



Editor's Note

Playing Dress-Up

By Sharon Verbeten

Remember playing dress-up? We probably all did as a kid; maybe some of your youngest patrons still do so at the library.

It's enticing to play pretend every now and then, and books—our greatest escape—provide a great starting point. What book character would you most like to emulate? To dress up as? I've dressed up as The Cat in the Hat before, as well as Thing One (or was it Thing Two?).

But I've always been drawn to the slightly dark side—not exactly Darth Vader, more Roald Dahl or Neil Gaiman. These days, I'd love to lean into a decadent Willy Wonka (top hat and all!) or a creepy Coraline. Maybe this Halloween!

Lots of schools host dress as your favorite book character day, and I always love to see what people come up with—and just how far they'll go to get the perfect look. My friend Jessica, who used to be one of my regular storytime moms, works at her daughter Rooney's small private school in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

She said, "They don't have an actual librarian, or even a budget for the library, and before I started volunteering, the kids didn't get a chance to use the library. I got it organized. I enjoy it because I want all the kids to get a chance to borrow books. I was amazed when I asked who's been to a public library because not as many kids raised their hands as I thought. I wish everyone took advantage of what libraries have to offer."

Both Jessica and Rooney got into character during Spirit Week—mom dressed up as Arthur, while Rooney dressed up as Waldo. I think they got it spot—or, in Rooney's case, stripes!—on. &



Rooney (Waldo) and her mom Jessica really took to the assignment—Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character!

Children & LIBRARIES

the journal of the
Association for Library
Service to Children

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Children and Libraries (ISSN 1542-9806) is a refereed journal published four times per year by the American Library Association (ALA), 225 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601. It is the official publication of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA. Subscription price: members of ALSC, \$20 per year, included in membership dues; nonmembers, \$50 per year in the US; \$60 in Canada, Mexico, and other countries. Back issues within one year of current issue, \$15 each. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Children and Libraries*, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601. Members send mailing labels or facsimile to Member Services, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601. Nonmember subscribers: Subscriptions, orders, changes of address, and inquiries should be sent to *Children and Libraries*, Customer Service—Subscriptions, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601; 1-800-545-2433, press 5; fax: (312) 944-2641; email: subscriptions@ala.org.

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Children and Libraries is the official journal of ALSC, a division of the American Library Association. The journal primarily serves as a vehicle for continuing education of librarians working with children, which showcases current scholarly research and practice in library service to children. It also serves as a vehicle for communication to the ALSC membership, spotlighting significant activities and initiatives of the Association. (From the journal's "Policies and Procedures" document adopted by the ALSC board, April 2004, revised, 2014.)

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ALA Production Services (Tim Clifford and Lauren Ehle)

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Children and Libraries is indexed in *Library and Information Science Abstracts* and in *Library Literature and Information Science*.

Children and Libraries is indexed, abstracted, and available in full text through EBSCOhost. For more information, contact EBSCO at 1-800-653-2726.

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