INFORMATION**

View the exhibition "Books That Shaped America" [loc.gov/exhibits/books-that-shaped-america/](http://loc.gov/exhibits/books-that-shaped-america/)

**McGuffey Reader Collection**  
[loc.gov/r/rarebook/coll/152.html](http://loc.gov/r/rarebook/coll/152.html)

▲ "McGuffey's Newly Revised Eclectic Primer," Cincinnati: W. B. Smith & Co., 1849 | Rare Book and Special Collections Division



Shawn Miller

**▶ MORE INFORMATION:**

**Location:**  
Thomas Jefferson Building  
Room LJ G29  
(ground floor)  
10 First St. S.E.  
Washington, DC 20540  
202.707.1950

**Hours:**  
Monday through Friday  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturday, Sunday  
and federal holidays

**THE YOUNG READERS CENTER** in the Library of Congress welcomes children, teens and adults to explore the center's library of current and classic books, which can be read onsite. Adults can also read aloud to their children from a selection of preschool-appropriate books by the nation's best authors and illustrators. The center's book collection is noncirculating, and readers are encouraged to check with their school and local public libraries for copies that they can borrow and enjoy at home to complete their reading.

Adults can safely help their children explore the Internet at computer stations in the Young Readers Center. These computers only access kid-friendly websites such as Read.gov, the Library's website for readers of all ages.

The Young Readers Center offers Story Time for infants and toddlers every Friday (except holidays) starting at 10:30 a.m. Free admission stickers are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis (maximum 50) beginning at 10 a.m.



## A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS HAS TAKEN REPLICAS OF ITS RICH BASEBALL COLLECTIONS OUT TO THE BALLGAME.

With Major League Baseball's World Series just around the corner, the national pastime is in the news and on the minds of its avid fans.

To reach a new audience in a new venue, the Library of Congress worked with its hometown team, the Washington Nationals, to mount a baseball exhibition at Nationals Park. The display explores baseball's roots and celebrates the game's traditions—especially in the nation's capital.

"Baseball Americana from the Library of Congress" debuted on the 2015 season's opening day on the main concourse at the stadium's home-plate entrance and continues indefinitely. The exhibition features more than 30 oversized facsimiles of Library treasures covering more than two centuries of America's pastime: the game's origins, early competition, the men and women who played the game—Hall of Famers, members of Congress, soldiers—and those who cheered it on.

The Library preserves the world's largest collection of baseball material: sheet music, baseball cards, photographs, films, newspaper clippings, broadcasts and recorded sound. It holds the first film of a baseball game (Edison's 1898 "The Ball Game"), the original copyrighted version of sports' greatest hit ("Take Me Out to the Ball Game"), the personal papers of pivotal figures (Branch Rickey, Jackie Robinson), perhaps the earliest baseball card ("Champions of America," 1865) as well as the countless accounts of victory, defeat, historic teams and wretched losers found in the millions of newspaper pages of the institution's collections.



The exhibition features seven themes: baseball roots, presidential pitches, congressional games, music, Washington baseball history, women in the game and—using images donated by servicemen to the Library's Veterans History Project—baseball and the military.

A 1787 printing of "A Little Pretty Pocket-Book" features verse and woodcut illustrations depicting outdoor activities for children—and provides the earliest-known printed mention of baseball in America.

Many images explore the capital's baseball past through scenes at Griffith Stadium, the ballpark that for more than 50 years served as home to the Washington Senators. In the exhibition photos, Senators players raise the American League pennant in 1925, Babe Ruth slides into third, Hall-of-Famer Walter Johnson loosens up before taking the mound, Joe DiMaggio mingles at an All-Star Game and, on Ladies Day, fans visit with Bucky Harris, the player-manager who, at age 27, took over the Senators and led them to a World Series title.

The exhibit also highlights the D.C. roots of a baseball ritual: presidential pitches, a tradition

inaugurated by William Howard Taft in Washington on opening day, 1910.

"It took time to become an annual ritual," said Susan Reyburn, co-author of the 2009 Library publication "Baseball Americana." "Most of them seemed to have been legitimate baseball fans. Woodrow Wilson truly was. Calvin Coolidge was not, but his wife, Grace, was a diehard fan."

"I think people will be very surprised that the Library of Congress collects baseball materials and that this is important for the Library to collect," said Senior Exhibit Director Betsy Nahum-Miller said. "They'll see that the Library collects all different kinds of things from American culture, including sports."

—Mark Hartsell is editor of the Library's staff newspaper, "The Gazette."

### MORE INFORMATION

View the Nationals Park exhibition online  
[loc.gov/exhibits/baseball-an-american-sport](http://loc.gov/exhibits/baseball-an-american-sport)

Historic Baseball Resources  
[loc.gov/topics/baseball](http://loc.gov/topics/baseball)

**Above:** Clockwise from top left: President Woodrow Wilson throws out the first ball at opening day, 1910. *Prints and Photographs Division*; President Calvin Coolidge shakes hands with Washington Senators pitcher Walter Johnson at Griffith Stadium, 1924. *Prints and Photographs Division*; The New York Female Giants, 1913 *Prints and Photographs Division*.

**Opposite:** The Library's "Baseball Americana" exhibit is on view at Nationals Park. *Courtesy of the Washington Nationals*

The Library's baseball-related collection items range from baseball cards to sheet music.

The following Student Discovery Sets are designed for student use. Educators can find a Teacher's Guide for each online, with information on each object, a background essay and ideas for classroom use.



- Children's Lives at the Turn of the Twentieth Century
- The Constitution
- The Dust Bowl
- The Harlem Renaissance
- Immigration
- The Industrial Revolution
- Japanese American Internment
- Jim Crow and Segregation
- Political Cartoons and Public Debates
- Symbols of the United States
- Understanding the Cosmos
- Women's Suffrage

## INTERACTING WITH HISTORY

### THE LIBRARY'S STUDENT DISCOVERY SETS BRING ITS PRIMARY SOURCES TO TABLETS.

Have you ever held history in your hands? Traced the lines in Galileo's drawings of the moon? Flipped through the scrapbooks of American suffragists? Explored the Parisian workshop in which the Statue of Liberty was built?

The Library has invited students to draw on, zoom in on, and ask questions about dozens of topics represented in its collections—all through a new series of free interactive ebooks for iPads, the Student Discovery Sets.

These sets bring together documents and artifacts from across world history and the Library's collections, all on topics that are relevant to the classroom. From thousand-year-old maps of the cosmos to new oral-history videos of civil rights veterans, the one-of-a-kind objects in the sets have the power to immerse students in history and to prompt them to explore it further.

Primary sources like these have tremendous educational potential, says the Library's director of educational outreach, Lee Ann Potter. "Analyzing primary sources can engage students in difficult subjects, help to build their critical-thinking skills and enable them to create new knowledge. By delivering some of the Library's richest primary sources in this interactive medium—one that allows students the chance to really look closely at these powerful objects and feeds their curiosity—we're able to facilitate that analysis and to support the growing community of tablet-using educators."

New interactive tools developed by the Library's Web Services division help bring the objects in the sets to life. With the swipe of a finger, students can flip through books, zoom in closely on images and videos, create drawn and written notes, and respond to prompts that bring them into deeper investigation of these artifacts and their times.

The Library has launched a dozen Student Discovery Sets to date, all of which are available for free download on Apple's iBooks Store. More information can be found on the Library's website for teachers.

—Stephen Wesson is an educational resource specialist in the Educational Outreach Division.

#### ▶ MORE INFORMATION

Library of Congress Student Discovery Sets  
loc.gov/teachers/student-discovery-sets/



## A SAILOR'S MAP JOURNAL

Sept. 2, 1945, marked the end of World War II, following the surrender of the Japanese to the Allied forces. Seventy years later, researchers can access the eyewitness accounts and memorabilia of those who served in the war, which have been collected by the Veterans History Project (VHP) in the Library's American Folklife Center.

One of the more unusual acquisitions, pictured above, is a combination journal and map kept by Homer Bluford Clonts, a Navy signalman who served in the Pacific on the USS Eldorado from 1943 to 1945. Under the command of Adm. Kelly Turner, the ship and its crew helped capture the island of Iwo Jima. Were it not for the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that hastened the war's end, Clonts and his shipmates might have been part of the U.S. mission to invade Japan, set to begin on Nov. 1, 1945.

"This is not what you'd consider a typical journal," said VHP archivist Andrew Cassidy-Amstutz. "Clonts annotated the front of this oversized map of the Pacific Ocean with his ship's arrivals and departures from various islands. On the reverse, he kept a detailed journal of the military encounters he and his shipmates faced. His entries illustrate the daily challenges and terrors of military deployment."

"The Navy has lost more men here at Okinawa than the Army and Marines together," Clonts wrote in an undated entry. "Ships have been hit every day, mostly by suicide planes."

The map journal came to the Library jammed in a poster tube, covered in tape and water-stained.

Prior to extensive conservation treatment, the map was badly distorted from the tape and unusable. The paper was very fragile and more than 35 feet of adhesive tape used to repair tears in the map's many folds had to be removed both manually and with solvents.

"This was a very challenging treatment," said Heather Wanser in the Library's Conservation Division, who painstakingly performed the work. "The colored inks used to print the map, and the pen ink that Clonts used, were soluble in some of the solvents that are used to remove tape and adhesive. Some of the tape was extremely tenacious."

Following conservation treatment, the historically significant text is legible.

In September 1945, Clonts wrote, "The war is over." His journal concludes with this entry on Nov. 10, 1945, "Discharged from U.S. Navy."

—Maria Comé is an intern in the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

#### ▶ MORE INFORMATION

Veterans History Project  
loc.gov/vets




---



---

# THE JOY OF READING

---



---

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PROMOTES  
THE PLEASURE AND POWER OF READING.

---



---

BY JENNIFER GAVIN

Thomas Jefferson famously stated, “I cannot live without books,” but he didn’t think the nation should have to live without them, either. So, in 1815, he offered his collection of 6,487 volumes—the finest private library in the U.S.—to Congress to replace its books and maps, destroyed by British arson during the War of 1812.

The Enlightenment concept that a free people—if well-informed—could be their own best masters was an idea close to Jefferson’s heart. And it is a major reason the Library of Congress, in addition to being Congress’ touchstone for research and the de facto national library of the United States, also considers literacy promotion to be part of its mission.

## LITERACY PARTNERSHIPS

Through public and private partnerships, the Library’s literacy-promotion efforts have a wide reach. Since its establishment by Congress in 1977, the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress is at the heart of the Library’s work for reading and literacy promotion. The center sponsors educational programs that reach readers of all ages—nationally and internationally. It provides leadership for affiliate centers for the book (including the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands). The center also works with its 80 nonprofit reading-promotion partners—from the Academy of American Poets to the early childhood learning group “Zero to Three.”



**Opposite:** Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, from left, acting Surgeon General Boris D. Lushniak, NFL Hall of Famer Warren Moon and Chef Pati Jinich participate in a “Let’s Read! Let’s Move!” event at the Library of Congress. *Courtesy of U.S. Department of Education*



Shawn Miller

The center sponsors a number of reading-promotion contests for young people. Letters About Literature, the Library’s national reading and writing program, asks young people in grades 4 through 12 to write to an author (living or deceased) about how his or her book affected their lives. With private support, more than a million students have participated in this program over the past 20 years.

In partnership with Saint Mary’s College of California’s Center for Environmental Literacy, the Library participates in River of Words—an international poetry and art contest for youth (K-12) on the theme of the environment.

The “A Book That Shaped Me” Summer Writing Contest encourages rising 5th- and 6th-graders to reflect on a book that has made a personal impact on their lives. Administered through the summer reading programs of local public library systems in the Mid-Atlantic region, the program honors its top winners at the Library’s National Book Festival in Washington, D.C.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

The Library of Congress recognizes that in the modern, media-driven world, reading online—or in any genre or format—must be at the center of its literacy-promotion efforts. To that end, the Library’s reading-promotion website, Read.gov, offers online resources ranging from booklists to interactive video games.

The full texts of more than 50 classic books for young people are available on Read.gov. These e-books range from “Aesop’s Fables” and “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” to “Treasure Island” and “A Christmas Carol.”

“The Exquisite Corpse Adventure,” a zany story created by multiple children’s authors and illustrators, is presented on the site in an episodic fashion. “Readers to the Rescue” is a visual game set inside a library inhabited by a cast of storybook characters. Players will view as many as 36 unique animated short films and access 51 classic books they can read online. “Readers to the Rescue” is a collaborative project of the Library of Congress, Brigham Young University and the Ad Council.

The site also offers parents and educators online resources that can assist them in their reading-promotion efforts, including information about programs offered in their local area.

### ACCESS FOR ALL

“That All May Read” is the credo of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), part of the Library of Congress since 1931. The program provides braille and “talking-book” materials—free of charge—to eligible U.S. residents (including American citizens living in foreign countries) and lets those unable to use standard print materials due to visual impairment or physical handicap sign up through a network of local libraries. Today, program members also can download their books, magazines or music through their computers or even their cellphones (see page 16).



A young reader enjoys a book at the 2014 National Book Festival. *Donna Sokol*

### NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Now in its 15th year, the Library of Congress National Book Festival is a widely anticipated annual event in the nation’s capital. Award-winning authors and illustrators from diverse genres greet their fans and speak about their latest works of fiction and nonfiction—for children, teens and adults.

From presidential biographers to celebrity chefs, the festival offers something for book-lovers of all ages.

The book festival began in 2001 when former first lady Laura Bush, a career librarian, suggested a national literacy event to Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, similar to one she had founded in Texas. Since then, more than a million visitors have attended the festival in person. Those unable to attend in person can view online hundreds of author presentations made at current and past festivals, listen to podcasts of author interviews, follow the Library’s book festival blog and Twitter feed and find activities that bring the National Book Festival to the classroom.

The festival is privately funded by sponsors, such as David M. Rubenstein, AARP, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The Washington Post, Wells Fargo and the National Endowment for the Arts. Hundreds of volunteers from the Library’s staff, the public and the Junior League of Washington, D.C., ensure that visitors navigate the huge festival.

Avid readers explore the 2014 National Book Festival at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. *Colena Turner*

## LITERACY AWARDS

Since 2013, the Library of Congress Literacy Awards have provided monetary prizes to three organizations annually, in the U.S. and abroad, that do exemplary, replicable work alleviating the problems of illiteracy (inability to read). Annually, a “best practices” document is produced and distributed.

“Literacy opens doors to life’s great opportunities,” said philanthropist David M. Rubenstein, who supports the awards and the National Book Festival. “Literacy is the basis for success in life.”

## AMBASSADORS FOR READING AND VERSE

With the Children’s Book Council and Every Child a Reader, the Library is the national cosponsor of the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, a major children’s or teens’ author who advocates for youth reading. The ambassadors, each of whom chooses a theme for his or her tenure, visit children in reading-related venues all over the nation. The current ambassador is Kate DiCamillo, whose platform is “Stories Connect Us” (see page 13).

The Library’s Poetry and Literature Center promotes those arts and advises the Librarian of Congress in naming the nation’s Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. Like the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, each Poet Laureate has a unique project or platform that promotes the reading and writing of verse. Juan Felipe Herrera, the Library’s 21st Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry and the first Hispanic poet to hold the position, begins his term in September.

## A PLACE OF THEIR OWN

The Library of Congress is open for research to those over the age of 16. Younger readers have a place of their own—the Young Readers Center in the Thomas Jefferson Building. Children, their families, caregivers and teachers visiting the Library of Congress can come to the Young Readers Center to use computers and enjoy a broad selection of books on-site, participate in author talks and other special programming, and attend story times for young children. The center sponsors special appearances by popular children’s authors such as Jeff Kinney (“Diary of a Wimpy Kid”), Katherine Paterson (“Bridge to Terabithia”), Lois Lowry (“The Giver”) and Octavia Spencer (“Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective”).

### ► MORE INFORMATION

**Literacy and Reading Promotion at the Library**  
Read.gov

**National Book Festival**  
loc.gov/bookfest

**Poetry and Literature Center**  
loc.gov/poetry

**National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**  
loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead

*Jennifer Gavin is a senior public affairs specialist in the Library’s Office of Communications.*



Shawn Miller

## NATIONAL AMBASSADOR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERATURE KATE DICAMILLO DISCUSSES HOW STORIES CONNECT US.

As the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, I have traveled all over the country and everywhere I went, I met truly passionate readers—adult and children.

I have found that my platform or theme, “Stories Connect Us,” is kind of implicit in those public events. By that I mean that we are all gathered together—in theaters, gymnasiums, classrooms—because of a story. Stories have brought us into the room. It’s a wondrous thing.

I have thought long and hard about why books and reading and writing matter so much to me, and—after much cogitation—I came up with the answer that a story has always been a way for me to understand the world, to connect to other people, to connect to myself.

I write for both children and adults and I like to think of myself as a storyteller. I also think of myself as an enormously lucky person. I am lucky that I get to tell stories for a living. I am lucky as a writer because my stories get read out loud—in schools and at home and in nursing homes and hospitals. And I think when people read stories out loud together, everyone pulls closer, leans in, connects.

When we read together—when a grandfather reads to a granddaughter, when a teacher reads to a classroom, when a parent reads to a child, when a sister reads to a brother, when everyone in a town reads the same book silently, together—we are taken out of our aloneness.

Together, we see the world. Together, we see one another. We connect. And when we connect, we are changed.

The biggest surprise for me has been seeing my platform come true again and again, just being in a room with kids and talking about our hearts and our hopes and the stories we have read. I have felt connected to thousands of people—because of story.



My advice to my successors is to be prepared to be overwhelmed by joy.

*Kate DiCamillo is a two-time Newbery Medal winner, for “Flora and Ulysses” (2013) and “The Tale of Despereaux” (2003), which was made into a feature film. Her first published novel, the Newbery Honor-winning “Because of Winn-Dixie” (2000) was also adapted for the screen.*

### ► MORE INFORMATION

**National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature**  
read.gov/cfb/ambassador

**National Ambassador Inauguration, 2014**  
loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\_wdesc.php?rec=6210

**At 2014 National Book Festival**  
loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\_wdesc.php?rec=6383

**At 2009 National Book Festival**  
loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\_wdesc.php?rec=4689

**2004 National Book Festival**  
loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\_wdesc.php?rec=3592

**2002 National Book Festival**  
loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\_wdesc.php?rec=3477

▲ National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Kate DiCamillo discusses her role in reading promotion at a Library event held May 6, 2015. Shawn Miller



# BOOKS IN ACTION

BY JOHN Y. COLE

## THE ARMED SERVICES EDITIONS

When books went to war, many American soldiers and sailors discovered the joy of reading

Between 1943 and 1947, nearly 123 million copies of flat, wide and easily pocketable paperbacks were distributed by Army and Navy Library Services—free of charge—to U.S. service members around the world.

How did this happen? In 1942, U.S. Army librarian Ray Trautman and Army graphic arts specialist H. Stahley Thompson approached a publisher with their idea to distribute inexpensive paperback editions overseas. They enlisted support from the Council on Books in Wartime, a nonprofit coalition of trade publishers, booksellers and librarians who viewed books as “weapons in the war of ideas.” The council turned a good idea from the U.S. Army into an efficient cooperative enterprise that involved the Army, the Navy, the War Production Board and more than 70 publishing firms.

Designed to appeal to a wide variety of reading tastes, the Armed Services Editions included best sellers, classics, mysteries and poetry. A total of 1,324 titles were published in the series. The Library of Congress holds one of only a few complete sets that survive today.

The first title in the series was “The Education of Hyman Kaplan,” a collection of humorous stories by Leo Rosten. The author received these words from a grateful serviceman:

“I want to thank you profoundly, for myself and more important, for the men here in this godforsaken part of the globe. ... Last week we received your book on Mr. Kaplan. ... As an experiment, I read it one night at the campfire. The men howled. Now they demand I only read one Kaplan story a night: A ration on pleasure.”

The volumes were designed and printed to be read and discarded. While paperback volumes date to the late 15th century, the Armed Services Editions were a harbinger of the postwar mass-market approach that revolutionized American book-buying and reading habits.

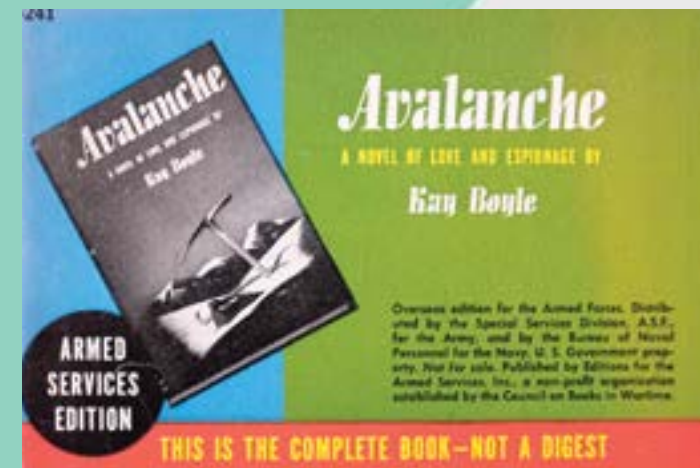
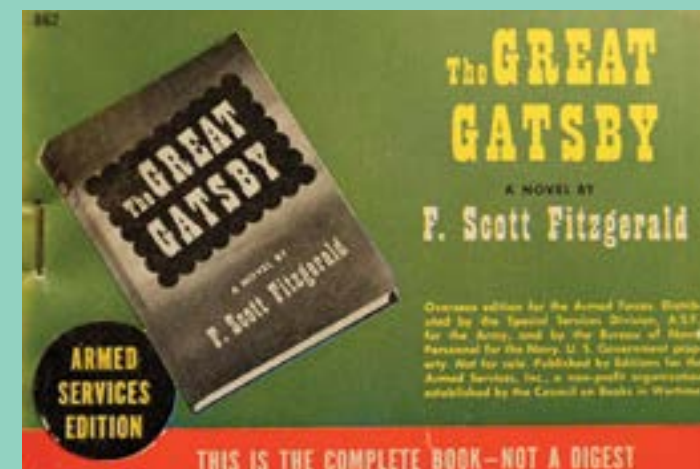
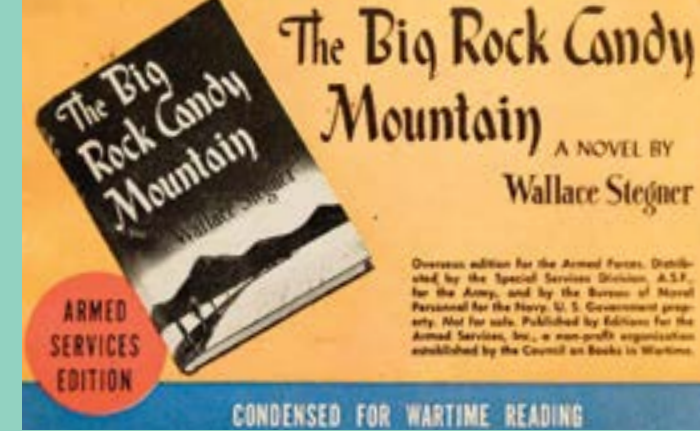
Author Wallace Stegner was proud that his work, “The Big Rock Candy Mountain,” was part of “that first great experiment in the mass production and mass distribution of books.” He added, “The paperback revolution that followed owed an incalculable debt to the Armed Services Editions.”

Author Irving Stone, whose works “Lust for Life” and “Immortal Wife” were included in the series, believed the book-distribution program to be “one of the most significant accomplishments of our war effort.” He recalled letters from soldiers who credited the project with their desire to “read a book straight through for the first time in their lives.”

Authors who served overseas took particular pride in the inclusion of their books. David Ewen (“Men of Popular Music” and “The Story of George Gershwin”), who served in the armed forces during World War II, said he “knew only too well what a solace books could be.”

“I myself not then being too long a civilian remember my pride at seeing the small paper edition and thinking of it going out to beguile the time of soldiers and sailors,” said novelist Herman Wouk about his work “Aurora Dawn.”

Serviceman Arnold Gates carried a copy of Carl Sandburg’s “Storm Over the Land” in his helmet



during the 1944 Battle of Saipan. “During the lulls in the battle I would read what he wrote about another war and found a great deal of comfort and reassurance.” Years later, Sandburg inscribed the book for him.

Author Kay Boyle learned from retired servicemen that her book “Avalanche: A Novel of Love and Espionage” was “more or less required reading for them before they took part in missions over France.”

Amid concerns about government distribution of titles that might favor the re-election of Franklin D. Roosevelt to a fourth term, Congress passed Title V of the Soldier Voting Act of 1944. The law banned some titles from being distributed to the armed forces. A temporary ban was placed on E. B. White’s “One Man’s Meat,” though White recalled that “the boys overseas told me that my essays about life in New England reminded them of home and made them feel good about what they were doing.”

Distribution of 155,000 copies of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby” to the armed forces during World War II helped spur the novel to a level of success it had not achieved in the author’s lifetime. To date, the book has sold more than 25 million copies.

“‘The Great Gatsby’ endures because it’s our most American and our most un-American novel at once: telling us the American Dream is a mirage, but doing so in such gorgeous language that it makes that dream irresistible,” says Maureen Corrigan, author of “So We Read On: How the Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures.”

How better to inspire the troops to victory?

Selected Armed Services Editions | *Rare Book and Special Collections Division*

### ► MORE INFORMATION

Armed Services Editions Collections  
[loc.gov/rr/rarebook/coll/020.html](http://loc.gov/rr/rarebook/coll/020.html)

“Books in Action: The Armed Services Editions”  
[bit.ly/1JcwIS2](http://bit.ly/1JcwIS2)

John Y. Cole is director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.



## READING THROUGH DIFFERENT MEANS DOTS AND SOUND

BY KAREN KENINGER

Braille, talking books and other technological advances make reading universally accessible.

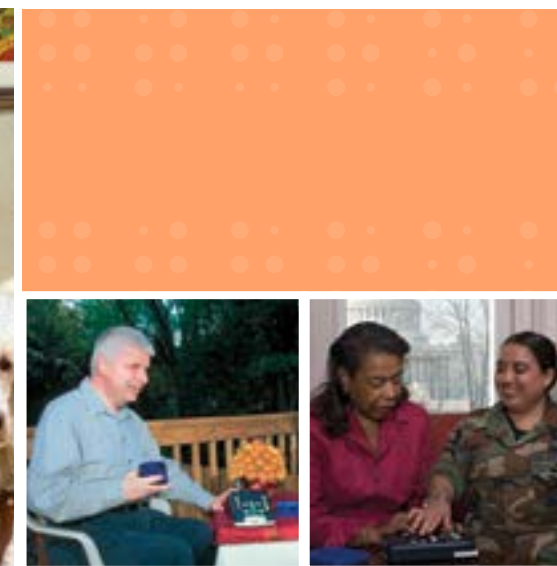
Virginia Jacobs enjoys reading on her smartphone using the BARD mobile app provided by the Library's braille and talking-book program. *National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped*

Literacy, with all of its nuances and benefits, can be a significant challenge for people who are blind or severely visually impaired.

Recognizing the immense value of true literacy for blind as well as nondisabled Americans, in 1931 Congress established the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)—a division of the Library of Congress.

A system devised some 200 years ago has solved the problem for a great many people. Braille, named after its inventor Louis Braille, provides a direct corollary to print that allows people to read and write without the need for vision. Using braille, blind readers have the benefits of the same conventions used by print readers to make sense of a document at the deepest level. Thus braille provides complete literacy for its reader.

NLS maintains a robust collection of braille books and magazines. Each year it adds approximately 500 titles to that collection, with a strong showing of titles for children and teens. NLS materials are circulated by a network of more than 100 cooperating libraries throughout the United States and its



Clockwise from top left: Tamara Rorie enjoys a talking book with her guide dog, Jaya; Lloyd Rasmussen enjoys relaxing with a digital talking book using the NLS advanced digital talking-book player; Volunteer Freddie Peaco teaches U.S. Air Force veteran Claudia Perry to use the NLS digital talking-book player; Overseas patron Bev Collins enjoys reading with the BARD mobile app while sailing around the world, *Victoria Koviös*; Thomas Ley, who is blind, and his wife Eileen Rivera Ley, who is vision-impaired, share a print/braille book with son John Carlos while his sister, Maria, looks on. All photos unless noted | *National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped*



Oral Miller learns to use the Braille and Audio Reading Download at an NLS regional library. *National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped*

territories. The collection has contributed to the development of generations of readers who have become leaders in their fields and communities.

Take author Tommie Lussier, for example. Now the president of the San Francisco Public Library Advisory Committee for the Blind and Print Disabled, she lost her sight at age 28.

“Braille equals independence for me,” Lussier says. “It also allows me to keep my finger on the written word, to virtually see the letters, the words, the composition, the lines, the paragraphs, the punctuation and above all else, the spelling of words. In reading braille, I am more in touch with the pen and paper that I left behind. . . . I thank NLS for sending me the books that have comforted my mind, in good times and in bad.”

Like print, braille is moving into the electronic environment. Using a device called a refreshable braille display, electronic braille text is displayed and read on movable pins that substitute for braille dots. NLS has approximately 13,000 electronic braille titles available through its download service, known as BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download), as well as multiple issues of some 50 magazines. NLS patrons who own refreshable braille display devices can download these titles and read them immediately.

Haben Girma, a law school student who is deaf/blind, uses braille in her classes at Harvard Law School and her internships at the U.S. Department of Energy and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She enjoys

reading braille books downloaded from BARD on her refreshable braille display device. Like Tommie Lussier, she credits her accomplishments to her access to braille. She reads digital braille using her braille display about 95 percent of the time.

An important literacy tool for children is the NLS collection of colorful books with interleaved print and braille pages. These print/braille books are particularly useful for parents and teachers reading to blind children and for blind parents and teachers reading to sighted children. They also promote sharing among blind and sighted peers.

Deborah Kendrick, blind since age five, reads print/braille books to her sighted children. She also says she learned to cook, clean, decorate, make baby food, garden and crochet, all through braille books borrowed from her NLS library. Now a freelance writer, Kendrick has published thousands of articles in mainstream and specialized publications.

Although braille provides a complete literacy experience, most people who lose their vision later in life do not learn to read it fluently. Instead, they rely on talking books to fill that gap. NLS records over 2,000 talking-book titles and over 40 magazines each year, thereby building a collection comparable to a medium-sized public library. Eligible patrons can borrow these books and a specialized playback machine through a network of cooperating libraries, or they can download talking books and magazines directly from BARD using the NLS BARD Mobile apps for iOS or Android devices.

“I am new to this [talking book] service,” wrote Judy Carson. “It has been about two months now. Being legally blind is rather difficult. I used to read at least one book a week and loved to read ever since I was a little girl. So when I could no longer read books, I was devastated. . . . Now I just enjoy it tremendously. This is a godsend for me. I imagine others feel the same way. Now it is a matter of catching up on my favorite authors and what they wrote.”

The daughter of a Tennessee patron wrote: “Through a terrible series of health crises and diabetes, my dad, who had always been so filled with life and interested in everything, found himself much diminished. He was a double amputee over the last two years and his eyesight was much diminished as well. One of the few things he had left was his love of books. But he was unable to read any more until we discovered your wonderful organization.

“My dad loved his digital player and all of the many, many digitally recorded books he read over the last two years. He especially loved history and biographies and adventure. He preferred nonfiction and you provided him with a rich array—a veritable smorgasbord of books for his enjoyment. His mind remained completely intact and it gave him something fascinating to talk about to family and friends.”

Stories such as these illustrate how the NLS braille and talking-book program ensures that all may read.

#### ◉ MORE INFORMATION

**National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**  
[loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead](http://loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead)

*Karen Keninger is the director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She is also a patron.*



## GET A READER CARD



**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS READER IDENTIFICATION CARDS** are required for patrons wishing to conduct research in any of the Library's 21 reading rooms and Computer Catalog Centers. These cards are free of charge and are valid for two years from the date of issue. They can be obtained by anyone above the age of 16 by completing the registration process (outlined below) and presenting a valid driver's license, state-issued identification card or passport.

With a reader card, patrons can request materials from the Library's general collections via the Library of Congress Online Catalog ([catalog.loc.gov](http://catalog.loc.gov)) using their individual account numbers. Library materials may only be used on the premises.

- 1 Visit the Madison Building in Washington, D.C., Room 140, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- 2 Complete a standard form at a self-serve computer station.
- 3 After verifying your information, a Library staff member will take your identification photo, have you provide a signature and give you a reader card.

## for you AT THE LIBRARY

### BRaille AND TALKING BOOKS




**THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED (NLS)** administers a free library program of braille and talking-book materials to U.S. residents and citizens living abroad whose low vision, blindness or physical disability makes reading standard print difficult. A network of regional and subregional libraries throughout the country mails audio and braille books and magazines and playback equipment directly to NLS patrons. Selected materials are available online for download through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). The BARD mobile app allows registered users to read audio over their smart phones, and braille books with a Bluetooth device.

**WHAT:** Library services for people who are blind, visually impaired, or have a physical disability.

**WHERE:** Eligible U.S. residents or citizens living abroad

**COST:** FREE

 [NLS loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead](http://loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead)  
Enroll 1.888.NLS.READ or [nlsalkingbooks.org/talkingbooksform/](http://nlsalkingbooks.org/talkingbooksform/)

## EDMUND O'REILLY DISCUSSES HIS WORK IN THE LIBRARY'S NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.

### How would you describe your work at the Library of Congress?

The Collection Development Section of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) is a group of dedicated professionals who are committed to supplying our national network of regional libraries and support agencies with the best recreational and informational reading available.

As head of the section, my most important task is to support the team (five selection librarians, one foreign-language librarian and one technician) in their work of selecting and annotating more than 3,700 books annually for the national collection and setting those titles on a path of transformation from print to digital audio or braille.

### How did you prepare for your current position?

After military service, I earned a master's degree in English literature from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a doctorate in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. "Sobering Tales," my book about alcoholics' narratives, was based on my dissertation research (University of Massachusetts Press, 1997). In the late 1980s, I worked with the Smithsonian Institution on its acquisition of the Folkways Records collection and, in 1991, joined the Publications and Media Section of NLS. Fifteen years later—with a five-year interval in London as a copyeditor with the BBC—I became head of the NLS Collection Development Section.

All these experiences have contributed to an eclectic breadth of knowledge, respectable English-language skills, and a certain grasp of the culture of our small, unique organization.

### How are items selected for inclusion in the braille and talking-book collection?

Our selection model is that of a small public library. We select bestsellers from several lists, follow appropriate professional trade publications and online resources, listen to the requests and complaints of our patrons and aim to please as broad a range of readers as possible, including children and teens. We veer away from academic and technical books unless they have strong "crossover" appeal.



A good example is Timothy Verstynen and Bradley Voytek's "Do Zombies Dream of Undead Sheep?" Published by Princeton University Press, the book uses the zombie phenomenon in popular culture in order to give lay readers a solid foundation in neuroscience. Blind, visually impaired and physically disabled readers have the same reading requirements and share the same tastes as the rest of the American public. I hope this is not surprising.

▲ Edmund O'Reilly, left, confers with members of the NLS Collection Development Section. *Lina Dutky*

### What are some of the most interesting or unusual items selected for the NLS collections?

Recently we acquired Chen Guangcheng's "The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man's Fight for Justice and Freedom in China." Macmillan Audio generously provided us with its own production of the digital talking book, and Henry Holt and Company gave us a PDF of the print edition to expedite braille production. Macmillan also gave us Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren's narration of her autobiographical manifesto, "A Fighting Chance." From Hachette Audio, we have just acquired Jo Nesbø's "Blood on Snow," read by rock star Patti Smith, of all people.

Mark Stein's popular "How the States Got Their Shapes" was produced late last year in seven volumes of braille, lavishly illustrated with tactile renditions of all the maps that appeared in the print version.

We are about to engage in production of the massive two-volume "Norton Anthology of World Religions." The anthology was co-edited by Jane McAuliffe, former head of the Library's Office of Scholarly Programs and recently appointed director of the Library's National and International Outreach directorate, which includes the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.



John W. Kluge and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington celebrate the official opening of The John W. Kluge Center on May 7, 2003. *John Harrington*

### THE KLUGE PRIZE

The vision for The John W. Kluge Center included the creation of a major international prize in the humanities and social sciences. Since 2003, the Library has recognized eight Kluge Prize winners for achievement in the study of humanity, with the ninth and tenth awards to be presented to Jürgen Habermas and Charles Taylor in fall 2015 (see page 25).



These eight laureates exemplify the importance of the humanities and social sciences and how scholarship can both shape public affairs and civil society. Recipients have, through their work, led the transformation of a third world country into a first-world economic power (Fernando Henrique Cardoso); created entire new fields of historical study (John Hope Franklin, Peter Brown); advanced the causes of democracy and human rights under authoritarian regimes (Leszek Kolakowski, Yu Ying-shih); battled against religious and nationalist extremists to write a more accurate version of history (Romila Thapar); explored the nature and limits of what constitutes the human experience (Paul Ricœur); and broadened our knowledge of Christian culture and tradition. (Jaroslav Pelikan).

## THE KLUGE CENTER AT 15

### THE JOHN W. KLUGE CENTER IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BEGAN WITH A SHARED VISION OF EXCHANGING IDEAS AND SCHOLARSHIP.

On the occasion of the Library's 200th anniversary in 2000—at the start of a new millennium—Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and philanthropist John W. Kluge shared an aspirational vision. They saw an opportunity to bring the world of ideas together with the world of policy-making—with the Library of Congress serving as the meeting ground. They would create a space for scholarship within the Library's historic Thomas Jefferson Building and bring the most brilliant minds from around the world to Washington, D.C., to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between scholars and lawmakers.

Fifteen years later, some 600 scholars from around the world have passed through the Kluge Center's halls. It has brought more than 50 of the world's leading thinkers into residency as senior chairholders. It has welcomed nearly 40 more as distinguished visiting scholars. More than 130 emerging scholars—seven years or fewer removed from their Ph.D.s—have earned Kluge Fellowships. More than 350 scholars have received fellowships funded through the center's global partners, including more than 200 doctoral candidates from British universities. Taken together, the Kluge Center has supported the most accomplished minds around

the world at later stages of their careers, as well as hundreds of the next generation of great thinkers in early stages of their careers.

The Library of Congress collections remain the lifeblood of the Kluge Center. The insights borne from the interaction of brilliant minds with the Library's unparalleled holdings continually produce new knowledge. Scholars have used the collections to research topics ranging from astrobiology's impact on society to the origins of realpolitik in Anglo-American foreign policy; from the history of The Coca-Cola Co. to the intersection of politics, race and medicine in mental-health treatments; from changing images of God the Father to analyzing the texts of early India, and everything in between. Their findings help illuminate truths about our world and the human condition.

The Kluge Center has enriched the intellectual life of Washington by presenting hundreds of special events to showcase its resident scholarship. Audiences at Kluge Center events over the years have included Members of Congress and their staffs, ambassadors, federal and state policymakers, scholars, students and the general public. Those events have helped to illuminate the relationship of Islam to the west and the origins of Islamic legal systems; examined the digital revolution and the rise of so-called "digital natives"—those who grew up with the technology; explored the field of astrobiology—the study of life beyond earth—and its implications for humanity; and welcomed dozens of top foreign policy experts to assess America's role in the world, past, present and future.

Members of Congress who were in residence at the Kluge Center to write books included the late Rep. Major Owens (D-N.Y.), "The Peacock Elite: A Case Study of the Congressional Black Caucus" and former Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.), "Humor in Public Life." The late historian Robert Remini wrote "The House: The History of the House of Representatives" while in residence at the Kluge Center.

In bringing hundreds of scholars to the Library to mine the Library's collections and creating a dialogue with the nation's lawmakers and the public, the Kluge Center has realized the dream set forth 15 years ago.

*—Jason Steinbauer is a program specialist in the John W. Kluge Center in the Library of Congress.*

### ► MORE INFORMATION

**John W. Kluge Center**  
loc.gov/kluge

**Kluge Center on Twitter**  
@KlugeCtr



Jane McAuliffe moderates a panel on freedom of expression at Scholarfest. *Shawn Miller*

### SCHOLARFEST 2015

The John W. Kluge Center marked its 15th anniversary with Scholarfest, a two-day celebration of scholarship held June 10-11 at the Library of Congress.

More than 70 scholars discussed topics that included cognition and database design, the term "ghetto" and its role in the formation of Jewish and African-American identities, the universal declaration of human rights, the contemporary relevance of the Cold War, marriage law, life beyond earth and ISIS. "Lightning Conversations" featured 10-minute rapid-fire dialogues between pairs of scholars working on similar or related topics.

The event drew current and former Kluge Center scholars and two Kluge Prize winners—Romila Thapar and Fernando Henrique Cardoso. In a conversation moderated by Jane McAuliffe, director of the Library's National and International Outreach, the two pre-eminent scholars reflected on the past, present and future of India and Brazil, respectively.



1



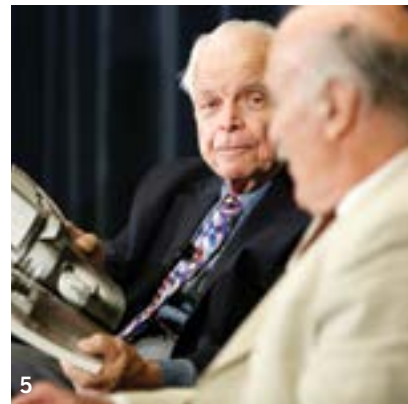
2



3



4



5



6

1. James McGrath Morris discusses his new book, “Eye on the Struggle: Ethel Payne, The First Lady of the Black Press.”

2. Audience members dance to the Louisiana music of Creole United during a Homegrown Concert Series performance in the Library’s Coolidge Auditorium.

3. Marinera Viva!!! presents dances of Peru in a concert performance at the Library sponsored by the American Folklife Center.

4. Junior Fellows Summer Interns Nian Hu, left, and Samuel Cole Wood, right, demonstrate the Library’s Chronicling America website.

5. Photographer Bob Adelman, left, and former ACLU President Ira Glasser discuss the photos and themes from their book, “Visions of Liberty,” at the Library.

6. Former Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell participate in a moderated discussion during the Library’s inaugural Daniel K. Inouye Distinguished Lecture.

All photos | Shawn Miller

### JUAN FELIPE HERRERA NAMED POET LAUREATE

Juan Felipe Herrera has been appointed the Library’s 21st Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. His 2015-2016 term begins with an appearance at the National Book Festival Sept. 5 and a reading of his work in the Library’s Coolidge Auditorium on the evening of Sept. 15. Herrera, the son of migrant farm workers, is the first Hispanic poet to serve in the position. He earned a bachelor’s degree in social anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles; a master’s degree in social anthropology from Stanford University and a master of fine arts at the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

Herrera is the author of more than a dozen books of poetry, including “Half of the World in Light: New and Selected Poems” (2008), which received the National Book Critics Circle Award and the International Latino Book Award. He has also written works for young adults and children, including “Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes” (2014). Herrera has also served as chancellor for the Academy of American Poets (2011) and Poet Laureate of California (2012-2015).

► MORE: [loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-096.html](http://loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-096.html)

### 2015 LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE WINNERS

The winners of the 2015 Library of Congress national reading and writing program, Letters About Literature, have been announced. The program asks young people in grades 4 through 12 to write to an author (living or deceased) about how his or her book affected their lives. Three students earned a national prize, five others received a national honor award and approximately 150 students were selected as winners in their states. More than 50,000 young readers from across the country participated in this year’s Letters About Literature initiative, which is funded by a grant from the Library’s James Madison Council with additional support from the Library’s Center for the Book. Since 1997, more than a million students have participated in the annual program. Winning letters can be read at [read.gov/letters/](http://read.gov/letters/).

► MORE: [loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-113.html](http://loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-113.html)

### WILLIE NELSON TO RECEIVE GERSHWIN PRIZE

Willie Nelson has been selected as the next recipient of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. With a career that spans six decades, Nelson’s music pushes genre boundaries and his lyrics give voice to America’s heartland. He put his imprint forever on country music and introduced it to new audiences by expanding music’s avenues in the ‘70s to create “outlaw country.”

He has continually broadened his musical language, crossing into jazz, blues, folk, rock and Latin styles. A guitar virtuoso with a unique voice, Nelson is an artist whose work continues to inspire new musicians of diverse genres. Nelson will receive the prize in Washington, D.C., in November and be feted with a series of events. The prize honors a living musical artist’s lifetime achievement in promoting song to enhance cultural understanding; entertaining and informing audiences; and inspiring new generations.

► MORE: [loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-117.html](http://loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-117.html)

### PHILOSOPHERS TO SHARE KLUGE PRIZE

Philosophers Jürgen Habermas and Charles Taylor will share the prestigious \$1.5 million John W. Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity awarded by the Library of Congress. Habermas and Taylor rank among the world’s most wide-ranging philosophical minds. Both have pursued pressing political questions from a deep philosophical perspective. Born in Düsseldorf, Germany in 1929, Habermas is a prominent voice in national and international discussions of important social and political issues. His signature work, “The Theory of Communicative Action” (1981), posits that human rationality is the outcome of successful discourse. Born in 1931 in Montreal, Canada, Taylor has written on subjects as diverse as metaphysics, modern culture, human conduct and behavior, modernization and the place of religion in a secular age. In his most defining work, “Sources of the Self” (1989), Taylor surveys moral vision, from ancient Greece to the modern period.

► MORE: [loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-125.html](http://loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-125.html)

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SHOP offers items that celebrate books and promote the joy of reading.



**Keep Calm, Read On Tote**

Product #21301022  
Price: \$12.95

The phrase used to boost British morale during World War II is used to promote reading.



**Reading Bear**

Product #21505250  
Price: \$14.95

This adorable plush bear loves his books! Ages 3 and up.



**I Cannot Live Without Books Pillow**

Product #21305033  
Price: \$34

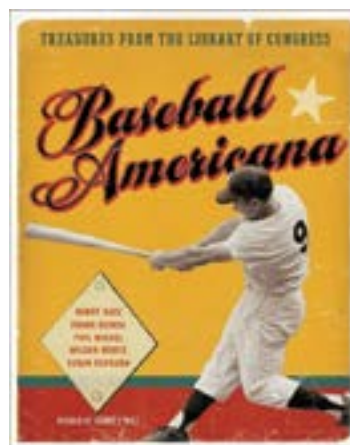
Thomas Jefferson's comment to John Adams in 1815 still resonates with bibliophiles today. Polyester and cotton cover is removable. 12" x 14"



**Smart Kids Love Books T-shirt**

Product #213030211  
Price: \$16

Encourage your child to read early with this literary affirmation. Specify red or blue. Children's sizes S, M, L, XL



**Baseball Americana**

Product #21107117  
Price: \$21.95

Home of the world's largest baseball collection, the Library of Congress presents this lavishly illustrated history of the national pastime. Softcover, 265 pages with 350 images.



**Baseball Signatures Silk Tie**

Product #21304152  
Price: \$29.95

Perfect for baseball fans who dreamed of playing in the Big Leagues, this tie features signatures from all-stars like Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb.

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | Order online: [loc.gov/shop](http://loc.gov/shop) | Order by phone: 888.682.3557

## CHAMPIONS OF LITERACY

GENEROUS SUPPORT HELPS THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PROMOTE THE JOY OF READING.

Each year the Library of Congress reaches out to the philanthropic community to make possible many of the Library's signature initiatives that create lifelong readers and address the problems of illiteracy in the U.S. and abroad.

David M. Rubenstein, co-founder and co-CEO of The Carlyle Group and chairman of the Library's private-sector advisory group, the James Madison Council, is the lead benefactor of the Library's hugely popular National Book Festival, providing \$10.3 million in support since 2010.

"Reading has been a powerful force in my life and is a major contributor to my success," said Rubenstein. "The public library my parents urged me to investigate as a child turned into a limitless source of information and amazement. For me, it opened a door to the universe."

Now in its 15th year, the Library's National Book Festival celebrates the joy of reading by bringing award-winning authors—writing in a variety of genres—together with their fans. Hundreds of thousands have attended the free, public event since its inception and many more have viewed author presentations online or on C-SPAN. In addition to Rubenstein, the 2015 book festival is made possible by AARP, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The Washington Post, Wells Fargo, the James Madison Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and many other generous supporters.

The "A Book That Shaped Me" Summer Essay Contest is a popular element of the National Book Festival. This annual contest, offered in conjunction with public libraries in the Mid-Atlantic region, is designed to encourage rising 5th- and 6th-grade students to reflect on books that have affected them.

Rubenstein also funds the Library of Congress Literacy Awards, which he established in 2012. The three awards, totaling \$250,000 annually, recognize exceptional achievement in advancing literacy. Winning organizations, along with more than a dozen others, also contribute information about their best practices to a publication that offers ideas for replicating aspects of their programs.



▲ Library benefactor David M. Rubenstein speaks at the Library's 2014 Literacy Awards ceremony. *Amanda Reynolds*

Rubenstein sponsors a series of symposia that explore the connections between literacy and other facets of life. The first symposium, held in March 2015, examined the connection between literacy and poetry, and in 2016 the symposium will focus on the health implications of low literacy.

More than 1 million students have participated in the Library's signature reading and writing promotion program—Letters About Literature—over the past 20 years. This privately funded initiative provides the opportunity for young people in grades 4 through 12 to write to an author (living or deceased) about how his or her book affected their lives. Awards are given at the state and national level. The poignant letters have revealed that through the power of books, young people learn more about themselves and the world; handle difficult situations like peer pressure, bullying or prejudice; or cope with life-changing disappointment and loss. The Madison Council, with additional support from donors to the Library's Center for the Book, funded the 2014–2015 Letters About Literature program. The 2015–2016 competition will be made possible by a generous grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

**Make a Gift to the Library of Congress**  
202.707.1447  
[loc.gov/philanthropy](http://loc.gov/philanthropy)

**Visit the Library's reading-promotion website**  
[Read.gov](http://Read.gov)



Shawn Miller

### ACTRESS AND CHILDREN'S AUTHOR OCTAVIA SPENCER DISCUSSES THE POWER OF READING.

Imagine a four-year-old girl: vibrant, filled with vitality and the audacity of youth, and ripe with potential. She has six brothers and sisters, all under the age of 14. Only one parent is present in the household, the mother, and there are limited resources. The mother has only a seventh-grade education herself. She's barely literate, but possesses a resilient yet conservative constitution and a strong work ethic.

The mother works various menial jobs to provide for her children. She desires a better life for them, as she knows their potential. She's determined that her station in life will not dictate their future. She dreams that her children will one day go to college. And she teaches them to work hard and dream for themselves. So, she works as best she can with the educators in her community because she knows, better than anyone, that education and literacy are the keys that unlock poverty's chains. Literacy and education are the keys to the kingdom.

Standing before you is the embodiment, the culmination, if you will, of all of those efforts. Educators and a mother with limited literacy skills worked together to help me fulfill the dreams that they envisioned for me and the dreams that I had envisioned for myself.

I am grateful to my mother for understanding that education was the key. It is the key. But she wouldn't have been able to do that if she didn't work with the educators. My mom had several jobs, so she couldn't be present at all of the PTA meetings. But she let all the teachers know that they had a direct communication road with her, especially about conduct. If you weren't getting an A in conduct, then that might be the reason that you were having a problem with your course study.

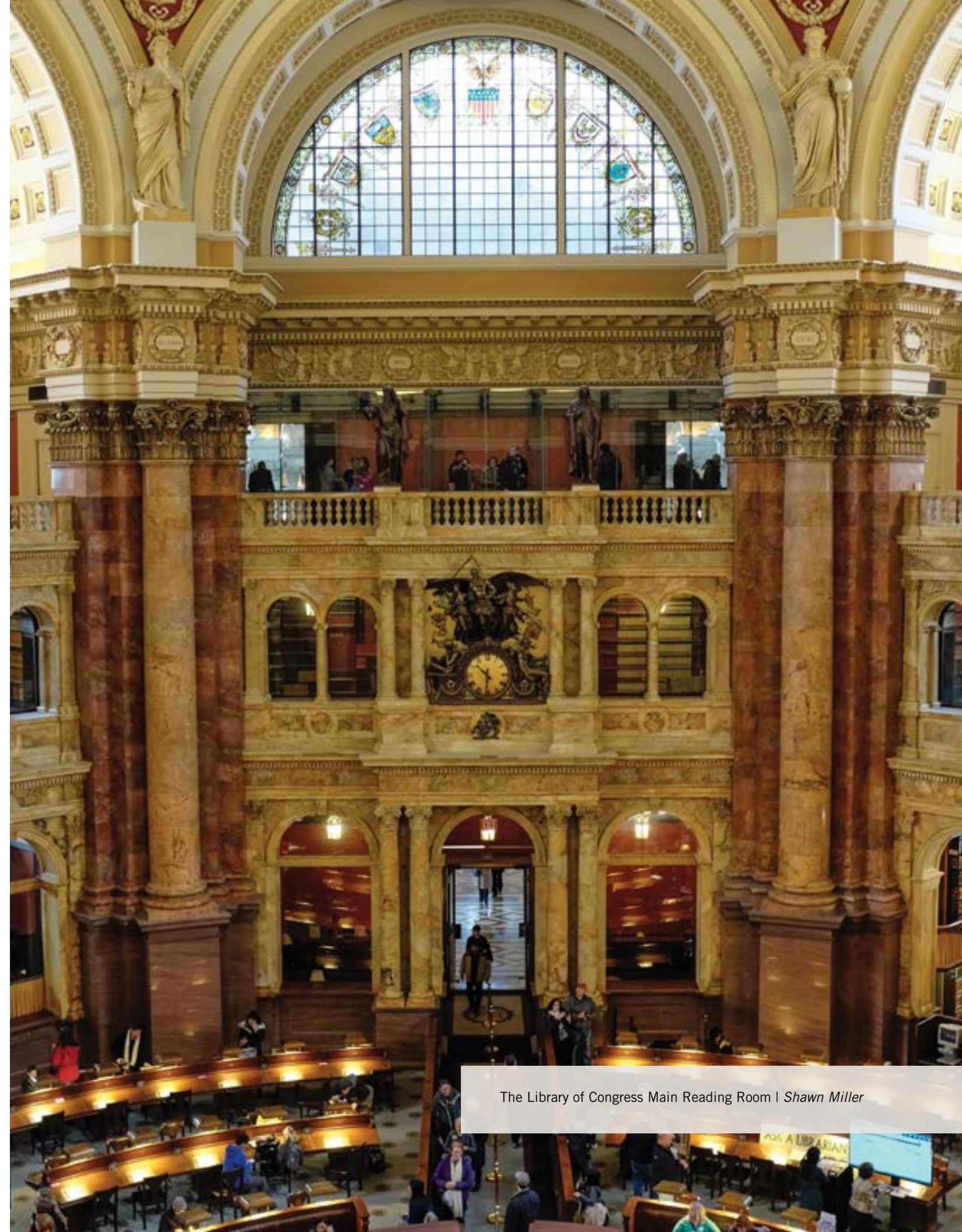
But that wasn't my case. I didn't realize that my learning challenge had a name—dyslexia. And it was my teachers who saw my potential, even though I was dyslexic. They encouraged me.

Those of you who are teaching the youngest of students, you have to keep them encouraged. You have to let them know that education is the only way to beat the circumstances sometimes that they're in. Some of them can be from the most affluent families, but may still not feel that they're getting the attention they need. A lot of it falls on your shoulders. But it starts in the formative years and it really does start with encouragement.

But the interesting thing is, there was never a moment of doubt in my mind that I would get to do what I enjoy doing. And you know why that is? It was because I was empowered. The moment I read my first book and understood what it meant, understood the story and identified with the characters, I was set free. We were poor. So I couldn't take trips all over the world with cars and boats. But I could get there in a book, through reading.

When young men and women understand the written word and know that they have a future, they feel empowered.

*Octavia Spencer is an actress best known for her Oscar-winning role in "The Help." Spencer created the children's book series "Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective" Her remarks are excerpted from her talk at the Library of Congress on March 26, 2015.*



The Library of Congress Main Reading Room | Shawn Miller





LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
101 INDEPENDENCE AVE. S.E.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20540-1610

DATED MATERIAL

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE  
\$300

[WWW.LOC.GOV](http://WWW.LOC.GOV)

PRESORTED STANDARD  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
WASHINGTON, DC  
PERMIT No. G-103



## exhibitions

AT THE LIBRARY

### “Chamber Music: The Life and Legacy of Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge”

Through  
Jan. 23, 2016

### Pointing Their Pens: Herblock and Fellow Cartoonists Confront the Issues

Through  
March 19, 2016

### Thomas Jefferson’s Library: Celebrating 200 Years

Ongoing

▶ MORE INFORMATION:  
[www.loc.gov/exhibits/](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/)