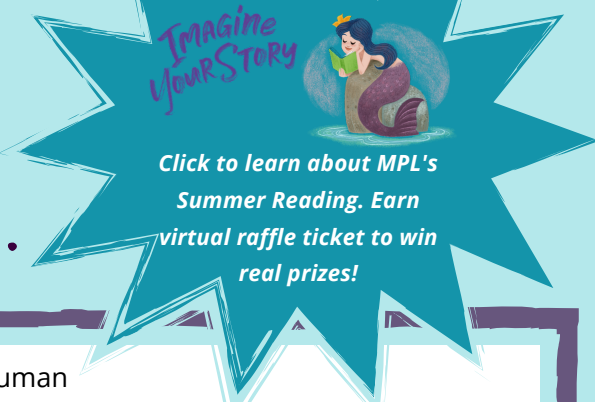


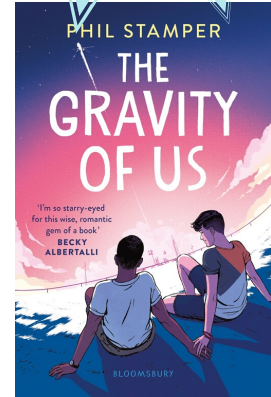
CHRISTINE RECOMMENDS...



This is a sweet novel about first love set against the drama of the first human mission to Mars. That was all it took to convince me to pick this one up!

Teenager Cal shares his whole life with his half a million social media followers and he is so good at it that he plans to make it his career after high school. So you would think he'd be the perfect person to handle the intense media attention that comes along with his father being selected for a highly publicized NASA mission to Mars. The chaos is more than Cal expected and the forced relocation from from Brooklyn to Houston doesn't help.

The one bright spot in their new situation is the mysterious Leon, another "Astrokid." Cal finds himself falling for Leon, but he has a choice to make when he discovers secrets about the program. He needs to share the truth with Leon and everyone else he cares about, but doing so could change everything. Check out Boston Public Library's 2020 [We Are Pride](#) reading list for more queer stories for all ages.



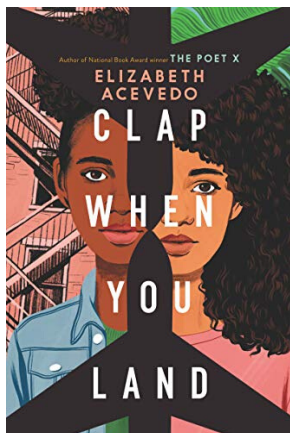
The Gravity of Us by Phil Stamper

**Available as an e-book
on the Libby app**

Clap When You Land

by Elizabeth Acevedo

**Available as an e-book and
audiobook on the Libby app**



Elizabeth Acevedo's last book, *With the Fire on High*, was one of my favorites of 2019, so I was excited for this new release. Just like her previous books, *Clap When You Land* is a novel in verse (a story told through non-rhyming poetry). Even if you think you hate poetry, you would like a novel in verse. They tend to be quick reads packed with feeling.

This novel starts with Camino Rios waiting for her father to visit her in the Dominican Republic for the summer. Camino arrives at the airport to meet him and gets terrible news instead. In New York City, Yahaira Rios finds out that her father has died in a plane crash on his way to the Dominican Republic. Do you see where this is going? In learning about their Papi's death, the two girls also learn about each other. What does it mean to have a new sister when you live a world away? Yahaira has another layer of anxiety about meeting her sister. She came out to her mom and friends in New York, but will cultural differences between the DR and the US cause her to be rejected by her new sister?

I always recommend the audiobook version of a novel in verse and this is no exception. Hearing the two different voices of the sisters really enhances the experience. Get a taste of Acevedo's lively narration [here](#).

Click on my picture to email me your recs!