## MELS LIBRARY SYMPOSIUM - ELEMENTARY

### The Dark

- **Author**: Snicket, Lemony
- **Illustrator**: Klassen, Jon
- **Publisher**: HarperCollins, 2013. 40 pages
- **ISBN**: 9781443417945 (hardcover)

**Type of book**: Picture Book

**Keywords**: Courage, fear, fear of the dark, night, overcoming fears, suspense

**Summary**:
Laszlo is afraid of the dark and, come nightfall, it's all over his spooky, creepy house. When his nightlight burns out and the dark calls to him, Laszlo must confront his fears.

### The Day Jimmy’s Boa Ate the Wash

- **Author**: Noble, Trinka Hakes
- **Illustrator**: Kellogg, Steven
- **Publisher**: Penguin, 1992. 32 pages
- **ISBN**: 9780140546231 (paperback), 9780803717237 (hardcover)

**Type of book**: Picture Book

**Keywords**: Adventure, cause and effect, circular story, farms, humour, pets, snakes

**Summary**:
Jimmy’s boa constrictor wreaks havoc on the class trip to a farm.
The Gardener

Stewart, Sarah (Author)
Small, David (Illustrator)
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. 40 pages
ISBN: 9780312367497 (paperback)
9780374325176 (hardcover)

**Type of book**: Picture Book

**Keywords**: Depressions (economic), families, gardens, hope, letters, unemployment

**Summary**: A series of letters relating what happens when, after her father loses his job, Lydia Grace goes to live with her Uncle Jim in the city, bringing her love of gardening with her.

How to Build Your Own Country

Wyatt, Valerie (Author)
Rix, Fred (Illustrator)
Kids Can Press, 2009. 40 pages
ISBN: 9781554533107 (hardcover)

**Type of book**: Non-Fiction

**Keywords**: Citizenship, civics, countries, government, politics, responsibility, world history

**Summary**: This book teaches readers the basics of building a nation—from inventing a flag to establishing laws—and highlights events that have shaped countries throughout history.

Is This Panama?: A Migration Story

Thornhill, Jan (Author)
Kim, Soyeon (Illustrator)
Owlkids, 2013. 40 pages
ISBN: 9781926973883 (hardcover)

**Type of book**: Non-Fiction

**Keywords**: Animals, birds, journeys, migration, seasons

**Summary**: A Wilson’s Warbler makes his first migration from the Arctic Circle to Panama, with a few wrong turns along the way.

Rotten Pumpkin: A Rotten Tale in 15 Voices

Schwartz, David M. (Author)
Kuhn, Dwight (Illustrator)
Creston Books, 2013. 32 pages
ISBN: 9781939547033 (hardcover)

**Type of book**: Non-Fiction

**Keywords**: Decomposition, first-person narration, life cycles, mould, multiple narrators, pumpkins

**Summary**: The story of a pumpkin’s decay and rebirth is told from the perspectives of the animals, vegetables and bacteria that thrive on its life cycle.
### Virginia Wolf

**Maclear, Kyo (Author)**  
**Arsenault, Isabelle (Illustrator)**  
Kids Can Press, 2012. 32 pages  
**ISBN**: 9781554536498 (hardcover)  
**Type of book**: Picture Book  
**Keywords**: Art, depressions (psychological), family life, gardens, imagination, non-traditional text layout, selflessness, sisters  
**Summary**:  
One day Vanessa's sister Virginia wakes up in a wolfish mood. Vanessa does her best to help Virginia cast off her doldrums.

### Water

**Rustad, Martha E. H. (Author)**  
Capstone Press, 2014. 32 pages  
**ISBN**: 9781476502496 (hardcover)  
9781476535494 (paperback)  
9781476535555 (ebook pdf)  
9781476535432 (hardcover)  
**Type of book**: Non-Fiction  
**Keywords**: Natural resources, science, science experiments, water, water conservation, water cycle  
**Summary**:  
The composition of water, its forms and uses around the world, and the importance of conservation, are simply explained in this fully illustrated little book.