



Soar with Sora

Monthly Newsletter

February 2023 | 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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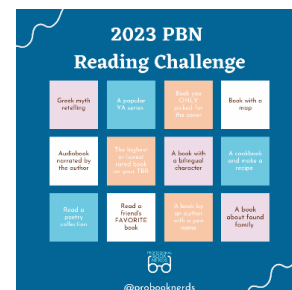


Never miss an update! Make sure you're signed up for our newsletters here: [SIGN-UP](#)

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

Professional Book Nerds 2023 Challenge

Some things are so good, we want to share again! Looking for a fun way to engage your readers! The Professional Book Nerds 2023 Challenge will have your students diving into a Greek retelling, pick up a popular YA title, remind them to revisit their "To be Read" lists, or even cook up something delicious. Maybe you can join the challenge as well! We have all the tools to help you promote this challenge too. Visit this link for promotional graphics: <https://static.od-cdn.com/Professional-Book-Nerds-2023-Reading-Challenge-1-1-23.zip>



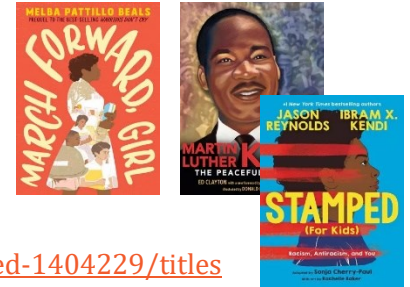
School Stars Returns Feb 6th

School Stars is a **global contest** aimed to celebrate how schools promote Sora. For 2023's contest, we're looking for how your school has promoted Sora in the 2022-2023 school year (August 2022 – Time of entry). Past entries have included videos, visual displays and bulletin boards, social media campaigns, and student created resources. We'd love to see you shoot for the moon but know no promotion is too small! Learn more & Sign-up here: <https://resources.overdrive.com/school-stars/>



February “Read in Sora” Challenge

There is much to celebrate in February, why not read your way through the holidays. February is dedicated as Black History Month, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Share the HB198 Curations with your students.



- Race, Bias and Antiracism – <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1404229/titles>
- African American Biographies Grade K-5 - <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1404535/titles>
- African American Biographies Grades 6-12 - <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated1404536/titles>
- African American Fiction Grade K-5 – <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1404216/titles>
- African American Fiction Grade 6-12 - <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1404214/titles>
- African American History K-5 – <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1298659/titles>
- African American History 6-12 - <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1347932/titles>
- Civil Rights Movement Grade 6-12 - <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1404227/titles>
- Slavery – Civil War 6-12 - <https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1404233/titles>

We have also curated collections around each of February's holidays. Start on February 1st by reading about National Freedom Day, then learn about the adorable hedgehog on National Hedgehog Day, meet someone new on February 6th, Periodic Table Day on the 7th, everyone's favorite PIZZA Day on February 9th. Take a full look at our calendar which includes links to the curated collections in the attached pdf.

February 2023
Holidays & Observances

What will you READ!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  National Freedom Day	2	3  Hedgehog Day	4
5	6  Meet Someone New Day	7  Periodic Table Day	8	9  Pizza Day	10  International Day of Women & Girls in Science	
12  Super Bowl Sunday	13	14  Valentine's Day	15  World Hippo Day	16	17  Random Acts of Kindness Day	18
19  Love your Pet day!	20  President's Day	21  Mardi Gras	22	23  Laugh Out Loud Day	24	25
26	27	28				

This Months Featured Title: *Mr. Goat's Valentine*

By Eve Bunting, Kevin Zimmer

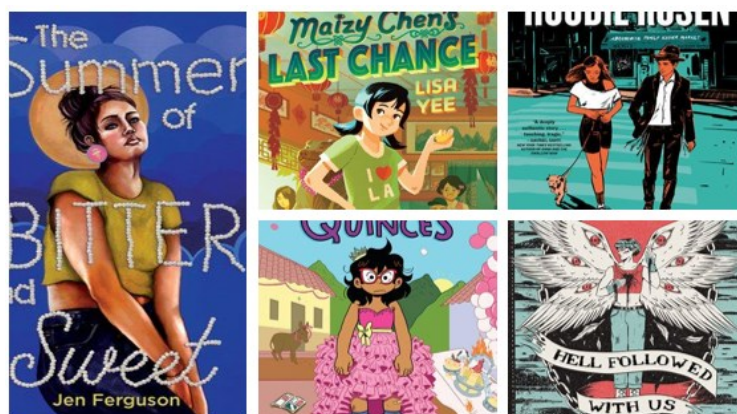
After reading in the newspaper that it's Valentine's Day, Mr. Goat sets out in search of very special gifts for his first love. But just what would a goat choose as the perfect gifts to show how he feels? Readers will be in for a surprise at Mr. Goat's nontraditional selections. From acclaimed children's author Eve Bunting comes a sweet holiday tale sure to warm hearts on Valentine's Day and every day of the year.



Updated seasonal curated collections

- [YMA Awards 2023](#)
- [Celebrate Black History Month](#)
- [Best Books You May Have Missed](#)
- Odell Themed Units Grade 9 – 12

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>.



NOTE: For Odell Units – Click on EXPLORE, COLLECTIONS, in the Search Within Field, type ODELL.

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

Just a reminder... Math Curriculum for Elementary:

We know math is a target area, so we have curated a collection of supplemental titles to help.

<https://soraapp.com/library/deschools/curated-1403097/titles>

The world is filled with many amazing animals. Some are incredibly big. Others are super small. Some are very fast. Others are very slow. Many animals are unique enough to have a claim to fame. If there were an Animal Olympics, these creatures would surely be gold medalists! Learn about the world's most amazing animals while learning fractions.



Each title combines math and literacy skills and uses everyday examples of problem solving to teach subject area content. The full-color images, math charts and diagrams, sidebars, and practice problems make learning math easy and fun.

Featured Winter Titles

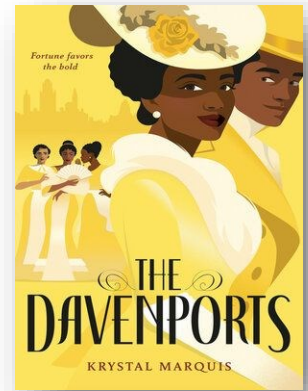
For High School (9-12)

The Davenports by Krystal Marquis

The Davenports delivers a totally escapist, swoon-worthy romance while offering a glimpse into a period of African American history often overlooked.

"A fresh, utterly enchanting read." —Ayana Gray, New York Times bestselling author of the Beasts of Prey trilogy

The Davenports are one of the few Black families of immense wealth and status in a changing United States, their fortune made through the entrepreneurship of William Davenport, a formerly enslaved man who founded the Davenport Carriage Company years ago. Now it's 1910, and the Davenports live surrounded by servants, crystal chandeliers, and endless parties, finding their way and finding love—even where they're not supposed to.

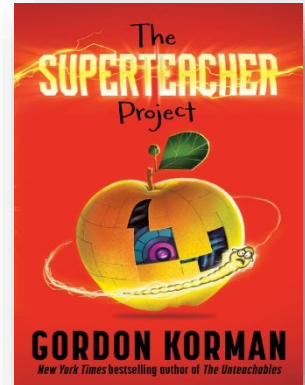


For Middle School (6-8)

The Superteacher Project by Gordon Korman

Oliver Zahn, spitball champion and self-declared rule-wrecker of Brightling Middle School, is not a fan of his new homeroom teacher, Mr. Aidact. The guy is sort of stiff, never cracks a smile, and refers to them as "pupils." The worst part is he catches Oliver before he can pull any of his signature pranks! It's time for Oliver and his best friend, Nathan, to show the new teacher who's boss.

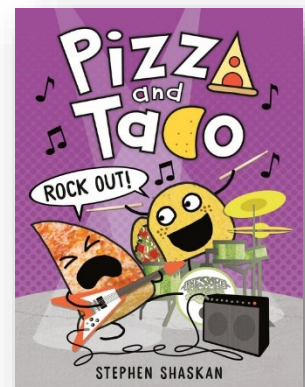
But as the weeks go by, they start to realize that Mr. Aidact is not what they expected. He has an uncanny ability to remember song lyrics or trivia. When the girls' field hockey team needs a new coach, he suddenly turns out to be an expert. He never complains when other teachers unload work on him—even when it's lunchroom duty and overseeing detention. Against all odds, Mr. Aidact starts to become the most popular teacher at Brightling.



For Elementary (K-5)

Pizza and Taco: Rock Out! by Stephen Shaskan

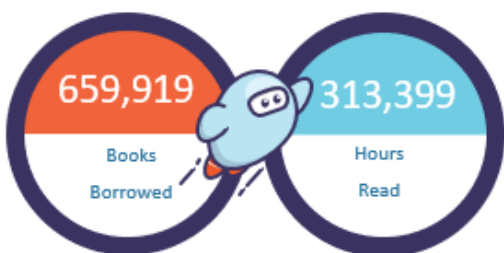
Besties Pizza and Taco are ready to rock out! They have a cool band name! And some instruments—sort of. Songs? Well, even without mad musical skills, how hard can it be? This super-silly graphic novel series by Stephen Shaskan hits a new high note! Pizza and Taco love music! They make lists, and they have tryouts to get more band members. They think they have all the ingredients to rock the scene. But maybe this garage band should stay in the garage!! This hilarious young graphic novel—with chapters—will tickle the funny bones of kids ages 5 to 8 and bolster their reading confidence. Young graphic chapter books are a great step on the way to graphic novels and longer chapter books.



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](#).

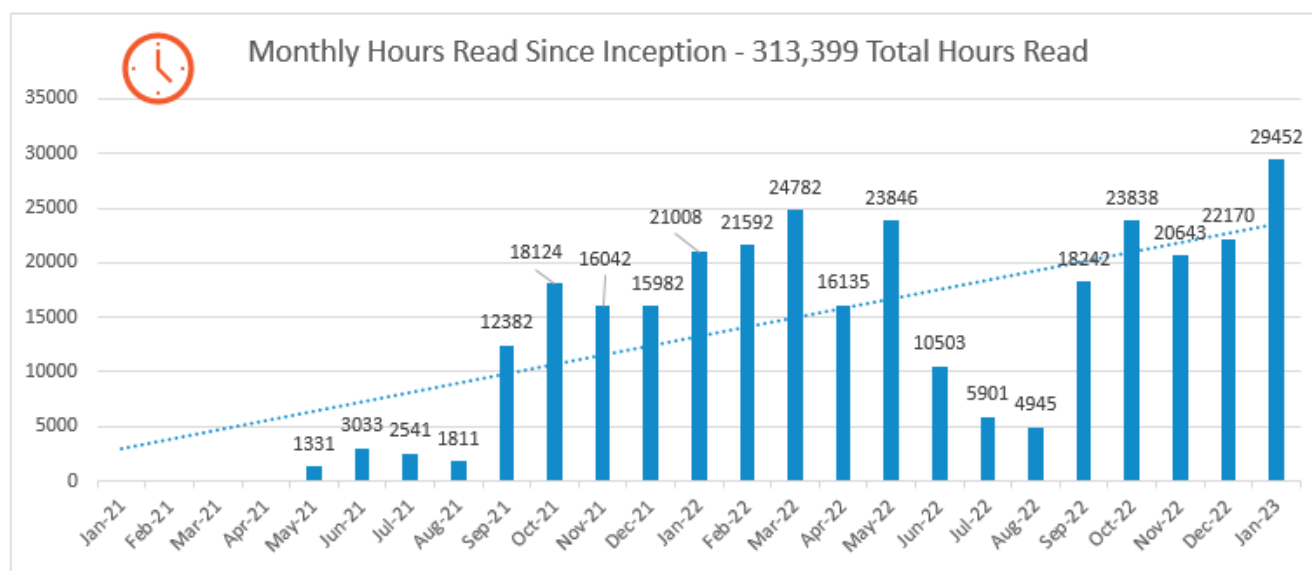
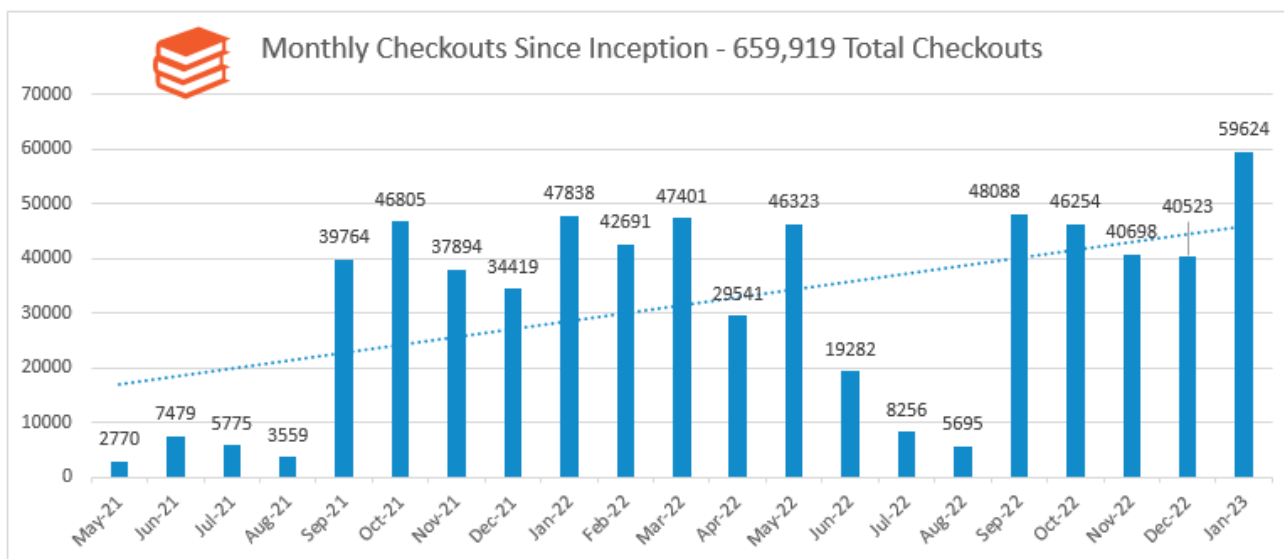
Checkouts & Hours read since inception – 5/17/2021

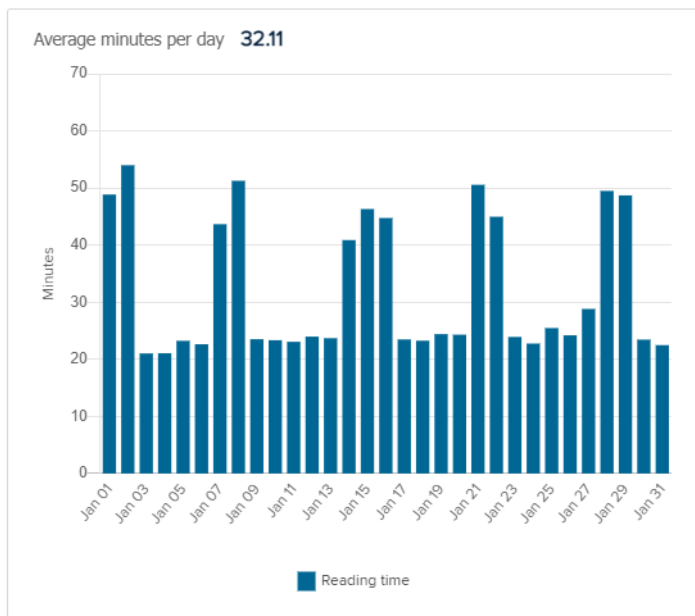


Let's look at 2023 data!

January 1 – 31, 2023

- 59,624 checkouts!
- 29,452 hours read!





Average reader is getting at least 32 minutes of reading practice per day

Top 10 Titles by Checkout for Month - January 2023



Top 10 Titles by hours Read – January 2023



Top 20 Readers for January 2023

The top readers for January came from the following schools

Branch	School	Books opened	Time read hrs:mns:sec
Brandywine School District	Claymont Elementary School	35	184:38:00
Indian River School District	Georgetown Middle School	45	142:52:00
Capital School District	Dover High School	19	127:28:00
Colonial School District	Gunning Bedford Middle School	5	122:01:00
Christina School District	Shue-Medill Middle School	12	104:26:00
Indian River School District	Selbyville Middle School	10	85:48:00
Smyrna School District	Smyrna High School	7	75:43:00
Appoquinimink School District	Cedar Lane Elementary School	36	72:42:00
Appoquinimink School District	Meredith (Everett) Middle School	11	69:50:00
Indian River School District	Indian River High School	9	65:21:00
Colonial School District	Gunning Bedford Middle School	13	65:02:00
Colonial School District	Gunning Bedford Middle School	6	63:55:00
Appoquinimink School District	Redding (Louis L.) Middle School	11	63:40:00
Red Clay Consolidated School District	Conrad Schools Of Science	8	59:14:00
Newark Charter School	Junior High Campus Students	21	58:33:00
Colonial School District	Wilmington Manor Elementary School	7	58:25:00
Red Clay Consolidated School District	Richardson Park	12	57:28:00
Capital School District	Dover High School	10	54:48:00
Cape Henlopen School District	Mariner Middle School	10	54:15:00
Christina School District	Brader Elementary School	37	53:47:00

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](#) or feel free to book directly via my calendar link.



[Jody Brookshire](#)

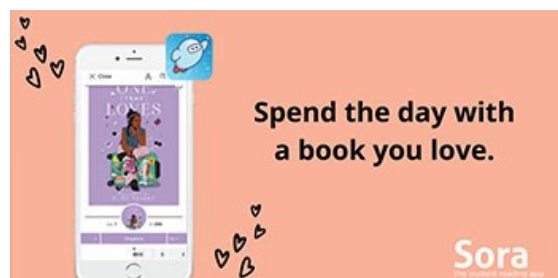
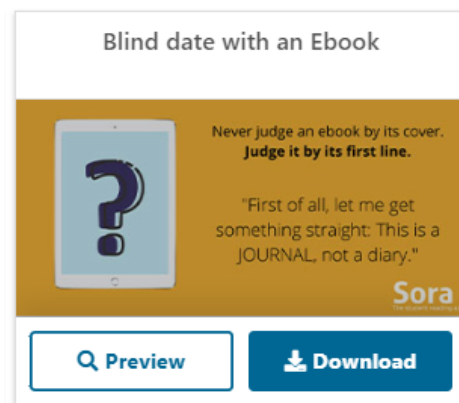


Join us for the following upcoming Webinars:

- **Sora Essentials: The Reader Experience**
 - When: February 9th, 3:00 pm EST
 - Register Here: https://overdrive.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4g0WeIGvTlq94pdoRnXmdg

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.



Thank you for reading!

Your Sora Team: Jody, Joe, Bailey, Sarah, Cara & Morgan