

# MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB NEWSLETTER

## Did You Know?

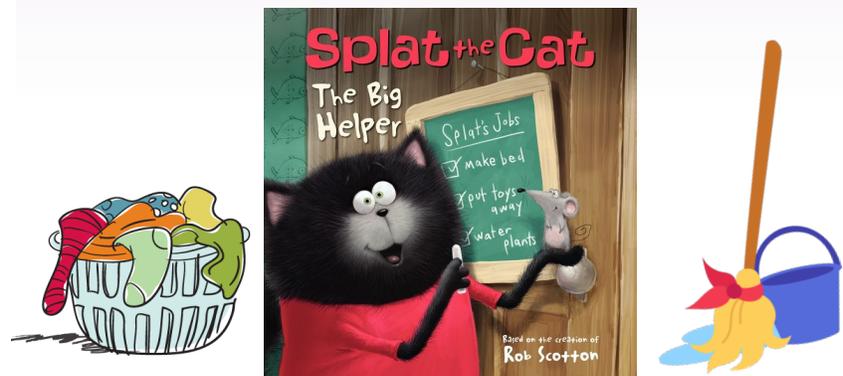
Reading together is a wonderful way to begin the New Year. It is a way to continue building literacy skills with your children, and having an opportunity to build a stronger bond.



One great way to excite children is reading a book with a character they can fall in love with, and Splat the Cat is just that! Splat is a loveable cat with a curious and unconventional way of looking at life.



The Mayor's Book Club is pleased to present our **Book-of-the-Month** for January:



Sponsored by: **Petters Family Foundation**  
and **Zel Technologies Foundation**

## It's Fun and Easy!

Splat the Cat: The Big Helper by Rob Scotton, features Splat the Cat in a hilarious story of learning what it means to be a big helper by pitching in at home.

Tip #1 – The story focuses on Splat becoming a big helper and discovering what a to-do list is. This is a great story to start the year off on the right note. The story shows how doing their chores or a few small tasks around the house can actually be a fun adventure. The practical elements, mixed with story whimsy, create a fun story with a great message.

Tip #2 – Splat the Cat: The Big Helper has beautiful illustrations done by Rob Scotton himself throughout the story. The artwork brings the story to life with its colors, textures, and the characters' facial expressions. His best friend, Seymour the mouse, makes appearances throughout the story, so be sure to see if you can find him!

*The Book-of-the-Month is selected by a team of librarians and other experts for the purpose of promoting a love of reading and providing fun and rewarding reading experiences in the classroom and in the home.*

## Bringing the Story to Life!

### Splat The Cat Painting:

Enjoy a fun family art activity when you create your own Splat the Cat. You will need black paint, white paper, glue, markers, a small pink triangle and googly eyes. Place paint on one side of the paper and fold in half, press the paper and then open the paper up to dry. Once the paint is dry, glue on the eyes and the pink triangle nose on to the painting. You can use markers to create a face on your "Splat the Cat"

### Chore Sticks

Do you have a difficult time getting your children to do chores around the house? There is a simple DIY chore system for children. No fancy stuff or DIY-talent required, "Chore Sticks" is easy to set up. You simply choose brightly colored popsicle sticks and write the chore on the stick, place the sticks in a jar. When it's time to do chores the children just choose a chore from the jar to complete. If you choose to give your children an allowance for completed chores, you can place a dollar amount on one end of each stick. When the children finish that chore they earn the written amount in allowance.

## Book Picks

### Other Related Books:

#### **The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Chores**

by Jan and Stan Berenstain

#### **Mr. Bear Babysits**

by Debi Gliori

#### **The Day the Crayons Quit**

By Drew Daywalt



### More books by Rob Scotton:

#### **Russell The Sheep**

#### **Russell and The Lost Treasure**

#### **Splat The Cat Sings Flat**

## Community Resources

### **Hampton Arts League Open Members Exhibition 2019**

Charles H. Taylor Arts Center, 4205 Victoria Blvd., Hampton, VA 23669

**January 27, 2019 – March 10, 2019** – Admission is free and open to the public.

This annual exhibition features artwork by many of the 300+ Hampton Arts League Members in all media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, crafts, sculpture, and watercolor. Artworks in a wide range of styles, content, and sensibilities will be included. For more information call (757) 727-1490.

### **Build The City – Hampton Convention Center**

**January 19, 2019 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**, Admission is free.

Children will become architects and engineers as the Hampton History Museum hosts the 4th Annual "Build the City" event. This family friendly event will engage children and adults, inspired by photos of the Hampton buildings, to construct a large-scale model of Hampton, using boxes, other recyclables, construction paper, chalk and paint. Volunteers and staff are on-hand to teach the "building blocks" of architecture and those influences that shaped our landscape as well as the science and engineering behind our City's structures.

Thanks to the **Langley Civic Leaders Association, Exchange Club of Wythe, and Downtown Hampton Exchange Club** for their sponsorships.

### **Visit your local public library or school library:**

Hampton Public Library:

<http://www.hamptonpubliclibrary.org>

Hampton City Schools – Information Literacy Services:

<http://www.hampton.k12.va.us/departments/informationliteracy/infoliteracy.html>