Sora
The student reading app

Soar with Sora

Monthly Newsletter

December 2021 | Delaware Accelerate Learning
Digital Collection

Welcome!

In this edition, your Sora Team has collected product tips and tricks, data highlights, training events and resources to help you save time and use digital books in the classroom.

Bookmark your Delaware resource page for Sora:
https://discoversora.com/deschools

In this issue

Never miss an update! Make sure you're signed up for our email newsletters to be the first to know about sales, new features, and updates about Sora right away: http://pub.e.overdrive.com/sign-up

Winter Break Reading Challenge

Want to engage more students this holiday. We have you covered with the Sora Winter Break Reading Challenge. It's our gift to you and your gift to your students. Send them home knowing they can jump into a dreamy fantasy, drift off to a distant word, find boldness in strong characters, fall in love, or learn about someone new. Download your Holiday Marketing kit here.

OverDrive
Education

Follow us on social! @sorareadingapp

DiscoverSora.com
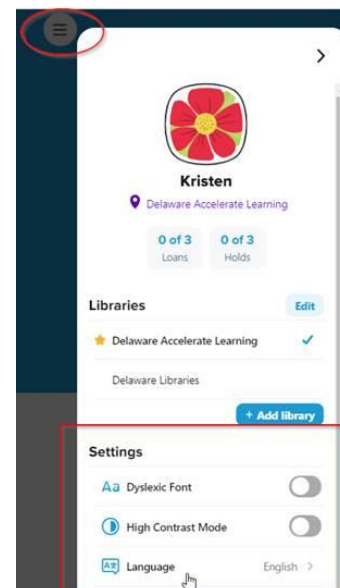schools@overdrive.com
(216) 573-6886

Sora has tools to support all readers

Did you know that Sora has tools to help support all our diverse readers? With Sora, we want to meet the needs of our readers and encourage reading for all!

Sora has unique **accessibility** options for diverse readers. With Sora, students can choose a high-contrast mode, open dyslexic font, or even user their screen readers based on their needs. You can find out more about these tools here.

Sora also has an option for a multi-lingual interface for readers that don't have English as their native language. Users can change the language of their interface by going to the three-lined settings menu and choosing Language. When using the Sora app on a personal device, Sora can also intuitively pick up a device's set language within the app to display.
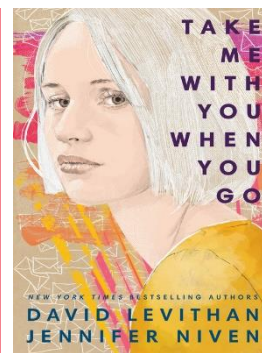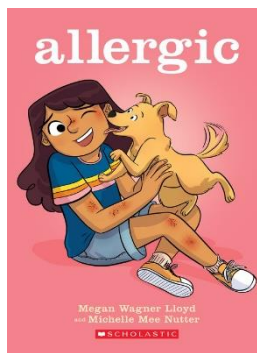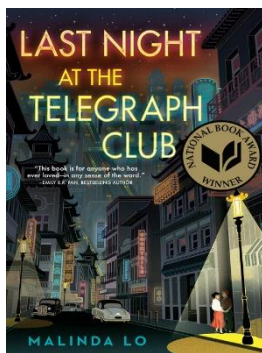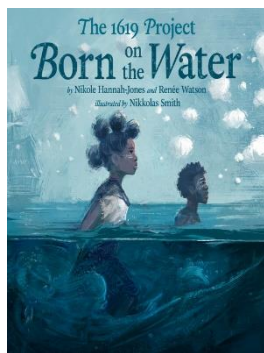
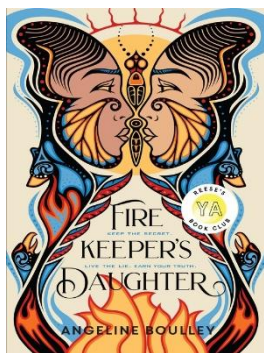## School Library Journal releases their top picks for 2021

Best Books 2021

We've been waiting and are excited to share the top picks from School Library Journal for 2021! "After months of deliberation the committee members have selected 139 titles as the best books for children and teens published this year." Read the article here. This year's SLJ best books include: **Firekeeper's Daughter** by Indigenous author Angeline Boulley, which has been optioned by Netflix in conjunction with Higher Ground Productions (helmed by President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama), **Born on the Water (The 1619 Project),** a children's picture book exploration of themes Nikole Hannah-Jones brought to life in her Pulitzer Prize winning journalism The 1619 Project, as well as, **Last Night at the Telegraph Club** by Malinda Lo, which was recently awarded the 2021 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. The list of great reads goes on and features graphic novels, nonfiction, and a little something for everyone. Your Sora team has curated this collection for you!
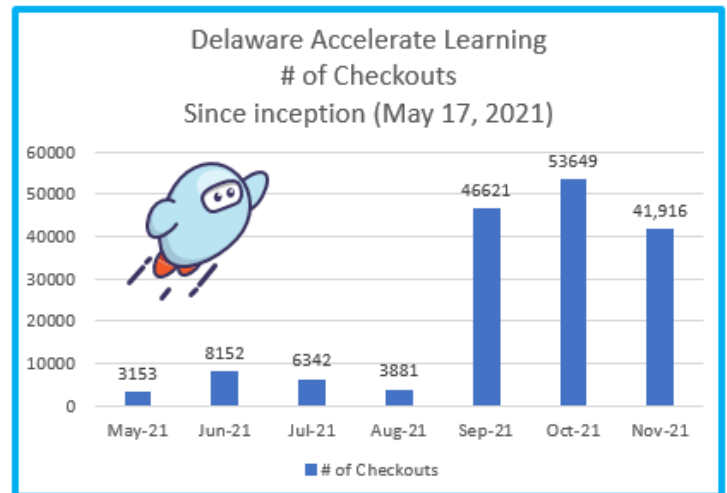
View this year's best reads in Sora now!

Data deep dive: who's reading & top 10

Did you know that students in Delaware have opened more than 163,720 books since your statewide Sora platform was activated? The latest data is below, but you also have access to this data for your district. If you would like to learn how to access your own usage data please reach out to Jody or Victoria.

Data Since Inception
(May 17, 2021)
- Total # of Checkouts: **163,720**
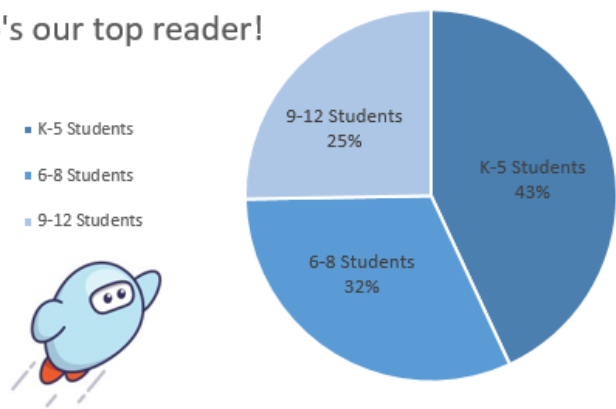- Total # of hours reading: **55,335**

Checkouts since May 2021 exceed 120,000 cumulatively.

Data for November 2021:
- Total # of checkouts: **38,369**
- Total # of hours reading: **16,021**
- Average reading time per day: **29 minutes**

K-5 students are crushing their reading

Top 10 Titles by Checkouts – November 2021

Total checkouts 4,401

#1 Checkouts **1,687**	**#2** Checkouts **632**	**#3** Checkouts **617**	**#4** Checkouts **417**	**#5** Checkouts **205**
How to Catch a Turkey	Guts	Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Minecraft World – Minecraft Live	Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde
#6 Checkouts **194**	**#7** Checkouts **169**	**#8** Checkouts **167**	**#9** Checkouts **167**	**#10** Checkouts **146**
MiniMag – Encanto	One of Us Is Lying	Patient Zero	Girls' World	Percy Jackson and the Olympians

Top 10 Titles by Read Time – November 2021

Hours read 2,267.04

#1 Reading hours **580.73**	**#2** Reading hours **317.05**	**#3** Reading hours **261.82**	**#4** Reading hours **233.19**	**#5** Reading hours **193.18**
Ship Breaker	Guts	Percy Jackson and the Olympians	Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde
#6 Reading hours **181.09**	**#7** Reading hours **179.55**	**#8** Reading hours **121.3**	**#9** Reading hours **110.7**	**#10** Reading hours **88.45**
One of Us Is Lying	Red Scarf Girl	How to Catch a Turkey	Tentacles	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End

Join a live mythbusting session with OverDrive

Mythbusting with OverDrive: Innovative Ways to Talk About Your Digital Library

Join OverDrive on **Thursday December 16th at 2 PM EST** as we share simple, effective tips and resources to encourage all users, from the digital doubter to the tech savvy teen, to give digital a try.

"I tried ebooks a long time ago and it just wasn't for me."
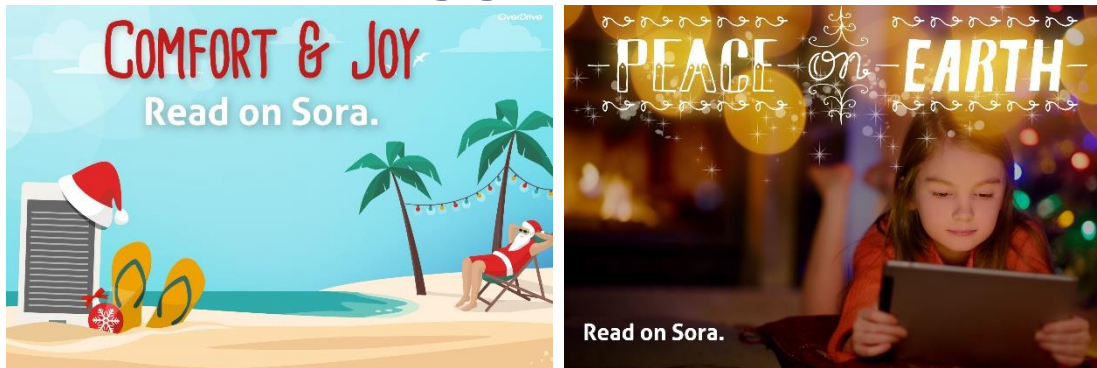"It's too much screen time for kids/students."

How many times have you heard these reasons for why people aren't using your digital library?

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

https://overdrive.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PK3pnP6dSLm12wS46zMS_w

Can't make that date? Our Training Team will send a recording to all registrants the day after the live presentation to watch at your convenience.

Use social media to engage more students

Use pre-made social media resources to share books.

Reach more students by sharing social media images we've provided.

1. Download your Delaware Social Media Kit

2. Target your images to your Digital Collection: https://soraapp.com/library/deschools

3. -OR- Target your post content to a specific book using the grab URL trick you learned above

Get even more promo items from the OverDrive Resource Center.

You asked, we answered.

Results from our 1st Sora Talk

On November 22 & 23rd, your OverDrive Team hosted live Sora Talks Q&A sessions. The goal of this was to answer questions, share a Sora product demonstration and find out from our member schools what's needed from your OD team. Here were the top questions asked with the corresponding responses.

- How to connect to the Public Library?
  - Learn how in these step-by-step instructions
- Ways to market and promote Sora
  - There are tons of resources to help you promote. Find Delaware customized templates here. Find even more resources here.
- Sharing Direct links for collections and titles
  - Delaware teachers do not assign titles to students, instead they can embed links to titles to their students or add them as assets in their curriculum modules. Learn how here
- How Sora support languages other than English?
  - Yes, Sora does support multiple languages, you can set your language preference via "Settings" in Sora.
- Does Sora have titles in languages other than English?
  - Yes, Sora includes titles in other languages, specifically Spanish, Chinese, and French. Learn how to search in Sora here.
- Should younger students be seeing upper grade level content.
  - Sora has content access levels built in. What this means for you, is that the right book should be reaching the right student. By default, K-5 readers should only see juvenile leveled content, 6-8 readers should see juvenile & young adult leveled content and 9-12/staff will see all content. Learn more about content access levels here.
- How can I search for content?
  - There are many ways to search for titles in Sora, you can simply browse by scrolling down the page, you can click on the collections tab, or search the available subjects. You can even search for a specific title using the search bar. Other ways are to use the Advanced Search function, where you can search by Lexile level, subject, interest, language and more. Learn how to search in Sora here.
- Advanced Search using reading levels
  - As shared above, you can search on multiple topics or themes. If you are searching for a specific criterion on behalf of your students, you can also share the results with them by **Step 1:** perform search, **Step 2:** copy the URL link of the shared results. **Step 3:** Paste & share the URL of the shared results with your students.

Thanks for reading!

Your Sora Team: Jody, Victoria, Morgan, & Kristen