



***Lola at the Library* by Anna McQuinn;**

Illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw

Charlesbridge, 2006

9781580891134 (Hardcover)

9781580891424 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 0 to 3

Grade Range: Up to Preschool

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Learn about the library, checking out books, and story time with Lola. Every Tuesday Lola and her mommy go to the library. Lola meets her friends there. They share books and don't have to be quiet all the time. The nice librarian tells stories. There is a big machine that buzzes Lola's books in and out, and she can take any books she wants home with her. Lola and her mommy always stop for a treat on the way home. No wonder Lola loves the library.

This gentle story about growing with books encourages little ones to discover the joy of reading as well as getting them ready and excited to visit the library.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“Perfect for instilling a love of libraries and books in the youngest patrons, it’s a winner.” – *School Library Journal*

“The simple, significant message will ring true with every librarian, teacher, caregiver and parent as the day concludes with Lola’s nightly bedtime story. Everyone should begin and end the day with a good book.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

“McQuinn's story and illustrations capture how much Lola loves the library, as the young girl returns books, participates in storytime, and chooses new books to check out.” – *Booklist*

“A joyful exploration of books, libraries and sharing stories - this should be available in every library and children’s centre.” – Annie Everall, *The Bookseller Children’s Buyer’s Guide*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2006 Early Childhood News Directors' Choice Award & Judges' Selection Award
- 2006 ABC Best Books for Children
- 2006 Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best
- 2007 Bank Street College of Education's Best Children's Books of the Year
- 2007 National Parenting Publications Honors (books)
- 2008 – 2009 Georgia Picture Storybook Award nominee
- 2006 Children's Book of the Month Club, Alternate Selection
- Read On Wisconsin – May 2008
- 2010 Beginning with Books' 10 Best Books for Babies
- 2013 Silver Bell Honor List in the READ category of the CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards
- 2014 Goodreads and Reach Out and Read's 50 of the Best Kids' Books Published in the Last 25 years

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Lola Books Activity Guide](#)
- [50 Of The Best Kids' Books Published In The Last 25 Years | HuffPost Life](#) (listed under 2008)
- [Author Interview with Anna McQuinn | Here Wee Read](#)
- [Charlesbridge Unabridged: Ask the Author: Anna McQuinn](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

Many conversations around banned books focus on parents' rights to choose what their child reads, while counterarguments say one parent shouldn't dictate what every child in a school or a district reads or doesn't read . . .

Other conversations discuss censorship versus freedom of speech, and argue that book bans keep children in ignorance . . .

Still more talk about parents wanting to avoid having difficult discussions about complicated issues with their children, while others counter that the real world is full of these difficult issues and argue that we adults have a responsibility to prepare children for this world . . .

But then I look at my little picture book- *Lola at the Library*. It's about a little girl, aged about three, going to the library with her mommy, choosing new books, singing along at rhyme time, and reading her chosen book at bedtime. There are no issues (inappropriate or otherwise), no inappropriate language, and the subject is not inappropriate for the age group (or for any age group – you could read it to a baby – in fact there's a board book version for babies). Yet this little book is banned in a number of states.

When I tell people this, they ask me why on earth . . . What could people possibly object to?

Lola at the Library has nothing in common with other banned books except for the fact that Lola is an African American child. Could it simply be that? There really is nothing else in common with other banned books except that. And Lola is not alone in being a simple picture book with a completely unremarkable story about a little African American child that is banned– there are lots.

So please, don't be taken in by the complex discussions around high-profile "controversial" books, or think that buying a controversial book from the banned books table is the only radical act you need to take . . .

Because while these discussions rage on, attracting and distracting our attention, lots of perfectly lovely, ordinary story-books are being banned simply for featuring an African American child.

Librarians, educators, parents, editors and authors who have children's best interests at heart have been fighting since the 1970s* to include under-represented children in books: –African American children, Asian children, children with disabilities, gay children, strong female characters, and more. After almost fifty years of hard work, we were just beginning to get there.

So for me it's very simple: we have to ignore the distracting conversations and fight these bans so that all children can see themselves in books and all children can see the reality of the world we live in, in all its richness and diversity, reflected in their reading and educational materials. Don't be distracted.

*See *Reading into Racism – Bias in Children's Literature and learning Materials* by Gillian Klein, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1985 – Chapter 2

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.