

DID YOU KNOW
THE LIBRARY
OFFERS THIS?

Our mission is to connect, inspire, and empower our community!

Computers and Wifi

Computers and Wi-Fi are available for public use.

On our computers, no library card is necessary; just choose your own login ID.

MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, educational games for kids and more are available on our computers.

Printing and Copying

Printers and copiers are available for public use at every location. Black and white printing/copying is \$.10 per page. Color printing/copying is \$.50 per page.

MAKER LAB

3D Printing

These printers can be used to make three-dimensional objects using plastic filament. This service is available to all ages.

Vinyl Cutter

Bring your own supplies or pay for the supplies we have on hand. Machines are free to use. Each person is limited to 5 sessions a month.

Button Maker

Button makers are available for public use. The finished buttons are 2.25 inches in diameter. This service is available to all ages.

Your next great discovery is waiting at the Mobile Public Library. Come find it today!

SPOKEN WORD

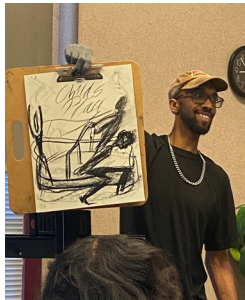
by Adrienne McSwain-Dawson, Special Events Coordinator for MPL



SPOKEN word poetry is celebrated for its rhythmic and expressive delivery, seamlessly blending poetry, storytelling, and performance art. It thrives on creative freedom, often fusing elements of rap and other performance genres to create dynamic pieces. Spoken Word of Mobile, an intergenerational poetry organization based in Mobile, embodies this vibrant art form. On Saturday, November 23rd, from 2 PM to 5 p.m., the group hosted its annual Open House, celebrating their years of coming together at the Virginia Dillard Smith/Toulminville Branch Library. Poets and performers gathered to share powerful spoken word poetry, showcasing the rich diversity and creativity of the group.

Delores Gibson serves as the president of the organization, with Stacey Davis as the vice president, Geno Williams as the treasurer, and Sharon Davis as the secretary. Together, they work diligently to ensure the group runs smoothly. Each month, on the third Monday from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m., they host Poetry Nights at the Virginia Dillard Smith/Toulminville Branch Library. This gathering offers a welcoming space for poetry enthusiasts to share their work, exchange ideas, and celebrate the art of poetry in a supportive community setting.

A special thanks goes to Librarian Gertrude Laffiette, who has helped organize Spoken Word of Mobile events with the Mobile Public Library for many years.



Library Connections

The MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY Newsletter

The Ben May Main Library 'Echo' Sculpture

by Elizabeth Theris-Boone, Manager LH&C

ISSUE 17
WINTER 2024

As you enter the Reading Room of the Ben May Main Library, look up towards the second-floor windows facing Government Street, and you will see the figure of a woman standing on a marble base, cupping her hands around her mouth, seeming to call out into the void. This beautiful bronze sculpture is named Echo, and she has just recently come back to Mobile Public Library after having been placed on long-term loan with the Mobile Museum of Art.

Created by prominent American sculptor Charles Henry Niehaus, this work of art is believed to be the representation of the tragic nymph Echo of Greek mythology. As legend has it, Echo became entangled in the marital strife of Zeus and Hera, distracting Hera from her husband's lecherous pursuit of the other nymphs with her idle chatter, and in return being cursed to lose the independence of her voice, only able to repeat the words last spoken to her. Subsequently, when Echo later fell in love with Narcissus, she was unable to communicate, and the depth of her love coupled with the devastation of his rejection led her to fade away until nothing remained of her but her voice.

Niehaus was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to German parents. He attended the Royal Academy in Munich, Germany where retained much of the Neo-Classical flavor in his art. He returned to America in 1881 and was commissioned to sculpt two statues of the recently assassinated president, James Garfield – one for Garfield's hometown, Cincinnati and the other for the National Statuary Hall Collection at the



United States Capitol in Washington DC. Niehaus had eight statues in the National Statuary Hall, more than any other sculptor. Monuments by Niehaus can be found in many American cities. Niehaus died at the age of 80 in his home in Cliffside Park, New Jersey on June 19, 1935.

This sculpture was originally bequeathed to Mobile Public Library in 1973 under the Last Will and Testament of Ethel Burgess Maschmeyer, a philanthropic Mobilian who devoted much of her life and resources to helping the less fortunate.

The Mobile Federal Museum and Gallery, formerly located in the east wing of the second floor of the Main

Library where Reference is now, was dedicated as a Gallery for works of art, a project spearheaded by Emma Roche. This was the Mobile Federal Museum and Gallery, named for Emma Langdon Roche who served as the State Supervisor of the Federal Art and Museum Projects of the Alabama, a W.P.A. Agency. The Gallery was renamed the Emma Langdon Roche Fine Arts Room in 1946. When the gallery closed in 1954, the loans were returned to the owners and the Mobile Historic Preservation Society (1954). Echo was placed on long term loan with the Mobile Art Gallery by the Library's Board of Trustees on November 13, 1973. It was returned to Mobile Public Library 45 years later on May 23, 2018. When next you find yourself at the Main Library, be sure to go up to the second-floor Reading Room, visit with Echo, spare her a kind word, and give her a warm welcome back home.

Happy Therapy (De-Stress) Fest at West by Christina Cox and Christie Lovvorn

Saturday, October 5, the West Regional Library hosted De-Stress Fest, its first-ever mental health and wellness fair, which was attended by more than 200 visitors. Staff members Christina Cox and Christie Lovvorn co-led the event, which included many community experts and volunteers. Paul Ezelle, director of the Laity Care Center at Cottage Hill Baptist Church, spoke on humor and stress management. University of South Alabama graduate students London Bowers and Morgan Patterson offered insight into stress among children and teens, suggesting ways parents can assist them. Physical therapist and clinical director of Results Physiotherapy Arlaina Brown, P.h.D., discussed the positive impact of physical exercise on stress, while her mother, retired social worker Christine

Davis, talked about stress among the senior population before leading a vision board demonstration. The lobby was filled with exhibitors such as the Red Cross and Alta Pointe, which hosted information tables. Ten high school students from Alabama School of Mathematics and Science helped with special activities such as outdoor games, a journaling station, and adult coloring. Dana Schaub, registered dietitian and owner of Whole Self Care, volunteered her time leading a chair yoga demonstration. Visitors entered a prize drawing that included four individual certificates for a free massage or therapeutic treatment at Intuitive Massage. Speakers and visitors enjoyed the event so much that they inquired about having the event again next year.

INFORM

ENTERTAIN

INSPIRE

Our mission is to support literacy and connect our community.

Mobile Public Library
mobilepubliclibrary.org
251-340-1535



/Mobile.Public.Library



/MobilePublicLibrary

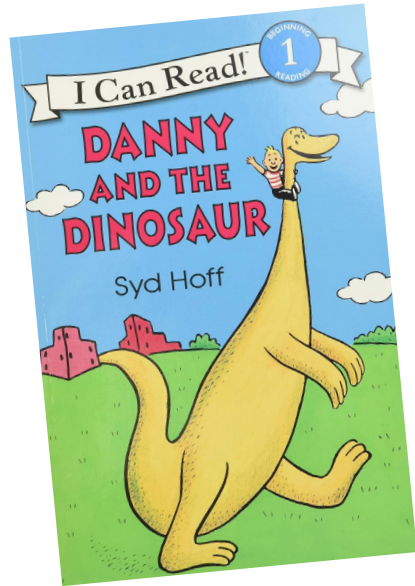


/MobPubLib

What's a Beginning Reader? A Puzzled Parent's Guide

by Robbin Glaser, Reference Librarian

Beginning Readers are designed to develop reading comprehension in children from kindergarten through the third grade. They use repetition, rhyming, sight



words, and words that children can “sound out” phonetically.

Illustrations assist in understanding the text and reinforcing it. They give clues about more difficult words and sight words (words that cannot be “sounded out”). Illustrations directly reflect the text. For example, in this page from *Danny and the Dinosaur*, “policeman” is the longest word, and a policeman is in the illustration. A red traffic light also appears, giving a

clue to the sight words “red” and “light.”

Beginning Readers are shelved together or interfiled with Picture Books, depending on the library. A general guide to begin looking for books is the green or orange tape on the spine. Green tape designates K-first grade; orange tape is for second-third grade. Titles are also available as ebooks.

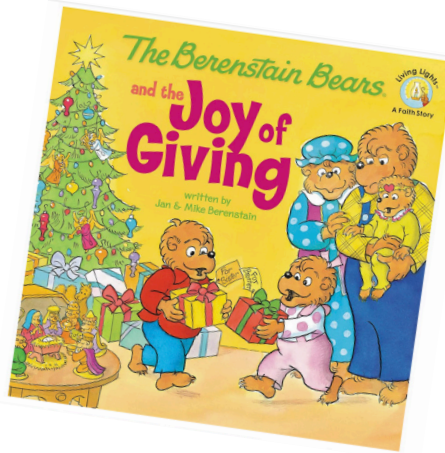
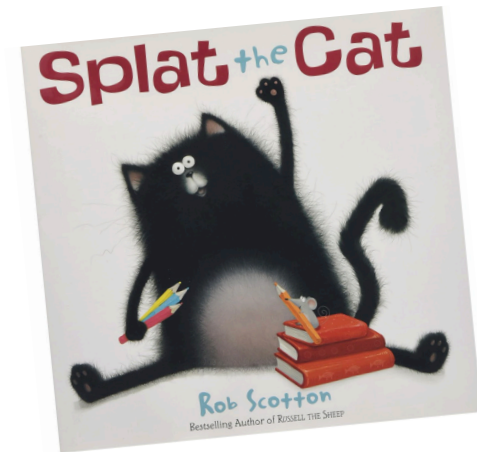
A great way to choose an appropriate book is to have your child try reading the first page out loud. You can then decide whether the book is a good step in developing comprehension.

If you want to find the Accelerated Reader level, free apps are available for download. Two examples are AR Book Finder for Android phones and Points Scan for iPhones. Scan the publisher's barcode on the back of the book, or search by author or title. Apps draw from the Accelerated Reader database, and titles published in the past two years may not be in it.

Beware of reading levels assigned by publishers. They are not grade levels. Publishers have their own descriptions of levels, and they are usually found on the

back or inside the book. For example, a “1” appears on the on the back of or inside the book of *I Want to Be a Pilot*, whereas the book is actually on a second grade level.

The library has a wide variety of Beginning Readers from the *Berenstain Bears* to *Splat the Cat*. Visit soon, and let staff get you started on finding books your children will like that are also good for them.



Tips For Raising Readers

- Read with your child every day.
- Pick the books they like.
- Keep books around your home.
- Be a reader yourself.



Visit The Library

- Go to a storytime.
- Stock up on books for free.
- Get recommendations based on reading level.
- Join a reading challenge.

An Evening With Essie Chambers

by Adrienne McSwain-Dawson, Special Events Coordinator for MPL



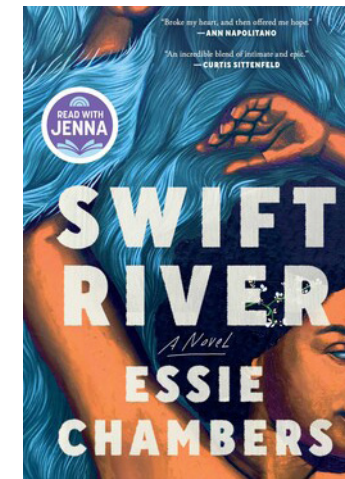
The Friends of the Mobile Public Library (FOL) will host their Annual Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m. This year's event will feature esteemed author and award-winning producer Essie Chambers and will take place at the Ben May Main Library. Prior to Essie's presentation, FOL will conduct a brief business meeting

Essie holds an MFA in creative writing from Columbia University and has been recognized with fellowships from prestigious organizations such as MacDowell, Vermont Studio Center, and Baldwin for the Arts. Although she currently resides in Brooklyn, she has roots in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Throughout her career, Essie has made significant contributions to the television and film industries, particularly as a producer of the Oscar-shortlisted documentary "Descendant." Released in 2022 through Higher Ground, the production company founded by former President and first lady Barack and Michelle Obama in partnership with Netflix, the documentary explores the descendants of the last known enslaved Africans brought illegally to Alabama aboard the ship Clotilda in 1860. The film investigates the search for the ship's remains, which were discovered in 2019, and examines the ongoing legacy of slavery within the Africatown community located in Mobile.

As an accomplished author,

Essie's debut novel, “Swift River,” published by Simon & Schuster, gained critical acclaim and was selected as the June Read with Jenna book club pick. The novel has achieved notable recognition, being longlisted for the 2024 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, The Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, and the Barnes & Noble Book of the Year. In addition, “Swift River” has been awarded the 2024 Barnes & Noble Discover Prize. Essie Chambers is more than just a storyteller; she is a master weaver of tales, captivating her audience with each word and breathing life into characters that linger long after the last page is turned.

After her talk, there will be a question-and-answer session, followed by a book signing. The Haunted Book Shop will provide book sales. We also welcome you to the reception in the Armbrecht Briskman Meeting Room.



Check out Essie Chambers' debut novel "Swift River." Available Now at: essiechambers.com

For more information on this event, please email Adrienne McSwain-Dawson at amcswain@mplonline.org or call (251) 494-2298.

We hope to see you there!

Fall Festival



ON Saturday, Sept. 21, the Mobile Public Library celebrated Smokey the Bear's 80th Birthday and Library Card Sign-up Month with a Fun Fall Festival.

Families from across Mobile joined us inside and outside the Ben May Main Library for all sorts of free, fun activities and learning experiences. Families enjoyed petting the animals from Uncle Joe's Rolling Zoo and being up close and personal with the vehicles at the mini-touch-a-truck on Scott Street. Children of all ages had their faces painted and the opportunity to meet, greet, and thank community helpers and partners from across the area! All the while, the DJ played to help them get their groove on.

Those who registered for the Smokey the Bear's 80th Birthday reading challenge or showed their up-to-date current library card got to spin the prize wheel for prizes! Thirty-seven new users got library cards at the festival.

It was the perfect way to start the fall season.

