

CATTAILS

FROM THE
OUACHITA PARISH
PUBLIC LIBRARY

'CHECK OUT'
THE NEW
DIGITAL
LIBRARY!

BOOKS, MOVIES,
AND MORE AT YOUR
FINGERTIPS

OUR FAVORITE
COOKBOOKS

Q & A WITH WILLETTA,
KNOWN FOR HER
DELICIOUS PIES AND
BAKED GOODS

LIBRARY
PROGRAMS
AND BOOK
CLUBS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020



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STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Congratulations to Breanna of the Main Branch reference staff who just received her Master of Library and Information Science degree from Louisiana State University!

Congratulations to our super summer reading challenge winners! These 10 patrons completed the summer reading challenge and won the drawing for the grand prize, bicycles provided by the Kiwanis of Greater Ouachita. Thank you, Kiwanis!

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE WINNERS!



THE LIBRARY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!



INTRODUCING THE NEW DIGITAL LIBRARY!

At the new www.oplib.org, you will find it easier and faster to browse books, movies and more. Discover new materials, search the databases and explore your digital Library, which is open 24/7.

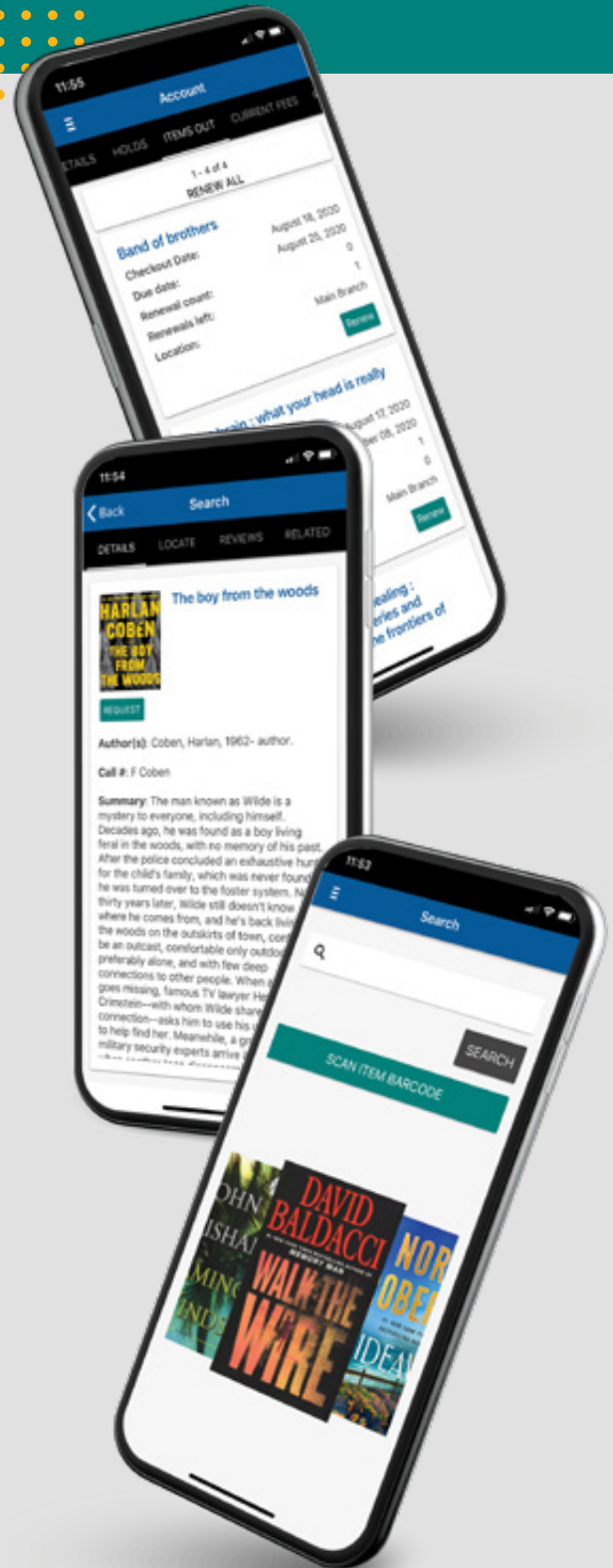
LIBRARY APP

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE LIBRARY'S APP YET?

Search for “**Ouachita Stacks**” in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and download it for **FREE**. You will be able to place items on hold and renew them, all with the tap of your finger.

FASTER WIFI

Your Library's IT Department has been hard at work upgrading the WiFi at all 10 branches. The enhanced WiFi has faster load and download speeds.



HOMework LOUISIANA



LaKeisha Bosworth serves the Library as Youth Services Coordinator. As part of her job, she encourages children, teenagers and parents to use educational resources like Homework Louisiana. As a mom, she's seen success with the program in her own son Deuce.

? AS A MOM, WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT DEUCE'S HOMEWORK LOUISIANA EXPERIENCE?

I loved the fact that they were able to help him with his chemistry questions because I couldn't. Watching him interact with the tutor as they worked the question was great as well. They worked through the problem beginning to end and the tutor guided him through by asking him questions as well. I saw the "Aha!" moment as they worked through the problem. He then felt confident about completing the other questions on his assignment.

? HOW DID IT FEEL WHEN HE GOT THE A?

He was super proud of his grade. He's always been a great student academically, but chemistry was a challenge. He was able to bring his B up to an A. I'm proud to say he finished with an A in chemistry for the year. He finished the school year with 4.0 GPA.

? IN THE AGE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING, WHY IS HOMEWORK LOUISIANA SO IMPORTANT?

Many parents may feel pressure or unsure about the school year. If they are returning to school or choosing virtual learning, Homework Louisiana can help them and their children with work they may not understand or need additional guidance. You don't have to feel embarrassed or ashamed to use Homework Louisiana at any age. The services are available to increase your knowledge and advance your academic career. As a parent, you want to be able to help your child and Homework Louisiana helps you achieve this goal.

Get Started

Get started with Homework Louisiana at our website www.oplib.org or at www.homeworkla.org. Live one-on-one help is available for Kindergarten – College from 2 p.m. – midnight daily. The adult education and career center is open from 10 a.m. – midnight daily.

OUR FAVORITE COOKBOOKS



MY FAVORITE RECIPE IS
"Favorite Pecan Pie" from
The Ultimate Southern Living Cookbook.

? HOW OFTEN DO YOU CHECK OUT COOKBOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY?

I check cookbooks out pretty frequently, about three to four a month.

? WHAT DO YOUR PATRONS SAY ABOUT COOKBOOKS?

Patrons will tell us whether the cookbook was a hit or miss and with a critique on the recipe they made. We also get the occasional out-of-the-blue warning of "Don't waste your time," "Waaay too complicated for the end result," or my personal favorite from a few years ago, "It can't hurt me and my kitchen anymore."

? WHY DO PEOPLE LOVE TO CHECK OUT COOKBOOKS DURING THE FALL?

Patrons want to get into the spirit of the holidays! Thanksgiving and Christmas are really daunting, so they'll psych themselves up with a cookbook. They will usually say, "I think I can make that..."

? WHY IS IT GREAT TO READ PRINT COOKBOOKS IN THE AGE OF COOKING APPS AND PINTEREST?

With a physical book, it's a lot of fun to search for the not-so-common ingredients, almost like it's a scavenger hunt! Online recipes are good for "in the moment" cooking to make something with ingredients you already have on hand. Still, with a book in hand, there's just something about the safety of knowing you've got the recipe right next to you. If you make a mistake, it's got your back.



Willetta is famous in the Quachita Parish Public Library system for her delicious pies and baked goods. She and her mom tried their hand at the "Favorite Pecan Pie" recipe found in *The Ultimate Southern Living Cookbook*. It was as delicious as it was beautiful. Check it out or any of the thousands of cookbooks on our shelves. You can find cookbooks in the 641.5 section of your local branch. Not sure where that is? Just ask a librarian!

NATIONAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK

OCTOBER 18-24



National Friends of Libraries Week is **October 18-24**, but you can join the Friends of the Ouachita Public Library any day of the year. Membership dues are as low as \$1 a year for children and teenagers, \$3 a year for seniors and \$6 a year for others. While book sales are temporarily suspended due to the virus, typically the Friends graciously give of their time and energy to manage book sales the last weekend of the month at the West Ouachita Branch. As a 501c3, the Friends give money raised at the book sales and from membership dues to help assist with programming and resources at the Library.

FOR DETAILS ON BECOMING A FRIEND, CONTACT THE LIBRARY'S FRIENDS LIAISON:

ANGELA GREER

agreer@oplib.org
318.327.1490 ext. 3041.

PRESIDENT MARIANE JONES SHARES WHY SHE LOVES BEING A FRIEND:

Having grown up in the Ouachita Parish Public Library system, my very first library was in downtown Monroe across from St. Francis Hospital. I loved libraries so much that I earned my master's degree from the LSU Library School. My very first professional position was at the Main Branch.

I have been a member of the Friends since 2013. I was a board member when we created the bylaws and during the process of gaining our 501c3 status.

Getting to be with others who are like-minded about the inexhaustible world of books has been the joy of being a member. Our "Worker Bees" constantly replenish and organize books and media for easy shopping. The board members

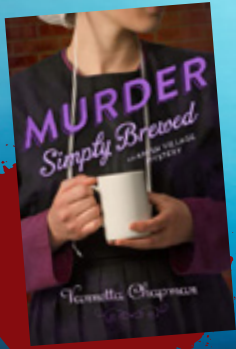
who meet each month take care of making sure our organization runs smoothly and enables us to disburse approved "mini grants" to the various branches.

We are always interested in adding new volunteers and board members who are interested in furthering our mission, "A nonprofit corporation which was formed to make a positive difference in the quality of life for the parish by providing financial and voluntary services in direct support of the library's many and varied educational, informational, cultural and recreational programs."

The Friends are not just Friends to the Library, but they are my wonderful friends. I do hope you can join us.

MARIANE JONES

IT'S THE PERFECT TIME...

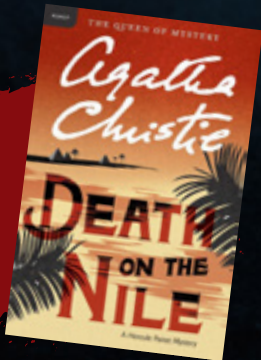


MURDER SIMPLY BREWED BY VANNETTA CHAPMAN

Amber Wright can see profits in sight for her collection of Amish artisan shops—until she receives a call that Ethan Gray is dead. Hurrying over to A Simple Blend, she finds a single hole in the front window and Mr. Gray dead from an apparent heart attack. The police believe Gray's death to be a by-product of vandalism, but Amber and her friend Hannah aren't so easily convinced. **Available in print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*

I FOUND YOU BY LISA JEWELL

In a windswept British seaside town, single mum Alice finds a man sitting on the beach outside her house. He has no name and no idea how he got there. Against her better judgment, she invites him inside. Meanwhile, in a suburb of London, Lily has been married for only three weeks. When her husband fails to come home from work one night, the police tell her that her husband never existed. **Available in print, book-on-CD and on Hoopla as an e-audiobook*



DEATH ON THE NILE BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

The tranquility of a cruise along the Nile is shattered by the discovery that Linnet Ridgeway has been shot through the head. She was young, stylish and beautiful, a girl who had everything - until she lost her life. Hercule Poirot recalls an earlier outburst by a fellow passenger: 'I'd like to put my dear little pistol against her head and just press the trigger.' Yet in this exotic setting, nothing is ever quite what it seems... **Available in print, large print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*

I'VE GOT MY EYES ON YOU BY MARY HIGGINS CLARK

After a party when her parents are away, eighteen-year-old Kerry Dowling is found fully dressed at the bottom of the family pool. The immediate suspect is her boyfriend, who had a bitter argument with her at the party. Then there is a twenty-year-old neighbor who was angry because she didn't invite him to the party. Or is there another suspect who has not yet been seen on the radar? **Available in print, large print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*



THE LOST ONES BY SHEENA KAMAL

It begins with a phone call that Nora Watts has dreaded for fifteen years—since the day she gave her newborn daughter up for adoption. Bonnie has vanished. The police consider her a chronic runaway and aren't looking, leaving her desperate adoptive parents to reach out to her birth mother as a last hope. **Available in print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*

...FOR A MYSTERY

THE NEIGHBORS BY HANNAH MARY MCKINNON

In 1992, a car accident kills a young man and forever changes the lives of three people. Now, 20 years later, they'll all come to regret the choices they made that day, as the secrets and lies they've told to protect each other become the very things that tear their lives apart. *Available in print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook



TEAR ME APART BY J.T. ELLISON

Competitive skier Mindy Wright is a superstar in the making until a spectacular downhill crash threatens not just her racing career but her life. During surgery, doctors discover she's suffering from a severe form of leukemia, and a stem cell transplant is her only hope. But when her parents are tested, a frightening truth emerges. Mindy is not their daughter. *Available in print, book-on-CD, on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook and on Hoopla as an e-audiobook



HER EVERY FEAR BY PETER SWANSON

Kate Priddy was always a bit neurotic, experiencing momentary bouts of anxiety that exploded into full blown panic attacks after an ex-boyfriend kidnapped her and nearly ended her life. When a distant cousin suggests the two temporarily swap apartments, Kate agrees, hoping that time away in a new place will help her overcome the recent wreckage of her life. But soon after her arrival, Kate makes a shocking discovery: his next-door neighbor has been murdered. *Available in print, book-on-CD and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook



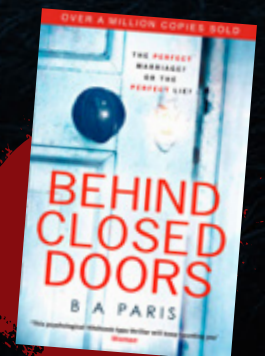
YOU BY CAROLINE KEPNES

When a beautiful aspiring writer strides into the bookstore where Joe works, he Googles the name on her credit card. As Joe invisibly and obsessively takes control of her life, he orchestrates a series of events to ensure she finds herself in his waiting arms. Moving from stalker to boyfriend, Joe transforms himself into the perfect man, all while quietly removing the obstacles that stand in their way—even if it means murder. *Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook (plus check out the first season of the adapted TV series on DVD)



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS BY B.A. PARIS

Everyone knows a couple like Jack and Grace. He has looks and wealth, she has charm and elegance. You'd like to get to know Grace better. But it's difficult, because you realize Jack and Grace are never apart. Some might call this true love. Others might ask why Grace never answers the phone. Or how she can never meet for coffee. And why there are bars on one of the bedroom windows. *Available in print, large print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook



ZOMBIE PROM: QUARANTINE EDITION

ZOMBIE MAKEUP TUTORIAL

4 p.m. October 20 on Instagram Live
Learn makeup skills to turn yourself
UNDEAD!

 @oplib

Tag a selfie of your finished face on Instagram or email us your picture at ccalhoun@oplib.org. You'll then be able to pick up a goodie bag at the Main Branch Library the last week of October. Teen librarians will vote on the Zombie King and Queen based on these pictures, so show us your best scare face!



YOUNG ADULT ZOMBIE TOP BOOK PICKS



ENCLAVE BY ANN AGUIRRE

New York City has been decimated by war and plague, and most of civilization has migrated to underground enclaves, where life expectancy is no more than the early 20s. When Deuce and Fade discover that the neighboring enclave has been decimated by the tunnel monsters, the elders refuse to listen to warnings. And when Deuce and Fade are exiled from the enclave, the girl born in darkness must survive in daylight.

**Available in print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-audiobook*

THE FOREST OF HANDS AND TEETH BY CARRIE RYAN

In Mary's world there are simple truths. The Sisterhood always knows best. The Guardians will protect and serve. The Unconsecrated will never relent. And you must always mind the fence that surrounds the village, the fence that protects the village from the Forest of Hands and Teeth. **Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book*



ALICE IN ZOMBIELAND BY GENA SHOWALTER

To avenge her family, Ali must learn to fight the undead. To survive, she must learn to trust the baddest of the bad boys, Cole Holland. But Cole has secrets of his own, and if Ali isn't careful, those secrets might just prove to be more dangerous than the zombies. **Available in print, book-on-CD and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book*

ASHES BY ILSA BICK

An electromagnetic pulse flashes across the sky, destroying every electronic device, wiping out every computerized system, and killing billions. Alex hiked into the woods to say good-bye to her dead parents and her personal demons. Now desperate to find out what happened after the pulse crushes her to the ground, Alex meets up with Tom - a young soldier - and Ellie, a girl whose grandfather was killed by the EMP. **Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book*



LIBRARY PROGRAMS

DOWNTOWN STORY TIME STROLL

AVAILABLE THROUGH THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

FINDING KINDNESS
BY DEBORAH UNDERWOOD

Explore Downtown West Monroe as you read *Finding Kindness*, written by Deborah Underwood and illustrated by Irene Chan. Pages are posted in the windows of each of the participating merchants. Pick up a map at your local branch or any of the participating merchants. Pages will be up through October.



VIRTUAL STORY TIME THURSDAYS | 4 PM

Join us at 4 p.m. every Thursday except Thanksgiving on our Facebook page for fun, virtual story times with the children's librarians.

TEEN TUESDAYS

TERU TERU BŌZU OCT. 13 | 4 PM

Make the cutest ghost doll, inspired by Japanese farmers. Grab & Go Kits are available at your local branch, while supplies last. We'll go live on our Instagram (@oplib) at 4 p.m. October 13.



ZOMBIE MAKEUP TUTORIAL: OCT. 20 | 4 PM

Learn makeup skill to turn yourself UNDEAD! We'll go live at 4 p.m. October 20 on Instagram Live. Details about submitting your selfies on Page 9.

TRIVIA TIME

SPOOKY TRIVIA: OCT. 27 | 4 PM

Test your knowledge and play against the librarians! We'll go live on our Facebook page at 4 p.m. October 27 for a spooktacular trivia time.

DISNEY TRIVIA: NOV. 18 | 10:30 AM

Celebrate Mickey Mouse's birthday at 10:30 a.m. November 18 live on our Facebook page as we test our knowledge of all things Disney.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Association will share important topics surrounding Alzheimer's and dementia. Visit our website for the access link.

UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA OCTOBER 20 | 5:30 PM

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES (verbal and non-verbal) NOVEMBER 17 | 5:30 PM

LOCAL HISTORY PROGRAMS



CEMETERY LEGENDS

**ANNIE AND SIDNEY SAUNDERS:
MONROE'S BLACK SHEEP COUPLE**

OCTOBER 30 | 10 AM

Join Genealogist Lora Peppers for a discussion of Monroe's most notorious couple. Were they married? Did Sidney burn down Monroe not once, but twice? Did Annie build a statue as an insult to Monroe's society? Join us on Facebook Live to find out!

THANKSGIVINGS PAST

NOVEMBER 17 | 2 PM

How has Thanksgiving changed since the first Federal Congress passed a resolution in 1789? Learn how the holiday has evolved over time, highlighting how it was celebrated in early 1900s Monroe. Join Library Archivist Cyndy Robertson at 2 p.m. November 17 on our Facebook page.



BOOK CLUBS

MOCHA MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Mocha Monday Book Club reads books by authors of color. For details on joining virtually, email jgeever@oplib.org for the Zoom link.

GIRL, WOMAN, OTHER OCTOBER 5 | 5 PM
BY BERNADINE EVARISTO

THE VANISHING HALF NOVEMBER 2 | 5 PM
BY BRIT BENNETT

LOST IN THE STACKS BOOK CLUB

If you love literary fiction, you'll love the Lost in the Stacks Book Club. For details on joining virtually, email hpriestley@oplib.org.

THEN SHE WAS GONE OCTOBER 13 | 5pm
BY LISA JEWELL

SAVAGE CONVERSATIONS NOVEMBER 10 | 5pm
BY LEANNE HOWE

RAINBOW READS BOOK CLUB

The Rainbow Reads Book Club is for members of the LGBT community and their allies. For details on joining virtually, email lcunningham@oplib.org.

THE COLOR PURPLE OCTOBER 26 | 5 PM
BY ALICE WALKER

THE UPSIDE OF UNREQUITED NOVEMBER 30 | 5 PM
BY BECKY ALBERTALLI

ONLINE BOOK CLUB

Join our Facebook group to discuss this novel about a modern Sikh woman who teaches English to Punjabi women in a non-traditional way.

EROTIC STORIES FOR PUNJABI WIDOWS
BY BALLI KAUR JASWAL

PUMPKIN BASH



Even though our traditional festival will not happen in its usual magnitude, the Library isn't missing an opportunity to advance literacy! This year, Pumpkin Bash will be a fun scavenger hunt with the entire family.

Check off at least 7 of 10 the items below throughout the month of October. When you are finished, cut this completed page out and bring it to your local branch during open hours of the **last week of October** (Monday, October 26 – Saturday, October 31). Every child who completes the Scavenger Hunt will receive a FREE BOOK, while supplies last.

Have fun! And remember, asking a librarian for help is not cheating – it's encouraged!

What is the title of your favorite book? Who is the author?

Ask an adult to help you use the Library catalog at www.oplib.org on your family's personal computer or on a Library computer. Search for the book, *We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt*. Who is the author?

What is your favorite magazine in the Library? Did you know you can check out old issues with your Library card?

Read *Finding Kindness* during the Downtown Story Time Stroll in downtown West Monroe! See page 10 for details.

Find a book with awesome illustrations. What is the title of the book and what is the illustrator's name?

Read a book on TumbleBooks or TumbleBookCloud, Jr. on the Library's website. What book did you read?

With your adult, attend a virtual story time on the Library's Facebook page (watch live at 4 p.m. Thursday or watch the recorded version afterward). Say hello in the comments!

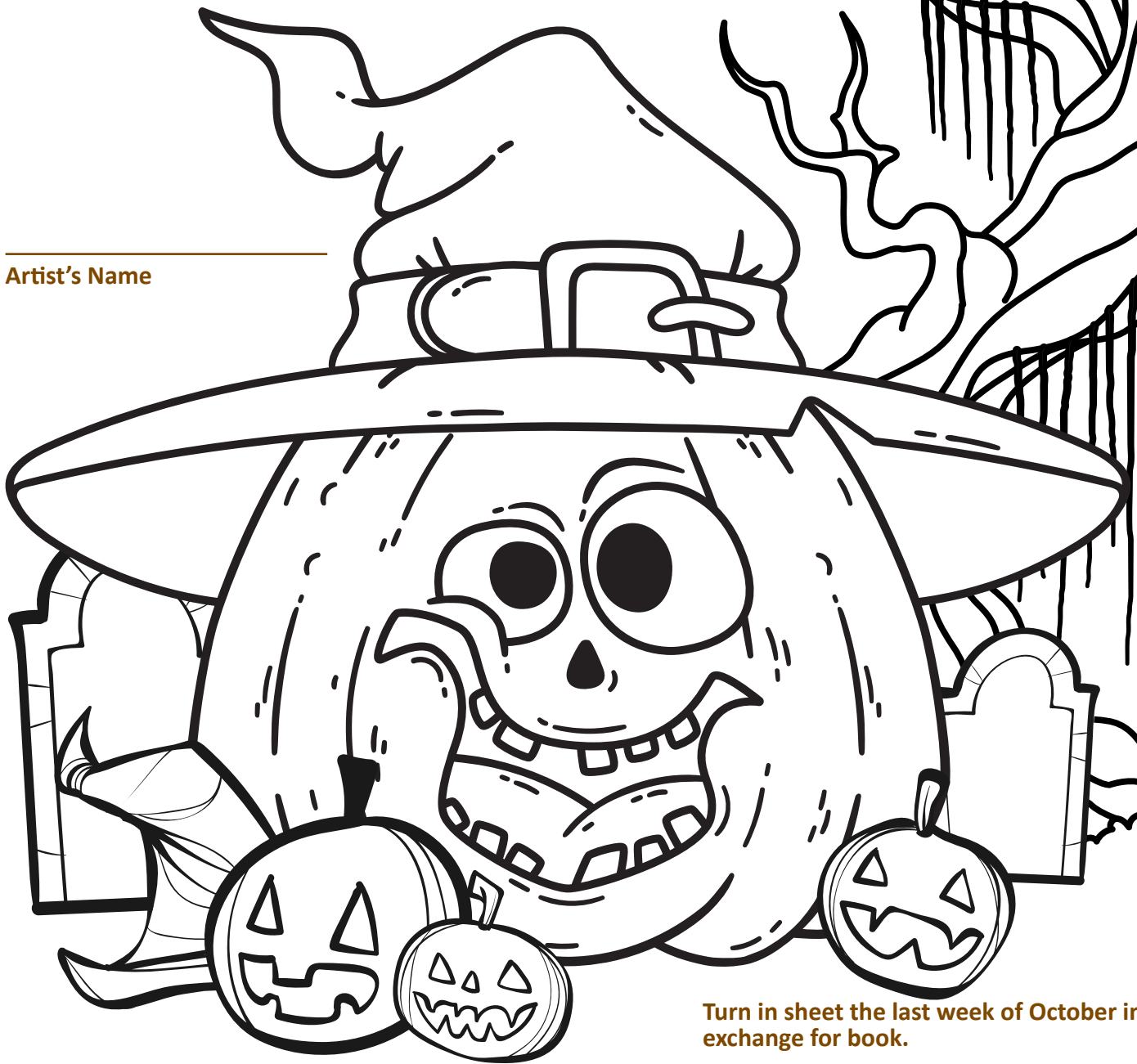
Who is your favorite book character?

Play outside in the fall weather! You can play in your yard or at one of our community's beautiful parks.

Color the pumpkin on the other side of this page. Crayons work best for this type of paper.

OAPP

Artist's Name _____



Turn in sheet the last week of October in exchange for book.

For best results, use crayons!





from the ARCHIVES

GARDENIA THE LIBRARY CAT



THE CAT TALE AMONG CATTAILS

Decades ago, rats were a problem in libraries. To get rid of the problem, many libraries got a cat. Ouachita Parish was no exception.

In the early 1950s, Library Director Frances Flanders had a rat problem. The rats were eating away at the magazine collection. A Library patron named Faith Johnson heard about the dilemma and gave the Library a female kitten. The little kitten was pure white with pinkish ears. The librarians fell instantly in love with her. The newest staff member was dubbed "Gardenia" after a cat in a book one of the librarians had read. Gardenia earned her keep, as the rat problem was soon taken care of!

Gardenia grew into a sociable animal. Patrons who would sit down to do research would most likely soon find a lap full of cat! She allowed the children to carry her around without a mew of protest. It was said she never scratched a soul. She loved educational films and sat quietly with the children to watch. Patrons loved her. As a matter of fact, one wrote a poem about her, which appeared in *Cats Magazine*.

Gardenia would not eat alone. Ms. Flanders tried to feed her on the front steps, but Gardenia would not touch her food without someone there. Ms. Flanders soon learned to eat her lunches with Gardenia in her Library office. One of Gardenia's favorite foods was cottage cheese. She demanded her share of any that came in the building.

As well as being social, Gardenia was a very curious cat. When a new shipment of books came in, she would sit on it until her curiosity was satisfied! When the new copier came in, Gardenia went inside it, made herself comfortable and began using it as her bed at night.

Gardenia's official cat door was the book slot in the front door. Gardenia coming out of her cat door was recorded for all posterity. In 1952, the Library hired a film crew come shoot video of the branches. While filming the front door of the then Main Branch on Jackson Street, Gardenia jumped out of the book slot!

The filmmaker decided to use the shot and it became the opening of the film.

One of the local newspapers wrote a feature article about Gardenia in 1957, complete with pictures. It caught national attention. Three months later, Gardenia was awarded "The Puss'n Boots Bronze Award Citation" for "outstanding custodianship." Ms. Flanders displayed it proudly next to the prestigious John Cotton Dana and Modisette Awards the Library had won. It was also during this time that Gardenia was "catnapped." Someone broke down the door of the Library and the next morning, she was gone. It was assumed the burglar had stolen Gardenia. A few hours later, she reappeared. She was shaken and upset but the staff was ecstatic. Ms. Flanders thought Gardenia had managed to outsmart her captor and escape. She probably had been frightened by the noise and ran away to hide.

In the spring of 1959, the new Main Branch opened where it stands today on Stubbs Avenue. It was feared that Gardenia would not take the change well. She had never ventured more than a half block from the Jackson Street location and hated cars. After the staff moved her and opened her kennel, Gardenia explored her new kingdom and found it worthy. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

As the years wore on, Gardenia went into semi-retirement. She spent most of her days in the filing room on a white satin pillow. She still loved the kids and would make her appearances every now and again.

On June 12, 1963, Gardenia passed away from illness. It is not known where she was buried. All that remains of Gardenia's memory are a few yellowed newspaper clippings, her brief image on film and her framed award which can be found in the Library's Genealogy Department. Local Baby Boomers and those of the Greatest Generation however, will never forget the little white cat who brought such joy to Library patrons in Ouachita Parish.



Ouachita Parish Public Library
1800 Stubbs Avenue
Monroe, LA 71201
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Monroe, LA 71203
Permit # 41

VISIT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH!

MAIN BRANCH 1800 Stubbs Avenue, Monroe, LA 71201 | Phone: (318) 327-1490

ANNA MEYER

1808 US Highway 165 South
Monroe, LA 71202
Phone: (318) 327-1351

CARVER-MCDONALD

2941 Renwick Street
Monroe, LA 71201
Phone: (318) 327-1477

LOUISE WILLIAMS

140 Bayou Oaks Drive
Monroe, LA 71203
Phone: (318) 327-5422

OLLIE BURNS

5601 Hwy. 165 By-Pass
Richwood, LA 71202
Phone: (318) 327-1235

OUACHITA VALLEY

601 McMillan Road
West Monroe, LA 71291
Phone: (318) 327-1470

SEARCY MEMORIAL

5775 Jonesboro Road
West Monroe, LA 71292
Phone: (318) 327-1240

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

305 Keystone Road
Monroe, LA 71203
Phone: (318)-327-1382

WEST MONROE

315 Cypress Street
West Monroe, LA 71291
Phone: (318) 327-1365

WEST OUACHITA

188 Hwy 546
West Monroe, LA 71291
Phone: (318) 327-5414



Thanksgiving Closure

All branches of the Ouachita Parish Public Library will close early at **5 p.m. Wednesday, November 25** for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular hours resume **Saturday, November 28**.