



[www.foxcitiesreads.org](http://www.foxcitiesreads.org)

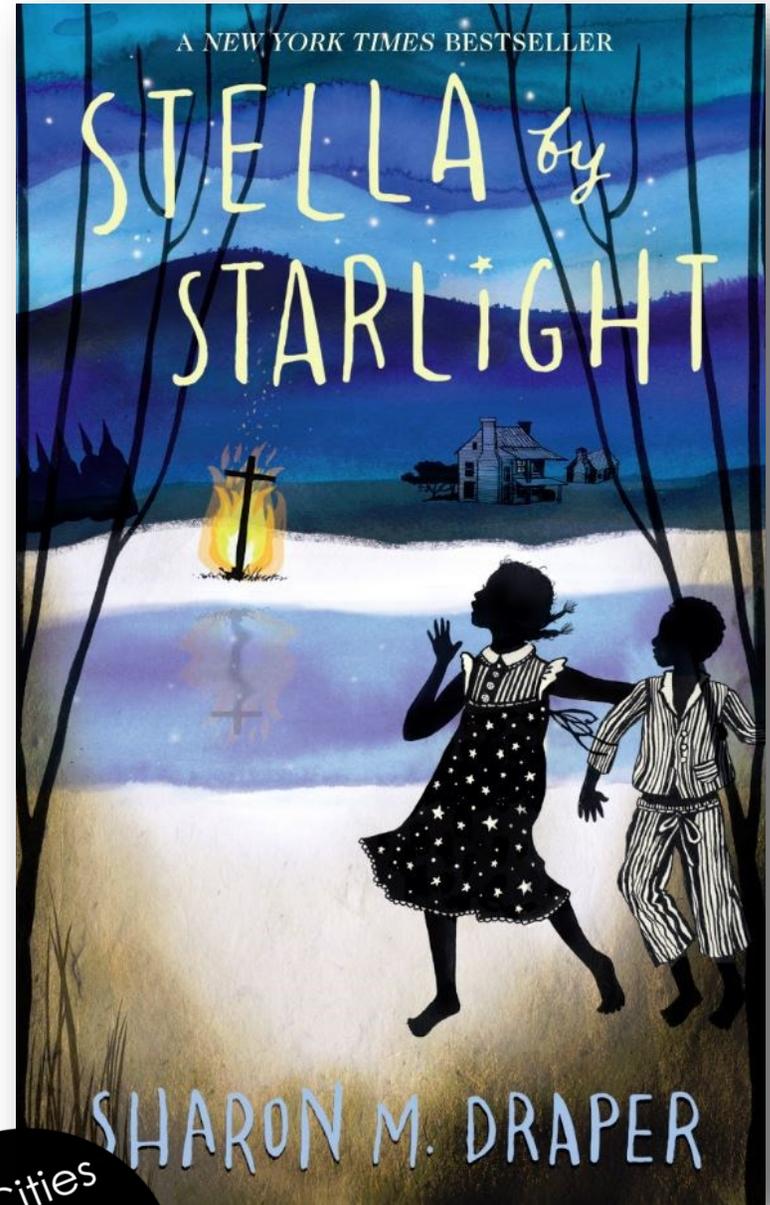
The 11th annual Fox Cities Reads is brought to you by the following partners:

- **Appleton Public Library**—[www.apl.org](http://www.apl.org)
- **Kaukauna Public Library**—[www.kaukaunalibrary.org](http://www.kaukaunalibrary.org)
- **Kimberly-Little Chute Public Library**—[www.kimlit.org](http://www.kimlit.org)
- **Menasha Public Library**—[www.menashalibrary.org](http://www.menashalibrary.org)
- **Neenah Public Library**—[www.neenahlibrary.org](http://www.neenahlibrary.org)
- **Fox Cities Book Festival**—[www.foxcitiesbookfestival.org](http://www.foxcitiesbookfestival.org)
- **University of Wisconsin—Fox Valley**—[www.uwfox.uwc.edu](http://www.uwfox.uwc.edu)
- **Appleton Area School District**
- **Kaukauna Area School District**
- **Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Inc.**



Visit our websites to learn more about the wealth of reading, lifelong learning, and cultural opportunities available in your community!

READ. THINK. TALK. LISTEN. GROW.

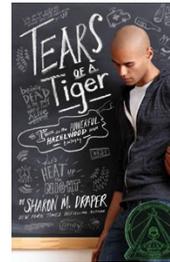


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April 4-5, 2017  
[www.foxcitiesreads.com](http://www.foxcitiesreads.com)

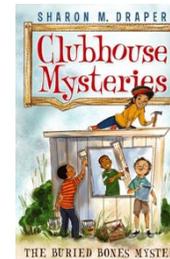
|    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 3  | ABOUT FOX CITIES READS       |
| 4  | AUTHOR BIO                   |
| 6  | ABOUT THE BOOK               |
| 7  | FOX CITIES READS EVENTS      |
| 8  | DISCUSSION QUESTIONS         |
| 12 | FURTHER READING              |
| 14 | OTHER BOOKS BY SHARON DRAPER |



**The Hazelwood High Trilogy**

Guilt, fear, and dangerous love falls heavy on the shoulders of students at Hazelwood High . In a real world of pain, these strong characters face the worst in life, and come out fighting.

- Tears of a Tiger
- Forged by Fire
- Darkness Before Dawn



**Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs Series**

Ziggy and his friends Rico, Rashawn, and Jerome call themselves The Black Dinosaurs, and share exciting adventures.

- Buried Bones Mystery
- Lost in the Tunnel of Time
- Shadows of Caesar’s Creek
- Space Mission Adventure
- Backyard Animal Show
- Stars and Sparks on Stage



**Sassy Stories series**

It's not easy being nine. It's hard to get respect from your family when you're the youngest and smallest in the house. But Sassy sparkles with imagination and style.

Poetry



**Buttered Bones**



**Let the Circle be Unbroken**

Let the Circle Be Unbroken

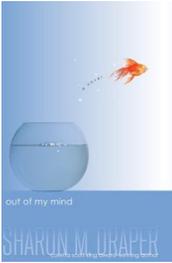
Collected Poetry for Children and Young Adults

SHARON M. DRAPER

Learn more about Sharon Draper and all of her books at her website, [www.sharondraper.com](http://www.sharondraper.com).

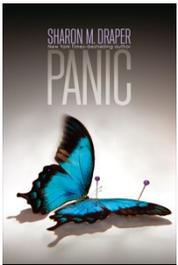


## Other books by Sharon Draper



### ***Out of My Mind***

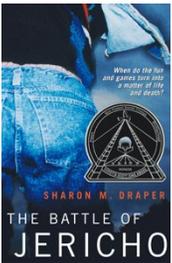
Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated fifth grade classroom. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it... somehow.



### ***Panic***

As rehearsals begin for the ballet version of Peter Pan, the teenaged members of an Ohio dance troupe lose their focus when one of their own goes missing.

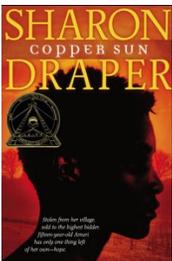
Diamond knows not to get into a car with a stranger. But what if the stranger is well-dressed and handsome? On his way to meet his wife and daughter? And casting a movie that very night—a movie in need of a star dancer? What then?



### ***The Jericho Trilogy***

The Jericho Trilogy confronts the socially brutal, and sometimes deadly, extremes that teens will endure for acceptance.

- *The Battle for Jericho*
- *November Blues*
- *Just Another Hero*



### ***Copper Sun***

Two fifteen-year-old girls—one a slave and the other an indentured servant—escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

## About Us

The public libraries of the Fox Cities have come together with the goal of building a larger sense of community and to promote literacy. Each year, we select an author and title to promote for Fox Cities Reads and encourage the people in our communities to read, think, talk, listen, and grow together.

*Stella by Starlight* by Sharon Draper is the 11th selection for Fox Cities Reads. For a list of past selections & other info about the Reads, please visit:

[www.foxcitiesreads.org](http://www.foxcitiesreads.org)



The idea is that the city that opens the same book closes it in greater harmony.

~ Mary McGrory, *The Washington Post*, March 17, 2002



Visit your local public library to check out the book! Additional copies have been ordered and are waiting for you to take them home.

## Meet Sharon Draper

Sharon M. Draper is a professional educator as well as an accomplished writer. She has been honored as the National Teacher of the Year, is a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literary Awards, and is a *New York Times* bestselling author, with *Out of my Mind* staying on the list over 18 months. She was

selected as Ohio's Outstanding High School Language Arts Educator, Ohio Teacher of the Year, and was chosen as a NCNW Excellence in Teaching Award winner.

She is a Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award winner, and was the Duncanson Artist-in-Residence for the Taft Museum.

She is a YWCA Career Woman of

Achievement, and is the recipient of the Dean's Award from Howard University School of Education, the Pepperdine University Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Marva Collins Education Excellence Award, and the Governor's Educational Leadership Award. Last year she was named Ohio Pioneer in Education by the Ohio State Department of Education, and in 2008 she received the Beacon of Light Humanitarian award. In 2009 she received the Doctor of Laws Degree from Pepperdine University. In 2011, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions to the field of adolescent



## Adult Fiction & Nonfiction

***Between the World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Winner of the National Book Award, *Between the World and Me* is a book written as a letter to the author's teenage son concerning the notion of race and the realities of being black in America.

***Coming of Age in Mississippi*** by Anne Moody

Presents the personal story of a young African-American woman growing up in 1940s and 1950s Mississippi.

***Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830 to 1970*** by Lynne Olson

*Freedom's Daughters* includes the portraits of over 60 women who played both large and small parts in the fight for civil rights.

***Hidden Figures*** by Margot Lee Shetterly

A true story of NASA's female African-American mathematicians who played an important role in America's space program.

***New Jim Crow*** by Michelle Alexander

Legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it," by targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color.

***Warmth of Other Suns*** by Isabel Wilkerson

Received the National Book Award, a story about the migration of six million African-Americans from the South to the North and West between 1915-1970.

***The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*** by Ernest Gaines

Story of a black lady born into slavery on a Louisiana plantation, freed at the end of the Civil War, who lives for one-hundred more years.

***Freshwater Road*** by Denise Nicholas

Celeste, a young black collegian, leaves Michigan for Mississippi in the summer of 1964 to help a Freedom School and a voter registration project.

***Red River*** by Lalita Tademy

The intertwining stories of two Louisiana families--three generations of African-American men--and their struggles to make a place for themselves in a country deeply divided in the aftermath of the Civil War and beyond

***Your Blues Ain't Like Mine*** by Bebe Moore Campbell

This work of poetic prose exposes family, race, and class divisions in America from the 1950s to the present.

## Stella By Starlight Related Materials

### Youth Fiction & Nonfiction

***Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*** by Mildred Taylor

A black family living in the South during the 1930's are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand.

***Through My Eyes*** by Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.

***Lillian's Right to Vote*** by Jonah Winter

Lillian recalls the long fight that led to her right--and determination--to cast her ballot since the Voting Rights Act gave every American the right to vote.

***The Watsons go to Birmingham—1963*** by Christopher Paul Cuttriss

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

***We've Got a Job*** By Cynthia Levinson

illuminates the pivotal role that older children and teens played in Birmingham Civil Rights protests in early May 1963. When adults were reluctant to march and fill the jails, youth took up the call.

***Adaline Falling Star*** by Mary Pope Osborne

Feeling abandoned by her deceased Arapaho mother and her explorer father, Adaline Falling Star runs away from the prejudiced cousins with whom she is staying and comes close to death in the wilderness, with only a mongrel dog for company.

***Martin's Big Words: The life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*** By D. Rappaport Weaving in Dr. King's own "big words," this inspiring picture-book biography celebrates the great leader as preacher and politician.

***Marching for freedom : walk together, children, and don't you grow weary***  
By Elizabeth Partridge

This book recounts the three months of protest that took place before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s landmark march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to promote equal rights and help African-Americans earn the right to vote.

literature by The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English, as well as the 33rd Annual Jeremiah Luddington Award by the Educational Book and Media Association, also for lifetime achievement.

She has been honored at the White House six times, and was chosen as one of only four authors in the country to speak at the National Book Festival Gala in Washington, D.C, and to represent the United States in Moscow at their Book Festival. Her book *Copper Sun* has been selected by the US State Department and the International Reading Association as the United States novel for the international reading project called Reading Across Continents. Students in the US, Nigeria, and Ghana are reading the book and sharing ideas—a true intercontinental, cross-cultural experience.

Actively involved in encouraging and motivating all teachers and their students as well, she has worked all over the United States, as well as in China, Japan, Russia, Ghana, Togo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Bermuda, and Guam, spreading the word about the power of accomplished teaching and excellence in education.

"I learned to dream through reading, learned to create dreams through writing, and learned to develop dreamers through teaching. I shall always be a dreamer. Come dream with me."

- Sharon Draper

From <http://sharondraper.com/biography>

When a young girl gains confidence from her failures and strength from what her community dreads most, life delivers magic and hope.

Stella Mills and her brother Jojo witness the Ku Klux Klan burning a cross late one starry night, setting off a chain reaction that leaves their entire community changed. During the Depression, North Carolina was less than hospitable for African-Americans forced to work more to earn less while being deprived of basic human rights.

Through the perspective of Stella, readers glimpse the nearly suffocating anguish that envelops this black community, illuminating the feelings associated with suppression. In a telling passage, Stella's mother attempts to comfort her: " 'It's gonna be all right,' her mother whispered as she smoothed down Stella's hair. But Stella felt the tension in her mother's arms, and she knew that in reality, fear hugged them both."

Draper expertly creates a character filled with hope, dreams and ambition in a time when such traits were dangerous for a girl of color. While the use of language honors the time period, the author is careful to avoid the phonetic quagmire that ensnares lesser writers of the period, allowing the colorful idioms to shine. A tale of the Jim Crow South that's not sugar-coated but effective, with a trustworthy narrator who opens her heart and readers' eyes.



### Reviews and Praise...

"This compelling story brims with courage, compassion, creativity, and resilience." - *Publisher's Weekly*

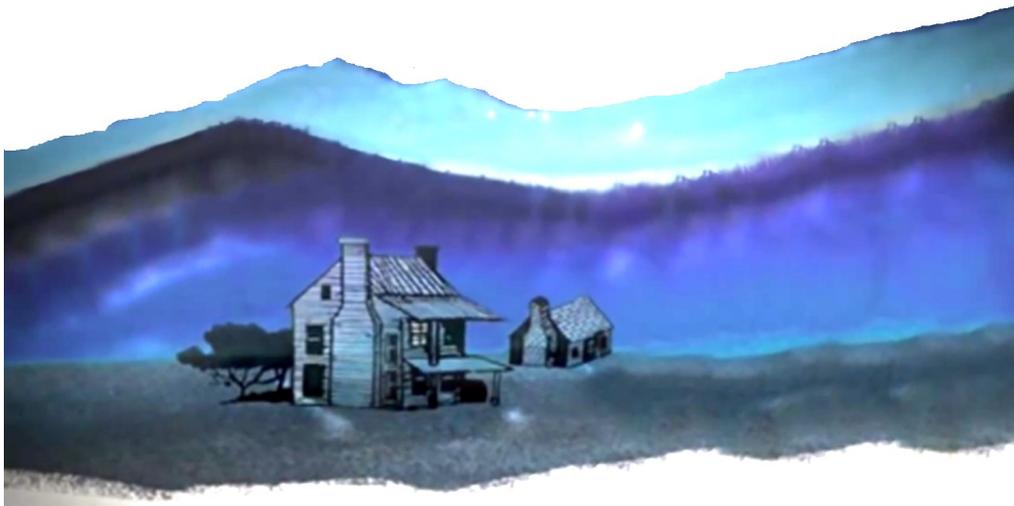
"Stella by Starlight" is an appealing, thought-provoking read for kids and adults - and a standout for introducing kids to a difficult chapter in U.S. history with compelling courage and relatable characters rather than graphic violence. Expect interesting conversations."

- *The Fresno Bee*

6. Why is the Sears Catalog exciting to Stella and Carolyn? Compare the reality of cleaning a chicken coop to her dreams of being able to buy some of the items pictured in the catalog.
7. Papa says, "Sometimes bravery is just doin' what you gotta do." What's your definition of bravery? Who in this story is brave, and what makes you think so?
8. Stella struggles with her writing and works hard to improve it. Why do you think she doesn't give up? Share a time in your own life when you, like Stella, have had to be persistent to overcome a challenge.
9. What problems does Paulette face at home? What is surprising about Paulette's revelations?
10. Can you think of all the occasions throughout the story when members of Stella's community come together to support one another, both in good times and in bad? What does this tell you about the strength of her community?
11. Do you think Stella is a hero? Explain. How does she feel about what she did? How does the community show their pride?
12. Talk about a time you've experienced or observed racism. Is what Stella endured still happening today?
13. This book is based on the life of the author's grandmother. If you could write the story of one of your relatives, whose story would it be, and what would it be about?
14. Has this novel **changed you**—broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world?

-Questions are from [www.litlovers.com/reading-guides](http://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides)  
and [www.readbrihtly.com](http://www.readbrihtly.com).

1. The novel opens with a powerful description of a fire burning in the woods in the middle of the night. How does this help capture the reader's attention? What predictions can the reader make about Stella? About Jojo? About what might happen in their town?
2. What main ideas—themes— does Draper explore in this novel? How are these ideas explored in this book and in similar titles for adult audiences?
3. Discuss Stella's love of newspapers. How does her father inspire her to be interested in the news? How does the room decoration affect Stella's connection to newspapers?
4. How does Stella compare herself to the old apple tree outside the classroom window? What problems does Stella have in school?
5. Why is a visit from Spoon Man a reason for excitement in the town? Describe Spoon Man and his wagon and his effect on the community. What do you think Spoon Man's chicken and eagle story is *really* about?



## Fox Cities Reads Events

### Author Presentations

Tuesday, April 4, 6:30PM

UW-Fox Valley, Perry Hall, 1478 Midway Road, Menasha

Wednesday, April 5, 2:00PM

Neenah Public Library, 240 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah

### Discussions of *Stella By Starlight*

Monday, February 20, 6:30PM

Little Chute Public Library—Evening Book Club

Thursday, March 9, 7:00PM

Seth's Coffee, Little Chute—Books & Brews Book Club

Thursday, March 16, 1:00PM

Kimberly Public Library—The Book Sayers Book Club

Tuesday, March 21, 2:00PM

Menasha Public Library—Book Club

Tuesday, April 11, 10:00AM

Kaukauna Public Library—Daytime Book Group

Wednesday, April 19, 12:00PM

Appleton Public Library—Downtown Book Club

Monday, April 24, 10:00AM

Neenah Public Library—Monday Morning Book Klatch



### Related Events

Sharon Draper will visit three area school districts during her visit to the Fox Cities.

1. The novel opens with a powerful description of a fire burning in the woods in the middle of the night. How does this help capture the reader's attention? What predictions can the reader make about Stella? About what might happen in their town?
2. In what year and what town does the story take place?
3. Describe Stella's parents. How would you describe the relationship between the parents and the children?
4. How would you describe Tony? Describe some of the frustrations the two children face. How does Stella feel about sitting outside at night with a boy she's known all her life?
5. Discuss Stella's love of newspapers. How does her father inspire her to be interested in the news? How does the room decoration affect Stella's connection to newspapers?
6. Describe Stella's walk to school and the children who lived nearby that walked with her. What can you learn about their community from this description?
7. How does Stella compare herself to the old apple tree outside the classroom window? What problems does Stella have in school?
8. Why does Stella sneak out at night? What does she keep in her hidden cigar box and why?
9. In your own words, summarize Spoon Man's story about the eagle who thought he was a chicken. What does Stella think of the story?
10. What does Stella learn about her father as they ride to town? What do you think most surprises her?
11. Describe the voting registration. How do you think Stella felt throughout the ordeal? What do you think she learned?

12. What does Stella think about the writing contest? Make a prediction about how you think she will do in the competition.
13. Why is the Sears Catalog exciting to Stella and Carolyn? Compare the reality of cleaning a chicken coop to her dreams of being able to buy some of the items pictured in the catalog.
14. Describe the fire. Why doesn't the fire department come and put it out? What do you learn about the community as they fight the fire?
15. Do you think Stella is a hero? Explain. How does she feel about what she did? How does the community show their pride?
16. In your own words, tell the teacher's story of the people who could fly. Why is that story significant because of what had happened in their community?
17. How do you think the typewriter changed Stella's attitude about and ability with writing?
18. How does the community come together on Election Day? Do you think the vote from Stella's father made a difference? Explain.
19. Describe both the negatives and the positives that happened as a result of the attack on Tony. Describe Stella's feelings.
20. What does Stella's mother teach her as they hunt for herbs and plants? How does Stella use that information later?
21. How does Mrs. Odom save the day? Why is it surprising? What more do you learn about community because of what she did?

- Questions are from  
[www.sharondraper.com/books](http://www.sharondraper.com/books).

