

Children's Room News

May 2021

And so we come to the last chapter, in which Pooh and Christopher Robin go to the enchanted part of the forest, and we say goodbye.

Goodbye? Oh no, please. Can't we just go back to page one and start all over again?



Sorry, Pooh, but all stories have an ending, you know.

Oh, bother.

Oh Pooh bear, if only we could go back to page one and start again.

This month is bittersweet for our library family because the time has come to say farewell to the legendary and beloved Miss Kathleen. We wish her a happy and healthy retirement. This new chapter in her life will surely be brimming with adventure, some stitching and naturally, plenty of good stories. She will be very much missed by all of us.

The following is Miss Kathleen's most recent news column as she says goodbye to her 100 Aker Wood.

Leaving The 100 Aker Wood Kathleen Whalin, Children's Librarian

It's nearly unfathomable but I have been working at the library, writing these columns for twenty years. When I interviewed for the children's librarian job, all those years ago, I told the hiring committee I was "looking for a home" and I was. Although I don't live in York, I have certainly spent most of my time since the day I was hired getting to know this particular lovely town on the southern coast of Maine. I know this town, I know some of you, and this has been a place to call home.

The question is not why I came, I think (who could resist such a beautiful place) but rather why I stayed. The early days were hard. I often said I felt like I'd stumbled into the last act of a play without knowing any of the fine points of the plot. Our budget was voted down year after year, I was often reminded I was "from away", every book I bought was a major purchase. All my years of working in other states and other libraries did not prepare me for such major rejection. But through it all, I could see the potential in the town and in all the people who live here and who really care about each other.

Time passed, the financial straits widened a little, and I spent my days reveling in the pleasure of introducing young kids to stories. I am so glad I spent my last working years here- sharing my love of books with all of you. It's strange to think that this summer will not bring mobbed storyhours, returning summer people and a chance to introduce Elephant, Piggy, Poptleton, Wolfie and host of other favorite characters to the next generation.

But, as Christopher Robin knew, there comes a time to leave. And that time, for me, is now. I'll miss all of you but know, as with Christopher Robin and Pooh, that my puppets and I will still be in our own place. To paraphrase Milne at the end of the Pooh books "But wherever they go, and whatever happens to them on the way, in that enchanted place on the top of the Forest, a librarian and her puppets will always be playing."

STORIES WITH MISS KATHLEEN

Available to watch anytime on our [YouTube channel](#)

Missing Miss Kathleen? Watch her tell some puppet stories and rhymes on our YouTube channel!

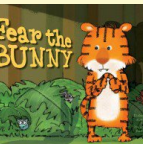
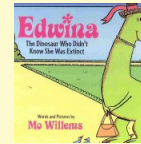
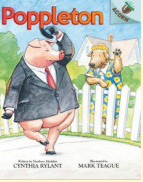
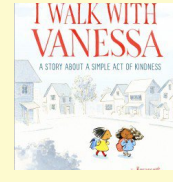
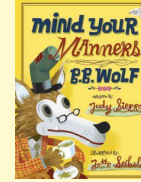
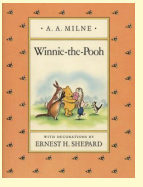
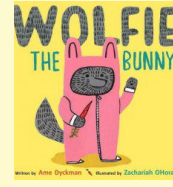
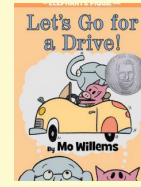
We are open for families to browse! If you need help choosing books, see our website for booklists or our friendly librarians are here to help. You can also fill out our [Custom Book Pick form](#) and we will select some books for you!



York Public Library

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yorkpubliclibrary.org

A Few of Miss Kathleen's Favorite Stories



OFFLINE FUN

Step Into Spring Window Walk | All ages
Available to view anytime in the windows of the library!

Enjoy an outdoor excursion as a family on the library nature trail, and see what is in our windows this month!

Storytime Kits | Birth - Preschool
Available to borrow

Take storytime home with you!
New themes:

- Colors
- In the Wild
- Ocean
- Shapes, Letters & Numbers

Storytime kits include age appropriate books, props, rhymes, and songs. Kits circulate for 3 weeks. To borrow a kit, fill out [our form](#).

READING CHALLENGES

Keep track of reading with a free Beanstack account. Earn virtual badges, complete fun activities, review books, and more! Register or sign into [Beanstack](#) from the York Public Library website. Check out our current challenges:

- * 1000 Books Before Kindergarten (birth - K)
- * The Chickadee Awards (K - 4th grade)
- * Read Woke (all ages)