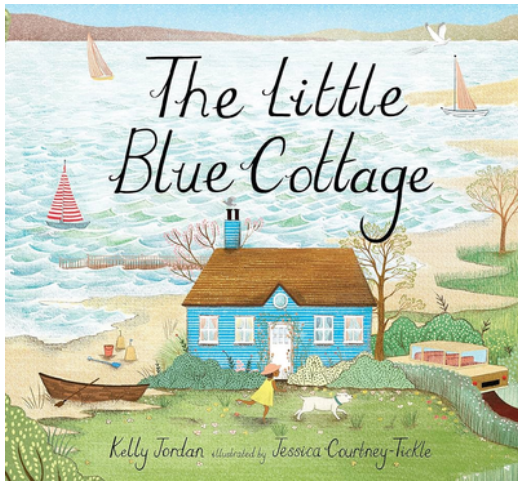


A COLORFUL LIFE



Inspired by the passage of time seen in both of our July book of the month picks, our corresponding art project is to create an illustrated journal of your summer. This is an artful way to document your day-to-day or only highlight more significant moments. The practice will help hone your sketching skills and create a unique record of your 2024 summer.

Your final piece will depend on what approach you take to this project. Drawings may be small and grouped together, or larger so each one has their own page. If you plan on doing daily sketches, we recommend investing in a sketch book of your preferred size to dedicate to this project. This will help keep your drawings in chronological order and once complete, an easily stored memento of your summer. If you plan to create a one-page piece, our recommendation is to sketch out each individual element on separate pieces of paper. This way you can test which illustration you want to represent your summer highlights and their arrangement on the page.

As always, we encourage initial sketches to be done with a regular pencil, but the final medium is up to you. We suggest trying watercolor, colored pencil, ink, graphite or marker to see if one works better with your process and desired aesthetic. Keep in mind if you use watercolor or paint, you will want thicker paper or a canvas



July Book of the Month

Told from the perspective of a seasonal home, readers watch a little girl grow up year to year while at her family's summer cottage. Suddenly season after season the cottage sits empty, waiting for their beloved little girl to return. In "The Little Blue Cottage," author Kelly Jordan pulls at the magic of childhood summers and the bond we create with specific locations. Illustrator Jessica Courtney-Tickle brings to life the joy and sadness readers feel throughout the story, while keeping this cottage location familiar to all but not tied to a specific location.

Our adult book of the month "The Islanders" by Meg Mitchell Moore takes place a little closer to home, on Block Island, Rhode Island. Taking place over one summer, readers will follow three strangers, each on the island for their own reason. Over twelve weeks, author and soul-searching Anthony Puckett, businessowner and single mom Joy Sousa and lawyer and mother Lu Trusdale will grow close to one another, sharing secrets and burying lies. Yet, as summer begins to come to an end truths will be revealed, forcing each of them to make decisions on what they value or are willing to give up.