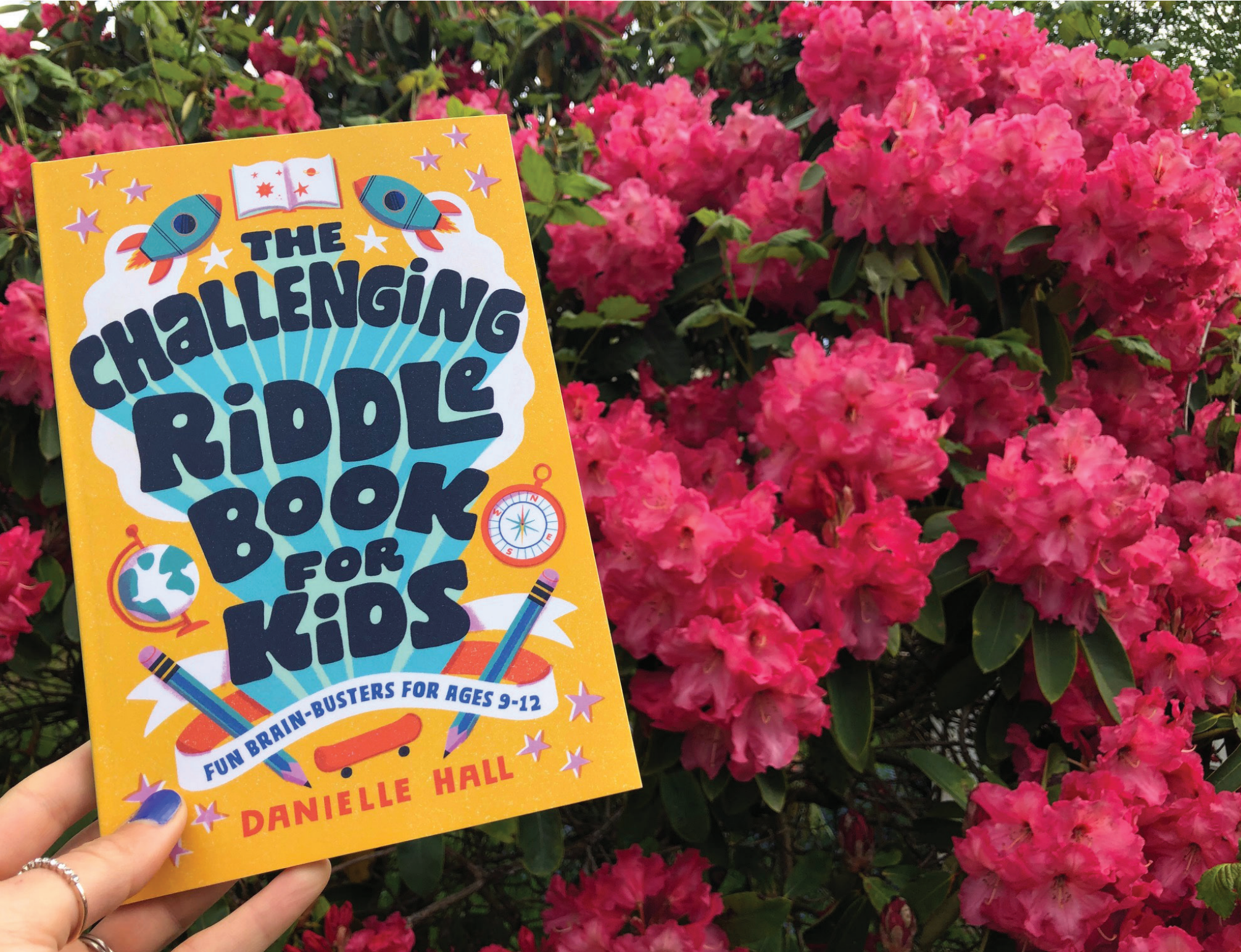




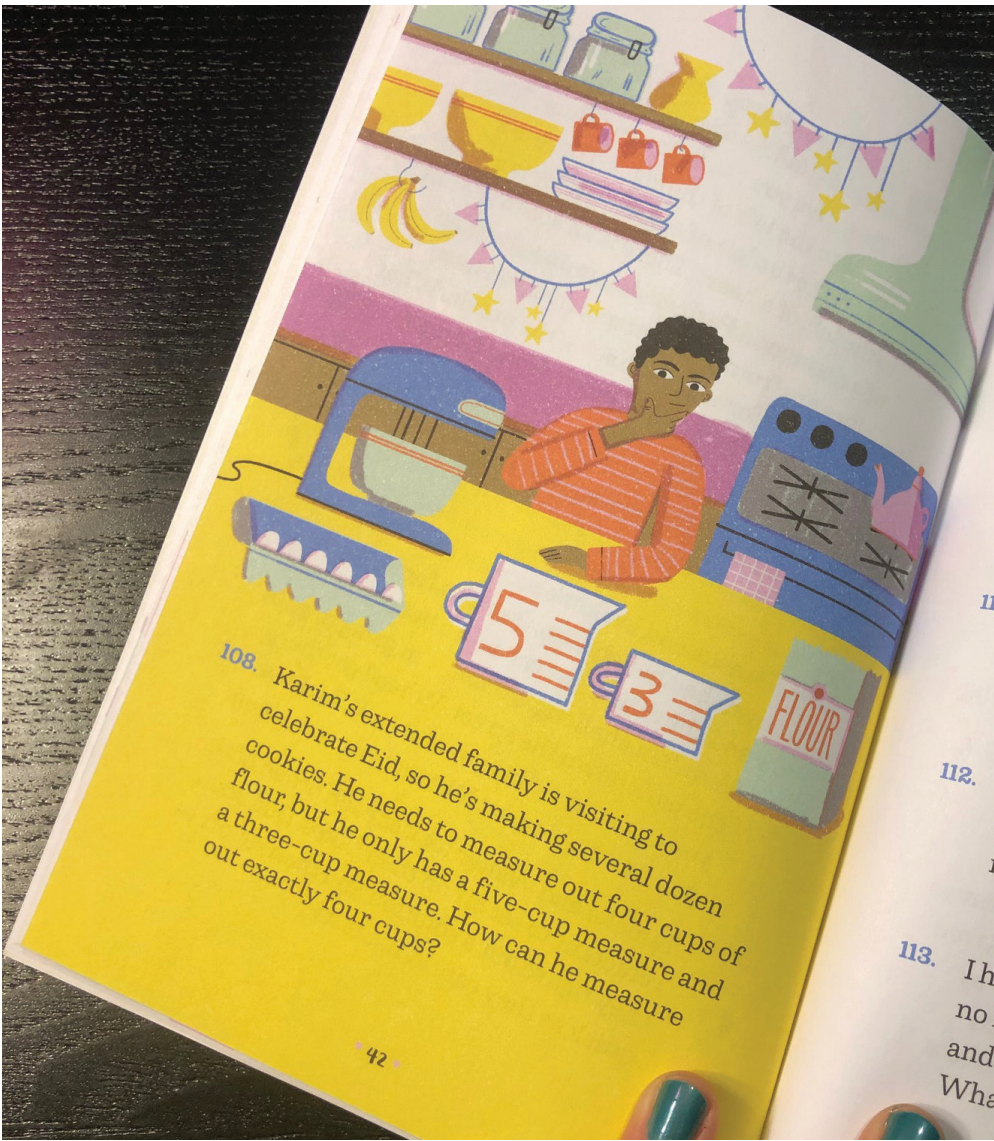
Photos by Amanda Thrasher

# Book: Hall’s weekly trivia night sessions inspired book

Continued from Page B1

**The process**  
Hall started working on the book earlier this year after she was approached by a publishing company that asked if she’d be interested in creating a riddle book. “The first thing I did was write an example of each type of riddle they wanted ... One of them is ‘the Riddle of the Sphinx.’ I wrote a blurb saying, ‘Did you know that this riddle originates from the ancient Greek play ‘Oedipus’?’ Then they greenlighted me to write more,” Hall said. “The whole process was very fast since they are riddles and it’s not a novel.”  
Hall was given six weeks to come up with the book’s questions and themes. “My challenge was to try to create a variety of riddles where the thinking was different, required me to step outside of myself and come up with different kinds of logic,” Hall said. “That’s also the challenge of any teacher, to take something that’s easy to you and think about it from the student’s perspective.”

Hall tried to create a range of puzzles that will engage “different players so they’ll find different successes in different places,” she said.  
Part of Hall’s inspiration for the book came from her weekly trivia night sessions, which she’s gone to for the last seven years with her wife, Amanda. “My wife always says she hates riddles because all you’re trying to do is figure out the answer to the puzzle that the creator already has,” Hall said. “Trivia is like riddles. It’s not about being smart, it’s about thinking carefully. It helps to know a lot of stuff but you can arrive at an answer by thinking it through ... This book isn’t for smart kids, this book is for curious kids.”

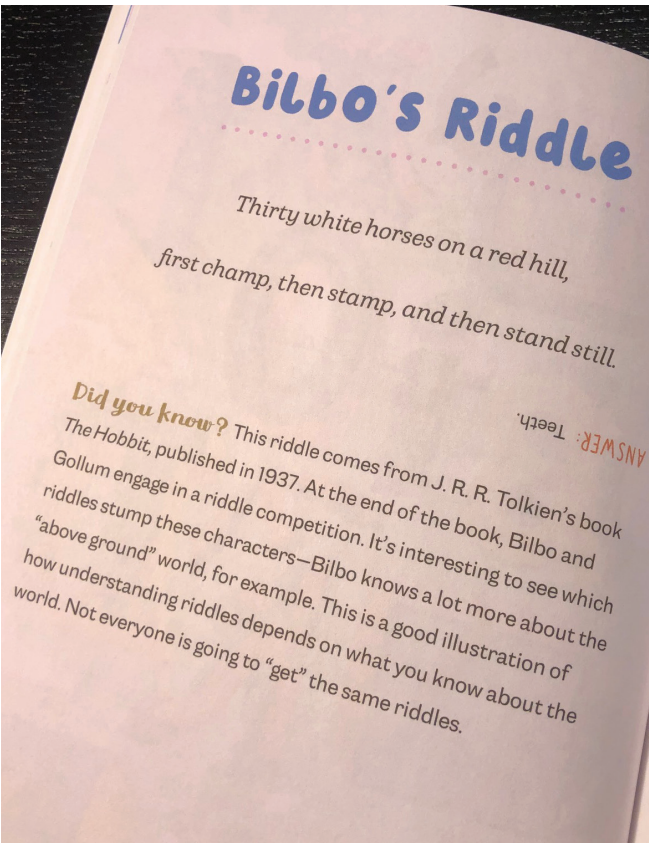


Hall’s book features a diverse group of characters.

**Representation**  
In addition to putting together the riddles, Hall created characters that are seen throughout the book. Some of the characters are inspired by real people, like Hall’s friends Ashraf and Vennietta. “I knew it would be really powerful for kids to

have characters throughout this book as if it’s a story,” Hall said. “Astoria is a very white community but I knew this book would be used in homes and classrooms throughout the United States so I wanted the characters to be representative.”  
Toward the beginning stages of the book, Hall told

her editors she wanted the book’s characters to showcase a diverse group of cultures and ethnicities. “An editor said at first, ‘Don’t you think that’d be confusing for kids, to have a character with a name like Ashraf?’ But the president of Afghanistan is named Ashraf. There are famous



One of the riddles in Hall’s book.

futbol players named Ashraf,” Hall said. “It’s not a very different name if you’re those people. I insisted and was extremely happy that they listened to me.”  
Hall’s other friend, Vennietta, had never seen any riddles or classroom problems that use her name, even though she’s an educator, Hall said. The fact was

something she kept in mind when creating the book’s characters. “As an educator, it’s really important to be intentional about names because it’s literally the least we can do to make our students feel represented and happy,” Hall said.  
The book is available at Lucy’s Books and online through Amazon.

**OREGON CAPITAL INSIDER**

Get the inside scoop on state government and politics!

**We're investing in Salem coverage when other news organizations are cutting back.**

**OregonCapitalInsider.com**

## Benefit More From Your Giving

Rates for Charitable Gift Annuities — gifts that pay you income for life — are high. You'll receive dependable income when you give this type of gift to the OHSU Foundation. Plus, you'll feel good knowing you're making a significant impact on the future of OHSU.

**How It Works**  
With a charitable gift annuity, you make a donation using cash, marketable securities or other assets, and we, in turn, pay you a fixed amount for life. It's a great way to supplement your income and feel secure during retirement.

**We Can Help**  
We would be happy to send you a free, no-obligation illustration showing the benefits you can receive from a charitable gift annuity. Your personalized illustration will include your potential income tax charitable deduction and our annual payments to you for life. **Call or visit us online for more information.**

**OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING / 503-228-1730**  
[giftplanning.ohsufoundation.org](http://giftplanning.ohsufoundation.org) / [giftplanning.dchfoundation.org](http://giftplanning.dchfoundation.org)

OHSU & Doernbecher FOUNDATIONS

| CURRENT RATES TWO RECIPIENTS |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| Ages                         | Rate |
| 60/65                        | 4.0% |
| 65/70                        | 4.4% |
| 70/75                        | 4.8% |
| 75/80                        | 5.3% |
| 80/85                        | 6.2% |
| 85/90                        | 7.5% |
| 90/95+                       | 8.8% |

Rates are subject to change. Please contact us for a personalized illustration.