By Rob McCarthy

The top-selling illustrated children’s book this week in America is *Oh, the Places You’ll Go* by Dr. Seuss. It’s filled with wit and wisdom for graduates who may feel small as they leave the cocoon of their familiar childhood routines. The book’s theme boils down to this: leave the nest, see what’s out there.

Parents and librarians who buy children’s books in the hopes of turning youngsters into lifelong readers could be facing hard times of their own soon because of the tariff dispute with China. Publishers appeared this week at trade hearings in Washington, D.C., where they made their case for why books -- including children’s illustrated titles -- should be excluded from the 25 percent tariff on incoming goods from China.

“Children’s books, like adult books, are key to reading programs for South Bay cities. The publishers’ representatives can hope he’s right about their chances with the president’s point man on the Chinese trade negotiations. Lighthizer plans to take seven days of testimony from industry representatives for consumer and industrial products that made the Chinese import tariff list. The higher 25 percent import tariff on incoming goods from China took effect on June 15. It upped the 10 percent tariff that had been imposed on Beijing last year as the Trump administration pressured the Chinese government to pursue free market-oriented policies and become a “more responsible member” of the World Trade Organization.

Information about children’s summer reading programs for South Bay cities is available online. The Inglewood Public Library’s program runs through August 10. A list of activities and upcoming special events is detailed at https://www.cityofinglewood.org/118/Childrens-Services. Hawthorne and Lawndale residents can find children’s reading services at a library branch nearest them at https://lacountylibrary.org/hawthorne-library/.

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