

BOOK CLUB COLLECTION

Updated April 2023

FICTION

***The Age of Innocence* – Edith Wharton – Winner of the Pulitzer Prize**

265 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, Playaway, eAudio, and dvd. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

Edith Wharton's most famous novel, written immediately after the end of the First World War, is a brilliantly realized anatomy of New York society in the 1870s. The charming Newland Archer is content to live within its constraints until he meets Ellen Olenska, whose arrival threatens his impending marriage as well as his comfortable future. (publisher)

***The Alchemist* – Paulo Coelho**

177 pages. Also available: large print, cd book, graphic novel, eBook, and eAudio. Guide in book.

The charming tale of Santiago, a shepherd boy who dreams of seeing the world, is compelling in its own right, but gains resonance through the many lessons Santiago learns during his adventures. He journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success, and eventually to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment. The story has the comic charm, dramatic tension and psychological intensity of a fairy tale, but it's full of specific wisdom as well, about becoming self-empowered, overcoming depression, and believing in dreams. (PW)

***Alias Grace* – Margaret Atwood**

468 pages. Also available: large print and eBook. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

A finalist for the Booker Prize, a national best-seller by the author of *The Handmaid's Tale* tells the story of an enigmatic Victorian woman accused of a double murder and the psychologist who treats her.

***The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* -- Fannie Flagg**

367 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, and eAudio, and cd book. Guide in book.

Mrs. Sookie Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing and perhaps traveling with her husband, Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her mother, the formidable Lenore Simmons Krackenberry. One day, quite by accident, Sookie discovers a secret about her mother's past that knocks her for a loop and suddenly calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future. Sookie begins a search for answers that takes her to California, the Midwest, and back in time, to the 1940s, when an irrepressible woman named Fritzi takes on the job of running her family's filling station. Soon truck drivers are changing their routes to fill up at the All-Girl Filling Station. As Sookie learns about the adventures of the girls at the All-Girl Filling Station, she finds herself with new inspiration for her own life. (publisher)

***All That We Carried* – Erin Bartels**

360 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio.

Estranged sisters embark on a hiking trip on the tenth anniversary of their parents' deaths in an attempt to reconnect. In the wilderness of Michigan's Upper Peninsula they'll face their deepest fears, question their most dearly held beliefs, and begin to see that perhaps the best way to move forward is the one way they had never considered--(publisher)

***Angle of Repose* – Wallace Stegner – Winner of the Pulitzer Prize**

632 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com

The classic novel traces the lives and fortunes of four generations of one family as they attempt to build a life for themselves in the American West.

***Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* – Benjamin Alire Sáenz – Stonewall Book Award Winner**

529 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book. Guide at nicoloraovirtualibrary.org

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship--the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

***The Art of Racing in the Rain* – Garth Stein**

321 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway, eAudio, and dvd. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Nearing the end of his life, Enzo, a dog with a philosopher's soul, tries to bring together the family, pulled apart by a three-year custody battle between daughter Zoe's maternal grandparents and her father Denny, a race car driver.

***As the Poppies Bloomed* -- Maral Boyadjian**

Historical Fiction

281 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. No guide.

It is 1913 and late summer in the Ottoman Empire. Outside the village leader's home, Anno, his youngest daughter, slips out unseen. She heads to a secret meeting place. She forgets that enemies surround her village. She forgets that her father meets each day with trepidation. She knows only the love she has for Daron, who waits for her as she hastens to him, once again breaking the ancient rules of courtship. Anno and Daron wish for nothing more than marriage and a better day alongside their neighbors, but neither is prepared for the dark, dangerous secret that Daron's father keeps or the upheaval that will soon envelop their village, their land, and their hearts. (publisher)

***Atonement* – Ian McEwan**

351 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway, and dvd. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

The Booker Prize-winning author of *Amsterdam* creates a richly textured novel, set in 1935 England that follows thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis, who witnesses an event involving her sister Cecilia and her childhood friend Robbie Turner, as she becomes the victim of her own imagination, which tears her family apart and leads her on a lifelong search of truth and absolution.

***The Aviator's Wife* – Melanie Benjamin**

402 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at melaniebenjamin.com.

When Anne Morrow, a shy college senior with hidden literary aspirations, travels to Mexico City to spend Christmas with her family, she meets Colonel Charles Lindbergh, fresh off his celebrated 1927 solo flight across the Atlantic. Enthralled by Charles's assurance and fame, Anne is certain the aviator has scarcely noticed her. But she is wrong. Charles sees in Anne a kindred spirit, a fellow adventurer, and her world will be changed forever. The two marry in a headline-making wedding. In the years that follow, Anne becomes the first licensed female glider pilot in the United States. But despite this and other major achievements, she is viewed merely as the aviator's wife. The fairy-tale life she once longed for will bring heartbreak and hardships, ultimately pushing her to reconcile her need for love and her desire for independence, and to embrace, at last, life's infinite possibilities for change and happiness. (publisher)

***The Bean Trees* – Barbara Kingsolver**

246 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Taylor Greer leaves her poverty-stricken life in Kentucky and heads west, picking up an abandoned Native American baby girl whom she names Turtle and finds a new home in Tucson.

***The Bear and the Nightingale* – Katherine Arden**

322 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

In a village at the edge of the wilderness of northern Russia, where the winds blow cold and the snow falls many months of the year, a stranger with piercing blue eyes presents a new father with a gift - a precious

jewel on a delicate chain, intended for his young daughter. Uncertain of its meaning, Rytov hides the gift away and Vasya grows up a wild, willful girl, to the chagrin of her family. But when mysterious forces threaten the happiness of their village, Vasya discovers that, armed only with the necklace, she may be the only one who can keep the darkness at bay. (publisher)

***Bel Canto* – Ann Patchett**

313 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, eAudio, and dvd. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxane Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan.

***Beneath a Marble Sky* – John Shors**

Historical Fiction

324 pages. Also available: large print, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

In seventeenth-century Hindustan, the reigning emperor, grieving over the death of his beloved wife, commissions the construction of the Taj Mahal as a monument to their lasting relationship, in an account narrated by Princess Jahanara, the couple's daughter, who embarks on a love affair with the architect of the landmark. John Shors, a Colorado College graduate, is available for discussion for your meeting via johnshors.com.

***Beneath a Scarlet Sky* – Mark Sullivan**

Historical Fiction

509 pages. Also available: large print, cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com

In 1940s Italy, teenager Pino Lella joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps and falls for a beautiful widow, he also becomes the personal driver of one of the Third Reich's most powerful commanders.

***Beside a Burning Sea* -- John Shors**

424 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide in book.

One moment, the World War II hospital ship Benevolence is patrolling the South Pacific on a mission of mercy to save wounded American soldiers. The next, Benevolence is split in two by a torpedo, killing almost everyone on board. A small band of survivors, including an injured Japanese soldier and a young American nurse whom he saves from drowning, makes it to the deserted shore of a nearby island. Akira has suffered five years of bloodshed and horror fighting for the Japanese empire. Now, surrounded by enemies he is supposed to hate, he instead finds solace in their company and rediscovers his love of poetry. While sharing the mystery and beauty of this passion with Annie, the captivating but tormented woman he rescued, Akira grapples with the pain of his past while helping Annie uncover the promise of her future. Meanwhile, the remaining castaways endure a world not of their making a world as barbaric as it is beautiful, as hateful as it is loving.

***Between Shades of Gray* – Ruta Sepetys**

Historical Fiction

344 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and graphic novel. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp. Lina fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family, includes a historical note. (publisher)

***Big Stone Gap* – Adriana Trigiani**

272 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, dvd, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Town pharmacist and local spinster Ave Maria has been keeping the secrets of Stone Gap for a long time, but now a skeleton is about to tumble from her own family closet. Overflowing with humor and compassion, Big Stone Gap is the enchanting story of a woman who thinks life has passed her by, only to learn that the best is yet to come. Set in Virginia's Appalachian Mountains, the novel follows Ave Maria Mulligan on her quest to discover just who she is and what she wants out of life. (Book Page)

***Black Cake* – Charmaine Wilkerson**

382 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio. Reading guide in book.

We can't choose what we inherit. But can we choose who we become? In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage and themselves. Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor's true history, and fulfill her final request to "share the black cake when the time is right"? Will their mother's revelations bring them back together or leave them feeling more lost than ever? Charmaine Wilkerson's debut novel is a story of how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets, memories, and even names can shape relationships and history. Deeply evocative and beautifully written, *Black Cake* is an extraordinary journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch.

***Bless Me, Ultima* – Rudolfo Anaya**

290 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, dvd, and cd book. Guide at blackgold.org.

A lyrical coming-of-age story that *The New York Times* called "probably the best-known and most-respected contemporary Chicano fiction," this novel explores the complex relationship between medicine and belief.

***Blessings* – Anna Quindlen**

237 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, eAudio. Guide in book.

When a teenage couple abandons their baby at the gate of the estate owned by Lydia Blessing, Skip Cuddy, the estate caretaker, decides to raise the child himself, a decision that has a profound effect on the lives of everyone in the community.

***Blue Diary* – Alice Hoffman**

303 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and Playaway. Guide in book.

The revelation of a dark secret about Ethan Ford's true identity and his past threatens to turn a small Massachusetts town upside down as the truth shatters Monroe's small-town peace and tests the bonds between family and friends.

***The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* -- Kim Michele Richardson**

308 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio, cd book, and Playaway. Guide in book.

Tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. She joins Roosevelt's Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a traveling librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky. Along her route, Cussy faces doubters at every turn, but is determined to bring the joy of books to the hardscrabble Kentuckians. (publisher)

***The Book Thief* – Markus Zusak**

552 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway, eAudio, large print, and dvd. Guide in book.

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

***Booked to Die* – John Dunning**

Mystery

394 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. No guide.

Denver homicide detective Cliff Janeway may not always play by the book, but he is an avid collector of rare and first editions. After a local book scout is killed on his turf, Janeway would like nothing better than to

rearrange the suspect's spine. But the suspect, local lowlife Jackie Newton, is a master at eluding the law, and Janeway's wrathful brand of off-duty justice costs him his badge. Turning to his lifelong passion, Janeway opens a small bookshop -- all the while searching for evidence to put Newton away. But when prized volumes in a highly sought-after collection begin to appear, so do dead bodies. Now, Janeway's life is about to start a precarious new chapter as he attempts to find out who's dealing death along with vintage Chandlers and Twains. (publisher)

***Broken for You* – Stephanie Kallos**

371 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide in book.

Two very different women, each with her own dark secrets – wealthy, reclusive septuagenarian Margaret Hughes, living alone with her vast collection of priceless antiques, and Wanda Schultz, a brokenhearted young woman in search of her wayward boyfriend – find new meaning and redemption in their growing friendship with each other.

***Calling Invisible Women* – Jeanne Ray**

225 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, and eAudio. Guide in book.

Feeling unattractive and unappreciated as she enters her fifties, wife and mother Clover wakes up one morning and discovers that she has actually become invisible, a condition that goes unnoticed by her family.

***The Cellist of Sarajevo* – Steven Galloway – 2013 APPR title**

235 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway, and eAudio. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

While a cellist plays at the site of a mortar attack to commemorate the deaths of twenty-two friends and neighbors, two other men set out in search of bread and water to keep themselves alive, and a woman sniper secretly protects the life of the cellist as her army becomes increasingly threatening.

***The Chaperone* – Laura Moriarty**

406 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, dvd, large print, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Accompanying a future famous actress, Louise Brooks, from her Wichita home to New York, chaperone Cora Carlisle shares a life-changing five-week period with her ambitious teenage charge during which she discovers the promise of the twentieth century and her own purpose in life.

***Christmas Days: 12 stories and 12 feasts for 12 days* -- Jeannette Winterson**

292 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. No guide.

A collection of stories written annually at Christmas includes tales of trees with magical powers, a tinsel baby that talks, flying dogs, philosophical fairies, and a haunted house.

***Circe* -- Madeline Miller**

Historical Fiction

393 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio, cd book, and Playaway. Guide in book.

Follows Circe, the banished witch daughter of Helios, as she hones her powers and interacts with famous mythological beings before a conflict with one of the most vengeful Olympians forces her to choose between the worlds of the gods and mortals. (publisher)

***Claire of the Sea Light* – Edwidge Danticat**

238 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, and cd book. Guide at litlovers.com.

Just as her father makes the wrenching decision to send her away for a chance at a better life, Claire Limyè Lanmè—Claire of the Sea Light—suddenly disappears. As the people of the Haitian seaside community of Ville Rose search for her, painful secrets, haunting memories, and startling truths are unearthed. In this stunning novel about intertwined lives, Edwidge Danticat crafts a tightly woven, breathtaking tapestry that explores the mysterious bonds we share—with the natural world and with one another. (publisher)

***Cleopatra's Daughter* – Michelle Moran**

Historical Fiction

447 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

A tale inspired by the lives of the children of Cleopatra and Marc Antony finds Selene, her twin Alexander and their younger brother Ptolemy sent to the palace of a formidable family rival after the deaths of their parents, where they adapt to Roman culture while making perilous journeys toward adulthood.

***Cold Comfort Farm* – Stella Gibbons**

232 pages. Also available: cd book, eBook, eAudio, and dvd. Guide at fremontgreatbooks.org.

A hilarious parody of D. H. Lawrence and Thomas Hardy's earthy, melodramatic novels, the deliriously entertaining *Cold Comfort Farm* is "very probably the funniest book ever written" (*The Sunday Times*). When sensible, sophisticated Flora Poste is orphaned at nineteen, she decides her only choice is to descend upon relatives in deepest Sussex. At the aptly named Cold Comfort Farm, she meets the doomed Starkadders: cousin Judith; Amos; their sons, Seth and Reuben; and Aunt Ada Doom. But Flora loves nothing better than to organize other people. (publisher)

***Comfort and Joy* – Kristin Hannah**

237 pages. Also available: Playaway. No guide.

Recently divorced and having no family of her own, Joy Candellaro is beginning to dream of a new life with widower Daniel O'Shea and his son, Bobby, until a fateful Christmas Eve forces her to make a painful choice.

***Confessions of Frannie Langton* – Sara Collins**

Thriller

375 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, large print, and Playaway. Guide at bookbrowse.com

A servant and former slave is accused of murdering her employer and his wife in this astonishing historical thriller that moves from a Jamaican sugar plantation to the fetid streets of Georgian London.

***Crazy Rich Asians* – Kevin Kwan**

403 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, dvd, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

When New Yorker Rachel Chu agrees to spend the summer in Singapore with her boyfriend, Nicholas Young, she envisions a humble family home and quality time with the man she hopes to marry. But Nick has failed to give his girlfriend a few key details. One, that his childhood home looks like a palace; two, that he grew up riding in more private planes than cars; and three, that he just happens to be the country's most eligible bachelor. (publisher)

***Crossing to Safety* – Wallace Stegner**

335 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and Playaway. Guide at litlovers.com.

Crossing to Safety has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage. (publisher)

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* – Mark Haddon**

226 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, and Playaway. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

***Cutting for Stone* – Abraham Verghese**

667 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Twin brothers born from a secret love affair between an Indian nun and a British surgeon in Addis Ababa, Marion and Shiva Stone come of age in Ethiopia, where their love for the same woman drives them apart.

***Daughter of Fortune* – Isabel Allende**

Historical Fiction

399 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

raised in the British colony of Valparaiso, Chile, after being abandoned as a baby, a pregnant Eliza follows her lover, Joaquin Andieta, to California at the height of the Gold Rush and finds adventure and adversity on her road to independence and love.

Death Below Stairs – Jennifer Ashley

Mystery

329 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, and large print. No guide.

Highly sought-after young cook Kat Holloway takes a position in a Mayfair mansion and soon finds herself immersed in the odd household of Lord Rankin. Kat is unbothered by the family's eccentricities as long as they stay away from her kitchen, but trouble finds its way below stairs when her young Irish assistant is murdered. Intent on discovering who killed the helpless kitchen maid, Kat turns to the ever-capable Daniel McAdam, who is certainly much more than the charming delivery man he pretends to be. Along with the assistance of Lord Rankin's unconventional sister-in-law and a mathematical genius, Kat and Daniel discover that the household murder was the barest tip of a plot rife with danger and treason--one that's a threat to Queen Victoria herself. (publisher)

Disappearing Earth – Julia Phillips

255 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and large print. Guide at www.penguinrandomhouse.com.

One August afternoon, on the shoreline of the Kamchatka peninsula at the northeastern edge of Russia, two sisters, eight and eleven, go missing. In the ensuing months the police investigation turns up nothing. Echoes of the disappearance reverberate across a tightly woven community, with the fear and loss felt most deeply among its women. Connected by the crime: a witness, a neighbor, a detective, a mother. Social and ethnic tensions have long simmered in the region, and outsiders are often the first to be accused..." (publisher)

The Dog Stars – Peter Heller

319 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

Surviving a pandemic disease that has killed everyone he knows, a pilot establishes a shelter in an abandoned airport hangar before hearing a random radio transmission that compels him to risk his life to seek out other survivors.

The Dressmaker – Kate Alcott

Historical Fiction

306 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

A spirited young maid on board the Titanic captures the attentions of two men including a kindhearted sailor and an enigmatic Chicago millionaire and barely escapes with her life before witnessing media scorn targeting her famous designer mistress.

Eating Heaven – Jennie Shortridge

269 pages. Also available: eBook. Guide in book,

Eleanor Samuels, a large and lonely food magazine writer, has some big-time food "issues" of her own. Faced with her favorite uncle's terminal illness, Eleanor becomes his primary caretaker, feeding him all his favorite foods one last time. As she cooks and cleans and tends to Uncle Benny's increasing needs, she discovers long-buried secrets about her emotionally frayed family that tear her world apart. Through cooking, nurturing, and a delicious flirtation with a new chef in town, Eleanor comes to terms with eating and love, family and forgiveness, and becoming comfortable in her own skin. (readinggroupguides.com)

Eleanor & Park -- Rainbow Rowell

328 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at macmillan.com.

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog – Muriel Barbery

325 pages. Also available: eBook, Playaway, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

The lives of fifty-four-year-old concierge Rene Michel and extremely bright, suicidal twelve-year-old Paloma Josse are transformed by the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu.

***Every Day* – David Levithan**

324 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and dvd. Guide at litlovers.com. Every morning A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached, until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon.

***Excellent Women* – Barbara Pym**

256 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

Mildred Lathbury is a clergyman's daughter and a mild-mannered spinster in 1950s England. She is one of those excellent women, the smart, supportive, repressed women who men take for granted. As Mildred gets embroiled in the lives of her new neighbors, anthropologist Helena Napier and her handsome, dashing husband, Rocky, and Julian Malory, the vicar next door, the novel presents a series of snapshots of human life as actually, and pluckily, lived in a vanishing world of manners and repressed desires. (publisher)

***Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury**

249 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway, eAudio, and DVD. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

This novel is a soothsayer, warning of a future populated by non-readers and non-thinkers, a lost people with no sense of their history. At the same time it salutes those who dedicate their lives to the preservation and passing on of knowledge, and testifies to the quiet or passionate courage of the rebel with a cause. Fahrenheit also poses questions about the role(s) of government: Should it reflect the will of the people? Should government do the people's thinking for them?

***Faithful Place* – Tana French**

Mystery

400 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, Playaway, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

In 1985, 19-year-old Frank Mackey and his girlfriend, Rosie Daly, made secret plans to elope to England and start a new life together far away from their families, particularly the hard-drinking Mackeys. But when Rosie doesn't meet Frank the night they're meant to leave and he finds a note, Frank assumes she's left him behind. For 22 years, Frank, who becomes an undercover cop, stays away from Faithful Place, his childhood Dublin neighborhood. When his younger sister, Jackie, calls to tell him that someone found Rosie's suitcase hidden in an abandoned house, Frank reluctantly returns. Now everything he thought he knew is turned upside down: did Rosie really leave that night, or did someone stop her before she could? (PW)

***The Fault in Our Stars* – John Green**

318 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, dvd, Spanish Language eBook, and Playaway. Guide at litlovers.com.

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few more years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis, but when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at the Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

***Finlay Donovan is Killing It* – Elle Cosimano**

Mystery

355 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio. Guide in book.

As a stressed-out single mom of two and struggling novelist, Finlay Donovan finds her life in chaos. When Finlay is overheard discussing the plot of her new suspense novel with her agent over lunch, she's mistaken for a contract killer, and inadvertently accepts an offer to dispose of a problem husband. She soon becomes tangled in a murder investigation.

***Firefly Lane* – Kristin Hannah**

479 pages. Also available: Playaway, eBook, and cd book. Guide in book.

Inseparable best friends Kate and Tully, two young women who, despite their very different lives, have vowed to be there for each other forever, have been true to their promise for thirty years, until events and choices in their lives tear them apart. *Firefly Lane* is for anyone who ever drank Boone's Farm apple wine while listening to Abba or Fleetwood Mac. More than a coming-of-age novel, it's the story of a generation of women who were both blessed and cursed by choices. It's about promises and secrets and betrayals. And ultimately, about the one person who really, truly knows you---and knows what has the power to hurt you . . . and heal you. (publisher)

The First Phone Call from Heaven -- Mitch Albom

326 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

This extraordinary novel, taking readers on a journey both of individual healing and society's response to the question of life after life, follows a single father just released from prison as he sets out to prove that the mysterious calls from beyond to the residents of Coldwater, Michigan, are nothing but a hoax.

The Five Wounds -- Kirstin Valdez Quade

419 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide readinggroupchoices.com

It's Holy Week in the small town of Las Penas, New Mexico, and thirty-three-year-old unemployed Amadeo Padilla has been given the part of Jesus in the Good Friday procession. He is preparing feverishly for this role when his fifteen-year-old daughter Angel shows up pregnant on his doorstep and disrupts his plans for personal redemption. With weeks to go until her due date, tough, ebullient Angel has fled her mother's house, setting her life on a startling new path.

Flights -- Olga Tokarczuk

403 pages. Guide at bookrags.com.

A seventeenth-century Dutch anatomist discovers the Achilles tendon by dissecting his own amputated leg. Chopin's heart is carried back to Warsaw in secret by his adoring sister. A woman must return to her native Poland in order to poison her terminally ill high school sweetheart, and a young man slowly descends into madness when his wife and child mysteriously vanish during a vacation and just as suddenly reappear. Through these brilliantly imagined characters and stories, interwoven with haunting, playful, and revelatory meditations, *Flights* explores what it means to be a traveler, a wanderer, a body in motion not only through space but through time. Where are you from? Where are you coming in from? Where are you going? we call to the traveler. Enchanting, unsettling, and wholly original, *Flights* is a master storyteller's answer. (publisher)

The Forgotten Garden -- Kate Morton

552 pages. Also available: eBook and cd book. Guide in book.

Abandoned on a 1913 voyage to Australia, Nell is raised by a dock master and his wife who do not tell her until she grows up that she is not their child, a situation that causes her to return to England and eventually hand down her quest for answers to her granddaughter.

Get a Life, Chloe Brown -- Talia Hibbert

369 pages. Also available: large print, Playaway, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com

Chloe Brown is a chronically ill computer geek with a goal, a plan, and a list. After almost--but not quite--dying, she's come up with seven directives to help her 'Get a life', and she's already completed the first: finally moving out of her glamorous family's mansion. The next items? Enjoy a drunken night out; ride a motorcycle; go camping; have meaningless but thoroughly enjoyable sex; travel the world with nothing but hand luggage; and do something bad. But it's not easy being bad, even when you've written step-by-step guidelines on how to do it correctly. What Chloe needs is a teacher, and she knows just the man for the job. Redford 'Red' Morgan is a handyman with tattoos, a motorcycle, and more sex appeal than ten-thousand Hollywood heartthrobs. He's also an artist who paints at night and hides his work in the light of day, which Chloe knows because she spies on him occasionally ... But when she enlists Red in her mission to rebel, she learns things about him that no spy session could teach her. Like why he clearly resents Chloe's wealthy background. And why he never shows his art to anyone. And what really lies beneath his rough exterior.

The Ghost Bride -- Yangsze Choo

502 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Li Lan, the daughter of a respectable Chinese family in colonial Malaysia, hopes for a favorable marriage, but her father has lost his fortune, and she has few suitors. Instead, the wealthy Lim family urges her to become a ghost bride for their son, who has recently died under mysterious circumstances. Rarely practiced, a traditional ghost marriage is used to placate a restless spirit. Such a union would guarantee Li Lan a home for the rest of her days, but at what price? Night after night, Li Lan is drawn into the shadowy parallel world of the Chinese afterlife, where she must uncover the Lim family's darkest secrets and the truth about her own family. (publisher)

***Girl Waits with Gun* – Amy Stewart**

408 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Constance Kopp doesn't quite fit the mold. She towers over most men, has no interest in marriage or domestic affairs, and has been isolated from the world since a family secret sent her and her sisters into hiding fifteen years ago. One day a belligerent and powerful silk factory owner runs down their buggy, and a dispute over damages turns into a war of bricks, bullets, and threats as he unleashes his gang on their family farm. When the sheriff enlists her help in convicting the men, Constance is forced to confront her past and defend her family -- and she does it in a way that few women of 1914 would have dared. (publisher)

***Girl, Woman, Other* – Bernadine Evaristo**

452 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at bookbrowse.com.

Girl, woman, other is a celebration of the diversity of Black British experience. Moving, hopeful, and inventive, this extraordinary novel is a vivid portrait of the state of contemporary Britain and the legacy of Britain's colonial history in Africa and the Caribbean. The twelve central characters of this multi-voiced novel lead vastly different lives, from a nonbinary social media influencer to a 93-year-old woman living on a farm in Northern England. These unforgettable characters also intersect in shared aspects of their identities, from age to race to sexuality to class. Girl, woman, other is a polyphonic and richly textured social novel that reminds us of everything that connects us to our neighbors, even in times when we are encouraged to be split apart. (publisher)

***Gods of Jade and Shadow* – Silvia Moreno-Garcia. Nebula Award finalist**

338 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

The Jazz Age is in full swing, but Casiopea Tun is too busy cleaning the floors of her wealthy grandfather's house to listen to any fast tunes. Nevertheless, she dreams of a life far from her dusty small town in southern Mexico. Yet this new life seems as distant as the stars, until the day she finds a curious wooden box in her grandfather's room. She opens it--and accidentally frees the spirit of the Mayan god of death, who requests her help in recovering his throne from his treacherous brother. Failure will mean Casiopea's demise, but success could make her dreams come true. In the company of the strangely alluring god and armed with her wits, Casiopea begins an adventure that will take her on a cross-country odyssey from the jungles of Yucatán to the bright lights of Mexico City--and deep into the darkness of the Mayan underworld. (publisher)

***The Good Earth* – Pearl Buck - Winner of the Pulitzer Prize**

316 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, eAudio, Playaway, and dvd. Guide in book.

A Chinese peasant overcomes the forces of nature and the frailties of human nature to become a wealthy landowner.

***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* - Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows**

277 pages. Also available: eBook, large print, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

In 1946, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next book in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey, who tells her about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club born as an alibi during German occupation.

***Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood**

311 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, dvd, graphic novel, and cd book. Guide at litlovers.com

A chilling look at the near future presents the story of *Urania*, a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, once the United States, an oppressive world where women are no longer allowed to read and are valued only as long as they are viable for reproduction.

***The Hate U Give* – Angie Thomas**

444 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, Playaway, and dvd. Guide at readinggroupguides.com. Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

***The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* – Carson McCullers**

359 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, and dvd. Guide at readinggroupguides.com. With its profound sense of moral isolation and its compassionate glimpses into its characters' inner lives, the novel is considered McCullers' finest work. At its center is the deaf-mute John Singer, who becomes the confidant for all various types of misfits in a Georgia mill town during the 1930s. Each one yearns for escape from small town life. When Singer's mute companion goes insane, Singer moves into the Kelly house, where Mick Kelly, the book's heroine, finds solace in her music. Wonderfully attune to the spiritual isolation that underlies the human condition, and with a deft sense for racial tensions in the South, McCullers spins a haunting, unforgettable story that gives voice to the rejected, the forgotten, and the mistreated -- and, through Mick Kelly, gives voice to the quiet, intensely personal search for beauty. (publisher)

***The Henna Artist* -Alka Joshi**

342 pages. Also available: large print, cd book, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at bookclubchat.com. Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist - and confidante - to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own...Known for her original designs and sage advice, Lakshmi must tread carefully to avoid the jealous gossips who could ruin her reputation and her livelihood. As she pursues her dream of an independent life, she is startled one day when she is confronted by her husband, who has tracked her down these many years later with a high-spirited young girl in tow - a sister Lakshmi never knew she had. Suddenly the caution that she has carefully cultivated as protection is threatened. Still she perseveres, applying her talents and lifting up those that surround her as she does.

***Homegoing* – Yaa Gyasi**

305 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and Playaway. Guide at litlovers.com. Effia and Esi are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. From the plantations of the South to the Civil War and the Great Migration, from the coal mines of Pratt City, Alabama, to the jazz clubs and dope houses of twentieth-century Harlem, right up through the present day, *Homegoing* makes history visceral, and captures, with singular and stunning immediacy, how the memory of captivity came to be inscribed in the soul of a nation. (publisher)

***The House of Broken Angels* – Luis Alberto Urrea**

321 pages. Also available: cd book, eBook, eAudio. Beloved patriarch Miguel Angel de La Cruz, affectionately called Big Angel, has summoned his entire clan for one last legendary birthday bash. As the party approaches, his nearly one-hundred-year-old mother dies, transforming the weekend into a farewell doubleheader. Among the guests is Big Angel's half brother, known as Little Angel, who must reckon with his identity as part gringo and with the differences between his siblings' lives and his own. Across two bittersweet but riotous days in their San Diego neighborhood, four generations celebrate Big Angel and his mother, recounting the many myths that have passed into family

more, the acts both ordinary and heroic that brought the de La Cruzes to this fraught and sublime country they have come to call home.

***The Housekeeper and the Professor* – Yoko Ogawa**

180 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide in book.

A strange relationship blossoms between a brilliant math professor suffering from short-term memory problems following a traumatic head injury and the young housekeeper, the mother of a ten-year-old son, hired to care for him, in an enchanting novel that explores what it means to live in the present and to be part of a family, albeit an unusual one.

***How Beautiful We Were* – Imbolo Mbue**

364 pages. Also available: large print, Playaway, eBook, eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

'We should have known the end was near.' So begins Imbolo Mbue's exquisite and devastating novel. Set in the fictional African village of Kosawa, it tells the story of a people living in fear amidst environmental degradation wrought by a large and powerful American oil company. Pipeline spills have rendered farmlands infertile. Children are dying from drinking toxic water. Promises of clean up and financial reparations to the villagers are made--and ignored. The country's government, led by a corrupt, brazen dictator, exists to serve its own interest. Left with few choices, the people of Kosawa decide to fight the American corporation. Doing so will come at a steep price. Told through multiple perspectives and centered around a fierce young girl named Thula who grows up to become a revolutionary, *How Beautiful We Were* is a masterful exploration of what happens when the reckless drive for profit, coupled with the ghosts of colonialism, comes up against one community's determination to hold on to its ancestral land--and a young woman's willingness to sacrifice everything for the sake of her people's freedom.

***How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* -- Julia Alvarez**

311 pages. Also available e-book, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at litlovers.com.

The García sisters--Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofia--and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father's role in an attempt to overthrow brutal dictator Rafael Trujillo is discovered. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean. In the wondrous but not always welcoming U.S.A., their parents try to hold on to their old ways as the girls try find new lives: by straightening their hair and wearing American fashions, and by forgetting their Spanish. For them, it is at once liberating and excruciating to be caught between the old world and the new. Here they tell their stories about being at home--and not at home--in America. (publisher)

***How to Bake a Perfect Life* – Barbara O'Neal aka Barbara Samuel**

398 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and large print. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com

Professional baker Ramona Gallagher is a master of an art that has sustained her through the most turbulent times, including a baby at fifteen and an endless family feud. But now Ramona's Old Colorado City bakery threatens to crumble around her. Literally. She's one water-heater disaster away from losing her grandmother's rambling Victorian and everything she's worked so hard to build. When Ramona's soldier son-in-law is wounded in Afghanistan, her daughter, Sophia, races to be at his side, leaving Ramona as the only suitable guardian for Sophia's thirteen-year-old stepdaughter, Katie. Heartbroken, Katie feels that she's being dumped again -- this time on the doorstep of a woman out of practice with mothering. By the Colorado Springs author of *The Lost Recipe for Happiness* and many others as Barbara Samuel and Ruth Wind. Contact Barbara via barbaraoneal.com with requests to attend your meetings.

***I Capture the Castle* – Dodie Smith**

343 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, eAudio, and dvd. Guide in book.

The 1934 journal of seventeen-year-old Cassandra Mortmain reveals her perspective on six stormy months in the eccentric and poverty-stricken life of her family in a ruined Suffolk castle, ending with the revelation that Cassandra is deeply in love. J.K. Rowling says, "This book has one of the most charismatic narrators I've ever met."

***I Was Anastasia* – Ariel Lawhon**

333 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and large print. Guide at litlovers.com

A dual narrative exploring the mystery surrounding the death of Anastasia Romanov and the claims of Anna Anderson, the woman long-believed to be the young Grand Duchess' most famous imposter.

If You Only Knew -- Kristan Higgins

411 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. No guide.

Letting go of her ex-husband is harder than wedding-dress designer Jenny Tate expected especially since his new wife wants to be Jenny's new best friend. Sensing this isn't exactly helping her achieve closure, Jenny trades the Manhattan skyline for her hometown up the Hudson, where she'll start her own business and bask in her sister Rachel's picture-perfect family life and maybe even find a little romance of her own with Leo, her downstairs neighbor, a guy who's utterly irresistible and annoyingly distant at the same time. Rachel's idyllic marriage, however, is imploding after she discovers her husband sexting with a colleague. She always thought she'd walk away in this situation, but her triplet daughters have her reconsidering her stance on adultery, much to Jenny's surprise. Rachel points to their parents' perfect marriage as a shining example of patience and forgiveness; but to protect her sister, Jenny may have to tarnish that memory and their relationship and reveal a family secret she's been keeping since childhood. Both Rachel and Jenny will have to come to terms with the past *and* the present and find a way to get what they want most of all. (publisher)

The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells -- Andrew Sean Greer

289 pages. Also available: large print, eBook and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

After the death of her beloved twin brother and the abandonment of her long-time lover, Greta Wells undergoes electroshock therapy. Over the course of the treatment, Greta finds herself repeatedly sent to 1918, 1941, and back to the present. Whisked from the gas-lit streets and horse-drawn carriages of the West Village to a martini-fueled lunch at the Oak Room, in these other worlds, Greta finds her brother alive and well though fearfully masking his true personality. And her former lover is now her devoted husband, but will he be unfaithful to her in this life as well? Greta Wells is fascinated by her alter egos: in 1941, she is a devoted mother; in 1918, she is a bohemian adulteress. Each reality has its own losses, its own rewards; each extracts a different price. Which life will she choose as she wrestles with the unpredictability of love and the consequences of even her most carefully considered choices? (publisher)

The Intern's Handbook -- Shane Kuhn

276 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. No guide.

John Lago is a very bad guy. But he's the very best at what he does. And what he does is infiltrate top-level companies and assassinate crooked executives while disguised as an intern. Interns are invisible. That's the secret behind HR, Inc., the elite "placement agency" that doubles as a network of assassins for hire who take down high-profile targets that wouldn't be able to remember an intern's name if their lives depended on it. At the ripe old age of almost twenty-five, John Lago is already New York City's most successful hit man. He's also an intern at a prestigious Manhattan law firm, clocking eighty hours a week getting coffee, answering phones, and doing all the grunt work actual employees are too lazy to do. He was hired to assassinate one of the firm's heavily guarded partners. His internship provides the perfect cover, enabling him to gather intel and gain access to pull off a clean, untraceable hit. Part confessional, part DIY manual, *The Intern's Handbook* chronicles John's final assignment, a twisted thrill ride in which he is pitted against the toughest—and sexiest—adversary he's ever faced: Alice, an FBI agent assigned to take down the same law partner he's been assigned to kill. (publisher)

Into the Forest -- Jean Hegland

193 pages. Guide at readinggroupguides.com

A delicately wrought modern fable about values, both of individual and of society, tells the moving story of two sisters struggling to survive while too much technology and information overwhelms the world around them.

The Kitchen House -- Kathleen Grissom

368 pages. Also available: large print and cd book. Guide in book.

Orphaned while onboard ship from Ireland, seven-year-old Lavinia arrives on the steps of a tobacco plantation where she is to live and work with the slaves of the kitchen house. Under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate daughter, Lavinia becomes deeply bonded to her adopted family, though she is set apart

from them by her white skin. Eventually, Lavinia is accepted into the world of the big house, where the master is absent and the mistress battles opium addiction. Lavinia finds herself perilously straddling two very different worlds. When she is forced to make a choice, loyalties are brought into question, dangerous truths are laid bare, and lives are put at risk. (publisher)

Land of Shadows – Rachel Howzell Hall

317 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and large print. No reader's guide.

Along the ever-changing border of gentrifying Los Angeles, seventeen-year-old Monique Darson is found dead at a condominium construction site, hanging in the closet of an unfinished unit. Homicide detective Elouise "Lou" Norton's new partner, Colin Taggart, fresh from the comparatively bucolic Colorado Springs police department, assumes it's a teenage suicide. For one thing, the condo site is owned by Napoleon Crase, a self-made millionaire. . .and the man who may have murdered Lou's missing sister, Tori, thirty years ago. As Lou investigates the death of Monique Darson, she uncovers undeniable links between the two cases. But her department is skeptical. Lou is convinced that when she solves Monique's case she will finally bring her lost sister home. But as she gets closer to the truth, she also gets closer to a violent killer. After all this time, can he be brought to justice. . .before Lou becomes his next victim? (Publisher)

The Language of Flowers – Vanessa Diffenbaugh

334 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

Discovering the symbolic meanings of flowers while languishing in the foster-care system, eighteen-year-old Victoria is hired by a florist when her talent for helping others is discovered, a situation that leads her to confront a painful secret from her past.

Last Night at the Telegraph Club – Malinda Lo -Winner of the Stonewall Book Award, National Book Award, and the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature

409 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at penguinclassroom.com

Seventeen-year-old Lily Hu can't remember exactly when the feeling took root--that desire to look, to move closer, to touch. Whenever it started growing, it definitely bloomed the moment she and Kathleen Miller walked under the flashing neon sign of a lesbian bar called the Telegraph Club. Suddenly everything seemed possible. But America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone, including Chinese Americans like Lily. With deportation looming over her father--despite his hard-won citizenship--Lily and Kath risk everything to let their love see the light of day.

The Last Runaway – Tracy Chevalier

320 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

Ohio 1850. For a modest English Quaker stranded far from home, life is a trial. Untethered from the moment she leaves England, fleeing personal disappointment, Honor Bright is forced by family tragedy to rely on strangers in an alien, untamed landscape. Drawn into the clandestine activities of the Underground Railroad, a network helping runaway slaves escape to freedom, Honor befriends two exceptional people who embody the startling power of defiance. Eventually she must decide if she too can act on what she believes in, whatever the personal cost. (publisher)

The Lemoncholy Life of Annie Aster -- Scott Wilbanks

392 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide in book.

Annabelle Aster doesn't bow to convention—not even that of space and time—which makes the 1890s Kansas wheat field that has appeared in her modern-day San Francisco garden easy to accept. Even more peculiar is Elsbeth, the truculent schoolmarm who sends Annie letters through the mysterious brass mailbox perched on the picket fence that now divides their two worlds. Annie and Elsbeth's search for an explanation to the hiccup in the universe linking their homes leads to an unsettling discovery—and potential disaster for both of them. Together they must solve the mystery of what connects them before one of them is convicted of a murder that has yet to happen...and yet somehow already did. (publisher)

The Light Between Oceans – M.I. Stedman

343 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, eAudio, and aya. Guide at utlovers.com.

Tom Sherbourne is a lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, a tiny island a half day's boat journey from the coast of Western Australia. When a baby washes up in a rowboat, he and his young wife Isabel decide to raise the child as their own. The baby seems like a gift from God, and the couple's reasoning for keeping her seduces the reader into entering the waters of treacherous morality even as Tom--whose moral code withstood the horrors of World War I--begins to waver. (Amazon)

***Little Bee* -- Chris Cleave**

271 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, and eAudio. Guide in book.

The Somerset Maugham Award-winning author of *Incendiary* presents a tale of a precarious friendship between an illegal Nigerian refugee and a recent widow from suburban London, a story told from the alternating and disparate perspectives of both women.

***Little Disasters* – Sarah Vaughn**

424 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, and large print. Guide in book.

Jess is a stay-at-home mother-of-three with boundless reserves of patience, energy, and love. After being friends for a decade, this is how Liz sees her. But when one of the children lands in the emergency room, Liz is left questioning everything she thought she knew about her friend-- and about herself.

***The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* – C. Ingelman-Sundberg**

389 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. No discussion guide.

Martha Andersson may be 79 years old and live in a retirement home, but that doesn't mean she's ready to stop enjoying life. So when the new management of Diamond House starts cutting corners to save money, Martha and her four closest friends--Brains, The Rake, Christina and Anna-Gretta (a.k.a. The League of Pensioners)--won't stand for it. Fed up with early bedtimes and overcooked veggies, this group of feisty seniors sets about to regain their independence, improve their lot, and stand up for seniors everywhere. Their solution? White collar crime. What begins as a relatively straightforward robbery of a nearby luxury hotel quickly escalates into an unsolvable heist at the National Museum. With police baffled and the Mafia hot on their trail, the League of Pensioners has to stay one walker's length ahead if it's going to succeed. (Publisher)

***The Long Goodbye* – Raymond Chandler**

379 pages. Also available: eBook. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

An encounter with a down-on-his-luck war veteran brings both adventure and trouble to cynical private detective Philip Marlowe when he discovers that the man is the prime suspect in the murder of his wealthy nymphomaniac wife and the target of a crazy gangster.

***Lost Lake* – Sarah Addison Allen**

296 pages. Also available: eBook. Guide in book.

Suley, Georgia, is home to Lost Lake Cottages and not much else. Which is why it's the perfect place for newly-widowed Kate and her eccentric eight-year-old daughter Devin to heal. Kate spent one memorable childhood summer at Lost Lake, had her first almost-kiss at Lost Lake, and met a boy named Wes at Lost Lake. It was a place for dreaming. But Kate doesn't believe in dreams anymore, and her Aunt Eby, Lost Lake's owner, wants to sell the place and move on. Lost Lake's magic is gone. As Kate discovers that time has a way of standing still at Lost Lake can she bring the cottages--and her heart--back to life? Because sometimes the things you love have a funny way of turning up again. And sometimes you never even know they were lost until they are found. (publisher)

***The Maid* – Nita Prose**

Mystery

285 pages. Also available: large print, Playaway, eBook, eAudio. Guide in book.

A dead body is one mess she can't clean up on her own. Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and often misreads people's intentions. But no matter--she still throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid at the five-star Regency Grand. Her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette makes her an ideal fit for the job. She delights in donning her crisp uniform each morning, stocking

ner cart with miniature soaps, and returning guest rooms to a state of perfection. But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find Mr. Black dead--very dead--in his bed. Perplexed by Molly's unusual behavior, the police immediately suspect her of murder. She's soon caught in a web of deception with no idea how to untangle herself. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had join her in a search for clues about what really happened to Mr. Black--but will they be able to find the real killer before it's too late?

***Maisie Dobbs* – Jacqueline Winspear**

294 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

Maisie Dobbs isn't just any young housemaid. Through her own natural intelligence and the patronage of her benevolent employers she works her way into college at Cambridge. When World War I breaks out, Maisie goes to the front as a nurse. It is there that she learns that coincidences are meaningful and the truth elusive. After the War, Maisie sets up on her own as a private investigator. But her very first assignment, seemingly an ordinary infidelity case, soon reveals a much deeper, darker web of secrets, which will force Maisie to revisit the horrors of the Great War and the love she left behind. (publisher)

***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* – Helen Simonson**

368 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

Forced to confront the realities of life in the twenty-first century when he falls in love with Pakistani widow Mrs. Ali, Major Pettigrew finds the relationship challenged by local prejudices that view Mrs. Ali, a Cambridge native, as a perpetual foreigner.

***Man Called Ove* -- Fredrik Backman**

337 pages. Also available: large print, cd book, dvd, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon--the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations. (Publisher)

***March* – Geraldine Brooks** – Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

280 pages. Also available: eBook. Guide in book.

In a story inspired by the father character in *Little Women* and drawn from the journals and letters of Louisa May Alcott's father Bronson, a man leaves behind his family to serve in the Civil War and finds his marriage and beliefs profoundly challenged by his experiences.

***Memory Keeper's Daughter* – Kim Edwards**

401 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide in book.

In a tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twin daughter during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from the baby's affliction with Down syndrome, turns her over to a nurse, who secretly raises the child.

***Miracle and Other Christmas Stories* – Connie Willis**

288 pages. Also available: eBook. No guide.

These eight tales boldly re-imagine the stories of Christmas while celebrating the power of love and compassion. The winner of multiple Hugo and Nebula Awards, Connie Willis capture the timeless essence of generosity and goodwill in this magical collection of Christmas stories. (publisher)

***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* - Ransom Riggs**

352 pages. Also available: dvd, eBook, cd book, graphic novel, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. And a strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children who once lived here—one of whom was his own grandfather—were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a desolate island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive.

Moloka'i – Alan Brennert

389 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at litlovers.com.

Dreaming of far-off lands away from her loving 1890s Honolulu home, seven-year-old Rachel is forcibly removed from her family when she contracts leprosy and is placed in a settlement, where she loses a series of new friends before new medical discoveries enable her reentry into the world.

My Ántonia – Willa Cather

272 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Perhaps the most popular of Cather's novels, *My Ántonia* is at once the intimate portrait of an American heroine, an elegy for a vanished frontier, and the story of an unconsummated love affair. (readinggroupguides.com)

Myth of You and Me – Leah Stewart

276 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

A letter from a childhood best friend to whom she has not spoken in ten years and an odd legacy from her boss, elderly historian Oliver Doucet, sends thirty-year-old Cameron on a difficult mission to track down her old friend Sonia and hand-deliver a mysterious package to her, in a novel that celebrates the power, pain, and pleasure of friendship.

Never Let Me Go – Kazuo Ishiguro

288 pages. Also available: cd book, eAudio, and eBook. Guide in book.

From the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Remains of the Day* comes a devastating new novel of innocence, knowledge, and loss. As children Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy were students at Hailsham, an exclusive boarding school secluded in the English countryside. It was a place of mercurial cliques and mysterious rules where teachers were constantly reminding their charges of how special they were. Now, years later, Kathy is a young woman. Ruth and Tommy have reentered her life. And for the first time she is beginning to look back at their shared past and understand just what it is that makes them special—and how that gift will shape the rest of their time together. Suspenseful, moving, beautifully atmospheric, *Never Let Me Go* is another classic. (Penguin Random House)

The Nickel Boys -Colson Whitehead -Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

213 pages. Also available: large print, Playaway, cd book, Spanish language, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at bookriot.com

When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades.

The Night Circus – Erin Morgenstern

516 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking

amazements. But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway—a duel between two young magicians who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them, this is a game in which only one can be left standing, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will. Despite themselves, however, they tumble headfirst into love—a deep, magical love that makes the lights flicker and the room grow warm whenever they so much as brush hands. True love or not, the game must play out, and the fates of everyone involved, from the cast of extraordinary circus performers to the patrons, hang in the balance, suspended as precariously as the daring acrobats overhead. (author)

***The Night Villa* – Carol Goodman**

413 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide in book.

The eruption of Italy's Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79 buried a city and its people, including their treasures and secrets. Classics professor Sophie Chase travels to the beautiful island of Capri in to unravel the secrets of one unusual household, immersing herself in a culture simultaneously fascinating and frightening. Beneath layers of volcanic ash lies the Villa della Notte, home to first-century nobles who engaged in pagan rituals and a slave girl named Iusta whose life may have ended during the eruption—or may have helped to alter the course of Italy's religious history. As Sophie and her team piece together Iusta's story, they unearth a subterranean labyrinth and a set of invaluable antique documents believed lost to the ages. As Iusta races to escape Vesuvius's impending fury, Sophie rushes to uncover what happened to Iusta before all traces of her life disappear—or are erased. (author)

***The Nightingale* – Kristin Hannah**

440 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and large print. Guide at kristinhannah.com.

The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

***No One is Coming to Save Us* – Stephanie Powell Watts**

371 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, and large print. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

JJ Ferguson has returned home to Pinewood, North Carolina, to build his dream house and to pursue his high school sweetheart, Ava. But as he reenters his former world, where factories are in decline and the legacy of Jim Crow is still felt, he's startled to find that the people he once knew and loved have changed just as much as he has. Ava is now married and desperate for a baby, though she can't seem to carry one to term. Her husband, Henry, has grown distant, frustrated by the demise of the furniture industry, which has outsourced to China and stripped the area of jobs. JJ's return—and his plans to build a huge mansion overlooking Pinewood and woo Ava—not only unsettles their family, but stirs up the entire town.—Jacket flap.

***Normal People* – Sally Rooney**

273 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and large print. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

At school Connell and Marianne pretend not to know each other. He's popular and well-adjusted, star of the school football team, while she is lonely, proud, and intensely private. But when Connell comes to pick his mother up from her job at Marianne's house, a strange and indelible connection grows between the two teenagers—one they are determined to conceal. A year later, they're both studying at Trinity College in Dublin. Marianne has found her feet in a new social world while Connell hangs at the sidelines, shy and uncertain. Throughout their years at university, Marianne and Connell circle one another, straying toward other people and possibilities but always magnetically, irresistibly drawn back together. And as she veers into self-destruction and he begins to search for meaning elsewhere, each must confront how far they are willing to go to save the other. (Publisher)

***The Number One Ladies' Detective Agency* – Alexander McCall Smith**

235 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway and dvd. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Working in Gaborone, Botswana, Precious Ramotswe investigates several local mysteries, including a search for a missing boy and the case of the clinic doctor with different personalities for different days of the week.

***The Ocean at the End of the Lane*-Neil Gaiman**

181 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her mother and grandmother. He hasn't thought of Lettie in decades, and yet as he sits by the pond (a pond that she'd claimed was an ocean) behind the ramshackle old farmhouse where she once lived, the unremembered past comes flooding back. And it is a past too strange, too frightening, too dangerous to have happened to anyone, let alone a small boy.

***Olive Kitteridge* – Elizabeth Strout-** Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

270 pages. Also available: dvd, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

The world of Olive Kitteridge, a retired school teacher in a small coastal town in Maine, is revealed in stories that explore her diverse roles in many lives, including a lounge singer haunted by a past love, her stoic husband, and her own resentful son.

***Once Upon a River* – Diane Setterfield**

464 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, large print, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

On a dark midwinter's night in an ancient inn on the river Thames, a wounded stranger carries in the lifeless body of a small child. Hours later the girl stirs and returns to life. Is it a miracle? Magic? As the days pass the child remains mute and unable to answer questions. Three families are keen to claim her: the wealthy mother of a kidnapped daughter missing for two years; a farming family sure it is their son's secret daughter; a parson's housekeeper, reminded of her younger sister. Each family has secrets which must be revealed before the girl's identity can be known.

***The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* -Jonas Jonasson**

384 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, dvd, and eAudio. Guide in book.

Confined to a nursing home and about to turn one hundred, Allan Karlsson, who has a larger-than-life back story as an explosives expert, climbs out of the window in his slippers and embarks on an unforgettable adventure involving thugs, a murderous elephant, and a very friendly hot dog stand operator.

***The Only Good Indians* -Stephen Graham Jones**

310 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio. Guide at simonandschuster.com

From New York Times bestselling author Stephen Graham Jones comes a novel that is equal parts psychological horror and cutting social commentary on identity politics and the American Indian experience. Fans of Jordan Peele and Tommy Orange will love this story as it follows the lives of four American Indian men and their families, all haunted by a disturbing, deadly event that took place in their youth. Years later, they find themselves tracked by an entity bent on revenge, totally helpless as the culture and traditions they left behind catch up to them in a violent, vengeful way.

***Orphan Train*- Christina Baker Kline**

278 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio and cd book. Guide at christinabakerkline.com.

Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to aging out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance. Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life, answers that will ultimately free them both. (publisher)

***Outlawed* - Anna North**

261 pages. Also available: large print and eBook. Guide at readinggroupguides.com

After the Great Flu decimated the population, the U.S. government collapsed and, in its place, the people established Independent Towns west of the Mississippi. Ada has grown up in Fairchild, where her mother is a skilled midwife. Ada excels in her own midwifery training and helps care for her beloved three younger sisters. She marries at 17 and tries to become pregnant. But when six months pass, Ada worries. To be barren

in fairness is a crime punishable by death. At the end of a year, her husband's family rejects her, and Ada's mother sends her to the Sisters of the Holy Child. Ada's hunger for knowledge drives her west, where she joins up with the infamous Hole in the Wall Gang, led by the Kid. He is charismatic, beloved and possibly dangerous in entirely different ways than the rumors insist.

***Out Stealing Horses* – Per Petterson**

238 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Out Stealing Horses has been embraced across the world as a classic, a novel of universal relevance and power. Panoramic and gripping, it tells the story of Trond Sander, a sixty-seven-year-old man who has moved from the city to a remote, riverside cabin, only to have all the turbulence, grief, and overwhelming beauty of his youth come back to him one night while he's out on a walk. From the moment Trond sees a strange figure coming out of the dark behind his home, the reader is immersed in a decades-deep story of searching and loss, and in the precise, irresistible prose of a newly crowned master of fiction.

(readinggroupguides.com)

***The Paper Palace* -Miranda Cowley Heller**

389 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at princetonbookreview.com

It is a perfect August morning, and Elle, a fifty-year-old happily married mother of three, awakens at "The Paper Palace"--the family summer place which she has visited every summer of her life. But this morning is different: last night Elle and her oldest friend Jonas crept out the back door into the darkness and had sex with each other for the first time, all while their spouses chatted away inside. Now, over the next twenty-four hours, Elle will have to decide between the life she has made with her genuinely beloved husband, Peter, and the life she always imagined she would have had with her childhood love, Jonas, if a tragic event hadn't forever changed the course of their lives. As Heller colors in the experiences that have led Elle to this day, we arrive at her ultimate decision with all its complexity. Tender yet devastating, *The Paper Palace* considers the tensions between desire and dignity, the legacies of abuse, and the crimes and misdemeanors of families.

***Persian Pickle Club* – Sandra Dallas**

196 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

When a group of rural 1930s Kansas women, who gather each week to gossip and quilt, gains a new friend from the city who uncovers a long-kept secret about one of the members' husbands, the group bands together to support and protect one another.

***Persuasion*-Jane Austen**

250 pages. Also available: eBook, large print, cd book, Playaway, eAudio, and Guide at litlovers.com.

Her last completed novel, *Persuasion*, marries witty social realism to a 'Cinderella' love story. Anne Elliot, twenty-seven and still single, seems destined for spinsterhood. In her youth, she broke off an engagement to penniless Captain Wentworth at the insistence of her friend Lady Russell, acquiescing to the demands of her class at the expense of her happiness. But when Wentworth returns from the Napoleonic wars rich and famous, Anne finds her affection rekindled - even though Wentworth seems more interested in Anne's friend Louisa Musgrove. Set in the fashionable societies of Lyme Regis and Bath, *Persuasion* is a brilliant satire of vanity and pretension, but, above all, it is a love story tinged with the heartache of missed opportunities.

(publisher)

***The Picture of Dorian Gray* – Oscar Wilde**

218 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, eAudio, and dvd. Guide at litlovers.com.

The Picture of Dorian Gray is Oscar Wilde's enduringly popular story of a beautiful and corrupt man and the portrait that reveals all his secrets. Entranced by the perfection of his recently painted portrait, the youthful Dorian Gray expresses a wish that the figure on the canvas could age and change in his place. When his wish comes true, the portrait becomes his hideous secret as he follows a downward trajectory of decadence and cruelty that leaves its traces only in the portrait's degraded image. Wilde's unforgettable portrayal of a Faustian bargain and its consequences is narrated with his characteristic incisive wit and diamond-sharp prose. The result is a novel that is as flamboyant and controversial as its incomparable author. (publisher)

***Piranesi* -Susanna Clarke**

245 pages. Also available: large print and eBook. Guide at litlovers.com

Piranesi's house is no ordinary building: its rooms are infinite, its corridors endless, its walls are lined with thousands upon thousands of statues, each one different from all the others. Within the labyrinth of halls an ocean is imprisoned; waves thunder up staircases, rooms are flooded in an instant. But Piranesi is not afraid; he understands the tides as he understands the pattern of the labyrinth itself. He lives to explore the house. There is one other person in the house—a man called The Other, who visits Piranesi twice a week and asks for help with research into A Great and Secret Knowledge. But as Piranesi explores, evidence emerges of another person, and a terrible truth begins to unravel, revealing a world beyond the one Piranesi has always known.

***Please Look After Mom* – Kyung-sook Shin- Winner of the Man Asian Literary Prize**

254 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

When sixty-nine-year-old So-nyo is separated from her husband among the crowds of the Seoul subway station, her family begins a desperate search to find her. Yet as long-held secrets and private sorrows begin to reveal themselves, they are forced to wonder: how well did they actually know the woman they called Mom?

***The Princess Bride: S. Morgenstern's Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure* – William Goldman**

414 pages. Also available: eBook and dvd. Guide in book.

In 1941 a young boy lies bedridden from pneumonia. His perpetually disheveled and unattractive father, an immigrant from Florin with terribly broken English, shuffles into his bedroom carrying a book. The boy wants to know if it has any sports. His father says, "Fencing. Fighting. Torture. Poison. True love. Hate. Revenge. Giants. Hunters. Bad men. Good men. Beautiful ladies. Snakes. Spiders. Beasts of all natures and descriptions. Pain. Death. Brave men. Coward men. Strongest men. Chases. Escapes. Lies. Truths. Passions. Miracles." And the little boy, though he doesn't know it, is about to change forever. As Goldman says, "What happened was just this. I got hooked on the story." (publisher)

***The Purple Hibiscus* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

307 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Enugu, Nigeria. They live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. They're completely shielded from the troubles of the world. Yet, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, things are less perfect than they appear. Although her Papa is generous and well respected, he is fanatically religious and tyrannical at home, a home that is silent and suffocating. As the country begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili and Jaja are sent to their aunt, a university professor outside the city, where they discover a life beyond the confines of their father's authority. Books cram the shelves, curry and nutmeg permeate the air, and their cousins' laughter rings throughout the house. When they return home, tensions within the family escalate, and Kambili must find the strength to keep her loved ones together.

***Rebecca* – Dame Daphne du Maurier**

386 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, eAudio, large print, and dvd. Guide at litlovers.com

In this classic novel the reader is ushered into an isolated gray stone mansion on the windswept Cornish coast, as the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew. For in every corner of every room were phantoms of a time dead but not forgotten—a past devotedly preserved by the sinister housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers: a suite immaculate and untouched, clothing laid out and ready to be worn, but not by any of the great house's current occupants. With an eerie presentiment of evil tightening her heart, the second Mrs. de Winter walked in the shadow of her mysterious predecessor, determined to uncover the darkest secrets and shattering truths about Maxim's first wife—the late and hauntingly beautiful Rebecca. (publisher)

***The Red Tent* – Anita Diamant**

321 pages. Also available: cd book, dvd, eBook, and eAudio. Guide in book.

In a story based on the Book of Genesis, Jacob's only daughter, Dinah, shares her unique perspectives on the origins of many of our modern religious practices and sexual politics, eager to impart the lessons in endurance and humanity she has learned from her father's wives.

A Redbird Christmas – Fannie Flagg

229 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

Deep in the southernmost part of Alabama, along the banks of a lazy winding river, lies the sleepy little community known as Lost River, a place that time itself seems to have forgotten. After a startling diagnosis from his doctor, Oswald T. Campbell leaves behind the cold and damp of the oncoming Chicago winter to spend what he believes will be his last Christmas in the warm and welcoming town of Lost River. There he meets the postman who delivers mail by boat, the store owner who nurses a broken heart, the ladies of the Mystic Order of the Royal Polka Dots Secret Society, who do clandestine good works. And he meets a little redbird named Jack, who is at the center of this tale of a magical Christmas when something so amazing happened that those who witnessed it have never forgotten it. Once you experience the wonder, you too will never forget A Redbird Christmas.

Revolution – Jennifer Donnelly

471 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at bookmovement.com.

Andi Alpers is on the edge. She's angry at her father for leaving, angry at her mother for not being able to cope, and heartbroken by the loss of her younger brother, Truman. Rage and grief are destroying her. And she's about to be expelled from Brooklyn Heights' most prestigious private school when her father intervenes. Now Andi must accompany him to Paris for winter break. Alexandrine Paradis lived over two centuries ago. She dreamed of making her mark on the Paris stage, but a fateful encounter with a doomed prince of France cast her in a tragic role she didn't want—and couldn't escape. Two girls, two centuries apart. One never knowing the other. But when Andi finds Alexandrine's diary, she recognizes something in her words and is moved to the point of obsession. There's comfort and distraction for Andi in the journal's antique pages—until, on a midnight journey through the catacombs of Paris, Alexandrine's words transcend paper and time, and the past becomes suddenly, terrifyingly present. (publisher)

The Rooftops of Tehran – Mahbod Seraji

345 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide in book.

"In his haunting debut novel, Mahbod Seraji brings humor and humanity to a story of secret love in the brutal last days of the Shah. Set against the background of repression that launched the Iranian revolution, Pasha's and Zari's story shows that love and hope among the young thrive even in the most oppressive of times. Seraji is a striking new talent." - Sandra Dallas, author of *Tallgrass* (publisher)

The Rosie Project - Graeme Simsion

295 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide in book.

The art of love is never a science: Meet Don Tillman, a brilliant yet socially inept professor of genetics, who's decided it's time he found a wife. In the orderly, evidence-based manner with which Don approaches all things, he designs the Wife Project to find his perfect partner: a sixteen-page, scientifically valid survey to filter out the drinkers, the smokers, the late arrivers. Rosie Jarman possesses all these qualities. Don easily disqualifies her as a candidate for The Wife Project (even if she is quite intelligent for a barmaid). But Don is intrigued by Rosie's own quest to identify her biological father. When an unlikely relationship develops as they collaborate on The Father Project, Don is forced to confront the spontaneous whirlwind that is Rosie and the realization that, despite your best scientific efforts, you don't find love, it finds you. (publisher)

The Round House-Louise Erdrich -Winner of the National Book Award

321 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, 14-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person that destroyed his family.

The Samurai's Garden – Gail Tsukuyama

211 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

On the eve of the Second World War, a young Chinese man is sent to his family's summer home in Japan to recover from tuberculosis. He will rest, swim in the salubrious sea, and paint in the brilliant shoreside light. It will be quiet and solitary. But he meets four local residents - a lovely young Japanese girl and three older people. What then ensues is a tale that readers will find at once classical yet utterly unique. Young Stephen

nas his own adventure, but it is the unfolding story of Matsu, Sachu, and Kenzo that seizes your attention and will stay with you forever. (readinggroupguides.com)

***Scent Keeper* – Erica Bauermeister**

320 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and Playaway. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Emmeline lives on a remote island with her father, who teaches her about the natural world through her senses. What he won't explain are the mysterious scents stored in the drawers that line the walls of their cabin, or the origin of the machine that creates them. One day the unforeseen happens, and Emmeline is vaulted out into the real world-- a place of love, betrayal, ambition, and revenge. To understand her past, Emmeline must unlock the clues to her identity, a quest that challenges the limits of her heart and imagination.

***The School for Good Mothers* – Jessamine Chan**

324 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com

Set in near-future America, *The School for Good Mothers* introduces readers to a government-run reform program where bad mothers are retrained using robot doll children with artificial intelligence. Protagonist Frida Liu, a 39-year-old Chinese-American single mother in Philadelphia, loses custody of her 18-month-old daughter, Harriet, after she leaves Harriet home alone for two hours on one very bad day. To regain custody, Frida must spend a year at a newly-created institution, where she practices parenting with bad mothers from all over the county. There, she learns to love an uncannily life-like toddler girl doll in order to demonstrate her maternal instincts and prove to her family court judge that she deserves a second chance. Frida is an outsider in every way: better educated, more affluent, and the only Asian. The mothers, whose transgressions range from benign to horrific, are under constant surveillance. If they don't pass all the school's tests, their parental rights will be terminated. Inspired by dystopian classics such as *1984*, *Never Let Me Go*, and *The Handmaid's Tale*, the novel eviscerates the dominant American parenting culture, while highlighting the tragedy of state-sponsored family separation. Is there one right way to mother? Can a bad mother ever be redeemed? With warmth, heart, and dark humor, the novel tells a timeless story of a mother fighting to win back her child, and her struggle to hold onto her integrity while being indoctrinated.

***The Secret of Everything* – Barbara O'Neal**

385 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

Questioning her worth and identity after a disastrous accident, Tessa Harlow makes her way to a New Mexico town high in the mountains and finds purpose and healing in a culinary life. By the Colorado Springs author of *The Lost Recipe for Happiness* and many others as Barbara Samuel and Ruth Wind. Contact Barbara via barbaraoneal.com with requests to attend your meetings.

***The Sense of an Ending* – Julian Barnes –Winner of the Man Booker Prize**

163 pages. Also available: large print, dvd, eBook, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

This intense novel follows Tony Webster, a middle-aged man, as he contends with a past he never thought much about until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. Tony thought he left this all behind as he built a life for himself, and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, who now has a family of her own. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world. (publisher)

***The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* – Stuart Turton**

464 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, large print, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Aiden Bishop knows the rules. Evelyn Hardcastle will die every day until he can identify her killer and break the cycle. But every time the day begins again, Aiden wakes up in the body of a different guest at Blackheath Manor. And some of his hosts are more helpful than others. With a locked-room mystery that Agatha Christie would envy, Stuart Turton unfurls a breakneck novel of intrigue and suspense.

***The Shadow of the Wind* – Carlos Ruiz Zafon**

486 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

A great world city lies shrouded in secrets after the war, and a boy mourning the loss of his mother finds solace in his love for an extraordinary book called *The Shadow of the Wind*, by an author named Julian Carax. When the boy searches for Carax's other books, it begins to dawn on him, to his horror, that someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book the man has ever written. Soon the boy realizes that *The Shadow of the Wind* is as dangerous to own as it is impossible to forget, for the mystery of its author's identity holds the key to an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love that someone will go to any lengths to keep secret. (publisher)

***Shadowshaper* – Daniel Jose Older**

297 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at [scholastic.com](#).

When the murals painted on the walls of her Brooklyn neighborhood start to change and fade in front of her, Sierra Santiago realizes that something strange is going on--then she discovers her Puerto Rican family are shadowshapers and finds herself in a battle with an evil anthropologist for the lives of her family and friends.

***Shuggie Bain* -Douglas Stuart -Booker Prize Winner**

430 pages. Also available: large print, Playaway, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at [bookclubs.com](#)

Shuggie's mother Agnes walks a wayward path: she is Shuggie's guiding light but a burden for him and his siblings. She dreams of a house with its own front door while she flicks through the pages of the Freemans catalogue, ordering a little happiness on credit, anything to brighten up her grey life. Married to a philandering taxi-driver husband, Agnes keeps her pride by looking good--her beehive, make-up, and pearly-white false teeth offer a glamorous image of a Glaswegian Elizabeth Taylor. But under the surface, Agnes finds increasing solace in drink, and she drains away the lion's share of each week's benefits--all the family has to live on--on cans of extra-strong lager hidden in handbags and poured into tea mugs. Agnes's older children find their own ways to get a safe distance from their mother, abandoning Shuggie to care for her as she swings between alcoholic binges and sobriety. Shuggie is meanwhile struggling to somehow become the normal boy he desperately longs to be, but everyone has realized that he is "no right," a boy with a secret that all but him can see. Agnes is supportive of her son, but her addiction has the power to eclipse everyone close to her--even her beloved Shuggie.

***The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing* -- Mira Jacobs**

512 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at [litlovers.com](#).

With depth, heart, and agility, debut novelist Mira Jacob takes us on a deftly plotted journey that ranges from 1970s India to suburban 1980s New Mexico to Seattle during the dot.com boom. *The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing* is an epic, irreverent testimony to the bonds of love, the pull of hope, and the power of making peace with life's uncertainties. Celebrated brain surgeon Thomas Eapen has been sitting on his porch, talking to dead relatives. At least that is the story his wife, Kamala, prone to exaggeration, tells their daughter, Amina, a photographer living in Seattle. Reluctantly Amina returns home and finds a situation that is far more complicated than her mother let on, with roots in a trip the family, including Amina's rebellious brother Akhil, took to India twenty years earlier. Confronted by Thomas's unwillingness to explain himself, strange looks from the hospital staff, and a series of puzzling items buried in her mother's garden, Amina soon realizes that the only way she can help her father is by coming to terms with her family's painful past. In doing so, she must reckon with the ghosts that haunt all of the Eapens. (publisher)

***Snow Child* – Eowyn Ivey**

391 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide in book.

A childless couple working on a farm in the brutal landscape of 1920 Alaska discover a little girl living in the wilderness, with a red fox as a companion, and begin to love the strange, almost-supernatural child as their own.

***Snow Falling on Cedars* – David Guterson**

345 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, and dvd. Guide at [readinggroupguides.com](#).

A Japanese American fisherman's 1954 murder trial becomes the backdrop of a story that follows a doomed love affair between a white boy and a Japanese girl, a simmering land dispute, and the wartime internment of San Pedro's Japanese residents.

***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* – Lisa See**

258 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and dvd. Guide in book.

An evocative story of friendship set against the backdrop of a nineteenth-century China in which women suffered from foot binding, isolation, and illiteracy follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

***South of Superior* – Ellen Airgood**

374 pages. Also available: eBook. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

When Madeline Stone walks away from Chicago and moves five hundred miles north to the coast of Lake Superior, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, she isn't prepared for how much her life will change. Charged with caring for an aging family friend, Madeline finds herself in the middle of beautiful nowhere with Gladys and Arbutus, two octogenarian sisters—one sharp and stubborn, the other sweeter than sunshine. As Madeline begins to experience the ways of the small, tight-knit town, she is drawn into the lives and dramas of its residents. It's a place where times are tough and debts run deep, but friendship, community, and compassion run deeper. As the story hurtles along—featuring a lost child, a dashed love, a car accident, a wedding, a fire, and a romantic reunion—Gladys, Arbutus, and the rest of the town teach Madeline more about life, love, and goodwill than she's learned in a lifetime. (publisher)

***The Space Between Us* – Thrity Umrigar**

321 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide in book.

Captures the delicate balance of class and gender in contemporary India as witnessed through the lives of two women—Sera Dubash, an upper middle-class housewife, and Bhima, an illiterate domestic hardened by a life of loss and despair.

***State of Wonder* – Ann Patchett**

353 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

A researcher at a pharmaceutical company, Marina Singh journeys into the heart of the Amazonian delta to check on a field team that has been silent for two years—a dangerous assignment that forces Marina to confront the ghosts of her past.

***The Stationery Shop* – Marjan Kamali**

312 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, large print, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

A novel set in 1953 Tehran, against the backdrop of the Iranian Coup, about a young couple in love who are separated on the eve of their marriage, and who are reunited sixty years later, after having moved on to live independent lives in America, to discover the truth about what happened on that fateful day in the town square.

***The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*– Gabrielle Zevin**

270 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book. Playaway, and eAudio. Guide in book.

A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over—and see everything anew. “This novel has humor, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all love—love of books and bookish people and, really, all of humanity in its imperfect glory.” -- Eowyn Ivey, author of *The Snow Child* (publisher)

***The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat*– Edward Kelsey Moore**

369 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, Playaway, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Earl's All-You-Can-Eat Diner in Plainview, Indiana, is home away from home for Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean. Dubbed "The Supremes" by high school pals in the tumultuous 1960s, they've weathered life's storms for over four decades and counseled one another through marriage and children, happiness and the blues. Now, however, they're about to face their most challenging year yet. Proud, talented Clarice is struggling to keep up appearances as she deals with her husband's humiliating infidelities; beautiful Barbara Jean is rocked by the tragic reverberations of a youthful love affair; and fearless Odette is about to embark on

the most terrifying battle of her life. With wit, style and sublime talent, Edward Keisey Moore brings together three devoted allies in a warmhearted novel that celebrates female friendship and second chances. (publisher)

***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* – Alan Bradley**

373 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, and large print. Guide at litlovers.com.

Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, must exonerate her father of murder. Armed with more than enough knowledge to tie two distant deaths together and examine new suspects, she begins a search that will lead her all the way to the King of England himself.

***Tallgrass* – Sandra Dallas**

303 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide in book.

Her life turned upside-down when a Japanese internment camp is opened in their small Colorado town, Rennie witnesses the way her community places suspicion on the newcomers when a young girl is murdered, an event that prompts Rennie's own perspective change and the discovery of dangerous secrets.

***The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* – Lisa See**

400 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, Playaway, and large print. Guide at litlovers.com.

Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea in their remote Yunnan village. Then a stranger arrives, finding the rare tea he has been seeking and a reticent Akha people. Li-yan translates for the stranger. When she has a baby outside of wedlock she wraps her daughter in a blanket, with a tea cake hidden in her swaddling, and abandons her near an orphanage. Adopted by a couple in California, Haley grows up privileged and well-loved. As Haley wonders about her origins, Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. They find answers in the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generations.

***Tender Is the Night* – F. Scott Fitzgerald**

317 pages. Also available: eBook and cd book. Guide at litlovers.com.

A story of Americans on the French Riviera in the 1930s is a portrait of psychological disintegration as a wealthy couple supports friends and hangers-on financially and emotionally at the cost of their own stability.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston**

193 pages. Also available: cd book, eBook, eAudio, and dvd. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

One of the most important works of twentieth-century American literature, Zora Neale Hurston's beloved 1937 classic, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. A true literary wonder, Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published -- perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature. (publisher)

***These Is My Words* – Nancy Turner**

384 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide in book.

In a novel based on the author's ancestress, Sarah Prine, a child of the westward expansion, records her dreams, marriage, adventures, joys, and sorrows in her diary.

***Time After Time* – Lisa Grunwald**

432 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and large print. Guide at lisagrunwald.com.

On a clear December morning in 1937, at the famous gold clock in Grand Central Terminal, Joe Reynolds, a hardworking railroad man from Queens, meets a vibrant young woman who seems mysteriously out of place. Nora Lansing is a Manhattan socialite and an aspiring artist whose flapper clothing, pearl earrings, and talk of the Roaring Twenties don't seem to match the bleak mood of Depression-era New York. Captivated by Nora from her first electric touch, Joe despairs when he tries to walk her home and she disappears. Finding her again—and again—will become the focus of his love and his life. As thousands of visitors pass under the famous celestial blue ceiling each day, Joe and Nora create a life of infinite love in a finite space, taking full

advantage of the Terminal City within a city. But when the construction of another landmark threatens their future, Nora and Joe are forced to test the limits of their freedom—and their love. (Publisher)

***To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee**

296 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, eAudio, graphic novel, and dvd. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

A little girl whose father defends a black man accused of rape views the explosion of racial hate and violence in a small Alabama town.

***The Tortilla Curtain* – T. C. Boyle**

355 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

While leading their lives in their gated hilltop community in Los Angeles, Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher accidentally meet Mexican undocumented immigrants Candido and America Rincon, and their encounter brings them together in a relationship of error and misunderstanding.

***The Trench Angel* -Michael Keenan Gutierrez**

246 pages. Also available: eBook. No guide.

Colorado, 1919. Photographer Neal Stephens, home from the War, is blackmailed by the sheriff over his secret marriage to a black woman in France. When the sheriff is murdered, Neal's investigation calls up memories of the trenches and his search for his dead wife, as he untangles the connections among the murder, the Colorado coal miners' strike, and his mysterious anarchist father. (publisher)

***The Underground Railroad* – Colson Whitehead—Winner of Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award**

336 pages. Also available: eBook, Spanish eAudio, cd book, and large print. Guide at litlovers.com.

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. Their first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. And even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels.

***Unwind* - Neal Shusterman**

335 pages. Also available: cd book, Playaway, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at nlc.nebraska.gov.

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs--and, perhaps, save their own lives.

***Valley of the Moon* – Melanie Gideon**

394 pages. Also available: eBook. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

Lux is a single mom struggling to make her way in the world when she stumbles across an idyllic town in the Sonoma valley where she feels instantly at home. It seems like a place from another time--until she realizes it actually is. One night in 1906, an earthquake left Greengage stuck in the past. Lux must keep one foot in her world, raising her son as well as she can with the odds stacked against her, but every day she is more strongly drawn in by the sweet simplicity of life in Greengage, and by the irresistible connection she feels with a man born decades before her time. Soon she finds herself torn between her ties to the modern world-- her adored son--and the first place she has ever felt truly at home"

***The Vanishing Half* -Brit Bennett -Goodreads Choice Award Winner for Best Historical Fiction**

343 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, Playaway, large print, and cd book. Guide at bookclubchat.com

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own

daughters storylines intersect, weaving together multiple strands and generations, the vanishing trail is at once a riveting family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond the issues of race, it considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations.

***Washington Black* – Esi Edugyan**

333 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and large print. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

Washington Black is an eleven-year-old field slave who knows no other life than the Barbados sugar plantation where he was born. When his master's eccentric brother chooses him to be his manservant, Wash is terrified of the cruelties he is certain await him. But Christopher Wilde, or "Titch," is a naturalist, explorer, scientist, inventor, and abolitionist. He initiates Wash into a world where a flying machine can carry a man across the sky; where two people, separated by an impossible divide, might begin to see each other as human; and where a boy born in chains can embrace a life of dignity and meaning. But when a man is killed and a bounty is placed on Wash's head, Titch abandons everything to save him. What follows is their flight along the eastern coast of America, and, finally, to a remote outpost in the Arctic, where Wash, left on his own, must invent another new life.

***What She Left Behind* - Ellen Marie Wiseman**

328 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

Ten years ago, Izzy Stone's mother fatally shot her father while he slept. Devastated by her mother's apparent insanity, Izzy, now seventeen, refuses to visit her in prison. But her new foster parents, employees at the local museum, have enlisted Izzy's help in cataloging items at a long-shuttered state asylum. There, amid piles of abandoned belongings, Izzy discovers a stack of unopened letters, a decades-old journal, and a window into her own past. Clara Cartwright, eighteen years old in 1929, is caught between her overbearing parents and her love for an Italian immigrant. Furious when she rejects an arranged marriage, Clara's father sends her to a genteel home for nervous invalids. But when his fortune is lost in the stock market crash, he can no longer afford her care--and Clara is committed to the public asylum. Even as Izzy deals with the challenges of yet another new beginning, Clara's story keeps drawing her into the past. If Clara was never really mentally ill, could something else explain her own mother's violent act? Piecing together Clara's fate compels Izzy to re-examine her own choices--with shocking and unexpected results.

***When No One is Watching* – Alyssa Cole**

352 pages. Also available: large print, cd book, eBook, eAudio. Guide at bookclubz.com.

"Sydney Green is Brooklyn born and raised, but her beloved neighborhood seems to change every time she blinks. Condos are sprouting like weeds, FOR SALE signs are popping up overnight, and the neighbors she's known all her life are disappearing. To hold onto her community's past and present, Sydney channels her frustration into a walking tour and finds an unlikely and unwanted assistant in one of the new arrivals to the block -- her neighbor Theo. But Sydney and Theo's deep dive into history quickly becomes a dizzying descent into paranoia and fear. Their neighbors may not have moved to the suburbs after all, and the push to revitalize the community may be more deadly than advertised. When does coincidence become conspiracy? Where do people go when gentrification pushes them out? Can Sydney and Theo trust each other -- or themselves -- long enough to find out before they too disappear?"

***When We Were Vikings* – Andrew MacDonald**

326 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, large print, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Zelda, a twenty-one-year-old Viking enthusiast, lives with her older brother, Gert. A victim of fetal alcohol spectrum, Zelda's life is best lived with some basic rules: A smile means "thank you for doing something small that I liked;" Tomatoes must go in the middle of the sandwich and not get the bread wet. But sometimes the most important things don't fit on lists. When Zelda finds out that Gert has resorted to some questionable methods to make enough money to keep them afloat, Zelda decides to launch her own quest. It isn't long before Zelda finds herself in a battle that tests the reach of her heroism, her love for her brother, and the depth of her Viking strength.

***When You Reach Me* – Rebecca Stead – Winner of the Newbery Award**

199 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

This remarkable novel holds a fantastic puzzle at its heart. By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, and they know who to avoid. Like the crazy guy on the corner. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a kid on the street for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then a mysterious note arrives, scrawled on a tiny slip of paper. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows things no one should know. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late.

***The Whip* - Karen Kondazian**

294 pages. Guide at kondazian.com.

The Whip is inspired by the true story of a woman, Charlotte "Charley" Parkhurst (1812-1879) who lived most of her extraordinary life as a man. As a young woman in Rhode Island, she fell in love and had a child. Her husband was lynched and her baby killed. The destruction of her family drove her west to California, dressed as a man, to track down the murder. Charley became a renowned stagecoach driver. She killed a famous outlaw, had a secret love affair, and lived with a housekeeper who, unaware of her true sex, fell in love with her. Charley was the first woman to vote in America (as a man). Her grave lies in Watsonville, California (publisher).

***A Woman is No Man* – Etaf Rum**

337 pages. Also available: cd book, eBook, eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

Palestine, 1990. Seventeen-year-old Isra prefers reading books to entertaining the suitors her father has chosen for her. Over the course of a week, the naïve and dreamy girl finds herself quickly betrothed and married, and is soon living in Brooklyn. There Isra struggles to adapt to the expectations of her oppressive mother-in-law Fareeda and strange new husband Adam, a pressure that intensifies as she begins to have children--four daughters instead of the sons Fareeda tells Isra she must bear. Brooklyn, 2008. Eighteen-year-old Deya, Isra's oldest daughter, must meet with potential husbands at her grandmother Fareeda's insistence, though her only desire is to go to college. Deya can't help but wonder if her options would have been different had her parents survived the car crash that killed them when Deya was only eight. But her grandmother is firm on the matter: the only way to secure a worthy future for Deya is through marriage to the right man. But fate has a will of its own, and soon Deya will find herself on an unexpected path that leads her to shocking truths about her family--knowledge that will force her to question everything she thought she knew about her parents, the past, and her own future.

***Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague* – Geraldine Brooks**

308 pages: Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

Young Anna Frith, a vicar's maid, is faced with the loss of her family, the disintegration of her local community, and a passionate, illicit love as she and her village confront the horrors of the plague, in a historical novel based on real-life events in seventeenth-century England.

Nonfiction

***84, Charing Cross Road* -- Helene Hanff**

97 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and dvd. Guide at bookrags.com.

This funny, poignant classic love story showcases the power of the written word to bring people together. The story unfolds through a series of letters between Helene Hanff, a freelance writer living in New York City, and a used-book dealer in London at 84, Charing Cross Road. Through the years, though never meeting and separated both geographically and culturally, they share a winsome, sentimental friendship based on their common love for books. Their relationship, captured so acutely in these letters, is one that has touched the hearts of thousands of readers around the world and was the basis for the film starring Anthony Hopkins and Anne Bancroft

***Beneath the Tamarind Tree* – Isha Sesay**

582 pages. Also available: *ca book, large print, eBook, eAudio*. Guide at womenforwomen.org.

The host of "CNN Newsroom Live" presents a definitive account of Boko Haram's 2014 abduction of two hundred seventy-six Chibok schoolgirls, sharing first-person insights based on the author's escape with twenty-one survivors.

***Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness* – Susannah Cahalan**

264 pages. Also available: *eBook, eAudio, and cd book*. Guide at litlovers.com.

When twenty-four-year-old Susannah Cahalan woke up alone in a hospital room, strapped to her bed and unable to move or speak, she had no memory of how she'd gotten there. Days earlier, she had been on the threshold of a new, adult life: at the beginning of her first serious relationship and a promising career at a major New York newspaper. Now she was labeled violent, psychotic, a flight risk. What happened? In a swift and breathtaking narrative, Susannah tells the astonishing true story of her descent into madness, her family's inspiring faith in her, and the lifesaving diagnosis that nearly didn't happen. "A fascinating look at the disease that...could have cost this vibrant, vital young woman her life" (People), *Brain on Fire* is an unforgettable exploration of memory and identity, faith and love, and a profoundly compelling tale of survival and perseverance that is destined to become a classic.

***The Children's Blizzard* -- David Laskin**

307 pages. Also available: *eBook and eAudio*. Guide at bookbrowse.com.

January 12, 1888, began as an unseasonably warm morning across Nebraska, the Dakotas, and Minnesota, the weather so mild that children walked to school without coats and gloves. But that afternoon, without warning, the atmosphere suddenly, violently changed. One moment the air was calm; the next the sky exploded in a raging chaos of horizontal snow and hurricane-force winds. Temperatures plunged as an unprecedented cold front ripped through the center of the continent. By Friday morning, January 13, some five hundred people lay dead on the drifted prairie, many of them children who had perished on their way home from country schools. With the storm as its dramatic, heartbreaking focal point, this book captures this pivotal moment in American history by tracing the stories of five families who were forever changed that day. (publisher)

***The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother* – James McBride**

228 pages. Also available: *eBook, Playaway, and eAudio*. Guide in *book*.

A young African American man describes growing up in an all-black Brooklyn housing project, one of twelve children of a white mother and black father, and discusses his mother's contributions to his life and coming to terms with his confusion over his own identity.

***The Confidence Men: How Two Prisoners of War Engineered the Most Remarkable Escape in History* – Margalit Fox**

329 pages. Also available: *eBook, eAudio*.

Imprisoned in a remote Turkish prison camp during World War I, having survived a two-month forced march and a terrifying shootout in the desert, two British officers, Harry Jones and Cedric Hill, join forces to bamboozle their iron-fisted captors. To stave off despair and boredom, Jones takes a handmade Ouija board and fakes elaborate séances for his fellow prisoners. Word gets around camp, and one day, a Turkish officer approaches Jones with a query: Could Jones contact the spirit world to find a vast treasure rumored to be buried nearby? Jones, a trained lawyer, and Hill, a brilliant magician, use the Ouija board--and their keen understanding of the psychology of deception--to build a trap for the Turkish officers that will ultimately lead them to freedom. (publisher)

***Crying in H Mart: a memoir* – Michelle Zauner
Biography.**

239 pages. Also available: *large print, eBook, eAudio*. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com

In this exquisite story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a dazzling singer, songwriter, and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul,

where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over neaping plates of food. As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band--and meeting the man who would become her husband--her Koreanness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer, when Michelle was twenty-five, that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her.

***Devil in the White City* – Erik Larson -2010 APPR title. Winner of the Edgar Award**

447 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

A compelling account of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 brings together the divergent stories of two very different men who played a key role in shaping the history of the event--visionary architect Daniel H. Burnham, who coordinated its construction, and Dr. Henry H. Holmes, an insatiable and charming serial killer.

***The End of Your Life Book Club*- Will Schwalbe**

336 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

During her treatment for cancer, Mary Anne Schwalbe and her son Will spent many hours sitting in waiting rooms together. To pass the time, they would talk about the books they were reading. Once, by chance, they read the same book at the same time and an informal book club of two was born. Through their wide-ranging reading, Will and Mary Anne and we, their fellow readers are reminded how books can be comforting, astonishing, and illuminating, changing the way that we feel about and interact with the world around us. (publisher)

***From Scratch* – Tembi Locke**

339 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, large print, and cd book. Guide at simonandschuster.com.

It was love at first sight when Tembi met professional chef, Saro, on a street in Florence. There was just one problem: Saro's traditional Sicilian family did not approve of him marrying a black American woman, an actress no less. Eventually, they reconcile with Saro's family just as he faces a formidable cancer that will consume all their dreams. *From Scratch* chronicles three summers Tembi spends in Sicily with her daughter, Zoela, as she begins to piece together a life without her husband in his tiny hometown hamlet of farmers. All along the way she reflects on her and Saro's incredible romance--an indelible love story that leaps off the pages. *From Scratch* is for anyone who has dared to reach for big love, fought for what mattered most, and needed a powerful reminder that life is...delicious. (publisher)

***The Girls of Atomic City* -- Denise Kierman**

373 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide in book.

At the height of World War II, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was home to 75,000 residents, and consumed more electricity than New York City, yet it was shrouded in such secrecy that it did not appear on any map. Thousands of civilians, many of them young women from small towns across the U.S., were recruited to this secret city, enticed by the promise of solid wages and war-ending work. What were they actually *doing* there? Very few knew. The purpose of this mysterious government project was kept a secret from the outside world and from the majority of the residents themselves. Some wondered why, despite the constant work and round-the-clock activity in this makeshift town, did no tangible product of any kind ever seem to leave its guarded gates? The women who kept this town running would find out at the end of the war, when Oak Ridge's secret was revealed and changed the world forever.

***The Happiness Project: Or Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun* – Gretchen Rubin**

315 pages. Also available: large print, eAudio, and eBook. Guide at litlovers.com.

Chronicles the author's year spent testing the edicts of conventional wisdom to assess their actual potential for improving life, describing how she engaged in various activities from getting more sleep and singing to her children to starting a blog and imitating a spiritual master.

***How Emotions are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain* – Lisa Feldman Barrett**

425 pages. Also available: eBook, Playaway. No guide.

Emotions feel automatic, like uncontrollable reactions to things we think and experience. Scientists have long supported this assumption by claiming that emotions are hardwired in the body or the brain. Today, however, the science of emotion is in the midst of a revolution on par with the discovery of relativity in physics and natural selection in biology--and this paradigm shift has far-reaching implications for us all.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* – Maya Angelou**

289 pages. Also available: cd book, Playaway, and eAudio. Guide in book.

The critically acclaimed author and poet recalls the anguish of her childhood in Arkansas and her adolescence in northern slums, in the first volume of an extraordinary autobiographical series.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* – Rebecca Skloot**

384 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, dvd, and eAudio. Guide in book.

Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization and gene mapping.

***The Invisible Wall* – Herry Bernstein**

321 pages. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

In a memoir set on the eve of World War I, the author describes growing up in a working-class town in northern England, where Jews and Christians were strictly divided, and how his sister's love for a Christian boy broke down the invisible social barrier.

***Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America* – Helen Thorpe – Winner of the Colorado Book Award**

387 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at simonandschuster.com.

Traces the journeys of four young Mexican women coming of age in Denver whose prospects for college and careers are shaped by their immigration statuses, a shooting involving a Mexican immigrant and a police officer, and heated debates about the rights of legal and undocumented immigrants.

***The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* – Bill Bryson**

270 pages. Also available: Playaway, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

The best-selling author of *A Walk in the Woods* and *I'm a Stranger Here Myself* describes his all-American childhood growing up as a member of the baby boom generation in the heart of Iowa, detailing his rich fantasy life as a superhero known as the Thunderbolt Kid and his remarkably normal 1950s family life.

***The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon* – David Grann**

400 pages. Also available: dvd, eBook, Spanish, and eAudio. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

Interweaves the story of British explorer Percy Fawcett, who vanished during a 1925 expedition into the Amazon to find an ancient civilization, with the author's own adventure-filled quest into the uncharted wilderness to uncover the mysteries surrounding Fawcett's final journey and the secrets of what really lies deep in the Amazon jungle.

***Madhouse at the End of the Earth: The Belgica's Journey Into the Dark Antarctic Night* – Julian Sancton**

350 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, eAudio. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com

The harrowing true survival story of an early polar expedition that went terribly awry--with the ship frozen in ice and the crew trapped inside for the entire sunless, Antarctic winter. As the Belgica's men teetered on the brink, de Gerlache relied increasingly on two young officers whose friendship had blossomed in captivity: the expedition's lone American, Dr. Frederick Cook--half genius, half con man--whose later infamy would overshadow his brilliance on the Belgica; and the ship's first mate, soon-to-be legendary Roald Amundsen, even in his youth the storybook picture of a sailor. Together, they would plan a last-ditch, nearly certain-to-fail escape from the ice--one that would either etch their names in history or doom them to a terrible fate at the ocean's bottom.

***Midnight in Chernobyl* – Adam Higginbotham**

538 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, large print, and cd book. No guide.

Journalist Adam Higginbotham's definitive, years-in-the-making account of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster--and a powerful investigation into how propaganda, secrecy, and myth have obscured the true story of one of the twentieth century's greatest disasters. Drawing on hundreds of hours of interviews conducted over the course of more than ten years, as well as letters, unpublished memoirs, and documents from recently declassified archives, Adam Higginbotham has written a harrowing and compelling narrative which brings the disaster to life through the eyes of the men and women who witnessed it firsthand. The result is a masterful nonfiction thriller, and the definitive account of an event that changed history: a story that is more complex, more human, and more terrifying than the Soviet myth.

***No Visible Bruises* – Rachel Louise Snyder**

307 pages. Also available: eBook. Guide at readinggroupchoices.com

Journalist Rachel Louise Snyder gives context for what we don't know we're seeing. She frames this urgent and immersive account of the scale of domestic violence in our country around key stories that explode the common myths--that if things were bad enough, victims would just leave; that a violent person cannot become nonviolent; that shelter is an adequate response; and most insidiously that violence inside the home is a private matter, sealed from the public sphere and disconnected from other forms of violence. Through the stories of victims, perpetrators, law enforcement, and reform movements from across the country, Snyder explores the real roots of private violence, its far-reaching consequences for society, and what it will take to truly address it.

***Norse Mythology* – Neil Gaiman**

293 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, large print, and cd book. Guide at litlovers.com.

In *Norse Mythology*, Gaiman fashions primeval stories into a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds; delves into the exploits of the deities, dwarves, and giants; and culminates in Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods and the rebirth of a new time and people. Gaiman stays true to the myths while vividly reincarnating Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki, the son of a giant, a trickster and unsurpassable manipulator.

***Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West* – Dorothy Wickenden**

286 pages. Also available: large print, eBook, cd book, and Playaway. Guide in book.

In the summer of 1916, Dorothy Woodruff and Rosamond Underwood, bored by society luncheons, charity work, and the effete men who courted them, left their families in Auburn, New York, to teach school in the wilds of northwestern Colorado. They lived with a family of homesteaders in the Elkhead Mountains and rode to school on horseback, often in blinding blizzards. Their students walked or skied, in tattered clothes and shoes tied together with string. The young cattle rancher who had lured them west, Ferry Carpenter, had promised them the adventure of a lifetime. He hadn't let on that they would be considered dazzling prospective brides for the locals. (publisher)

***The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a 13-year-old boy with Autism* -- Naoki Higashida**

135 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, and dvd. Guide at litlovers.com.

Written by Naoki Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware, and very charming thirteen-year-old boy with autism, it is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine. Parents and family members who never thought they could get inside the head of their autistic loved one at last have a way to break through to the curious, subtle, and complex life within.

***Say Nothing* – Patrick Radden Keefe**

441 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and large print. Guide at litlovers.com.

"Masked intruders dragged Jean McConville, a 38-year-old widow and mother of 10, from her Belfast home in 1972. In this meticulously reported book--as finely paced as a novel--Keefe uses McConville's murder as a prism to tell the history of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Interviewing people on both sides of the conflict,

ne transforms the tragic damage and waste of the era into a searing, utterly gripping saga.' -- NEW YORK Times Book Review

***The Screwtape Letters: with Screwtape Proposes a Toast* – C.S. Lewis**

209 pages. Also available: eBook, cd book, Playaway, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

In this humorous and perceptive exchange between two devils, C. S. Lewis delves into moral questions about good vs. evil, temptation, repentance, and grace. Through this wonderful tale, the reader emerges with a better understanding of what it means to live a faithful life.

***The Secret Rooms: A True Story of a Haunted Castle, a Plotting Duchess, and a Family Secret-*
Catherine Bailey**

465 pages. Also available: large print and eBook. No guide.

For fans of Downton Abbey: the enthralling true story of family secrets and aristocratic intrigue in the days before WWI. After the Ninth Duke of Rutland, one of the wealthiest men in Britain, died alone in a cramped room in the servants' quarters of Belvoir Castle on April 21, 1940, his son and heir ordered the room, which contained the Rutland family archives, sealed. Sixty years later, Catherine Bailey became the first historian given access. What she discovered was a mystery: the Duke had painstakingly erased three periods of his life from all family records-but why? As Bailey uncovers the answers, she also provides an intimate portrait of the very top of British society in the turbulent days leading up to World War I. (publisher)

***Sentient: How Animals Illuminate the Wonder of Our Human Senses* – Jackie Higgins**

308 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio.

There is a scientific revolution stirring in the field of human perception. Research has shown that the extraordinary sensory powers of our animal friends can help us better understand the same powers that lie dormant within us. From the harlequin mantis shrimp with its ability to see a vast range of colors, to the bloodhound and its hundreds of millions of scent receptors; from the orb-weaving spider whose eyes recognize not only space but time, to the cheetah whose ears are responsible for its perfect agility, these astonishing animals hold the key to better understanding how we make sense of the world around us.

***The Tender Bar: a Memoir* – J.R. Moehringer**

368 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at bookbrowse.com.

A vivid memoir of growing up and coming of age with a single mother describes how the author received valuable life lessons and friendship at the neighborhood bar, an old-time New York saloon populated by a colorful assortment of characters who provided him with a kind of fatherhood by committee.

***The Trial of Lizzie Borden* – Cara Robertson**

375 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, large print, and cd book. No guide.

When Andrew and Abby Borden were brutally hacked to death in Fall River, Massachusetts, in August 1892, the arrest of the couple's younger daughter Lizzie turned the case into international news and her trial into a spectacle unparalleled in American history. Reporters flocked to the scene. Well-known columnists took up conspicuous seats in the courtroom. The defendant was relentlessly scrutinized for signs of guilt or innocence. Everyone--rich and poor, suffragists and social conservatives, legal scholars and laypeople--had an opinion about Lizzie Borden's guilt or innocence. The popular fascination with the Borden murders and its central enigmatic character has endured for more than one hundred years. Immortalized in rhyme, told and retold in every conceivable genre, the murders have secured a place in the American pantheon of mythic horror, but one typically wrenched from its historical moment. In contrast, Cara Robertson explores the stories Lizzie Borden's culture wanted and expected to hear and how those stories influenced the debate inside and outside of the courtroom.

***Two Old Women: An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage, and Survival* – Velma Wallis**

176 pages. Also available: eBook. Guide at harpercollins.com.

Based on an Athabascan Indian legend passed along for many generations from mothers to daughters of the upper Yukon River Valley in Alaska, this is the suspenseful, shocking, ultimately inspirational tale of two old women abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine. Though these women have been known to complain more than contribute, they now must either survive on their own or die trying. In simple but vivid

detail, *Emma* walls depicts a landscape and way of life that are at once merciless and starkly beautiful. In her old women, she has created two heroines of steely determination whose story of betrayal, friendship, community and forgiveness "speaks straight to the heart with clarity, sweetness and wisdom"-Ursula K. Le Guin. (publisher)

***Unorthodox: the scandalous rejection of my Hasidic roots* – Deborah Feldman**

258 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at litlovers.com.

As a member of the strictly religious Satmar sect of Hasidic Judaism, Deborah Feldman grew up under a code of relentlessly enforced customs governing everything from what she could wear and to whom she could speak to what she was allowed to read. Yet in spite of her repressive upbringing, Deborah grew into an independent-minded young woman whose stolen moments reading about the empowered literary characters of Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott helped her to imagine an alternative way of life among the skyscrapers of Manhattan. Trapped as a teenager in a sexually and emotionally dysfunctional marriage to a man she barely knew, the tension between Deborah's desires and her responsibilities as a good Satmar girl grew more explosive until she gave birth at nineteen and realized that, regardless of the obstacles, she would have to forge a path--for herself and her son--to happiness and freedom.

***The Zookeeper's Wife* – Diane Ackerman**

368 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, cd book, Playaway, large print, and dvd. Guide in book.

Documents the heroic true story of Warsaw Zookeepers and resistance activists Jan and Antonina Zabinski who, in the aftermath of Germany's invasion of Poland, saved the lives of hundreds of Jewish citizens by smuggling them into empty cages and their home villa.

Large Print Fiction

1984 -- George Orwell

498 pages. Also available: dvd, Playaway, cd book, eBook, eAudio, Spanish Language, graphic novel, and standard print. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...A startling and haunting novel, 1984 creates an imaginary world that is completely convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the novel's hold on the imaginations of whole generations, or the power of its admonitions--a power that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time. (publisher)

***A Dog's Way Home* – W. Bruce Cameron**

441 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, standard print, dvd, and cd book. Guide at bookrags.com

Lucas Ray is shocked when an adorable puppy jumps out of an abandoned building and into his arms. Though the apartment he shares with his mother, a disabled veteran, doesn't allow dogs, Lucas can't resist taking Bella home. Bella is inexplicably drawn to Lucas, even if she doesn't understand the necessity of games like No Barks. As it becomes more difficult to hide her from the neighbors, Lucas begins to sneak Bella into the VA where he works. There, Bella brings joy and comfort where it is needed most. After Bella is picked up by Animal Control because pit bulls are banned in Denver, Lucas has no choice but to send her to a foster home until he can figure out what to do. But Bella, distraught at the separation, doesn't plan to wait. With four hundred miles of dangerous Colorado wilderness between her and her person, Bella sets off on a seemingly impossible and completely unforgettable adventure home. (publisher)

***Emma* – Jane Austen**

675 pages. Also available: eBook, eAudio, dvd, standard print, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

1 twenty-one-year-old Emma Woodhouse is comfortably dominating the social order in the village of Highbury, convinced that she has both the understanding and the right to manage other people's lives--for their own good, of course. Her well-meant interfering centers on the aloof Jane Fairfax, the dangerously attractive Frank Churchill, the foolish if appealing Harriet Smith, and the ambitious young vicar Mr. Elton--and ends with her complacency shattered, her mind awakened to some of life's more intractable dilemmas, and her happiness assured. (publisher)

***Eternal* – Lisa Scottoline**

717 pages. Includes Playaway. Also available: Standard print, cd book, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Elisabetta, Marco, and Sandro grow up as the best of friends despite their differences. Their friendship blossoms to love, with both Sandro and Marco hoping to win Elisabetta's heart. But in the autumn of 1937, all of that begins to change as Mussolini asserts his power, aligning Italy's Fascists with Hitler's Nazis and altering the very laws that govern Rome. In time, everything that the three hold dear - their families, their homes, and their connection to one another - is tested in ways they never could have imagined. The Nazis invade Rome, and with their occupation come new atrocities against the city's Jews, culminating in a final, horrific betrayal. Against this backdrop, the intertwined fates of Elisabetta, Marco, Sandro, and their families will be decided, in a heartbreaking story of both the best and the worst that the world has to offer. (publisher)

***Frankenstein* – Mary Shelley**

336 pages. Includes DVD and Playaway. Also available: eBook, eAudio, standard print, and Adult Basic Book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein: or, the Modern Prometheus* (1818) is a combination of Gothic horror story and science fiction first conceived for a writing challenge by Lord Byron when she was just eighteen. It is the story of Victor Frankenstein, a Swiss student of natural science who assembles pieces of corpses to create an artificial man and brings it to life with galvanism. Though it seeks affection, the unnamed monster inspires fear and loathing . . .(publisher)

***The Girl on the Train* – Paula Hawkins**

493 pages. Includes Playaway and DVD. Also available: standard print, cd book, eBook, and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com

Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and night. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. Jess and Jason, she calls them. Their life--as she sees it--is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel goes to the police. But is she really as unreliable as they say? Soon she is deeply entangled not only in the investigation but in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good? (publisher)

***The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald**

187 pages. Includes dvd and Playaway. Also available: standard print, eBook, eAudio, graphic novel, and cd book. Guide at thoughtco.com.

The Great Gatsby stands as the supreme achievement of his career. This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when *The New York Times* noted gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession, it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.

***Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood**

527 pages. Includes dvd and Playaway. Also available: standard print, eBook, eAudio, dvd, graphic novel, and cd book. Guide at litlovers.com

A chilling look at the near future presents the story of Offred, a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, once the United States, an oppressive world where women are no longer allowed to read and are valued only as long as they are viable for reproduction.

***The Kindest Lie* – Nancy Johnson**

496 pages. Includes cd book. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and standard print. Guide at bookclubchat.com
It's 2008, and the rise of Barack Obama ushers in a new kind of hope. In Chicago, Ruth Tuttle, an Ivy-League educated black engineer, is married to a kind and successful man. He's eager to start a family, but Ruth is uncertain. She has never gotten over the baby she gave birth to, and abandoned, when she was a teenager. She had promised her family she'd never look back, but Ruth knows that to move forward, she must make peace with the past. Returning home, Ruth discovers the Indiana factory town of her youth is plagued by unemployment, racism, and despair. Determined, Ruth begins digging into the past. As she uncovers burning secrets her family desperately wants to hide, she unexpectedly befriends Midnight, a young white boy who is also adrift and looking for connection. When a traumatic incident strains the town's already searing racial tensions, Ruth and Midnight find themselves on a collision course that could upend both their lives.--
Publisher.

***The Maltese Falcon* – Dashiell Hammett**

346 pages. Includes dvd and cd book. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and standard print. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

A treasure worth killing for. Sam Spade, a slightly shopworn private eye with his own solitary code of ethics. A perfumed grafter named Joel Cairo, a fat man name Gutman, and Brigid O'Shaughnessy, a beautiful and treacherous woman whose loyalties shift at the drop of a dime. These are the ingredients of Dashiell Hammett's iconic, influential, and beloved *The Maltese Falcon*. (amazon.com)

***The Martian* – Andy Weir**

647 pages. Includes dvd and cd book. Also available: standard print, eBook, and Spanish. Guide in book.
Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive--and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills--and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit--he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him? (Publisher)

***Me Before You*- Jojo Moyes**

627 pages. Includes dvd and Playaway. Also available: eBook, eAudio, standard print, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life, steady boyfriend, close family, who has barely been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life, big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel, and now he's pretty sure he cannot live the way he is. Will is acerbic, moody, bossy, but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living. (publisher)

***The Midnight Library* – Matt Haig**

437 pages. Includes Playaway. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and standard print. Guide at readinggroupguides.com

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better? In *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig's enchanting new novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the *Midnight Library* to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place. (Publisher)

***Murder on the Orient Express* – Agatha Christie**

529 pages. Includes *ava ana Playaway*. Also available: eBook, eAudio, adult basic book, stanaara print, and cd book. Guide at: madisonlib.org.

Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Without a shred of doubt, one of his fellow passengers is the murderer. Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again. (Publisher)

***The News of the World* – Paulette Jiles**

286 pages. Includes *dvd and Playaway*. Also available: standard print, Spanish, eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com

In the wake of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through northern Texas, giving live readings from newspapers to paying audiences hungry for news of the world. In Wichita Falls, he is offered a \$50 gold piece to deliver a young orphan to her relatives in San Antonio. Four years earlier, a band of Kiowa raiders killed Johanna's parents and sister; sparing the little girl, they raised her as one of their own. Johanna has forgotten the English language, tries to escape at every opportunity, throws away her shoes, and refuses to act "civilized." Yet as the miles pass, the two lonely survivors tentatively begin to trust each other. Arriving in San Antonio, the reunion is neither happy nor welcome. The captain must hand Johanna over to an aunt and uncle she does not remember--strangers who regard her as an unwanted burden. A respectable man, Captain Kidd is faced with a terrible choice: abandon the girl to her fate or become--in the eyes of the law--a kidnapper himself. (Publisher)

***Oliver Twist* – Charles Dickens**

693 pages. Includes *dvd and Playaway*. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book standard print, and Spanish. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

The novel chronicles the journey of Oliver Twist, a child born in a workhouse, his subsequent sale as an apprentice to an undertaker, and his escape to London to join a gang of child pickpockets. It used an entirely new form of storytelling, a scathing social commentary in the form of fiction, utilising an unforgettable cast of curious characters, supported by an omnipresent undercurrent of lurking mystery and adventure. Foremost among early social novels, in it Dickens combines his merciless wit with blatant realism to shed light on the wretched condition of thousands of innocent orphans, like Oliver, to whom the only options seem to be a life of criminal association, the prison or premature death. A vivid and stark painting of Victorian London's dark and impoverished underworld, it was Dickens' first novel that illustrated his belief that impoverishment is the root of criminal motives. (Publisher)

***Rebecca* – Dame Daphne du Maurier**

681 pages. Includes *dvd and Playaway*. Also available: standard print, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com

In this classic novel the reader is ushered into an isolated gray stone mansion on the windswept Cornish coast, as the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew. For in every corner of every room were phantoms of a time dead but not forgotten—a past devotedly preserved by the sinister housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers: a suite immaculate and untouched, clothing laid out and ready to be worn, but not by any of the great house's current occupants. With an eerie presentiment of evil tightening her heart, the second Mrs. de Winter walked in the shadow of her mysterious predecessor, determined to uncover the darkest secrets and shattering truths about Maxim's first wife—the late and hauntingly beautiful Rebecca (publisher).

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston**

268 pages. Includes *cd book and dvd*. Also available: standard print, eBook and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

One of the most important works of twentieth-century American literature, Zora Neale Hurston's beloved 1937 classic, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear,

or rooish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. A true literary wonder, Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published -- perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature. (publisher)

***The Thursday Murder Club* – Richard Osman**

468 pages. Includes Playaway. Also available: eBook and eAudio. Guide at penguinrandomhouse.com.

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. There's Red Ron, the infamous former socialist firebrand, still causing trouble; gentle Joyce, widowed, pining for another resident, but surely not as innocent as she seems; Ibrahim, a former therapist who understands the darker side of human nature; and Elizabeth? Well, no one is quite sure who she really is, but she's definitely not a woman to underestimate. When a local developer is found dead, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. The friends might be septuagenarians, but they are cleverer than most. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?

***The Time Traveler's Wife* – Audrey Niffenegger**

640 pages. Includes dvd and Playaway. Also available: eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

Passionately in love, Clare and Henry vow to hold onto each other and their marriage as they struggle with the effects of Chrono-Displacement Disorder, a condition that casts Henry involuntarily into the world of time travel.

***Where'd You Go, Bernadette* – Maria Semple**

478 pages. Includes dvd and Playaway. Also available: standard print, eBook, cd book, and eAudio. Guide in book.

Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her Microsoft-guru husband, she's a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect, and to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, simply, Mom. Then Bernadette disappears. It began when Bee aced her report card and claimed her promised reward: a family trip to Antarctica. But Bernadette's intensifying allergy to Seattle--and people in general--has made her so agoraphobic that a virtual assistant in India now runs her most basic errands. A trip to the end of the earth is problematic. To find her mother, Bee compiles email messages, official documents, secret correspondence--creating a compulsively readable and touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter's role in an absurd world. (publisher)

Large Print Nonfiction

***Hidden Figures* – Margot Lee Shetterly**

427 pages. Includes cd book and dvd. Also available: standard print, eBook and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com

The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movement, whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space--a powerful, revelatory contribution that is as essential to our understanding of race, discrimination, and achievement in modern America as *Between the World and Me* and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. The basis for the smash Academy Award-nominated film starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monae, Kirsten Dunst, and Kevin Costner.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* – Rebecca Skloot**

551 pages. Includes dvd and cd book. Also available: standard print, eBook and eAudio. Guide at litlovers.com.

Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization and gene mapping.

This Time Next Year We'll Be Laughing – Jacqueline Winspear

412 pages. Includes Playaway. Also available: standard print, eBook and eAudio. Guide at readinggroupguides.com.

After sixteen novels, Jacqueline Winspear has taken the bold step of turning to memoir, revealing the hardships and joys of her family history. Both shockingly frank and deftly restrained, her memoir tackles such difficult, poignant, and fascinating family memories as her paternal grandfather's shellshock, her mother's evacuation from London during the Blitz; her soft-spoken animal-loving father's torturous assignment to an explosives team during WWII; her parents' years living with Romani Gypsies; and Jacqueline's own childhood working on farms in rural Kent, capturing her ties to the land and her dream of being a writer at its very inception. An eye-opening and heartfelt portrayal of a post-War England we rarely see, *This Time Next Year We'll Be Laughing* is the story of a childhood in the English countryside, of working-class indomitability and family secrets, of artistic inspiration and the price of memory (Publisher).

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail – Cheryl Strayed

620 pages. Includes dvd and Playaway. Also available: standard print, eBook, eAudio, and cd book. Guide at litlovers.com.

Traces the personal crisis the author endured after the death of her mother and a painful divorce, which prompted her ambition to undertake a dangerous thousand-mile solo hike that both drove her to rock bottom and helped her to heal.