

Find Your Voice at Library's Summer Reading Program  
Aurora Ropp and Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Roseburg Public Library's Summer Reading Program is under way, and we encourage youth to Find Your Voice!

Because that is this year's program theme, we are sharing books in which the characters stand up for themselves in extraordinary ways.

### **Picture Books**

"The Yellow Áo Dài" written by Hanh Bui and illustrated by Minnie Phan features a young girl connecting with her cultural identity and ancestors with a traditional Vietnamese dance and special dress called an áo dài.

Naliah has been practicing her favorite fan dance to perform in front of her classmates for International Day. A special dance deserves a special dress, but when she tries on her áo dài, it is too small. Naliah looks through her mom's closet and finds a beautiful yellow áo dài to wear while practicing. The áo dài tears before Naliah finds out its family history and significance.

Naliah's mom gifts her a new yellow áo dài that fits and tells how grandma and mom both wore the torn áo dài while doing their own fan dances. All ends well with a mended áo dài and Naliah dancing and feeling connected to the women and culture before her. The story shows an accident that is fixed while working out who she is and connecting with her past.

### **Middle Grades**

Award-winning author Kelly Yang centers Asian American youth and the immigrant experience in her books, and her latest novel is "Finally Seen."

Lina has been living with her grandmother in China for the past five years, ever since her parents and little sister left for California. She dreams of reuniting with them, but when she finally gets that chance, she realizes the rosy picture they painted isn't their reality.

On top of that, Lina finds it difficult to express herself in English, and when she is teased by classmates about her language skills, she decides to not talk in school.

With the help of a special teacher, Lina's confidence begins to grow. Then comes the pivotal moment when a book that makes her feel seen is challenged by a parent. Will Lina find her voice?

### **Young Adults**

I learned so much about the enslaved Africans who were forced onto the Clotilda in "African Town: Inspired by the True Story of the Last American Slave Ship" by Irene Latham and Charles Waters.

A novel in verse, "African Town" shifts among 14 narrators, each of whom adds perspective to the horrifying events of 1860, when more than 100 African people were kidnapped and shipped to Alabama, despite the transatlantic slave trade being outlawed at the beginning of the century.

The enslaved people become a family, and the story follows them through the Civil War and their emancipation. Although many of them yearn to return to their home in Africa, they end up purchasing land just outside Mobile, Alabama, that they christen African Town. There, they experience joy and sorrow, but most of all, they celebrate their freedom.

All of these books are available at the library. Place holds at [roseburg.biblionix.com](http://roseburg.biblionix.com), or contact library staff at [library@cityofroseburg.org](mailto:library@cityofroseburg.org) or 541-492-7050 for assistance.

### This Month's Youth Programming

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, June 5 through Saturday, June 10 - StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by the Half Shell

10 a.m. every Tuesday – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last at library

10:30 a.m. every Wednesday – Storytime with Aurora at Stewart Park Pavilion

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, June 12 through Saturday, June 17 - StoryWalk® at Eastwood Park

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, June 13 – Children's program: SRP kickoff at library

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 15 – Teen program: Virtual reality and video games at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, June 16 – Children's program: Make a library bag at Stewart Park Pavilion

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, June 19 through Saturday, June 24 - StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by the YMCA

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, June 20 – Children's program: Oregon Rocks presented by the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at library

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 22 – Teen program: Make a bag at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, June 23 – Children's program: Bubbles at Stewart Park Pavilion

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, June 26 through Saturday, July 1 - StoryWalk® at Fir Grove Park

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, June 27 – Children’s program: Storyteller Joe Ross at library

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 29 – Teen program: Virtual reality and video games at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, June 30 – Children’s program: All About Trees presented by Paula Yablonski at Stewart Park Pavilion