

The Teen Times

Issue No. 9 | February 1, 2023



In the February issue of *The Teen Times*, the RPL Youth Services Team focuses on romance, bringing you book, film, & television recommendations, a spotlight on our teen programming, and some fun activities to pass the time.

Programming Spotlight

February's programming spotlight is our **TINY ART SHOW**.

Stop in to the Children's Room anytime before the 25th to pick up your own tiny canvas that you can create on. When you finish with your creation, bring it back in to the Children's Room, fill out a slip, and then join us on **February 25th**

from **11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** for Rowley's First Tiny Art show!

People of all ages and levels of artistic talent are invited to participate in this creative, community building event.

For more information, please visit our website or send an email to the Youth Services team at the following address: kids@rowleylibrary.org



Book Recommendations: Romance

Six Times We Almost Kissed by Tess Sharpe

Penny and Tate have always clashed. Unfortunately, their mothers are lifelong best friends, so the girls' bickering has carried them through playdates, tragedy, and more than one rom-com marathon with the Moms. When Penny's mother decides to become a living donor to Tate's mom, ending her wait for a liver transplant, things go from clashing to cataclysmic. Because in order to help their families recover physically, emotionally, and financially, the Moms combine their households the summer before senior year.



As You Walk on By by Julian Winters

Seventeen-year-old Theo Wright has it all figured out. His plan (well, more like his dad's plan) is a foolproof strategy that involves excelling at his magnet school, getting scouted by college recruiters, and going to Duke on athletic scholarship. But for now, all Theo wants is a perfect prom night. After his best friend Jay dares Theo to propose to his crush at Chloe Campbell's party, Theo's ready to throw caution to the wind and take his chances.

But when the promposal goes epically wrong, Theo seeks refuge in an empty bedroom while the party rages on downstairs. Having an existential crisis about who he really is with and without his so-called best friend wasn't on tonight's agenda.



The Love Match by Priyanka Taslim

Zahra Khan is basically Bangladeshi royalty, but being a princess doesn't pay the bills in Paterson, New Jersey. While Zahra's plans for financial security this summer involve working long hours at Chai Ho and saving up for college writing courses, Amma is convinced that all Zahra needs is a "good match," Jane Austen style.

Enter Harun Emon, who's wealthy, devastatingly handsome, and...aloof. As soon as Zahra meets him, she knows it's a bad match. It's nothing like the connection she has with Nayim Aktar, the new dishwasher at the tea shop, who just gets Zahra in a way no one has before. So, when Zahra finds out that Harun is just as uninterested in this match as she is, they decide to slowly sabotage their parents' plans.

Always the Almost by Edward Underhill

Sixteen-year-old trans boy Miles Jacobson has two New Year's resolutions: 1) win back his ex-boyfriend (and star of the football team) Shane McIntyre, and 2) finally beat his slimy arch-nemesis at the Midwest's biggest classical piano competition. But that's not going to be so easy. For one thing, Shane broke up with Miles two weeks after Miles came out as trans, and now Shane's stubbornly ignoring him, even when they literally bump into each other. Plus, Miles' new, slightly terrifying piano teacher keeps telling him that he's playing like he "doesn't know who he is"—whatever that means.

Programming Schedule & Highlights

Programming Schedule

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
FEB 2	3:30 - 4:30 PM	VISION BOARDS
FEB 22	3:30 - 4:30 PM	BOOK A DATE
FEB 23	3:00 - 5:00 PM	MAKE A TINY CANVAS
FEB 25	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	TINY ART SHOW

Recommended Video Games:



Stardew Valley | All platforms, cozy farming



Genshin Impact | Most platforms, adventuring



All that's Left in the World by Erik J. Brown

What Did We Read in January?

In the month of January, Sarah read many things including some new volumes of manga, but the best book of YA fiction they read last month was **"All That's Left in the World"** by **Erik J. Brown**.

This book centers on two boys who are navigating a post-apocalyptic world after an unlikely event puts them on the same path. If this book was a fanfiction, one tag it would have is: hurt/comfort

Teen LitCrate Boxes

If you're between the ages of 13 and 18 and you have trouble figuring out what to read next, the Youth Services Department has a solution for you!

The YA LitCrate is a mystery box filled with books and goodies for you to enjoy! All you have to do is fill out a form to let us know what you enjoy reading, and we'll give you a call when it's ready to pick up.

The books and box must be returned, but the gifts inside are yours to keep!

Film/Television Reviews

Hello, Goodbye, & Everything In Between

Claire and Aidan make a pact to break up before college with no regrets and no broken hearts. However, one epic goodbye date may offer them a last chance at love.

Rated PG-13



Sarah's Rating: ★★☆☆/5

The Perfect Date

In an effort to make some extra money before heading off to college, Brooks creates an app that allows girls to request him to go on dates and pretends to be the perfect guy. But, he soon finds out that faking his identity won't help him find the girl that he loves. Check this one out on Netflix,

Rated PG-13

Sarah's Rating: ★★★★★/5



Heartstopper

Heartstopper is a British coming-of-age romantic comedy-drama television series on Netflix, adapted from the webcomic and graphic novel of the same name by Alice Oseman. Written by Oseman herself, the series primarily tells the story of Charlie Spring (Joe Locke), a gay schoolboy who falls in love with classmate Nick Nelson (Kit Connor), whom he sits next to in his new form.

Sarah's Rating: ★★★★★/5

All the Bright Places

After meeting each other, two teenagers struggle with the emotional and physical scars of their pasts. They discover that even the smallest moments can mean something. This film is not rated.

Sarah's Rating: ★★★★★/5

Activities Corner



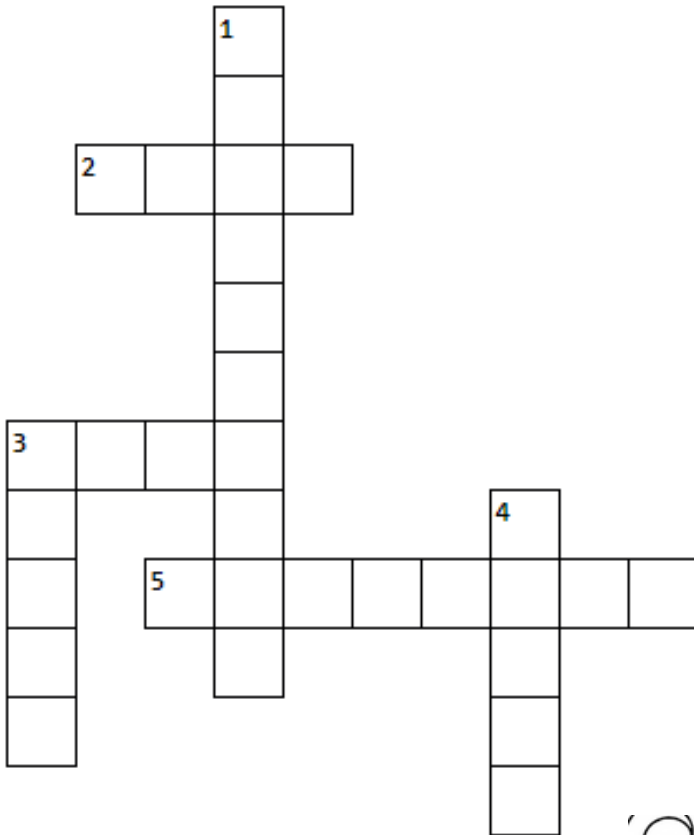
Word Bank:

RED ROSES	CHOCOLATES	SWEETHEARTS
ROMANCE	CUPID	VALENTINE
BOUQUET	BE MINE	CHERUB

Bring back a completed word search for a sticker!

Activities Corner, cont.

Valentine's Day Crossword Puzzle



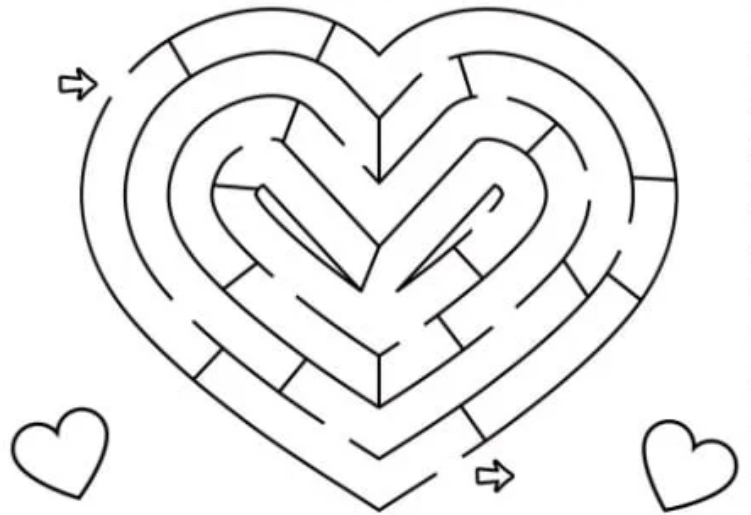
Across

2. Expression often said on Valentine's Day: "Be _____"
3. Many of these are sent out on Valentine's Day
5. What month is this holiday in?

Down

1. Two colors associated with Valentine's Day.
3. He shoots arrows at people and has wings.
4. Valentine was this type of religious figure.

Maze Activity



Color Me!



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