Introduction
This poster presents our process curating an exhibition on children’s literature, how we centered this exhibition for undergraduate students at our university, and the exhibition’s connection to our larger community. Reflecting on the exhibition, we explore our own sense of belonging as student curators in an academic gallery and consider our visitors’ developing sense of belonging as undergraduates on campus. This poster also highlights collaboration between academic galleries, university special collections, and the larger community. This offers a chance to think about how academic museums and galleries can forge relationships with other entities, both on and off-campus, to design more meaningful exhibitions.

Process
- Graduate-level class collaborating on exhibition plan
  - Form agreement with SCA to borrow books
  - Develop a big idea and sub-themes
- Prototypes for interactives, reviewed by undergrad class
- Installation was not part of class time and happened three months after conclusion of the course

Community Connections
- On-campus community partners
  - FSU Libraries Special Collections
  - FSU Museum of Fine Arts
  - Provided exhibition materials
- Off-campus community partners
  - Midtown Reader (a local bookstore)
  - Donated books
  - Children’s Home Society of Florida
  - Distributed donations (50 total)

What We Learned
- Be adaptable
  - Some planned elements were not feasible
  - Consider multiple options
  - Politics!
- Learn to navigate the needs of stakeholders
- Be open to developing new relationships
- Recognize the unique skills and resources of each team member

Who and what belongs in a museum?
- Children’s lit is a shared experience
  - Share your stories, with us through these stories
  - By focusing on the interaction with the object in previous moments in life, the gallery becomes a place of personal sharing and connection with others
  - An invitation to conversation
- By opening the ideas around what belongs in the museum, we open up ideas around who belongs in a museum

Belonging Among Undergraduate Students
- Questions at the heart of the exhibition
  - Are children’s books only for children?
  - How do children’s books shape our lives?
  - Why children having access to reading matters?

Conclusion
- Be adaptable
- Lean into each other’s strengths
- So much of what we were able to accomplish resulted from communicating with community partners