

# Monday Morning Eye-Opener April 21, 2025

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## MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

April 21, 2025

### Libraries Connecting With Farmers Markets



#### With Iowa PBS as a Partner

Does your community have a Farmers Market? If you attended the State Library's Summer Reading Summits last month, you heard about a cool summer program from Iowa PBS: it's the Iowa **PBS Farmers Market**.

This is a ready-made program that provides 12 weeks worth of activities that build on everyday literacy learning for children. Materials include program guides, STEM activities, recipes for the whole family to make together, and more.

From the PBS website *"A local farmers market is an exceptional example of a summer learning environment that facilitates many examples of functional literacy. It provides a rich and immersive context for children to learn and practice problem solving skills, social skills, critical and computational thinking, all while encouraging intergenerational exchanges about the food we eat and the trades we need."*

This program really came into its own two years ago thanks to Iowa PBS partnering with Perry Public Library. The program provided recipes, puzzles and brainteasers, guessing games, vegetable samples, STEM activities, as well as \$10.00 for each participating child to spend at the Perry Chamber of Commerce's weekly farmers market. This summer, Iowa PBS is proud to offer this same program to farmers markets in other communities.

And so, PBS encourages libraries to seek out community groups to partner with in bringing the **Iowa PBS Farmers Market Program** to your town this summer. You're welcome to contact Iowa PBS Education Outreach Specialist [Nikki Mullins](#) with questions. Lots more to see at the button below 😊

**Iowa PBS Farmers Market Materials**



# BookBrowse

*Your guide to exceptional books*

## Free Webinar From BookBrowse

Some of you may already be a subscriber of **BookBrowse**, an online newsletter that's very helpful in announcing newly published books of interest to public library patrons. In addition to readers advisory content, **Book Browse** also includes tips for local book clubs: from favorite titles that book groups are enjoying to suggestions for leading discussions to organizing the timing and the structure of their meetings for best results.

**BookBrowse** provides free resources—like a newsletter and this upcoming webinar—as well as paid memberships. To learn more, catch a **free webinar on May 14 at 12:00PM CST** centered on the ways in which **BookBrowse** supports local library book clubs. Since this is a free webinar, why not make this a watch party at your library and invite your book discussion groupies to watch together! Here's what's on tap:

- The resources (free and paid) that **BookBrowse** has curated for selecting book discussion books, generating rich discussions, and leading book groups.
- The latest research about book club participation and growth nationally
- A sneak peak of their latest book club project, building on our ***Inner Lives of Book Clubs*** report

Plus, registrants will receive access to a **Book Club Health Check** survey template, as well as an option to trial [BookBrowse for Libraries](#). Be sure to tell your book club groupies and register at the button below.

**Register for BookBrowse Webinar May 14**

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## Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Day



## Part of the Safe Routes to School Program

Thanks to Maryann Mori for passing along this news from the Iowa Bicycle Coalition. Matt Burkey, coordinator of the Safe Routes to School program, is asking public libraries to get involved in **“Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Day”** coming up on **May 7th**. And while May 7 is this year’s official date, communities are welcome to celebrate any day in May that best fits local schedules—so there’s time to plan with your schools.

Matt Burkey says *“I’d love to work with other libraries across the state and see if we can get more walking school buses like we see in Perry, IA. I need librarians to reach out to their schools and help get the school signed up.”* Sounds like a worthy public library-school partnership!

## About Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Day

This event connects with many issues that communities care about: creating safer and more walkable routes to school, building a sense of community and school spirit, and inspiring families to use their feet for the school commute more often. **Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Day** is a day to get to school without the car. Walking and biking to school help promote physical activity, community, and time together for the family. It is also an opportunity to reduce the number of vehicles around our schools which contribute to noise and air pollution. **A great way to participate is to meet at a central location—like your local public library!**

This event can help bring a community together linking physical activity, schools, and libraries. In addition, **Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Day** helps encourage communities to implement policy or engineering changes that make it safer to walk and bike to school. Take notes during your walk to school and identify any areas that need improvement.

Please respond directly to [Matt Burkey](#) with your interest in this. And if you respond quickly, your library might win some fun swag like stickers and pencils that you can give away to your summer reading kids 😊

To see how an Iowa library gets kids to school safely year round, view the State Library’s Kernels episode that features [Perry Public Library’s “Walking School Bus.”](#) More about how to organize a **Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Day** at the button below.

**Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Day**

## This Week



### Check It Out! April 22. Online 11:00AM-12:00PM

**Check It Out** is a monthly webinar series from the State Library spotlighting the best new books for kids 1-18. Youth Services Consultant Janeé Jackson-Doering will share collection development tips, programming ideas, and great books for storytime, plus new titles galore for kids and teens.

### Level Up Your Summer Reading Book Lists For All Ages. April 24. Online 10:00-11:00AM

Join Janeé again, along with Sam Bouwers, for a romp through one of the best-kept secrets of the iREAD Resource Guide—the bibliographies! Enjoy a little booktalking for all ages, a little brainstorming of display ideas, and a lot of nerding out 😊 You'll leave this session with lots of ideas for kids, teens, adults, and families to "Level Up" their reading lists this summer.

**Register for Both Inside WorkDay Learning**

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