Charlie and the Octopus

Ready for Read Aloud

Final books to feature FULL-COLOR ART!
Introducing Avenue A Books!
The team at Center for Responsive Schools is thrilled to announce our new line of books for kids ages 5–14: Avenue A Books!

Avenue A Books is launching its first series of graphic novels in early 2019. This new line of books is specifically created to help kids develop social and emotional competencies in a way that speaks directly to them, and to enable them to gain a deeper understanding of relevant and relatable situations. This engaging and colorful collection is being designed by a diverse group of talented children’s book authors and illustrators. Kids will see themselves and their peers reflected in stories that depict real-world challenges that they experience both at school and at home. And while these books offer subtle examples of how to handle various situations with empathy and self-control, they are compelling, fun to read, and often laugh-out-loud funny. We offer a wide range of genres that will engage all kinds of kids, from action and adventure stories, to mysteries, to coming-of-age dramas.

Why Graphic Novels?
Graphic novels appeal to both avid and reluctant readers. The flexibility of the form can support rich and multilayered plots for advanced readers, while at the same time remaining inviting and exciting for kids who may struggle with, or dislike, reading.
The use of images along with words in graphic novels provides an entertaining and dynamic reading experience, and can be an extremely effective way of communicating complex ideas and situations. For example, pictures can convey information that’s not directly mentioned in the text. This can be a great teaching tool to help kids understand different forms of communication. In addition, the words themselves can be enhanced with different styles, colors, and embellishments to convey tone, volume, and more. This provides another opportunity for kids to explore how information can be expressed visually.
Because of their broad appeal and multifaceted format, graphic novels open the door to a storytelling universe in which any child can find their place. They allow kids to experience how much fun reading can be—and can spark a passion for books that will last a lifetime.

Want to learn more? Go to avenueabooks.com

Avenue A Books will offer a range of titles for ages 5–14.

A Avenue A Books

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avenueabooks.com

What is this Sneak Peek?

November 2018

Dear Readers,
The team here at Avenue A Books is busy overseeing the writing, editing, and illustrating of a series of fresh, new graphic novels and stories that will engage your students while encouraging them to make social-emotional learning connections. We’re so excited about this line of books that we wanted to give you a sampling of the works in progress.

In this Sneak Peek, you’ll see two of our first early level stories. Keep in mind that these are unfinished works, just to give you a taste of what’s coming. You’ll also find information on our other upcoming titles. We thought it would be fun to share some of the creation process as well.

This new series from Avenue A Books reflects real-life situations and is developmentally appropriate and appealing for each age group. We hope you are as eager as we are to see a line of titles that will help you engage students in meaningful conversations about the world around them.

Enjoy this glimpse into the work we are doing and visit avenueabooks.com to stay up-to-date with our progress. Feel free to stop by our booth anytime during the conference and meet the managing editor, director, and some of our authors and illustrators.

Sincerely,
The Avenue A Books Team
Charlie and the Octopus

Written by Rebecca Roan  ■  Illustrated by Larissa Marantz

When Charlie discovers that an octopus followed him home from the aquarium, he does his best to take responsibility for it. The octopus doesn’t make it easy! Chaos ensues as the octopus looks for food, friends, and fun, but Charlie’s parents think he’s the one responsible. Charlie must devise a plan to get his parents to see once and for all who the real troublemaker is, and to help the octopus find its way home.

Rebecca Roan is a picture book author. She holds a BS in human development and family studies from Penn State University, and an MA in children’s literature and an MFA in writing for children from Simmons College. She is a recipient of the PEN New England Children’s Book Discovery Award for her picture book manuscript Dragons Get Colds Too (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019). Rebecca lives in northeastern Pennsylvania where she works in the book publishing division at Highlights for Children. For more about Rebecca and her projects, visit her website at rebeccaroan.com.

Larissa Marantz is a children’s book illustrator and animator. She received her BFA from California State University, Fullerton. She continued her animation education at the Animation Academy in Burbank and at the Animation Guild in North Hollywood. After working as an animation artist on the Nickelodeon television shows The Rugrats and Rocket Power, she illustrated a dozen books for Simon & Schuster and Random House. She currently teaches figure drawing for animators at Laguna College of Art + Design. Larissa resides in Orange County, California. To learn more about Larissa and her projects, visit her website at larissamarantz.com.
Charlie went to the aquarium.

And he came home with an octopus.

No, not that one. He already had that one.
Yes, that's the one. But it took a while for Charlie to notice.
Charlie did his homework.

He practiced on the piano.

He played a board game.

He ate dinner with his family.

He was hungrier than he thought.
He got ready for bed. And that was when Charlie noticed something was different.

Charlie’s parents looked at him. They looked at the octopus. Except they were looking at the wrong octopus.

What’s wrong, Charlie?

It’s an octopus!

Goodnight, Charlie.
And that was it. Charlie was done sleeping *forever*. Well, at least until he could figure out what to do about the octopus.

The octopus, on the other hand, seemed quite cozy, indeed.
The next morning, Charlie dragged himself out of bed.

His stomach grumbled. So did the octopus's.

But the octopus was a rather picky eater.

That gave Charlie an idea.

It went to find something else to snack on.
Charlie, what have you done to the kitchen?

It wasn't me. It was the octopus!

Charlie's parents looked at him.

They looked at the octopus.

Except they were looking at the wrong octopus.

Clean it up, Charlie.

Charlie needed a new plan. And he needed a bath. So did the octopus. That gave Charlie an idea.
Charlie had the octopus right where he wanted it.

There was no way his parents could miss it now.

But nothing is ever that simple.
Charlie's parents looked at him. They looked at the octopus. And just as before, they were not happy.

What have you done to the bathroom?!

It wasn’t me. It was the octopus!
Charlie was tired of the octopus.

It had to go. But how?

And that's when Charlie had an idea.
Charlie found an empty box. He wrote his best letters on it. He put the box on the porch.

Then he put the octopus in the box.

That was harder than he thought.

Hi, Charlie. What's in the box?

Wait! Don’t!
Aaaaah!

Charlie, what did you do to the mailman?

It wasn’t me. It was the octopus!
Charlie’s parents looked at him. They looked at the octopus. And this time, they were looking at the right octopus.

Aaaah! It's a real octopus!

We're sorry we didn't believe you, Charlie.

What do we do now?

Don't worry. I have an idea.
Charlie waved goodbye to his new friend. He was glad that the octopus was back where it belonged. But he promised to come back and visit it soon.
The only thing is, he didn’t know just how soon that would be...

Written by Jamie L. B. Deenihan ■ Illustrated by Carrie Hartman

Owl is the new bird in the neighborhood, and he can’t wait to make friends. But the other animals in the forest misinterpret his welcoming gestures as a plot to eat them. With the help of Skunk, who understands how much first impressions can stink, Owl and the other forest animals learn that not everything is as it first appears, and everyone deserves a chance to be known.

Jamie L. B. Deenihan is a picture book author and preschool teacher. She holds an MA in reading education and is reading specialist certified. She received the West Springfield Teacher Excellence Award in 2010. She is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and member and moderator of Julie Hedlund’s 12x12 Picture Book Challenge. Her picture books include When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree (Sterling 2019) and Santa vs. The Tooth Fairy (Penguin 2019). She resides in Suffield, Connecticut, with her husband and two children. To learn more about Jamie and her books, visit her online at jamiedeenihan.com.

Carrie Hartman is a freelance children’s book illustrator and animator. She holds a BA in illustration from the Minneapolis College of Art & Design, and is a member of the design faculty at MCAD. Carrie has received several awards from the Los Angeles Society of Illustrators, the Association of Educational Publishers (AEP) award for the best illustrated children’s book, a Webby Award, and several Mom’s Choice Book Awards. She is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, the Los Angeles Society of Illustrators, and the Children’s Literature Network. She lives in a suburb of Minneapolis/St. Paul with her family. To learn more about Carrie and her projects, visit her website at carriehartman.com.
Second grader Rosa wants to read her favorite book during read aloud at school, but she feels too shy. Her teacher encourages her to practice reading aloud at home to build up courage. Throughout the week, Rosa practices reading aloud to various animals in her backyard. She feels braver every day. When Leo moves in next door, Rosa has to decide if she’s finally ready to read to another person—and discovers that bravery doesn’t have to be mastered alone.

Jenny Rose is a writer and picture book author. She lives in Massachusetts with her husband, daughters, Collie pups, and pet rabbits. For more about Jenny and her books, visit her website at jennyrosebooks.com.

Lisa M. Griffin is a freelance children’s book illustrator. She received her BFA in visual design and illustration from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. She has illustrated over a dozen books, including her very own Hey Goose! What's Your Excuse? (Boys Town Press, 2017) and Green-Eyed Goose (Boys Town Press, 2018). She lives in New Hampshire with her family. For more about Lisa and her books, visit her website at lisamgriffin.com.
Rosa had a favorite book.

She read it to herself so many times she almost knew it by heart.

She carried it to school every day.
After school, Rosa read her book to a red spotted ladybug.

On Monday, when her teacher asked for read aloud volunteers, Rosa wanted to raise her hand.

Instead, she shook her head, No! She felt too shy!

You'll feel ready soon. Practicing will help.

The ladybug loved Rosa's reading so much, she fluttered her wings in delight.
On Tuesday, the teacher asked again.

Who would like to read aloud today?

Rosa wanted to raise her hand, but she still felt shy.

After school, Rosa read her book to a dappled green frog.

The frog loved Rosa's reading so much, he jumped high in the air.
On Wednesday, the teacher asked again.

Who would like to read aloud today?

Rosa wanted to raise her hand, but she still felt shy.

After school, Rosa read her book to a fuzzy brown bunny.

The bunny loved Rosa's reading so much, she twitched her nose.
On Thursday, the teacher asked again.

Who would like to read aloud today?

Rosa wanted to raise her hand, but she still felt shy.

After school, Rosa read her book to a gray fox.

The fox loved Rosa’s reading so much, he whished his tail.
On Friday, the teacher asked again.

Who would like to read aloud today?

Rosa wanted to raise her hand, but she still felt shy.

After school, Rosa read her book to a spotted fawn.

The fawn loved Rosa’s reading so much, she wiggled her ears.
On Saturday, Rosa read her book to a friendly garter snake, who flicked his tongue.

a pair of squirrels, who scampered around a tree trunk

and a nest full of baby robins, who cheeped and chirped!

Rosa felt a little less shy.
On Sunday, a boy peeked around the tree.

Who are you?

Rosa felt shy again when she thought about reading to a person.

I'm Leo. We just moved in next door.

What are you reading?

It's my favorite book.

Will you read your book to me, please?

But Leo smiled.

I heard you reading to the animals. I know you can do it!
Even though Rosa still felt a little shy, she decided to try.

She began reading quietly at first, then a little louder.

Her voice grew strong and steady, carrying in the breeze.

When she finished, she felt only a tiny bit shy.
The next Monday morning, Rosa dressed for school and carefully tucked the book in her backpack.

She and Leo walked to school together.
When they got to their classroom, Leo stopped.

I don’t know anybody. I’m too shy to go in.

The teacher introduced Leo to the class, and Rosa helped him find a seat.

You know me. We’ll go in together.

I know you can do it!

And when the teacher asked...

Who would like to read aloud today?
...Rosa raised her hand.

Rosa walked toward the reading circle—and froze.

Suddenly, she felt as shy as before!

Rosa looked around the room. She saw a ladybug. She saw a fox. She remembered reading to all her animal friends.
Rosa took a deep breath and imagined.
Rosa still felt shy—but she felt ready for read aloud.

She opened her book and began, quietly at first, then louder.

And everyone listened.
**Coming in 2019–2020 from Avenue A Books**

### Ages 5 and up

**Specifications:**
- Full-color illustrations
- 32 pages, 9” x 11”
- Soft cover, perfect bind

#### For learning to make and keep friends
**The New Bird in Town**
*Written by Jamie L. B. Deenihan*  ■  *Illustrated by Carrie Hartman*
Owl moves into a new neighborhood and attempts to make friends.

#### For persisting through challenging tasks
**Ready for Read Aloud**
*Written by Jenny Rose*  ■  *Illustrated by Lisa M. Griffin*
Rosa finds confidence to read aloud in class through perseverance and practice.

#### For seeing a problem and selecting the appropriate option for a positive outcome
**Charlie and the Octopus**
*Written by Rebecca Roan*  ■  *Illustrated by Larissa Marantz*
An octopus follows Charlie home and chaos ensues.

### Ages 7 and up

**Specifications:**
- Full-color illustrations
- Est. 80 pages, 7” x 8.5”
- Soft cover, perfect bind

#### For persisting through challenging tasks and demonstrating behavior that contributes to community goals
**The Mystery of the Inventor’s Gold**
*Written by Greg Leitich Smith*  ■  *Illustrated by TBD*
Twins Aaron and Julian are not thrilled to leave the city after their parents’ divorce, but there is more to their new town than meets the eye.

### Ages 11 and up

**Specifications:**
- Full-color illustrations
- 172+ pages, 6” x 8.5”
- Soft cover, perfect bind

#### For showing awareness of how one’s actions impact others
**Smells Like Trouble**
*Written by Molly Burnham*  ■  *Illustrated by Veronica V. Jones*
Dawn, who struggles with debilitating anxiety, must learn to speak up for her friend who was accused of a school prank.

#### For using coping mechanisms to manage overwhelming or negative thoughts
**Duff Parker and the Downfall of the Dystopiad**
*Written by J. Hill*  ■  *Illustrated by Ian Moore*
When Duff leaves his troubled past, he finds his uncle’s space fantasy graphic novels and joins the comics club at his school.

#### For respecting and valuing diversity
**Alexis vs. Summer Vacation**
*Written by Sarah Jamila Stevenson*  ■  *Illustrated by Veronica Agarwal*
Alexis ponders over her identity and what she wants to do in life while she babysits her siblings all summer at the community pool.

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