

WISCONSIN BRAILLE



Volume 22, Issue 3

Fall 2021

Fall Into Braille Reading With The 2021 Braille Book Project

September, 2021

Dear teachers and parents of the visually impaired and school librarians,
Now in our 22nd year as an organization dedicated to promoting braille literacy for blind children, Wisconsin Braille Inc. is very pleased to offer another new selection of **free** braille books, financially supported by the Glen Stacey Fund. Once again, this year's collection was well researched and includes recommended children's books not already available in braille after checking the Louis database at the National Library Service (www.loc.gov/nls).

The book selection committee is very excited to offer this particular collection of 15 books. Through both prose and poetry, it offers books that are fanciful and fun to read. Are you interested in print/braille books with delightful content which also teach early concepts and promote positive self-concept...or in a book that deals with the first-day-of-school jitters? If so, you will find books in this collection to match your interests. In addition, there are three books in this collection telling the real life stories of successful blind people...Alicia Alonso, Helen Keller and Stevie Wonder!

While this project is supported by Glen Stacey funds, none of these funds are used by Wisconsin Braille for its day-to-day operations. We rely on our membership dues to support our other activities, including a newsletter and a website. If you appreciate receiving these free books, we would urge you to become a member of Wisconsin Braille Inc. Annual dues are only \$10 for a regular membership or \$30 for a sustaining membership. A membership

form is attached; it can also be found on our website: www.wisbrl.org. Wisconsin Braille does not sell its membership list to any other organization. For your convenience, it is possible to pay dues or make a donation using PayPal, now loaded on our website.

One decided advantage of becoming a member of Wisconsin Braille Inc. is that you may order additional free books from our composite listings. A composite listing of UEB books has been posted and updated this fall to our website (www.wisbrl.org) in addition to a listing of books previously produced in EBAE.

2021 Book Offerings

Alicia Alonso Takes the Stage, a Rebel Girl's Story

by Nancy Ohlin

Alicia lived to dance. From the moment she slipped on pointe shoes for the first time, she was determined to become a professional ballerina. Raised in Cuba, she moved to the United States to follow her dreams. Then, Alicia began to lose her sight. How could a ballerina dance if she couldn't see where she was going? Stuck in bed and only able to practice with her fingertips, Alicia didn't give up. She found ways to get back on stage, eventually performing for audiences all over the world. She became one of the world's most famous ballerinas before passing away in 2019 at the age of 98!

Grades 3-8. Braille only.

The Bear Ate Your Sandwich

by Julia Sarcone-Roach (2015)

"Sandwich? What Sandwich? Oh, that sandwich. Right. Um well. It all started with the bear..." So begins the dog's explanation to a young girl visiting Central Park in New York City. Could it have really happened that way? Grades 2-4. Print/braille.

Dear Librarian

by Lydia M. Sigwarth, illustrated by Romina Galotta

The author of this beautiful story is a librarian in Platteville, Wisconsin. The book was first featured on the radio show *This American Life* and it is the author's true story about the challenges of homelessness, the magic of friendship, the power of empathy, and the comfort and rewards of libraries. This book is a "thank you" to anyone who has offered a child love and support during a difficult time.

Preschool -3rd grade. Print/braille

I Can Hear Change Singing

by Amanda Gorman (2021)

*"I can hear change humming
In its loudest, proudest song.
I don't fear change coming,
And so I sing along."*

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes--big or small--in the world, in their communities, and in most importantly, in themselves.

Grades 2-4. Print/braille.

It's So Quiet: A Not-Quite-Going-to-Bed Book

by Sherri Duskey Rinker

"Hush," says his mama. "Settle down now, not a peep. The small sweet sounds of nighttime will whisper you to sleep..." sleepy mama mouse tells her sleepless little mouse. Quiet turns to noise as little mouse listens to all of the night sounds. A story told in rhyme with a surprise ending.

Pre-kindergarten--2nd grade. Print/braille.

Kindergarten Hat

by Janet Lawler

Carlos is generally happy and loves to do many things. As the first day of kindergarten nears, Carlos gets nervous and worried. He receives a letter from his new teacher and starts to feel a bit better. He's ready now to meet new friends and his new teacher. On his first day of school, while riding the bus, something unexpected happens. Will Carlos be able to salvage his first day?

Pre-kindergarten—2nd grade. Print/braille.

Lucas at the Paralympics

by Igor Plohl

Lucas and Eddie are two physically disabled friends who visit the Paralympics and cheer on blind and physically challenged athletes as they compete in running, swimming, sitting volleyball, para archery, wheelchair fencing, wheelchair basketball, and more. Explanations of each paralympic event are found at the bottom of the page.

Preschool - 3rd grade. Print/braille.

Maybe

by Kobi Yamada

This Nautilus Book Award winner is an inspiring story for "kids" of all ages. You are the only you there ever has been or ever will be. You are unique in all the universe. Just the odds of you being here at this exact place and this exact time are so great and so rare that it will never happen again. This is a story about all the possibilities ahead of you. It's for who you are right now and it's for all the magical, unbounded potential you hold inside.

Preschool - 2nd grade, but appropriate for all. Print/braille.

Star of the Class Play

by Margaret McNamara (2021)

Nia is excited to be in the class play! Then, on the big day of the performance, she gets nervous and forgets her lines. Will taking deep breaths help her calm down?

A Level One Ready-to-Read book. Print/braille.

Story of Helen Keller: a biography book for new readers
by Christine Platt (2020)

Helen Keller became a celebrated author, educator, and activist who believed in equality for people with disabilities. Before she made history as the first deaf and blind person to graduate from college, Helen was a smart kid who loved learning. She overcame many challenges to learn how to read, write, and talk. She spoke up for other people with disabilities so they could get equal rights. Explore how Helen Keller went from being a young girl in Alabama to the world-famous First Lady of Courage.
For readers ages 6-9. Print/braille.

This Way, Charlie
by Caron Levis

This story, inspired by a real animal friendship, takes place at the Open Bud Ranch (which is the fictional name for a wildlife rescue and rehab center in Oklahoma). Charlie is a blind horse, and Jack is a gruff goat. They get off to a bumpy start, but ultimately, Jack is a caring guide.
Preschool - 3rd grade. Print/braille.

Time for School, Little Blue Truck
by Alice Schertle

Little Blue Truck and his good friend Toad are excited to meet a bright new yellow school bus. They see all the little animals lined up in the bus's windows, and Blue wishes he could be a school bus too. What a fun job, but too big for a little pickup like Blue. Or is it? When somebody misses the bus, it's up to Blue to get his friend to school on time.
For early readers, ages 5-7. Print/braille.

Who is Stevie Wonder?
by Jim Gigliotti (2016)

Blind since infancy, Stevie Wonder is one of the most successful singer-songwriter-musicians of our time. Signing his first record deal when he was only eleven, he had his first No.1 hit when he was thirteen. Since then he

has had thirty US top ten hits, won a range of awards for his music and his civil rights work, and created such iconic songs as "Isn't She Lovely" and "I Just Called to Say I Love You." Stevie Wonder is a beloved entertainer who continues to tour and perform around the world. Stevie's awards include 25 Grammys and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

A chapter book for grades 3-4. Braille only.

Wonderful You

by Lisa Graff

This is a story told in rhyme. It is about different types of families and their joyful anticipation of the coming new baby. In the story babies grow from the size of a tiny pea to a large pumpkin as mothers, fathers and siblings await the arrival of the new family member. It is a perfect celebratory story of the happiness that only a new baby can bring!

Pre-kindergarten - 2nd grade. Print/braille.

You Are Ready: The World is Waiting

by Eric Carle

This book inspires children to go out into the world and explore. It's a great, very uplifting story for children who may be anxious about doing something new for the

first time. A perfect pep talk for young children facing the unknown.

Pre-kindergarten -1st grade. Print/braille.

REMINDERS

Please remember to **submit your order by December 31, 2021** at the latest, using the accompanying order form; send it only to the address on the form. You may continue to order print/braille books for early readers in either contracted or uncontracted braille; just indicate that on the order form.

Teachers, please work with your school librarians to make them aware of our

project and answer any questions they may have. Likewise, please alert the parents with whom you work about our project, especially those who do not have ready access to school libraries; this group may well include the parents of preschool blind children. You should receive your books in the spring of 2022. Many thanks for using our service!

Special Book Project Committee Members,

Sandy Adams, Cindy Collins, Leanette Dieck, Alison McKee

mail contact: adamssandra454@gmail.com



BRAILLE CORNER

Dear Ms. Perkins,

In my job as a transcriber, sometimes I'm asked to braille a letter, and I'm not sure of the correct format for it. How many spaces should I indent for the date and for the closing? What about paragraphing? Is it best to use indented paragraphs rather than block paragraphs? Are blank lines required anywhere? Is the format for a personal letter different from the format for a business letter? Lots of questions -- please help!

Sincerely,

Looking for Guidance

Dear Guidance,

Ah, yes. These are good questions. Part of the confusion is that there is no formal guidance or ruling on how to format such correspondence. Section 13.8 of *Instruction Manual for Braille Transcribing: Unified English Braille Edition, 2015* (<https://nfb.org/programs-services/braille-certification/literary-braille-transcribing> [scroll down]) offers suggestions. In summary, follow print for braille placement of the letter parts (date, inside address, greeting [salutation], paragraphs, closing, etc.). Blank lines separate the different parts of the letter. *Braille Formats Principles of Print-*

to-Braille Transcription, 2016 Section 9.4.1 says to block attributions (the salutation in a letter) five cells to the right of the beginning of the previous line. There are many more details in Section 13.8, so be sure to refer to that segment of the lesson manual. Keep in mind that these are suggestions and may be adjusted to the circumstances and reader.

Sincerely,

Ms. Perkins

Reach for More: A Journey from Loss to Love and Fulfillment

By David M. Szumowski

Reviewed by Cindy Collins

Recommended by David Grulke

Thanks go to our board member David Grulke for finding and recommending this book.

Young David Szumowski chose the military when he joined the Army ROTC during his first year of college and planned on a career in the U.S. Army. He could hardly wait to get to Vietnam and join the fight. He was 23 years old in 1969 when he was shipped to Vietnam. Forty days after his arrival, the tank platoon he commanded came under attack. He was standing, exposed, in the turret when his tank was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade. He suffered an injury which left him totally blind. After recovering physically, he spent a (shorter than usual) term at Hines Veteran's Hospital to learn braille, living skills and orientation and mobility. He was an apt student, and a good cane traveler. He does stress the importance of having good cane skills, and he sings the praises of the Seeing Eye guide dogs he's had throughout the years. He is honest about his emotional difficulties in adjusting to blindness, and the time it took for him to understand his PTSD.

This memoir was written and published fifty years after the accident. It is a portrait of a man who had courage and dogged determination. These traits led him to a highly successful legal career, a loving marriage, and a joyful life. He makes this statement: "I am proud of my service and wish I had not been blinded, but as my life turned out, I landed on my feet and would not change anything. My faith, family, friendships, opportunities and determination helped me to overcome obstacles and realize a satisfying life. This is my story of achievement by never giving up."

This book is available through Bookstore, and as an Audible book.

Contributors to this newsletter are:

Sandy Adams, Cindy Collins, David Grulke

Alison McKee, Judy Sherry and Julie Sumwalt

YOU ARE CORDUALLY INVITED TO ATTEND OUR NEXT BOARD MEETING

ON OCTOBER 16 AT 10:00 AM

CONTACT william.dieck@gmail.com TO GET A LINK TO THE ZOOM MEETING

TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION TO THE ZOOM MEETING

TO RECEIVE ZOOM MEETING LINK INVITATION

Wisconsin Braille Inc.
Special Book Project Order Form
Fall, 2021

Check here if you have ordered from us in the past. _____ Customer ID (if known) _____
Customer Name: _____
Phone: _____
Address: _____
Email address: _____ Date of order: _____

Note: All orders will be sent in hard copy, contracted braille. If you prefer uncontracted braille for print/braille books, please indicate this after each title you order.

- _____ Alicia Alonso Takes the Stage, a Rebel Girl's Story by Nancy Olin (braille) _____
- _____ The Bear Ate Your Sandwich by Margaret McNamara (print/braille) _____
- _____ Dear Librarian by Lydia Sigwarth (print/braille) _____
- _____ I Can Hear Change Singing by Amanda Gorman (print/braille) _____
- _____ It's So Quiet: A Not-Quite-Going-to-Bed Book by Sherri Duskey Rinker (print/braille) _____
- _____ Kindergarten Hat by Janet Lawler (print/braille) _____
- _____ Lucas at the Paralympics by Igor Plohl (print/braille) _____
- _____ Maybe by Kobi Yamada (print/braille) _____
- _____ Star of the Class Play by Margaret McNamara (print/braille) _____
- _____ Story of Helen Keller: a book for new readers by Christine Platt (print/braille) _____
- _____ This Way, Charlie by Caron Levis (print/braille) _____
- _____ Time for School, Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle (print/braille) _____
- _____ Who Is Stevie Wonder? by Jim Gogliotti (braille) _____
- _____ Wonderful You by Lisa Graff (print/braille) _____
- _____ You Are Ready: The World Is Waiting by Eric Carle (print/braille) _____

Additional books from previous years: You may order from our composite lists if you are a current member or a new member of Wisconsin Braille. (See composite lists on our web site: www.wisbri.org).

You are welcome to suggest books for next year's production here.

By December 31, 2021 send your order to this address:
Wisconsin Braille Inc., Membership Chair, 557 Milky Way, Madison, WI 53718
Your order will be forwarded to the OSCI Braille Program for production.

Please remember, your membership in Wisconsin Braille, Inc. will go a long to help us cover our operating expenses. Many thanks for your consideration! Enjoy your books with your children!

Membership Application

Date _____

Use this form to join *WisBrl*, or to renew membership.

Regular membership, annual dues \$10 _____

Sustaining membership annual dues \$30 _____

Lifetime membership \$200 _____

Additional donation _____

Total amount enclosed _____

Check () cash () money order ()

Donations to *WisBrl* are tax exempt.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

2021: () New member () Renewal

Make checks or money orders payable to

Wisconsin Braille Inc.

Newsletter format requested (choose one)

Regular type _____

E-mail _____

Braille _____

What is your affiliation with the braille reading community? (Check all that apply.)

Teacher _____ Producer _____ Ed. Assist. _____

Transcriber _____ Proofreader _____ Parent _____

Administrator _____ User _____

Other (specify _____)

Return application payment to:

Membership Chair

557 Milky Way

Madison, WI 53718