

Monday Morning Eye-Opener February 24, 2025

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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

February 24, 2025

The Great IAShires Bag & Tote Count



Wednesday February 26

This Wednesday, the State Library will be holding the second **Great IAShires Bag & Tote Count**. Librarians are asked to count and report the number of filled and empty **IAShires bags and totes** in their library onto an online form that will be accessible on Wednesday Feb26.

There's a method to the madness 😊 The count is taking place in order to inventory the number of bags and totes currently in use, as well as to estimate how many bags and totes have been decommissioned due to damage or normal wear-and-tear. The numbers you report will be used to determine how many new bags and totes might need to be ordered as replacements and to serve as backup inventory in the future.

The Form Opens On Wednesday: The online form to report your bag and tote numbers will open this **Wednesday morning Feb26 at 8:00AM**. **The link will be emailed to libraries and posted to the Library Talk forum.**

If your library has a regular **IAShires** delivery scheduled for Feb26, please record your count before your scheduled pickup that day. The count will happen on a single day to reduce the likelihood of double counting bags and totes as they travel between libraries.

If your library will not be open this Wednesday Feb26, then count and report your bag/tote numbers on the next open day closest to "Count Day." In that case, please report your numbers directly to Tom Keyser by email tom.keyser@iowa.gov / 515-242-6542

About IAShires

IAShires has been in operation since November 2019. Since the service launched, the number of **IAShires** bags in use has tripled, with over 150 totes added to transport the bags between libraries. In FY24, this statewide delivery service helped support more than 380,000 items sent between Iowa libraries via interlibrary loan transactions. Libraries also use the service to share multiple copies of books for book clubs, various supplies and other materials, all of which has greatly reduced the cost of postage.

INFO: IAShires Bag-Tote Count



IAShares is made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of Iowa.

OverDrive's Together We Read ...

The Queen of Sugar Hill

Here's a fun reading program to get behind, perfect for all Bridges libraries. OverDrive is kicking off their **2025 "Together We Read" program on March 13-27** (formerly known as The Big Library Read) **Together We Read** begins with the first book of the year being The Queen of Sugar Hill by ReShonda Tate.

Together We Read is literally a global reading program, a worldwide digital version of a local book discussion club. Sponsored by OverDrive, this program represents an opportunity to connect your local readers with book lovers around the world as they read and discuss the same book at the same time without wait lists or holds.



From the project website, here's more about The Queen of Sugar Hill *"It was supposed to be the highlight of her career, the pinnacle for which she'd worked all her life. And as Hattie McDaniel took the stage in 1940 to claim an honor that would make her the first African-American woman to win an Academy Award, she tearfully took her place in history. Between personal triumphs and tragedies, heartbreaking losses, and severe setbacks, this historic night of winning best supporting actress for her role as the sassy Mammy in the controversial movie Gone With the Wind was going to be life-changing. Or so she thought."*

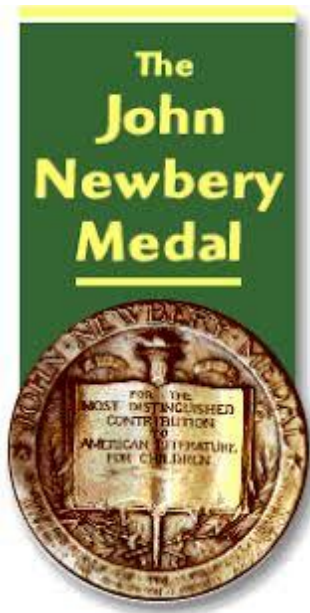
For two weeks from **March 13-27**, The Queen of Sugar Hill will be available in Ebook and audiobook formats for unlimited access, without wait lists or holds on your OverDrive-powered website—that means Bridges, ya'all 😊

Encourage your readers and book club members to participate by downloading [marketing materials](#) (social media graphics, flyers, bookmarks and more) and share this book's info on social media using

#togetherwewread!

OverDrive's Together We Read

Newbery & Caldecott Medal Winners



Last month, the American Library Association announced the most prestigious literary awards of the year: the **2025 Newbery and Caldecott** winners, along with many others. These literary award winners in youth and children's literature include books, digital media, eBooks, and audiobooks. Any of these titles lead to solid purchases for library collections, promotions, and programming. Here are just a few of the 2025 winners:

The John Newbery Medal, given for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature = [The First State of Being](#) by Erin Entrada Kelly

The Randolph Caldecott Medal, given for the most distinguished American picture book for children = [Chooch Helped](#) illustrated by Andrea L Rogers

The Coretta Scott King Book Award, recognizing an African American author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults = [Twenty-four Seconds from Now](#) by Jason Reynolds

The William C. Morris Award, given for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens = [Not Like Other Girls](#) by Meredith Adamo

Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults = [Brownstone](#) written by Samuel Teer

The Theodore Seuss Geisel Award for the most distinguished beginning reader book = [Vacation](#) written by Ame Dyckman

This added note thanks to Youth Services Consultant Janeé Jackson-Doering: you can watch the ceremony and see all of the winners here: [2025 Youth Media Awards Ceremony](#).

Find the full listing of **ALA's 2025 Youth Media Awards** at the button below

[2025 Youth Media Awards](#)

This Week



Big Ideas Book Discussion: Meet Me at the Library. February 28. Online 9:30-11:00AM

The 2025 **Big Ideas Book Discussion** series kicks off with [Meet Me at the Library: A Place to Foster Social Connection and Promote Democracy](#) by Shamichael Hallman. The subtitle speaks to the enduring attributes of

America's public libraries as places that build community connections and uphold democratic principles.

We'll hear from two Iowa library directors with connections to the book:

- Brittany Jacobs with Burlington Public Library; Burlington PL is reading [Meet Me at the Library](#) in their board-led book club
- Jennie Garner with North Liberty Public Library; North Liberty PL is featured in the book

The book jacket reads *“Increasingly, public libraries are playing an essential role in building social cohesion, promoting civic renewal, and advancing the ideals of a healthy democracy.”* Come share how you want to encourage your community to say *“Meet me at the library!”*

[Register in WorkDay Learning](#)

Nebraska’s Online Conference: Big Talk From Small Libraries. February 28. 8:45AM-5:00PM

From their website: *“...This free one-day online conference is tailored for staff from small libraries. All of our presenters are from libraries serving fewer than 10,000 people or are directly partnered with a small library and co-presenting with the library. Topics range from technology to programming to new roles for the library. Everyone is welcome to register and attend, regardless of how big or small your library. If your library serves a few hundred to a few thousand people, this is the day for you!”*

Iowa library staff can earn CE Credit for attending this event. Visit our [Continuing Education webpage](#), click on **Earning CE Credit**. Then scroll down to read about **External CE Opportunities** to find the form you’ll need. Registration is open at the button below.

[Register For Nebraska’s Big Talk Conference](#)

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