To: Teachers and Media Specialists  
Re: Classroom Loan Bags for 2021-2022 School Year

Lincoln City Libraries provides sets of select titles written for children. Each set contains approximately 15-25 copies of the same title. We make these bags available on a monthly basis to teachers to use in their classrooms from August through July. As with any book, we recommend that teachers read the book before they use it in their classroom to determine if it is appropriate for their needs. The following guidelines apply to the use of these bags:

- Bags must be picked up and dropped off at Bennett Martin Public Library (136 S. 14th St.) during regular business hours. They can't be left in a book drop. Hours are:
  - Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Sunday: Noon to 6 p.m.

- Up to two bags can be reserved per a calendar month by contacting Bennett Martin Public Library staff in person or by phone at 402-441-8530.

- Bags may be picked up on the 1st of the reserved month, and are due back on the 26th of that month.

- The borrower may renew their checked out Classroom Loan Bag for an additional month if it hasn't been reserved by someone else. Renewal inquiries must be done by phoning 402-441-8530 or visiting Bennett Martin Public Library by the 25th of the month.

- There are no longer late fees for youth materials, including Classroom Loan Bags. However, please be considerate of the next teacher in line.

The following Classroom Loan Bags are available:

New titles are available for all of the Chapter Book Nominees for the 2021-2022 Golden Sower Award. These are in underlined blue text. Grade level suggestions come from NoveList K-8 Plus.

**Absolutely Almost**, by Lisa Graff (gr. 4-6). Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.

**All the Answers**, by Kate Messner (gr. 4-6). Twelve-year-old Ava finds an old pencil in her family's junk drawer and discovers, during a math test, that it will answer factual questions. She and her best friend Sophie have a great time—and Ava grows in self-confidence—until the pencil reveals a truth about her family that Ava would rather not know.
**Apple Blossom the Possum**, by Holly Goldberg Sloan (gr. 4-6). A young possum strikes out on her own and winds up trapped in a human house before her brothers can rescue her.

**Baker's Magic**, by Diane Zahler (gr. 3-6). Bee steals a bun from a bakery, and to her surprise the baker offers her a place at his shop. As she learns to bake, Bee discovers that she has a magical power. When a new friend needs her help against an evil mage, Bee wonders what a small orphan girl with only a small bit of magic can do.

**Because of the Rabbit**, by Cynthia Lord (gr. 3-7). Accompanying her game warden father on a routine call on the last night of summer before she ends homeschooling and starts public school for the first time, young Emma finds herself caring for a baby bunny while navigating a project with an animal-loving boy who does not quite fit in.

**Bob**, by *Wendy Mass & Rebecca Stead* (gr. 3-6). When Livy and her family visit Livy's grandmother in Australia again after five years, Livy has the feeling she's forgotten something really important about Gran's house. It turns out she's right—Bob, a short, greenish creature dressed in a chicken suit, didn't forget Livy, or her promise. He's been waiting five years for her to come back and keep her promise to help him find his way back home.

**Candymakers, The**, by Wendy Mass (gr. 4-8). When four twelve-year-olds, including Logan, who has grown up never leaving his parents’ Life Is Sweet candy factory, compete in the Confectionary Association's annual contest, they unexpectedly become friends and uncover secrets about themselves during the process.

**Captain Superlative**, by J. S. Puller (gr. 4-7). Red mask, blue wig, silver swimsuit, rubber gloves, torn tights, high top sneakers and . . . a cape? Who would run through the halls of Deerwood Park Middle School dressed like this? And why? Janey can't resist the urge to uncover the truth behind the mask. The answer pulls Janey into the spotlight and leads her to an unexpected friendship with a superhero like no other.

**Caterpillar Summer**, by Gillian McDunn (gr. 3-6). Since her father's death, Cat has taken care of her brother, Chicken, for their hardworking mother but while spending time with grandparents they never knew, Cat has the chance to be a child again.

**Chocolate Touch**, by Patrick Skene Catling (gr. 3-4). A boy acquires a magical gift that turns everything his lips touch into chocolate.

**Count Me In**, by Varsha Bajaj (gr. 4-8). Told from two viewpoints, sixth-graders Karina and Chris use social media to stand up to racism in Houston, Texas, after an attack puts Karina's Indian American grandfather in the hospital.

**Doughnut Fix, The**, by Jessie Janowitz (gr. 3-6). When his family moves to tiny Petersville, eleven-year-old Tris stops focusing on his perfect sister, Jeanine, by using his cooking expertise to revive a town tradition of chocolate cream doughnuts.

**El Deafo**, by Cece Bell (gr. 2-6). The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower."
**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library**, by Chris Grabenstein (gr. 4-7). Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

**From the Desk of Zoe Washington**, by Janae Marks (gr. 4-7). Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime.

**Fuzzy Mud**, by Louis Sachar (gr. 3-5). Two middle-grade kids, fifth grader Tamaya Dhillwasi and seventh grader Marshall Walsh, take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

**Hope in the Holler**, by Lisa Lewis Tyre (gr. 5-8). Right before Wavie's mother died, she gave Wavie a list of instructions to help her find her way in life. But little did Wavie's mom know that events would conspire to bring Wavie back to Conley Hollow, the Appalachian hometown her mother tried to leave behind. Now Wavie's back in the Holler--and in the clutches of her Aunt Samantha Rose.

**Joyful Noise**, by Paul Fleischman (gr. 3-5). Written to be read aloud by two voices--sometimes alternating, sometimes simultaneous--here are irresistible poems that celebrate the insect world.

**Lemonade War, The**, by Jacqueline Davies (gr. 3-5). Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand.

**Lemons**, by Melissa Savage (gr. 3-6). Lemonade Liberty Witt is forced to live with a grandfather she’s never met after her mother passes away. Eleven-year-old Tobin Sky, the CEO of Bigfoot Detectives Inc., invites Lem to be his assistant for the summer, and they set out to capture a shot of the elusive beast on film.

**Magic Misfits, The**, by Neil Patrick Harris (gr. 4-6). Six young magicians and illusionists team up to save their small town from a crooked carnival owner and his goons.

**Max and the Midknights**, by Lincoln Peirce (gr. 4-6). Max and a group of friends dubbed the Midknights go on a quest to rescue the Kingdom of Byjovia from the mean King Gastley.

**The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl**, by Stacy McAnulty (gr. 4-6). A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius. But after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.

**The Next Great Paulie Fink**, by Ali Benjamin (gr. 5-8). Led by new student Caitlyn, seventh-graders at a tiny rural school in Vermont create a reality-show inspired competition to determine who will replace the school's legendary class clown, Paulie Fink.
**Perfect Score, The**, by Rob Buyeah (gr. 4-6).
The whole school is in a frenzy with the statewide assessment tests approaching. When one of the kids has a big idea for acing the tests, they're all in.

**Roll With It**, by Jamie Sumner (gr. 5-7). Twelve-year-old Ellie, who has cerebral palsy, finds her life transformed when she moves with her mother to small-town Oklahoma to help care for her grandfather, who has Alzheimer's Disease.

**Ruby in the Sky**, by Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo (gr. 3-6). Twelve-year-old Ruby Moon Hayes does not want her new classmates to ask about her father or to know her mother has been arrested. And she definitely does not want to make any friends. But keeping to herself isn't easy when Ahmad Saleem, a Syrian refugee, decides he's her new best friend. Or when she meets "the Bird Lady," a recluse named Abigail who lives in a ramshackle shed near Ruby's house. Before long Ahmad and Abigail have become Ruby's friends—and she realizes there is more to their stories than everyone knows.

**Save Me A Seat**, by Sara Weeks & Gita Varadarajan (gr. 3-6).
Joe has lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common, but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.

**Saving Winslow**, by Sharon Creech (gr. 3-6). When Louie's father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, Louie names him Winslow and is determined to save him. Taking care of him helps Louie feel closer to his brother, Gus, who is far away in the army. As Louie's bond with Winslow grows, surprising and life-altering events prove that this fragile donkey is stronger than anyone could have imagined.

**Seventh Most Important Thing, The**, by Shelley Pearsall (gr. 4-7)
Arthur threw a brick at the trash picker and the judge is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him.

**Shiloh**, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (gr. 4-8). When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

**Sidetracked**, by Diana Asher (gr. 4-6).
Joseph Friedman spends most of his time avoiding school bully Charlie Kastner and hiding out in the Resource Room. But on the first day of seventh grade, two important things happen. First, his Resource Room teacher encourages him to join the school track team, and second, he meets Heather, a crazy-fast runner who isn't going to be pushed around by Charlie Kastner or anybody else.

**Sky at Our Feet, The**, by Nadia Hashimi (gr. 5-8). Discovering that his Afghan mother has been living illegally in the United States since his father was killed in Afghanistan, American-born Jason fears that she has been deported and runs away to New York City to seek a family member who might be able to help.
**Slacker,** by Gordon Korman (gr. 4-7).
When eighth-grader Cameron Boxer creates the Positive Action Group at school he intends it as a diversion to fool his parents, teachers, and sister into letting him continue to concentrate on his video-gaming. Before he knows it other kids are taking it seriously, and soon he finds himself president of the P.A.G. and involved in community service.

**Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio,** by Peg Kehret (gr. 4-6).
The author describes her battle against polio at age thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects

**Song for a Whale,** by Lynne Kelly (gr. 4-6). From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be. When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him! But he's three thousand miles away. How will she play her song for him?

**SOS File, The,** by Betsy Byars (gr. 4-6).
The students in Mr. Magro’s class submit stories for the SOS file about their biggest emergencies, and then they read them aloud for extra credit.

**Spark,** by Sarah Beth Durst (gr. 4-7). Naturally quiet since birth, Mina and her stormbeast, Pixit, lead others like themselves in defying authority and attempting to spread the truth that Alorria's idyllic weather comes at a steep cost.

**Stone Fox,** by John Reynolds Gardiner (gr. 4-6).
Little Willie hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the prize money from a dog sled race he enters.

**Strike Zone,** by Mike Lupica (gr. 5-8). Twelve-year-old Nick Garcia dreams of winning MVP of his summer baseball league, of finding a cure for his sister, of meeting his hero, Yankee pitcher Michael Arroyo, and of no longer living in fear of the government and ICE agents.

**Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen** by Candace Fleming (gr. 4-6). When movie director Larry Trimble travels to Berlin searching for his next big star, he finds Etzel, a fierce, highly trained three-year-old German shepherd police dog. Larry sees past the snarls and growls and brings Etzel back to Hollywood, where he is renamed Strongheart. Along with screenwriter Jane Murfin, Larry grooms his protégé to be a star of the silver screen.

**The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA,** by Brenda Woods (gr. 4-6). When Gabriel accidentally rides his new bike right into the path of a car, a Black man named Meriwether pushes him out of the way just in time and fixes his damaged bike. As a thank you, Gabriel gets him a job at his dad's auto shop. Gabriel's dad hires him with some hesitation, however, anticipating trouble with the other mechanic, who makes no secret of his racist opinions.

**Vanderbeekers of 141st Street, The,** by Karina Yan Glaser (gr. 3-5).
The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street. When their reclusive, curmudgeonly landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five siblings have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home and convince the dreaded Beiderman just how wonderful they are.
**War that Saved My Life, The**, by Kimberly B Bradley (gr. 4-6).
A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

**When Stars Are Scattered**, by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed (gr. 4-8). Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.

**Wild Robot, The**, by Peter Brown (gr. 4-6).
Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there. Her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

**Wildfire**, by Rodman Philbrick (gr. 2-6). Twelve-year-old Sam Castine is at summer camp while his mother is in rehab, but when the camp is evacuated ahead of a fast moving wildfire, he makes the mistake of going back for his phone, and finds himself left behind, disoriented, and running for his life, together with a girl, Delphy, from a different camp--finding an old jeep keeps them going, but in the wilds of Maine, there are only logging roads and the deadly crown fire is everywhere.

**Wishtree**, by Katherine Applegate (gr. 4-8).
Red is an oak tree and the neighborhood "wishtree" - people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. You might say Red has seen it all, until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experiences as a wishtree are more important than ever.