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## Georgia Library Spotlight: Houston County Public Library Receives \$20,000 Grant

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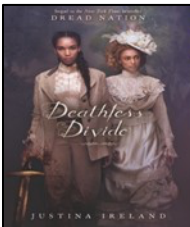

## Houston County Public Library Receives \$20,000 Grant

The American Library Association (ALA) announced recently grants of \$20,000 to 77 libraries that continue to experience substantial economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Houston County Public Library was the only library in Georgia to receive one of the grants.



“The majority of the grant will be used to amplify the existing e-book and e-audio collection,” said Library Director J. Sara Paulk, “with the addition of some specific fiction collections and accompanying programming. Starting in July,

the new titles will be in a featured list called ‘Listen UP!’.”



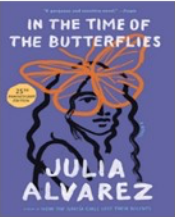
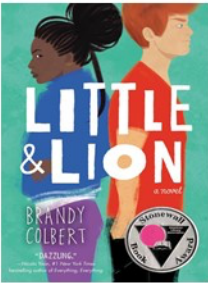


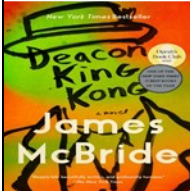

The primary activity is titled: “The Universal Challenge: Exploring Identity and Discovering a Different Point of View Through Fiction.” The challenge is to read or listen to at least three books from the “Listen Up!” collection over the next six months. Patrons and staff are encouraged to read fiction beyond the comfortable and familiar. The grant dates ran from July 1, 2022, to December 30, 2022.


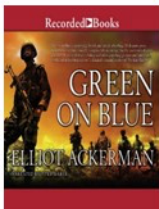
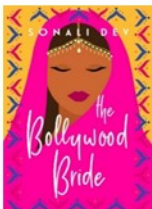

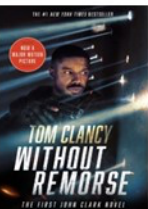


**NEW Ebook and Eaudio titles**  
in the grant funded **Listen Up!** collection.  
Help support your library by participating in the  
**Universal Challenge.**  
Start at either your library’s Beanstack site  
or your library’s Libby site

or ask for more information - [recommend.gadd@gmail.com](mailto:recommend.gadd@gmail.com)

New titles in the Listen Up! collection provided by grant funds from the ALA COVID Library Relief Fund which is supported by Acton Family Giving.  
Staff support provided by the Houston County Public Library, Mercer University Assistant Professor- Dr. Laura Simon, Overdrive, Beanstack and members of GADD- Georgia Download Destination including Your Library.

Promotional image for the program

Starting in July, new titles were added on a regular basis. The downloadable e-books and e-audio are available through Libby and Overdrive from any library in the Georgia Download Destination (GADD) consortium. GADD libraries that use Beanstack can include the universal challenge as an option for patrons.

Staff support was provided by the Houston County Public Library, Mercer University Assistant Professor Dr. Laura Simon, Overdrive,

Beanstack, and library staff from libraries that are members of GADD.

The ALA COVID Library Relief Fund is supported by Acton Family Giving as part of its ongoing response to the pandemic. For more information, contact J. Sara Paulk at [jspaulk@houpl.org](mailto:jspaulk@houpl.org).

*J. Sara Paulk is the director of Houston  
County Public Library*