

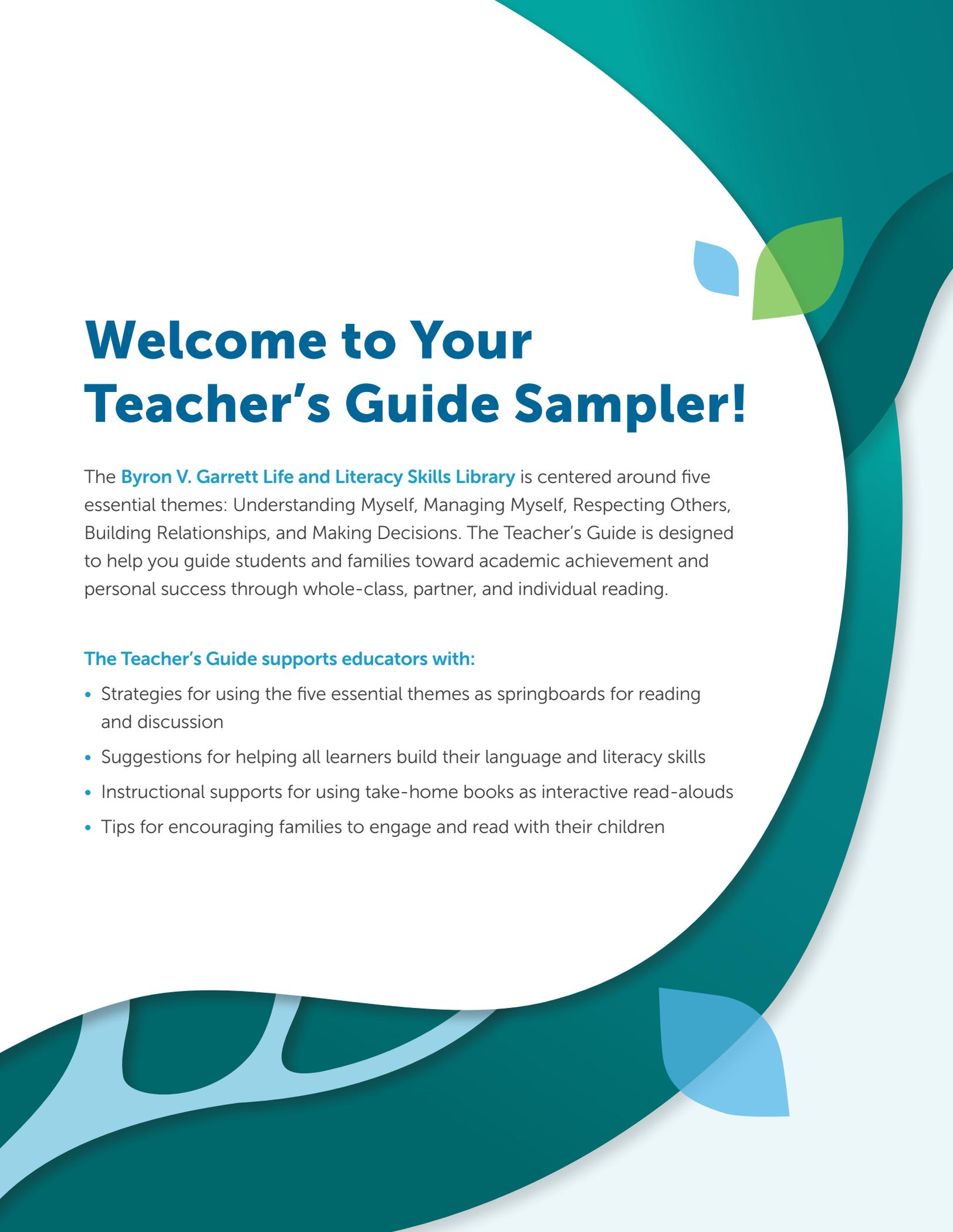
SCHOLASTIC EDUCATION SOLUTIONS

BYRON V. GARRETT

LIFE AND LITERACY SKILLS LIBRARY

Teacher's Guide Sampler

 SCHOLASTIC



Welcome to Your Teacher's Guide Sampler!

The **Byron V. Garrett Life and Literacy Skills Library** is centered around five essential themes: Understanding Myself, Managing Myself, Respecting Others, Building Relationships, and Making Decisions. The Teacher's Guide is designed to help you guide students and families toward academic achievement and personal success through whole-class, partner, and individual reading.

The Teacher's Guide supports educators with:

- Strategies for using the five essential themes as springboards for reading and discussion
- Suggestions for helping all learners build their language and literacy skills
- Instructional supports for using take-home books as interactive read-alouds
- Tips for encouraging families to engage and read with their children

The Byron V. Garrett Life and Literacy Skills Library
Teacher's Guide Sampler

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Welcome

Dear Educator,

Being the youngest in a busy family, I often used reading books as a vehicle to experience the world by transporting my imagination to faraway places. It was then that I developed an appreciation for books and how the stories helped me to visualize what my future would be like when I was older. And, I can honestly say that I have traveled to cities and countries as an adult that I imagined visiting while I was reading about them as a child. More importantly, I saw books in my house because both of my parents were in professions where they were reading all the time, in preparation for a sermon, for a case report, or just reading the newspaper.



Thankfully, because of my imagination, which was fueled by a love of reading, my career and life goals were set and eventually realized. The Byron V. Garrett Life and Literacy Skills Library will inspire our students to read with greatness and success in mind. As educators of today's young minds, you are invited to join me on this journey of empowering your students with literacy that gives them access right now to a world they can only visualize with their imaginations. For students, the texts and supports in this library will help them recognize the skills that serve people well throughout their lives and launch their futures, unlocking their minds to think of where they could be and what they can become. They will see and read books in the classroom and then be able to take a book home to read with their family/caregivers. It is essential to students' achievement that we engage family/caregivers so that reading becomes a consistent part of their daily routine.



This guide will also help educators to lay the foundation for career development. When students begin to develop an understanding of themselves, respect others, self-manage, build relationships, and make good decisions, their chances for success in school and in the workplace will increase. And believe me, as one who has supervised employees at all levels, these “soft skills” are in need of improvement for many working adults.

As a former K–8 school principal and a passionate advocate for education, I believe everyone has an obligation and an opportunity to serve the best interests of our nation’s most precious resource—our children. Let’s make a commitment to empower our students with literacy and use the Byron V. Garrett Life and Literacy Skills Library as the resource for igniting an appreciation for books, for reading, and for life-long learning.

Miles to go and promises to keep,

Byron V. Garrett

Why This Collection?



The Byron V. Garrett Life and Literacy Skills Library includes books for PreK through Grade 5. At each grade level, the library features lively, appealing books perfect for read-alouds, paired reading, and independent reading.

The books in this library have been selected because they demonstrate the importance of key life skills such as persistence, creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and more. These library books have been categorized into five distinct themes, with an additional Take-Home Book that encompasses all themes.

By having the Byron V. Garrett Life and Literacy Skills Library in your classroom, you are providing children access to a classroom library and Take-Home Books that support their development as readers and members of communities in the classroom, the neighborhood, and eventually the workplace.

“Survey employers and they will tell you that while technical skills are necessary, employability skills—including responsible behavior, interpersonal skills, and communication skills—are what they struggle to find, particularly in young workers.”

Byron V. Garrett

LIFE SKILLS IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

The World Health Organization defines life skills as “abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life” (World Health Organization, 2020).

Life skills enable a person to translate knowledge, attitudes, and values into actual abilities (Saravanakumar, 2020). Life skills can prepare an individual to better understand themselves and others, to make better decisions, and to handle internal and external pressures. By introducing life skills in the classroom through literacy and discussion, children can set themselves up for success in the classroom, and lay the groundwork for success in their future careers.

According to a 2016 jobs report by the World Economic Forum, an estimated 65 percent of children entering elementary school will end up working in jobs that don't yet exist (World Economic Forum, 2016).

While it may be difficult to pinpoint the specific technical skills needed for these new jobs, there is a set of skills employers seek, year in and year out, even in this changing landscape. The life skills children can learn in the classroom and at home can translate into their careers as adults.



The Take-Home Books in Your Classroom

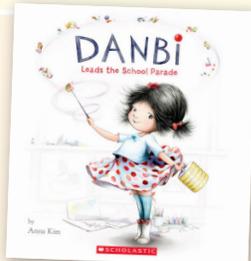
The Take-Home Book for each grade is paired with a Read-Aloud Lesson (available digitally) that you can use with your class. This Read-Aloud Lesson is an introductory activity to get students thinking about how empowering life skills can be in a variety of situations. This discussion is foundational for thinking about the book being read, as well as other books in the library.

PRE K



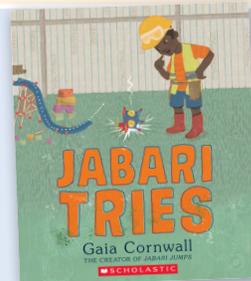
Rita and Ralph are the best of friends! But when something unexpected happens, their friendship is tested. *Rita & Ralph's Rotten Day* shows children how to navigate their friendships during conflict and what it takes to maintain healthy relationships through rhythm, repetition, and text features.

GRADE K



Danbi and her family recently immigrated to America. *Danbi Leads the School Parade* follows Danbi on her first day of school. Danbi's excited but also very nervous! This book explores the uncertainty of learning the customs and routines in a brand-new environment. Danbi figures out how to celebrate her differences, bringing everyone together.

GRADE 1



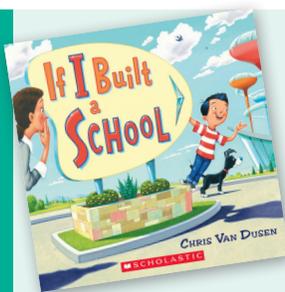
Jabari is determined to build a fantastic machine that can fly across the whole backyard. He insists he can do it alone. But when his machine crashes and Jabari gets frustrated, his father teaches him ways to calm down and refocus. He also suggests that Jabari try working with a partner: his little sister, Nika. *Jabari Tries* is a gentle story about keeping calm in the face of a problem, and the good things that can happen when people work together.

GRADE 2



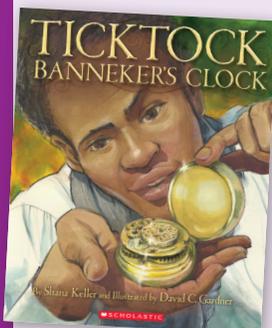
This inspiring picture book biography talks about the accomplishments of world-renowned Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo, by examining her relationships with her animalitos—her little animals—throughout her life. Through vibrant illustrations and text, readers will learn about Frida's many admirable qualities, her use of self-reflection, and her determination to succeed and create art despite setbacks.

GRADE 3



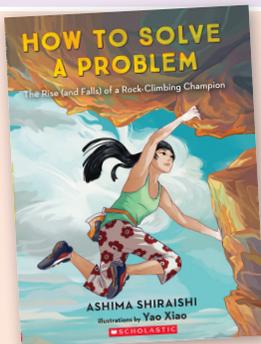
On the playground one day, Jack tells his teacher, Miss Jane, all about the amazing school he would build if he were given the chance. Told in humorous rhyme, *If I Built a School* is a whimsical story about making decisions for the benefit of the group—and in the name of fun.

GRADE 4



This inspiring picture biography talks about the accomplishments of Benjamin Banneker (1731–1806), who was born a free man in Maryland during a time when many African Americans were enslaved. Benjamin was very curious about the world around him. After examining a pocket watch, Benjamin decides he wants to build his own striking clock. Using his mathematical skills, his powers of observation and problem-solving, and the resources from his own backyard, Benjamin succeeds in building a clock after nearly two years of work. *Ticktock Banneker's Clock* gives readers a glimpse into the life of a man who persevered despite setbacks and used his ingenuity and organizational skills to achieve a goal.

GRADE 5



From her first climbs at the age of six, Ashima Shiraishi has shown an extraordinary gift for rock climbing, and gradually gained fame and awards because of it. The way she “solves problems”—her way of thinking of a rock climb—makes it seem easy. But in this first-person narrative, Ashima describes the immense effort, imagination, and mental discipline that must be applied to each climb.

Five Themes To Explore Life and Literacy Skills

The key ideas explored in this library are centered around five essential themes:

Understanding Myself

Managing Myself

Respecting Others

Building Relationships

Making Decisions

These themes provide springboards for reading and discussion, allowing students to connect to concepts that resonate with their lives. The themes provide a lens for reading both the books in the Byron V. Garrett Life and Literacy Skills Library as well as other books in your classroom library and beyond. On the following pages, read more about these themes and how to discuss them with students.

"We live in an ever-changing world, so it's our job as educators to prepare children to tackle not only current problems, but anticipate the dynamic landscape of our students' futures."

—Byron V. Garrett

Using Your Library

Explicitly teaching life skills as well as literacy skills increases children's self-awareness and self-confidence, helps them with decision-making, and helps them form healthier social relationships. Literature can offer a perfect tool for teaching these skills. Students can analyze complex literary characters, discussing character feeling, thought, decision-making, action, growth, and change throughout a story. Below are some tips for incorporating life and literacy skills instruction into your literacy block.

WHOLE-CLASS READING

A whole-class read-aloud is especially effective for introducing a skill or concept that every student needs to learn.

- Before reading, front-load with information you want students to focus on. This could be vocabulary words, a skill, a concept, a related text, a picture or video, a story element, or a character trait.
- Differentiate between a character trait and a feeling. Have students practice identifying both!
- Have students evaluate character perspectives, motivations, and decisions. What could the character have done differently? At which point? Why? How would it change the story?
- PreK and Kindergarten: After reading aloud, invite students to share what they admired most about the characters in the story.



THE IMPORTANCE OF BOOK TALKS

A book talk includes the title, author, and enough information about the book to interest your students. An enticing “hook” can capture attention in the classroom. You may choose to hook readers by talking about the cover, sharing a quote from the book, or reading an intriguing opening passage. Ask students to discuss. Would they be compelled to pick up the book and read? What would they like to find out about the book?

PARTNER READING

Partner reading offers the opportunity for students to practice working together in pairs. This technique can be applied around midyear for PreK students who are learning about sharing and communicating with classmates. Older students can choral-read (reading simultaneously), echo-read (taking turns reading the same paragraph, page, or whole book), or alternate-read (taking turns reading alternate paragraphs or pages).



- Gather pairs of books and put students into groups of two. Have students look through their books together and help them talk about the themes. Encourage students to learn something new about their reading partners.
- Play interview. One partner gets to pretend to be a character from the story; the other partner gets to interview him or her about his or her thoughts, feelings, and actions. Then they switch!
- Opinion share. Students can share how they feel about a character with one another using evidence from the text and inference to support their points of view.
- PreK and Kindergarten: Toward the middle of the school year, PreK students may be ready to work with a partner. Those PreK students and Kindergartners can meet in pairs to point out moments from the book when a character made a good decision or was able to solve a problem.

INDIVIDUAL READING

Individual reading offers students an opportunity to think about and internalize life skills.

- While reading, write questions on sticky notes about a character's actions and decisions.
- Write a diary entry from the perspective of a character.
- Examine a relationship between two or more characters. How did it grow, evolve, and change?
- Write about a similar situation that has happened to you, or imagine you were in the story. Did you feel the same way as the character? Did you choose the same actions? Why or why not?
- Confer with students one on one. Ask students to share what skills they admire about the protagonist in the book they are reading. Ask students: What does this book make you think about?
- PreK: Invite students to tell about the book and point out favorite characters or events.
- Kindergarten: Draw a picture of a character from the book solving a problem or helping another character.



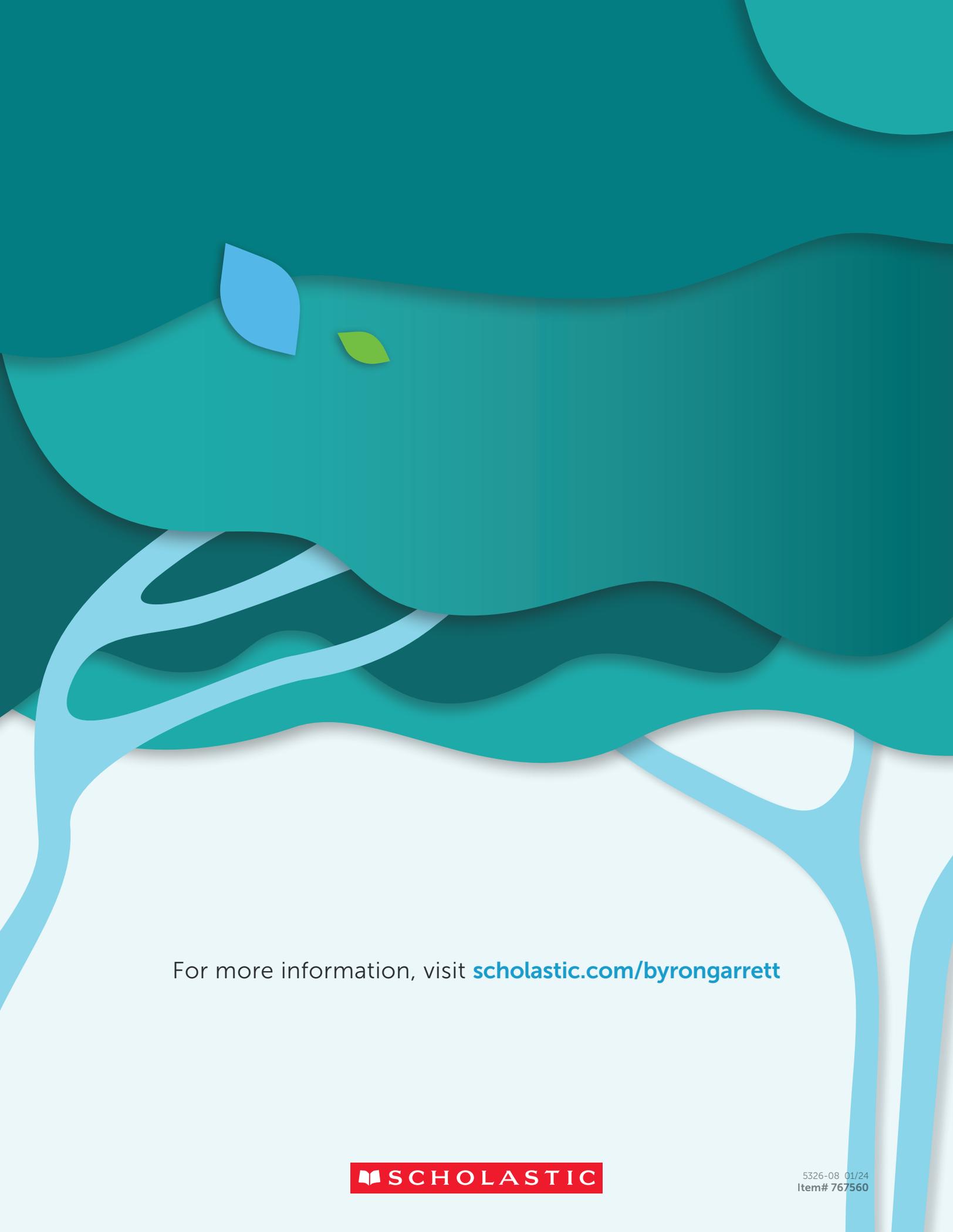
WEBSITE RESOURCES

Digital resources for this library include:

Read-Aloud Lessons	1 lesson per grade (written for each Take-Home Book) (PDF)
Annotated Grade-Specific Booklists	1 booklist per grade (PDF) This booklist organizes titles by theme, and each book's entry includes a short blurb and a Talk About It discussion question.
All-new short videos featuring Byron Garrett	Videos featuring Byron Garrett , including an introductory video and other short videos related to the collection's themes
Family Letter with Read Together Book Prompts (English and Spanish)	1 letter and book prompts page per grade (PDF) While also available as printed materials, this Family Letter and Read Together Book Prompt component is included digitally in case extra copies are needed or you choose to share digital resources with families.
Assessing Life and Literacy Skills in the Classroom	1 chart (PDF) While also available in this Teacher's Guide, this assessment chart is a rubric designed to help assess students' life and literacy skills.
Theme-Related Writing Activities	1 per grade (PDF) This page includes ten suggested writing activities (two for each theme) that prompt students to think about the themes of the library.

The collage displays several digital resources from the website:

- Read Together Lesson:** A page for the book "Jabari Tries" by Gaia Cornwall, featuring a "Dear Family" letter and a "Read Together" section with a "Words to Know" list.
- Take-Home Book:** A page for "Jabari Tries" with a "Dear Educator" note and a "Take-Home Book" section.
- Building Relationships:** A page for "Boy + Bot" with a "Dear Educator" note and a "Building Relationships" section.
- Friendly Frezzy:** A page for "Fly Guy Fly Girl" with a "Dear Educator" note and a "Friendly Frezzy" section.
- Theme-Related Writing Activities:** A page with a "Dear Family" letter and a "Theme-Related Writing Activities" section.
- Assessing Life and Literacy Skills in the Classroom:** A chart with columns for "Emerging", "Developing", and "Accomplished" skills, and rows for "Understanding" and "Managing" goals.



For more information, visit [scholastic.com/byrongarrett](https://www.scholastic.com/byrongarrett)