

Library Lines by Ruth Gilbert, Youth Services Librarian, Kirkland Town Library

Do you know how much your library misses all of you? We're hoping you miss us too. We've got a building full of books that can't wait to get back into your hands and a staff that can't wait to help you find them. In the meantime, your family may be running out of reading material. Luckily there are some free online resources for books just for kids that may be new to you.

You may already know about all of the e-books available through the Kirkland Town Library's digital collections, but did you know that your school library also has e-books and audiobooks that you can borrow while school is closed? The company that brings us the Libby app and Overdrive has created an app just for students called Sora, which you can download to your mobile device or visit on a computer at soraapp.com. Sora is the doorway through which you can explore all the e-books your school's library has to offer. There are books for all ages, including picture books, middle-grade novels, and YA fiction, and lots and lots of nonfiction titles for all those kids who love soaking up facts.

There are a few tricks to accessing Sora. When the app or website asks for your school, you first have to select "Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES" (or whatever BOCES your school belongs to) and then select the name of your school. To login, you'll enter your school email address and the password, which is the word "media" for all users.

Once you're in you'll be able to explore recommended book lists, browse by subject, or search for a specific title. You'll also see that you can borrow all of the Harry Potter books in both e-book and audiobook formats, and lots of Marvel comics and other graphic novels.

Another resource that you can access through the Kirkland Town Library's website is TumbleBooks (find a link on our Digital Resources page). TumbleBooks has generously provided free access to our patrons during the pandemic, and there are some great reasons to check it out! You can look at its collection on a computer or through their app on a mobile device. They have a few different types of e-books, including what they call Storybooks, Read Alongs, and graphic novels. Storybooks are basically digital versions of picture books that have audio of the text that you can turn on and off. The words also appear on the screen. There are little sound effects and the illustrations are animated. You can find books by some really great authors, including Kate DiCamillo (Bink & Gollie series), Doreen Cronin ("Diary of a Worm"), Amy Krouse Rosenthal ("Little Pea"). TumbleBooks also has storybooks in Spanish and French.

TumbleBooks also offers Read Alongs, which are longer e-books with accompanying audio. These are a wonderful option for a reader who might need a little extra help getting through a more complex book. There are lots of classics to choose from, like "Black Beauty," "Anne of Green Gables," "Little Women," and "Peter Pan." These titles work much like e-books on other platforms, with adjustable font and text size, a chapter menu, and bookmarking option.

One of the most exciting parts of TumbleBooks is their graphic novels collection, where you can find full versions of some of your favorite series like "Geronimo Stilton," "LEGO Ninjago," and "Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew."

If you have any questions about accessing Sora or TumbleBooks, reach out to us at clinton@midyork.org. We're still here to help! I hope you're finding some pleasure and escape through books, whether they're from your own collection or the library's digital collection. I can't wait to hear what you've been reading!