

Final Thoughts



Hidden Gem

Title: Stoner

Author: John Williams

Location:
Ebook on
Libby



Discover an American masterpiece. This unassuming story about the life of a quiet English professor has earned the admiration of readers all over the globe.

William Stoner is born at the end of the nineteenth century into a dirt-poor Missouri farming family. Sent to the state university to study agronomy, he instead falls in love with English literature and embraces a scholar's life, so different from the hardscrabble existence he has known. And yet as the years pass, Stoner encounters a succession of disappointments: marriage into a "proper" family estranges him from his parents; his career is stymied; his wife and daughter turn coldly away from him; a transforming experience of new love ends under threat of scandal. Driven ever deeper within himself, Stoner rediscovers the stoic silence of his forebears and confronts an essential solitude. John Williams's luminous and deeply moving novel is a work of quiet perfection. William Stoner emerges from it not only as an archetypal American, but as an unlikely existential hero, standing, like a figure in a painting by Edward Hopper, in stark relief against an unforgiving world.

Answers: 5. Large print, 6. Title, 7. Dictionary, 8. Cover, 9. Kawerau, 11. Picture, 12. Novel
Across: 1. Character, 2. Non-fiction, 3. Illustration, 4. Author, 7. Dewey, 10. Author
Down: 1. Large print, 6. Title, 7. Dictionary, 8. Cover, 9. Kawerau, 11. Picture, 12. Novel

10 ways to become a better reader

1. READ
2. **Read**
3. *Read*
4. *Read*
5. **Read**
6. *Read*
7. *Read*
8. **READ**
9. **READ**
10. **READ**



DIGITAL TOOLS SPOTLIGHT

How does Libby work?

Apple iPhones & iPads



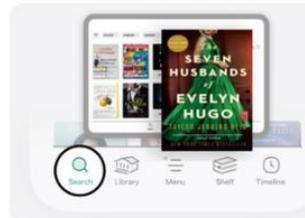
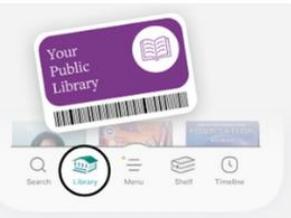
Download on the App Store

Phones & Tablets with Google Play

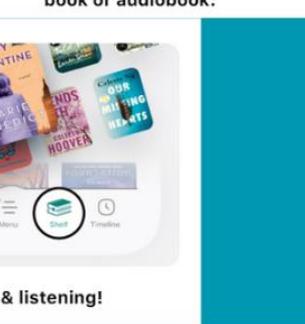
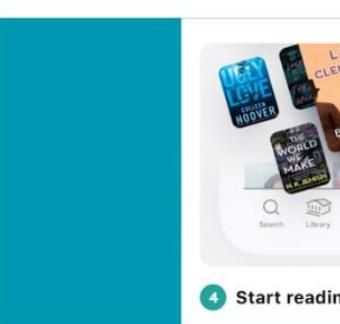


GET IT ON Google Play

1 Download and open Libby on your device.



2 Find your library and sign in with your library card.



4 Start reading & listening!



Address: Jellicoe Court, Kawerau, 3127

Postal: P.O. Box 103, Kawerau, 3169



Email: library@kaweraudc.govt.nz
Facebook: @kaweraulibraryandmuseum



Huitanguru/February

Kawerau District Library & Sir James Fletcher Museum

What's On In The Library

The Book Club meets
10.30am - 12pm
Every first Thursday of
the month

Valentine's craft
Saturday 14th February

The Unofficial Gallery
On now in the library
Museum Gallery

Working Style
New window galleries in
Jellicoe Court.

Waitangi Day
Friday 6th February
CLOSED

Library Hours:

Monday - Friday
10am - 5pm

Saturday
10am - 1pm

Sunday
CLOSED



Welcome back to the library, and welcome to the first newsletter issue for 2026.

Over the summer, our library has been buzzing with activity as we wrapped up our summer reading programme "Drawn to read". We counted up all the entries and inside this issue, you'll find the winners of the competitions held throughout the summer, along with a snapshot of what we've been up to during the warmer months. We've had a busy and exciting start to the year, and we're looking forward to sharing what's ahead with you. If one of your new year's resolutions is to read more, here's a few helpful tips to support your reading goals this year.

Start small - Even 5-10 mins a day can make a big difference over time.

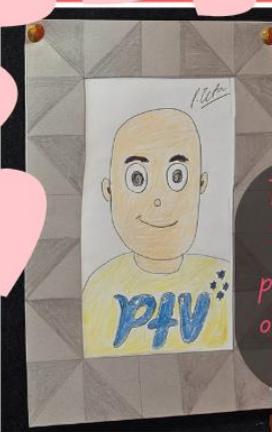
Choose what you enjoy - If you like the subject you're reading about you will be more likely to carry on.

Try a different format - Audio books, eBooks and graphic novels count as reading. Sometimes it can be handier to be able to listen to a book.

Set a gentle goal - Aiming for a chapter a night or a page a night can kickstart a habit.

Ask a librarian - Don't forget to ask a librarian for any recommendations. We're always happy to help you find your next great read and we know where they live.

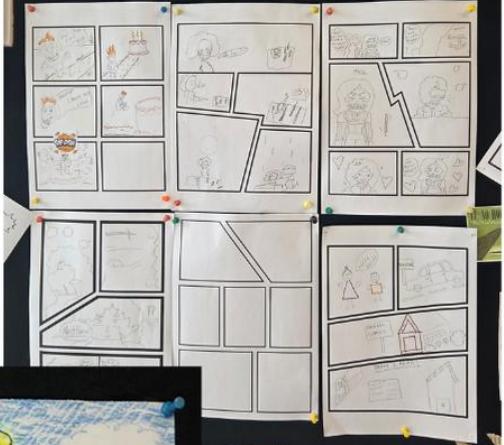
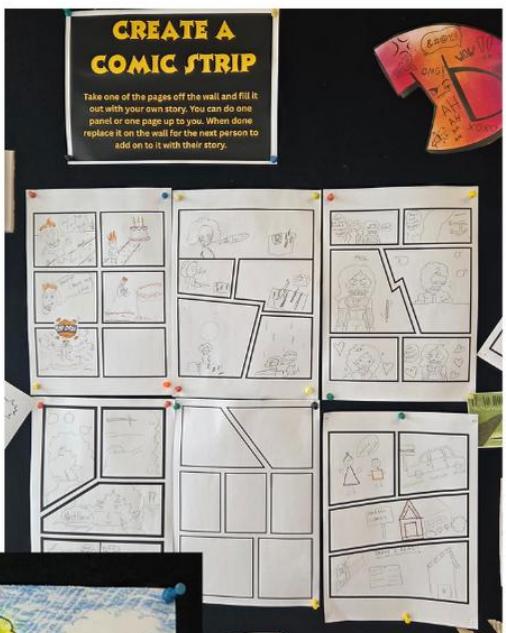
Last months moments



Tiny artwork
Visitors' self-portraits from
our interactive entry wall



Puzzle. Different
puzzles were placed
out for anyone to
work on



One of the panels
from our
community comic

Drawing together. Different
panels of the same tree
drawn by different people



Pictures from kids'
holiday programmes



Sticker by number.
Library patrons
contributed to this
throughout the
holiday period.



Pennants
Entry for our
prize bag



Community Colour In.
The poster worked on by kids
and adults of the library.



More tiny art by
patrons

What's happening?

Libby Reads programmes now available in New Zealand

Libby Reads with Jacqueline Bublitz featuring *A Beautiful Family* by Jennifer Trevelyan

Join us for an evening of discussion with Jennifer Trevelyan, author of *A Beautiful Family*, February's featured title on Libby. *A Beautiful Family* follows an eventful Kiwi summer that forever changes the lives of a family in this gripping thriller from the debut

New Zealand writer getting huge international attention. Jacqueline Bublitz will host an interactive discussion with Jennifer Trevelyan and we invite you to join in the conversation! This month's featured title should be available with no waitlist via your local library on the Libby app as an e-book and audiobook. If not, you can request it from your library.

You can also visit our Libby Reads with Jacqueline Bublitz site to see more upcoming book clubs.

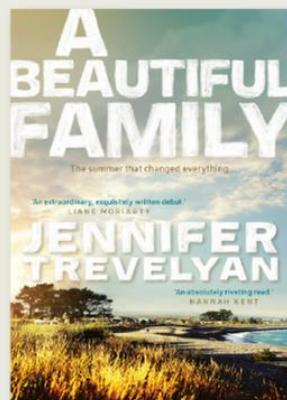
Libby READS WITH JACQUELINE BUBLITZ

Wednesday 25th February

7.30PM NZDT

A live conversation with Jennifer Trevelyan, author of *A Beautiful Family*

Register with Zoom

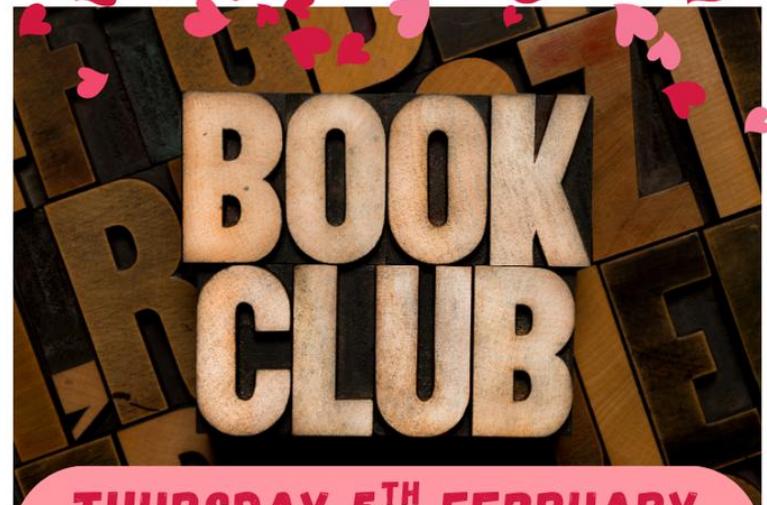


Diy Valentine's card



(Saturday 14th February)

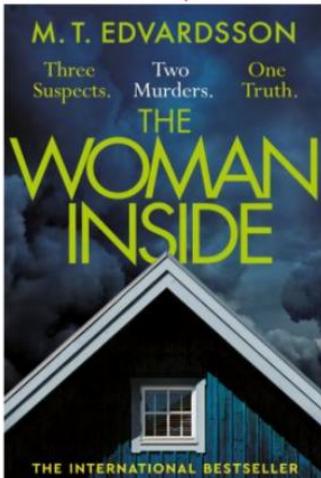
Come join us at Kawerau library this valentines day. Make a 3D card for your loved ones or yourself. We also have an assortment of other decoration that you can use to make something special.



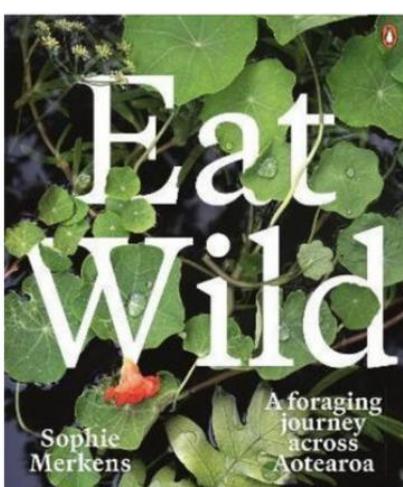
**THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY
10.30 – 12PM**



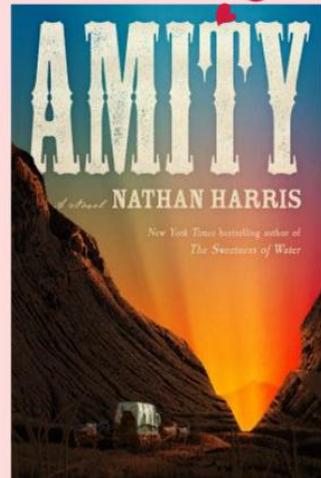
Featured titles



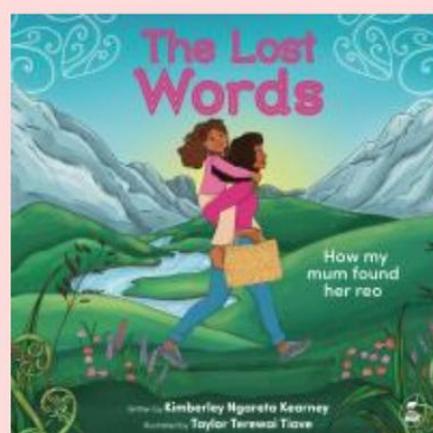
Bill, a widower and single dad, is in a financial mess with bills to pay when he rents out a room in his apartment to Karla. Karla left home to study law, and to earn some money begins working as a cleaner at the palatial home of Steven and Regina Rytter. But inside their house it is clear that something is wrong with the doctor and his wife, who never leaves her bedroom. Jennica is single and career-less when she meets Steven on Tinder. But just as she thinks her luck is changing, it soon becomes clear that Steven is hiding secrets of his own. By the end of the summer, Steven and Regina Rytter will be found dead in their home and the questions will begin. Ordinary people will do things they never thought possible when faced with extraordinary circumstances, and the truth is that the woman inside may hold the key to it all.



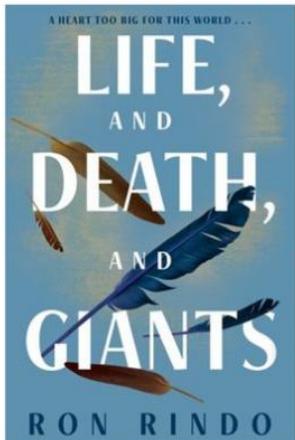
A beautifully illustrated guide to sourcing wild ingredients, with detailed recipes showing how to cook with them. From the coast to the mountains to the native bush, set off on a delightful wild food adventure across Aotearoa. Eat Wild is a guide to getting your wild ingredients, then cooking with them. This beautifully illustrated book showcases some of New Zealand's most widely known yet underutilised wild foods: plants, including flowers, fungi and seaweed; kai moana, including pāua, kōura and snapper; and even hunting tips, such as what to do with your ethically obtained rabbits. Sophie Merkens takes us on the trip of a lifetime, sharing her own story, recipes and advice from across the country, as well as the generous wisdom of the chefs, divers, hunters and kaitiaki she meets along the way.



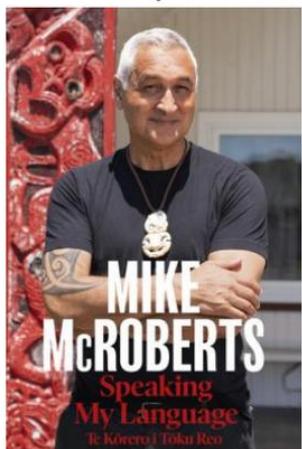
New Orleans, 1866. The Civil War might be over, but formerly enslaved Coleman and June have yet to find the freedom they've been promised. Two years ago, the siblings were separated when their old master, Mr. Harper, took June away to Mexico, where he hoped to escape the new reality of the post-war South. Coleman stayed behind in Louisiana to serve the Harper family, clinging to the hope that one day June would return. When an unexpected letter from Mr. Harper arrives, summoning Coleman to Mexico, Coleman thinks that finally his prayers have been answered. What Coleman cannot know is the tangled truth of June's tribulations under Mr. Harper out on the frontier. And when disaster strikes Coleman's journey, he is forced on the run with Mr. Harper's daughter, Florence. Together, they venture into the Mexican desert to find June, all the while evading two crooked brothers who'll stop at nothing to capture Coleman and Florence and collect the money they're owed. As Coleman and June separately navigate a perilous, parched landscape, the siblings learn quickly that freedom isn't always given--sometimes, it must be taken by force.



Weaving a beautiful narrative of heritage, culture and the enduring strength of family bonds, The Lost Words is a daughter's account of her mother's journey through the rich tapestry of te reo Māori. My Mum is collecting words. You see, a long time ago, lots of the words were left out or replaced. Slowly they were forgotten. But Mum is doing the mahi to get them back.



In the rolling farmland of America's Midwest, Gabriel Fisher is exceptional from the moment he is born, weighing in at an impossible eighteen pounds. He walks at eight months, possesses extraordinary athletic abilities and a gentleness that draws people and animals to him. Taken in by his devout grandparents, for a while Gabriel lives quietly in the Amish community. But it's hard to hide forever when you're nearly eight feet tall and at seventeen, he is spotted labouring in a hay field by the local football coach. What happens next transforms not only Gabriel's life but the lives of everyone he meets.



Well-known journalist and presenter Mike McRoberts opens up about his experiences of reconnection to te ao Maori and learning te reo, and encourages others to do the same. For much of his life, Mike McRoberts felt burdened by not knowing his own language - te reo Maori. Growing up at a time when te reo was scarcely spoken in daily conversations, and within a mixed-race family with little connection to Maoritanga, his experience mirrored that of many other New Zealanders of his generation. In later years, as a journalist and presenter of Newshub's six o'clock news, his confident television persona masked the anxiety he felt greeting viewers with the simple phrase, 'Kia ora, good evening'. Not being comfortable speaking his language was a source of shame - a shame that ironically kept him from starting his te reo journey sooner. Mike shares his story of that journey to speak te reo Maori and reclaim his identity. His book is an invitation for all New Zealanders to take the first step to understand why speaking our Maori language and treasuring our culture matters.

Serendipitous

Serendipitous (the ability to find valuable or agreeable things not sought for).

I always loved the word "serendipitous". Perhaps it is because Salma Hayek played a character named Serendipity in the movie Dogma, and she certainly left an impression on my young mind!

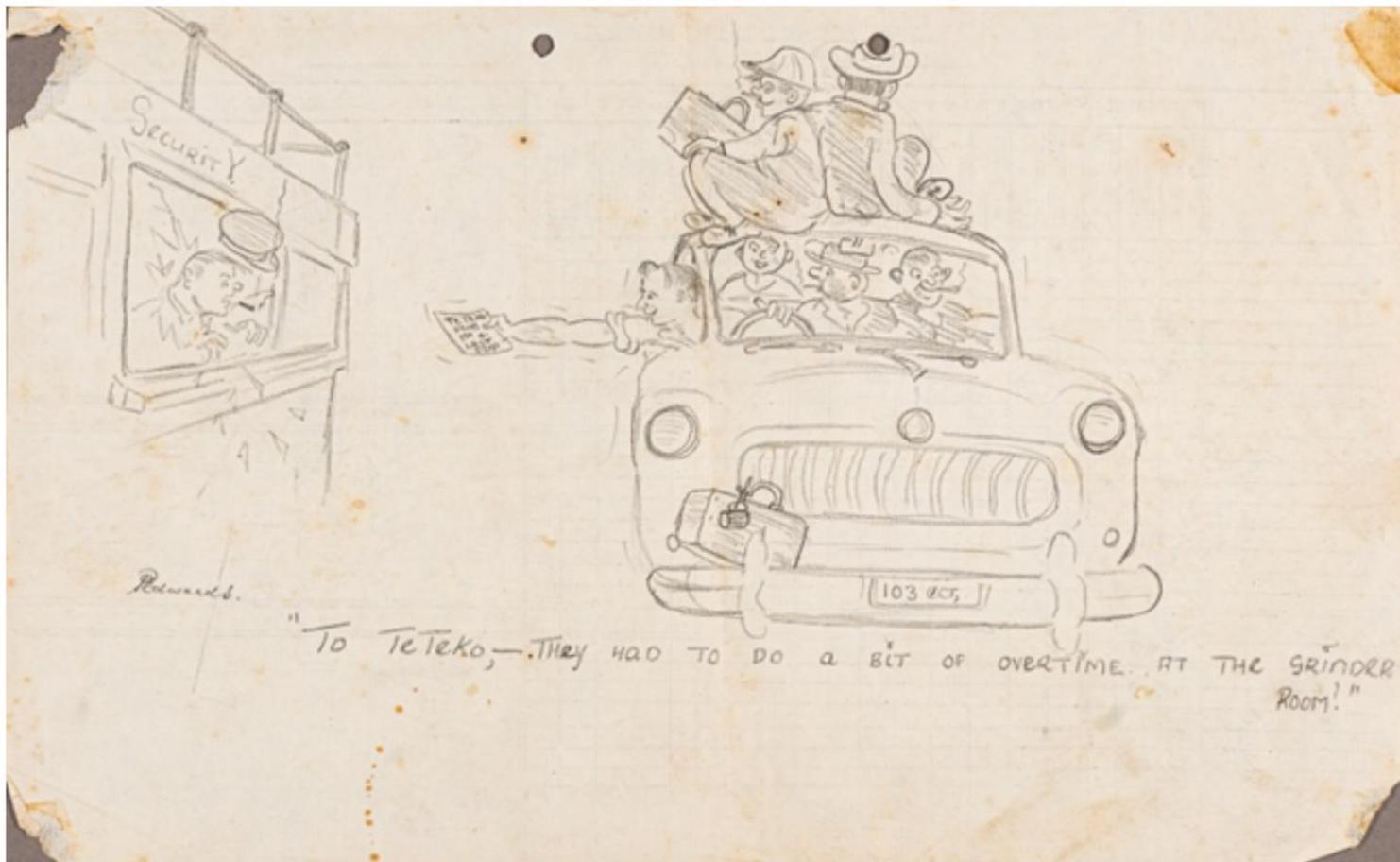
But lately, I find myself using the word because we have so many truly serendipitous moments here in the museum. It seems that whenever we focus on a topic, serendipity answers.

For example, we currently have an exhibition in the gallery featuring caricatures drawn by workers from the Mill. In a twist of fate, just a week after this exhibition was installed, we received a donation of cartoon sketches by Mill workers from the 1950s. How crazy is that? How serendipitous!

This same phenomenon happened with our recent exhibition on the Speedboat Club. Not long after we installed the display in the library foyer, a donation arrived with a box of old VCR's—one of which contained rare footage of the Speedboat Club.

Oftentimes - and maybe this isn't "magic" serendipity, but close enough - having an exhibit on display is all it takes to jog people's memories. Visitors realise they have old items tucked away at home that relate to what they see on display, and we suddenly get an influx of donations related to that topic. It is a wonderful cycle that helps us preserve our local history.

So, please come down and visit the gallery and the window displays. Who knows? It might just bring back some memories for you, too.





Words for the month

You can find answers for puzzle on back page

1. (noun) riddle, guessing game.

Me āta whakarongo ki ngā kupu o te panga, i te mea kei roto tonu i ngā kupu te whakautu e noho rehurehu mai ana (PK 2008:582). / One should listen carefully to the words of a riddle because within the words is the veiled answer.

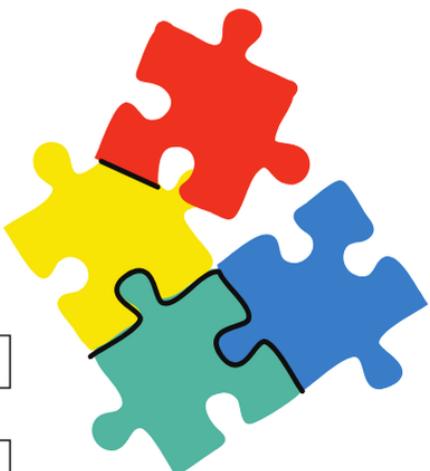
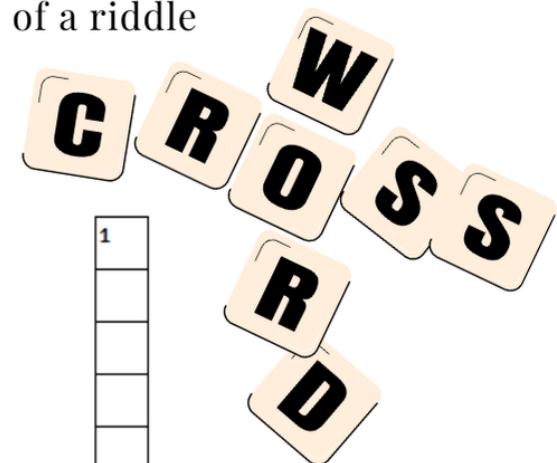
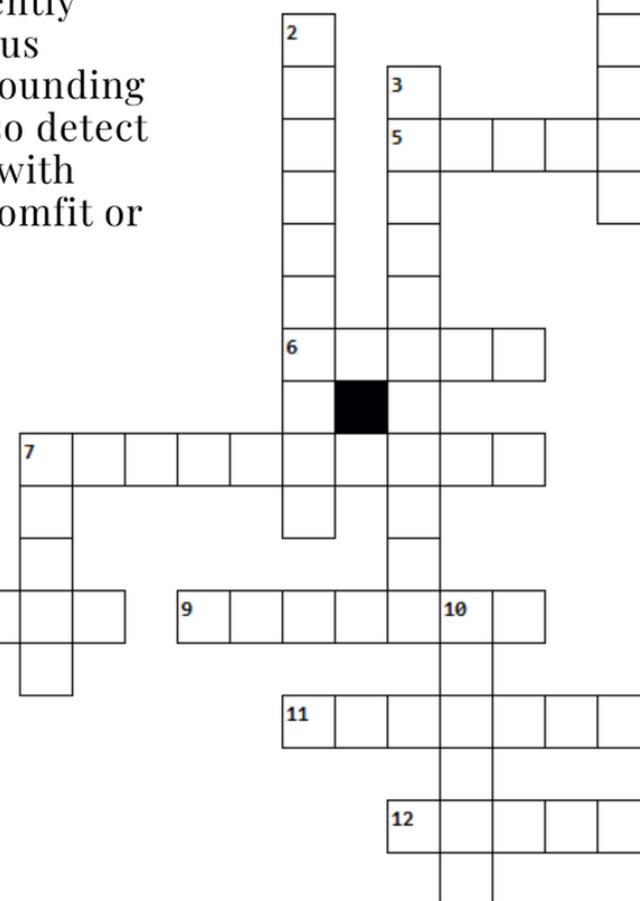
discombobulate

Where does discombobulate come from? Discombobulate, meaning "to confuse, frustrate", sounds like something straight out of a cartoon. It was first recorded in the form discomboberate in the early 1800s, and apparently originated as a humorous imitation of hifalutin-sounding Latin words. We can also detect the influence of words with similar senses like discomfit or discompose in it.



Across

- 5. if you need help reading
- 6. name of a book
- 7. place where words are kept
- 8. something that keeps the pages in between
- 9. where is our library found
- 11. book full of drawings to help tell the story
- 12. book written by an author



Down

- 1. person, animal or thing that a story is about
- 2. place where you will find true stories and history
- 3. person who draws the books
- 4. place where you can find maps of the world
- 7. system for keeping nonfiction in order
- 10. person who wrote the book

Winners and pictures



Kids Reading Prize Pack Winner Name: _____

Wiremu L



Colouring Competition Winners

Vincent G

Aria G

Caelle



Adult Summer Reading Winner

John D

