



Soar with Sora

Monthly Newsletter

December 2022 | Delaware Accelerate Learning
Digital Collection

Welcome!

In this edition, your Sora Team has collected product tips and tricks, data highlights, training events and resources to help you save time and use digital books in the classroom.

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Never miss an update! Make sure you're signed up for our newsletters here: [SIGN-UP](#)

Check out previous releases of the Soar with Sora Newsletter here: <https://company.overdrive.com/k-12-schools/discover-sora/deschools/>

Winter Break Challenge

Want to engage more students this holiday. We have you covered with the Sora Winter Break Reading Challenge. It's our gift to you and your gift to your students. Send them home knowing they can jump into a dreamy fantasy, drift off to a distant world, find boldness in strong characters, fall in love, or learn about someone new. Download your Holiday Marketing Kit here. <https://static.od-cdn.com/Winter-Holidays-Kit-Sora-12-1-22.zip>



Pro-Tips to get your students ready for winter break

Tip #1 - Offline reading

Want to ensure your students have access to their books before they leave for winter break, you can help **make sure that their checkouts are downloaded** and ready for the road with just a few steps. Remind & encourage parents to download Sora on their personal devices.

Most books automatically download when your device is connected to the internet. If a book didn't download automatically, simply navigate to the **Shelf**, select **Loans**, tap the cloud icon and select **Download**.

When a green check appears next to the book, you'll know that it's downloaded and accessible without an internet connection.



Sora Pro Tip: Did you hit the road without downloading books? Downloading titles for offline use only takes a moment. You can find free WiFi around your community at cafes or public libraries.



Tip #2 - Customize lending periods

School may be out for a quick winter break, but reading doesn't have to go on pause. Remind students they can update their lending periods for borrowed titles. This is perfect for those early readers who are starting to tackle more challenging reads, giving them a little more time with their book.

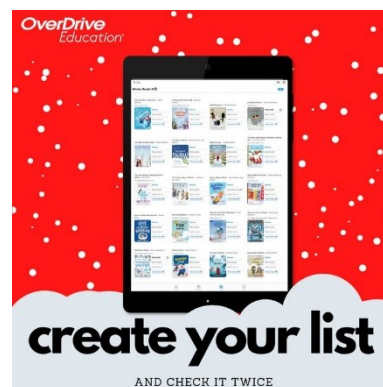
You can customize your lending period options by opening the menu and navigating to All Settings. From there, you can select Lending Periods under "General."



Sora Pro Tip: You can set different lending periods for each format. If your child speeds through audiobooks but needs a few extra days with ebooks, they won't have to worry about losing their checkout before they're done.

Tip #3 - Create Reading Lists

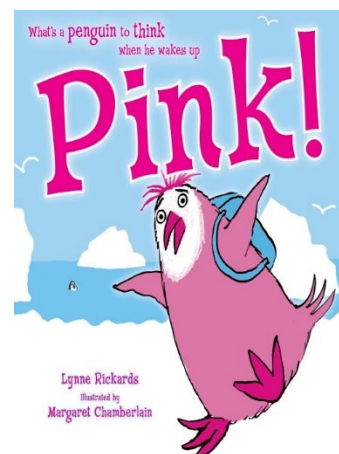
Did you know you could create your own reading lists in Sora? When search for titles, just tap the "Add to List" button. You can add to an existing list or create a new one. View your list under the Shelf tab. Here is a quick video to learn more: <https://training.cdn.overdrive.com/K12/Sora/Sora-sample-add-list.mp4>



This Months Featured Title: *Pink!*

By Lynne Rickards

Pink! is a heartwarming story about learning to be different. Patrick wakes up one morning to find he's turned pink overnight. But boys can't be pink! Rejected by his friends, poor Patrick runs away in search of new pink playmates. He crosses oceans where he finds some pink flamingos, but will he ever fit in with them? Patrick soon learns that friendship is never black and white, but that real friends will accept you just as you are.



Updated seasonal curated collections

- [Festival of Words](#)
- [Awesome Audiobooks](#)
- [Books for Brreak](#)

Updates to Curriculum: All HQIM lists have been updated. To quickly find your required read via Sora, simply search for a title via the Search bar, scroll through the EXPLORE page, or click on Collections & search for your HQIM. You can also use the curriculum curation pdf, which features direct links - <https://static.od-cdn.com/Curations.pdf>.

We have recently focused on:

- ARC Themes 6-12
- Bookworms list for K-5.
- Reading Wonders K-5



Please reach out to Sarah Wilsman your Digital Content Librarian swilsman@overdrive.com if titles are missing.

Read-a-longs – Did you know we have over 700 read-a-longs in Sora. Young readers can easily follow along with these interactive titles that combine the colorful text and images of an eBook with a read-along capability that highlights words as the narrator reads. Many narrated titles also incorporate a full soundtrack and sound effects. This helps readers better understand sentence structure, language flow and syntax. Check out the read-a-long collection here: <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1341982/titles>



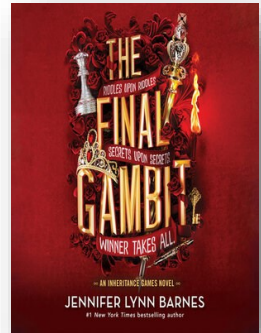
More Fall Featured Titles

For High School (9-12)

The Final Gambit by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

To inherit billions, all Avery Kylie Grambs has to do is survive a few more weeks living in Hawthorne House. The paparazzi are dogging her every step. Financial pressures are building. Danger is a fact of life. And the only thing getting Avery through it all is the Hawthorne brothers. Her life is intertwined with theirs. She knows their secrets, and they know her.

Secrets upon secrets. Riddles upon riddles. In this game, there are hearts and lives at stake—and there is nothing more Hawthorne than winning.



For Elementary School (K-5)

Stellarlune by Shannon Messenger

In this stunning ninth book in the New York Times and USA TODAY bestselling Keeper of the Lost Cities series, Sophie and her friends discover the true meaning of power—and evil. Sophie Foster changed the game. Now she's facing impossible choices:

- When to act.
- When to trust.
- When to let go.

Her friends are divided and scattered, and the Black Swan wants Sophie to focus on their projects. But her instincts are leading her somewhere else.

Stellarlune—and the mysterious Elysian—might be the key to everything. But finding truth in the Lost Cities always requires sacrifice. And as the Neverseen's plans sharpen into terrifying focus, it appears that everyone has miscalculated. The Lost Cities' greatest lie could destroy everything. And in the battle that follows, only one thing is certain: nothing will ever be the same.



For Middle School (6-8)

Sweet Valley Twins: Best Friends by Francine Pascal, Claudia Aguirre, Nicole Andelfinger

Jessica and Elizabeth are ready to take on middle school . . . but are they ready to take on each other? The New York Times bestselling world of Sweet Valley Twins returns in these all-new graphic novel adaptations!

Jessica and Elizabeth have always been inseparable twins, but starting middle school means a chance for new beginnings! Elizabeth is excited to organize a school newspaper, but Jessica is more interested in joining the exclusive Unicorn Club. What will happen when the twins realize they might not be as alike as they thought?

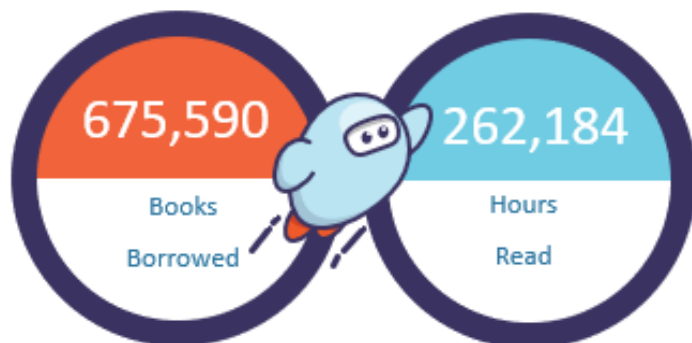


Francine Pascal's beloved Sweet Valley Twins comes to life in a brand-new graphic novel that will have old and new fans delighted as they meet Jessica and Elizabeth in graphic novel form.

Data deep dive: who is reading & top 10

School is back in session, and we are thrilled to see the #'s of checkouts and hours read! The latest data is below, but you also have access to this data for your district. If you would like to learn how to access your own usage data, please reach out to [Jody](#).

Checkouts & Hours read since inception – 5/1/2021

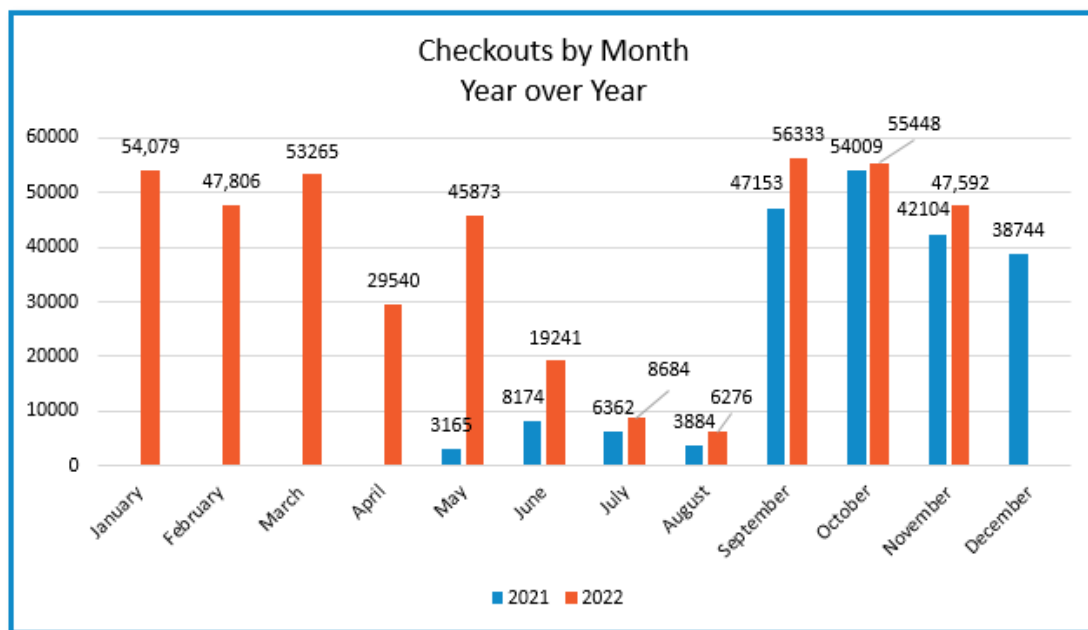


Let's look at 2022 data!
Data since January 1, 2022

- 408,883 checkouts
- 190,940 hours read

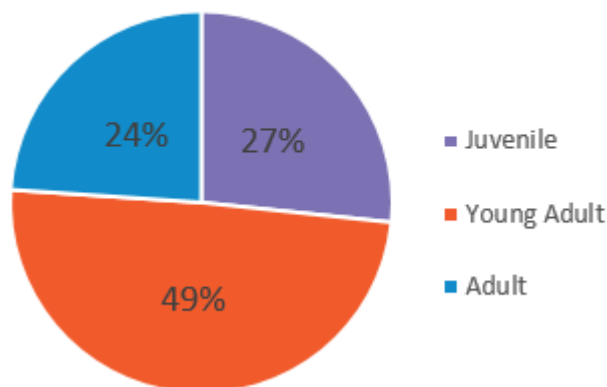
November 1 - 30, 2022

- 47,592 checkouts!
- 20,632 hours read!



2022 #'s are higher than 2021

Hours Read



Middle School students are spending the most time reading

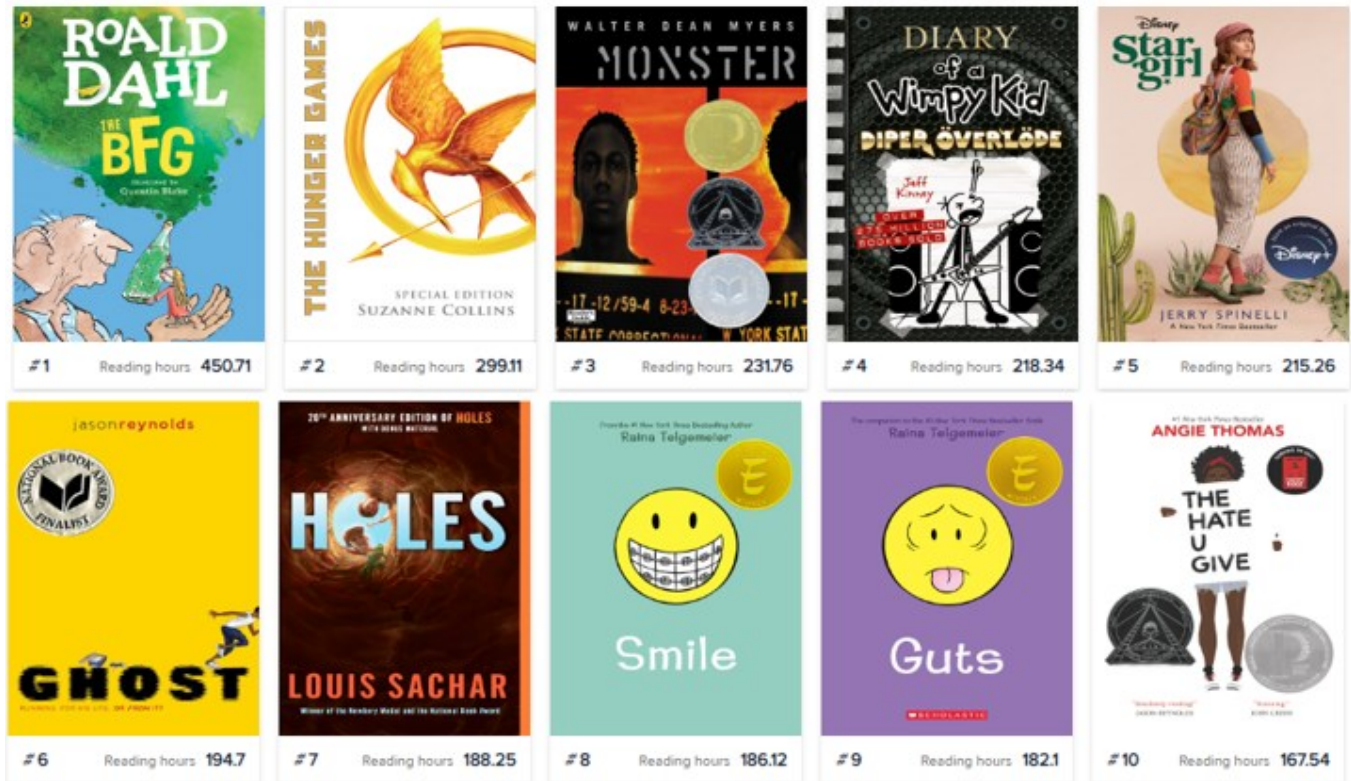
Top 10 Readers for November 2022

Branch	School Name	Books opened	Time read
Brandywine School District	Claymont Elementary School	39	129:35:00
First State Montessori Academy	First State Montessori Academy	3	122:34:00
Capital School District	Dover High School	17	117:57:00
Indian River School District	Georgetown Middle School	19	94:28:00
Christina School District	Marshall Elementary School	46	89:49:00
Appoquinimink School District	Appoquinimink High School	10	85:36:00
Colonial School District	Gunning Bedford Middle School	11	82:56:00
Brandywine School District	Mt. Pleasant Elementary School	4	75:54:00
Red Clay Consolidated School District	Dupont (H.B.) Middle School	11	72:37:00
Smyrna School District	North Smyrna Elementary School	5	62:11:00
Colonial School District	Gunning Bedford Middle School	20	60:35:00

Top 10 Titles by Checkouts – November 1 – 30, 2022



Top 10 Titles by Read Time – November 1 - 30, 2022



Want to get the most out of Sora! Schedule a PD or 1:1 ZOOM!

Your Sora team would love to present Sora and/or Marketplace Reporting to your team. Please send your professional development days and times to [Jody Brookshire](mailto:jody.brookshire@overdrive.com) or feel free to book directly via my calendar link.



[Jody Brookshire](mailto:jody.brookshire@overdrive.com)



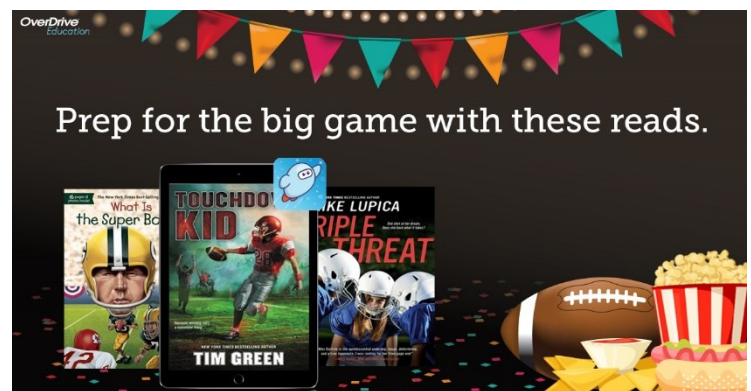
Join us for the following upcoming Webinars:

No webinars scheduled for December, but we will post more in January. Feel free to check out the previous recorded webinars here:

<https://resources.overdrive.com/k-12-schools/on-demand-webinars/>

Use social media to engage more students

Link social media graphics to the digital collection: <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools>. Promote using the unique QR code.



Reach more students by sharing social media images we've provided.

- Download your [Delaware Social Media Kit](#)
- Target your images to your <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools>
- -OR- Target your post content to a specific book using the [grab URL trick](#)
- Get [even more promo items](#) from the OverDrive Resource Center.



Thank you for reading!

Your Sora Team: Jody, Joe, Sarah & Cara