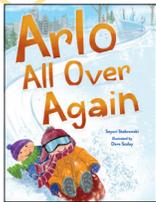




Buzzworthy Announcements

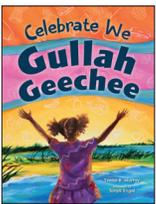
January 2026

Reviews



Arlo All Over Again (9798885547642)
by Sayuri Stabrowski

“Striking illustrations capture the changing seasons and the characters’ emotions. In an appended note, Stabrowski suggests ways for adults to help children build confidence, courage, and independence.”
—*Booklist*, January 2026



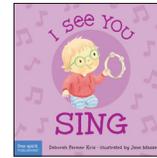
Celebrate We Gullah Geechee (9798330905065)
by Yvette R Murray

This picture book honors the history and the present of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor . . . the acrylic and oil illustrations capture the vibrant colors and energy of a thriving culture and people—and might just whet your appetite, too.”
—*Foreword Reviews*, Jan/Feb 2026



The Sky Is Not Blue (9798885544153)
by Joy Jones

“The *Sky Is Not Blue* is a fantastic read-aloud picture book, exploring many themes that foster curiosity and wonder.”
—*Black Children’s Books and Authors* October 2025



I See You Sing (9798885540834)
by Deborah Farmer Kris

“Original and fun. Unreservedly recommended.”
—*Children’s Bookwatch*,
Midwest Book Review November 2025



“Truly noteworthy series . . . [that] deliberately and effectively emphasize community and encourages children and their families to explore the natural world around them.”
—*Children’s Bookwatch*,
Midwest Book Review November 2025

Awards

Bea’s Balikbayan Box of Treasures (9798885546416) 2025 Best Book Award Winner, Children’s Picture Book: Hardcover Fiction

How to Bird (9798885540346) 2025 Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Award Winner, Beginning Nonfiction

Sometimes Stormy (9798885546980) 2025 Endies Endpaper Award Winner, Best Abstract

Thank You, Sun (9798885544887) 2025 Endies Endpaper Award Winner, Best Before & After



Features, Articles & Highlights

I See You Sing (9798885540834) and **Wind Whirls** (9798885544573) were included in the Children’s Book Council [November Hot Off the Press](#) (November 3). **I Know Curious** (9798885540704) was included in [December Hot Off the Press](#). (December 1)

Deborah Farmer Kris had a guest article in the Boston Globe magazine on [raising intelligent kids by teaching them humility](#), with references to her book **Raising Awe-Seekers** (9798885549349). (November 6, average monthly visitors: 3,353,305)

The Mommies Reviews included the [Toddler Tools 6-book box set](#) (9798330921348) and **Bea’s Balikbayan Box of Treasures** (9798885546416) in their 2025 Christmas gift guide. (November 8 & December 5, average monthly visitors: 3,524)

Included in Edelweiss’s [New Year, New Adventures list](#) are **The Way to Go** (9798765961445) at #120, **Travel Adventures: Banff National Park** (9781425858896) at #242, **I See You Wonder** (9798885540810) at #48, and **Raising Awe-Seekers** (9798885549349) at #187. (November 11)

The 2025 Social Justice Literature Award committee added **Hello, Beech Tree!** (9798885540377) to their [additional recommended reading list in the nonfiction picture book category](#). (November 14)

Teeth Are Not for Biting (9781575421285) made *Country Living’s* list of [56 best kids’ books to add to your family library](#). (December 3, average monthly visitors: 6,691,620)

Free Spirit’s board books were included in Children’s Book Council’s [great board book roundup](#), a listing of more than 4,000 board books (December 5), and were profiled in the School Library Journal article about [the power of board books](#) (November 18, average monthly visitors: 78,980)

Publishers Weekly covered TCM’s licensing of Mattel’s brands, including Barbie and Hot Wheels, in the [licensing hotline article for December](#) (December 9, average monthly visitors: 470,098)

Bye-Bye Time (9781575422992) was included in the Mental Health Center Kids article listing books that help [children cope with separation anxiety](#). (December 12)



Buzzworthy Announcements

January 2026

Features, Articles & Highlights (cont.)

Raising Awe-Seekers (9798885549349) made a couple of "best of" lists for 2025, including Library Journal's [best books of 2025 list](#) (December 5, average monthly visitors: 67,379) and Greater Good Magazine's [favorite parenting books of 2025](#) (December 15).

Neurodiversity-Affirming Schools (9798885543972) made Greater Good Magazine's [favorite books for educators in 2025](#). (December 22)

The Children's Book Council winter showcase includes **Bedtime** (9781575423159), **Rest** (9781575424279), **Sleep Easy** (9781631983344), **So Sleepy** (9798330923373), and **Thank You, Night** (9798885546737). (December 22)

Bea's Balikbayan Box of Treasures (9798885546416) and **Sometimes Stormy** (9798885546980) made Kimberly Horch's [2025 best picture books for families list](#). (December 31)

Author News & Events

Author Preorder Partnerships

Check out these exciting preorder campaigns, created by authors in partnership with local bookstores.

- **I Spark Like Lightning** (9798885547253) at [Ruby's Books](#)
- **Arlo All Over Again** (9798885547642; pub date April 21, 2026) at [Books of Wonder](#)

February 23, 2026: Yvette R. Murray, **Celebrate We Gullah Geechee** (9798330905065), book launch at Buxton Books, Charleston, SC

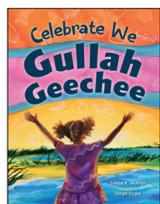
April 16, 2026: Jacob Lockett, **My Life as an Asthmanaut** (9798885547970), book signing at the Pennsylvania School Librarian Association Conference, Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA

April 19, 2026: Miso Kwak, **More Than What Eyes See** (9798885547307), book event at A Room of One's Own, Madison, WI

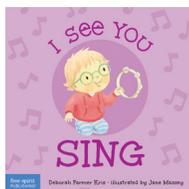
June 30, 2026: Lisa Johnston Hancock, **Santiago and Great Bear** (9798885549813), launch event at The Haunted Bookshop, Mobile, AL

New Year, New Releases

Celebrate the new year with the power of stories and learning! Explore our newest releases—an inspiring mix of board books, picture books, and a new professional development title—created to engage young readers and support educators in every community.



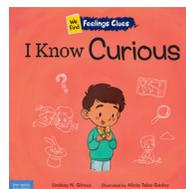
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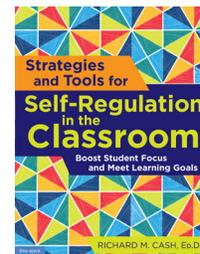
9798885540834



9798885544573



9798885540704



9798885549844



9798885544894

New Series Debuting this Month!

Baby's First Moments is a series of six original board books featuring high-contrast black-and-white illustrations that promote cognitive growth and emotional connection in babies while their eyes are developing. Each book features a unique theme relevant to an infant's early experiences: nature, family, home, feelings, play, and bedtime.

Available January 2026



9798330923342



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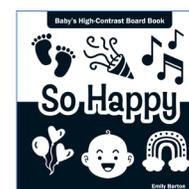


9798330923328

Available August 2026



9798330923359



9798330923366



9798330923373



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