

2016-2017 River of Words Statewide Library Tour

Georgia Center for the Book

215 Sycamore St., Decatur, GA 30030

404-370-3070, Ext. 2285 or 2225

September 1-15

Chattooga County Library System

360 Farrar Drive
Summerville, GA 30747

September 16-30

Sara Hightower Regional Library

205 Riverside Parkway
Rome, GA 30161

October 1-15

Cobb County Public Library System

266 Roswell Street, NE
Marietta, GA 30060

October 16-31

Conyers-Rockdale Library System
Nancy Guinn Memorial Library

864 Green Street
Conyers, GA 30012

November 1-30

**Georgia Center for the Book
Mini-Tour**

Savannah Children's Book Festival,
Decatur Library

December 1-31

Atlanta Fulton Public Library

Margaret Mitchell Square
Atlanta, GA 30303

January 1-15

Cornelia Library

301 North Main Street
Cornelia, GA 30531

January 16-30

Piedmont Regional Library System

Commerce Public Library

1344 South Broad Street
Commerce, GA 30529



Griffin Robinson

Grade 3

Dragonfly Award
Winner

For more information on
the River of Words tour, please contact:

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**GEORGIA CENTER
FOR THE BOOK**

www.georgiacenterforthebook.org

www.riverofwords.org

www.gaprojectwet.org

2016-17 River of Words Statewide Library Tour

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215 Sycamore St., Decatur, GA 30030 404-370-3070, Ext. 2285 or 2225

February 1-14

Gwinnett County Public Library

1001 Lawrenceville Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

February 15-28

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1001 Lawrenceville Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

March 1-31

Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, NW
Atlanta, GA 30334

April 1-15

Shiloh Point Elementary School

8145 Majors Road
Cumming, GA 30041

April 16-30

Forsyth County Public Library

Cumming Library
585 Dahlonega Road
Cumming, GA 30040

Okefenokee

We used to volunteer at the swamp
you and me both & Charlie
fixing boats, killing spiders, keeping it clean.
Yankees came to see the gators.
I mostly came to see you.

We burn here on purpose, like growth is a disease
turn dead things to ash, like it's medicine.

Then Bugaboo* happened, then Honeyprairie*
And now the water's clogged by ash & dead fish & the smell
is

acid & bitter & tasting flakey like old bones-wet
like his funeral.

I was never scared of the gators like Charlie was.
I don't like the snakes, personally.

We rebuilt the boardwalk that summer, crushing pitcher
plants underfoot

Tramping through coons & rats & bears & turtles & panthers
& birds

and tiny moss flowers just starting to bloom.

I never understood how you could drown in water only 4 feet
deep.

Maybe it was the hurricane; maybe a gator held him down in
the mud & the peat

But he was dead nonetheless.

I found Charlie floating calm like Ophelia-
His eyes full of rainwater.

Now it's just you & me and the bobcats

The time moves slower here, like faith

And a slowly dying sunset

Lazy summer thunder over a swamp.

Jaycee Billington, grade 12

2015 River of Words Poetry Grand Prize



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