

Let a Cover Draw You Into a Good Book  
Aurora Ropp and Kris Wiley for The News Review

“Don’t judge a book by its cover” is a common phrase heard in life, one we don’t always follow at Roseburg Public Library. Sometimes a great cover can draw you in to an equally good book.

This month we are sharing some great stories chosen for their attractive book covers.

### **Picture Books**

Illustrations and text are equally important in conveying the story to the reader in picture books. So many illustrations make for great covers; one I have chosen to read because of the cover is “BrindleFox” written and illustrated by John Sandford.

The cover is intriguing with a spiked tree seeming to grow out of a fox’s back while he is on a walk. The illustrations in the story are just as interesting with warm colors that invite you in and cover the entire page.

The text tells the story of a prickly fox who doesn’t speak to anyone. The fox receives a delicious pie from a heron and would like another. He is told to speak to receive more pies. The fox learns “to have a friend, one must be a friend.”

The detailed cover is continued with detailed illustrations that tell an important story of friendship being a two-person job.

### **Middle Grades**

I saw the cover of “Leeva at Last” and laughed out loud because there is a girl – Leeva – boldly standing beside ... a badger eating cheese.

That silly illustration sets the stage for a rather silly story about Leeva, whose truly awful parents mismanage the town of Nutsmore.

Leeva, who has never left her yard, finally steps through the hedges and discovers the public library and a world of opportunities through the pages of books and the friendships of an eclectic group of townspeople. Together, they decide to create a better future for Nutsmore.

Matthew Cordell’s illustrations capture absurd and touching scenes throughout the book. Cordell is a Caldecott Medalist who publishes picture books and junior titles, including the Cornbread and Poppy series.

### **Young Adults**

Author Ibi Zoboi acknowledged digital artist Nettrice Gaskins’ stunning cover to “Nigeria Jones,” which led me to Gaskins’ website at [www.nettricegaskins.com](http://www.nettricegaskins.com). Her gallery includes artificial intelligence-generated art.

I looked at the “Nigeria Jones” cover and saw a determined, contemplative young Black woman, and that’s exactly who she turned out to be on the pages.

Nigeria has been raised and homeschooled in her father’s Movement, a Black separatist group in Philadelphia. Her mother recently disappeared, and her loss affects the entire group – especially Nigeria.

As Nigeria begins searching for clues to explain her mom’s disappearance, she discovers there was a growing rift between her parents about the Movement and Nigeria’s future. That leads Nigeria to assert her independence, enroll in an elite private school and finally face the truth about her mom.

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

### This Month’s Youth Programs

10:15 a.m. every Wednesday – Storytime with Aurora

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10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7 – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8 - Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 2nd through 8th graders

3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 – Building & Legos for all ages

3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15 – STEAM program for elementary students

3-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 – Teen Volunteer Hours

10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21 – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22 - Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 2nd through 8th graders

4-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30 – Seasonal kids crafts