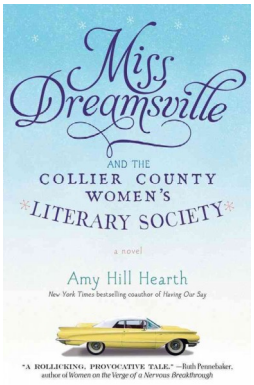
Book Clubs

Booksplus Discussion, Sunday Nov. 2 at 2: Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society



view in catalog

ISBN:
9781451675238

What happens when an energetic, middle-aged Bostonian moves to a sleepy town in Florida in 1962? First, she starts a radio show under the persona of Miss Dreamsville and secondly forms a book club. Ex-Bostonian Jackie Hart starts a ruckus when she invites people of other races and sexual persuasions to the club in a decidedly racist, homophobic town where a divorcee is considered socially-risque and improper.

Narrated by a lovable octagenerian, Dora, who does not fit into Naples herself, this novel discusses important issues such as racism, feminism, and homophobia while presenting an interesting mix of characters. With a backdrop of serious and important issues, it provides a humorous and entertaining read.

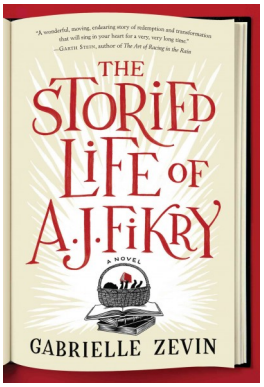
In her debut novel Amy Hearth manages to take on both the Ku Klux Klan, North versus South, the nature of community, and newcomer angst to Naples, Florida.

Read more »

For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Book Clubs Female Friendships Fiction Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society Multicultural

Posted by Dory L. on Oct 29, 2014 Dory L.'s blog Add new comment

The Storied Life of A.K. Fikry



view in catalog

ISBN:
9781616203214

Like bookstores? Like islands off the coast of New England? Favor novels that feature an orphan and a single dad? Drawn to love stories especially ones where the couple start off at each other's throats? Have a thing for rare manuscripts especially those of Edgar Allen Poe? If so this charming book-celebratory novel is just your thing.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry begins with publisher?s rep, Amelia Loman (?a tall dandelion of a woman") disembarking from a ferry to visit a small bookstore on Alice Island to go over the winter accounts for her publisher, Knightley Press. The owner, the very curmudgeonly A.J. Fikry, is decidedly unfriendly and shocked by the fact that the old book rep has not come. Loman tells him that he has died and then proceeds to push her favorite book, a memoir by a widower dealing with his bereavement.

For Fikry this hits too close to home but he does not tell Alice why. He has recently lost Nic, his intelligent and beautiful wife while she was pregnant with their first child. Fikry begins a delightful rant about all the books he does not like: postmodern, post apocalyptic, magical realism, ones with multiple fonts, children?s books, poetry, YA, etc.

Read more »

For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Book Clubs Fiction The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry

Posted by Dory L. on Oct 22, 2014 Dory L.'s blog Add new comment

It's in the Bag - Book kits for book groups!

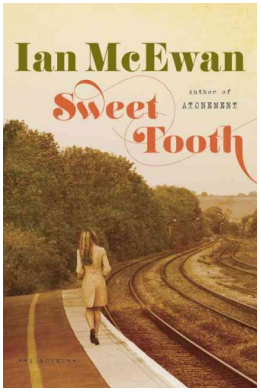
We get asked a lot at the reference desk for multiple copies of a book that several people want to read at once for a book club meeting. It makes sense that the library would wants to support readers and local book groups, but due to shelf space and limited resources it is impossible to have multiple copies of every book.

But we certainly can appreciate the benefits of both reading and discussing books! That is why the library has started a new service called It's in the Bag. These book club kits include 8 copies of a single title, discussion questions and other information about the author or topic. Titles range from classics like *Gone with the Wind*, to newer titles like *Arcadia* by Lauren Groff. The kits can be checked out to a single library card for a 6 week period. Call or stop in the Main Library to check one out for your book club today.

Want to learn more? Join us on Tuesday, September 24 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Program Room

2B. Staff who regularly lead the library's Books Plus discussions will be available to answer questions about the book club kits, provide discussion ideas, and talk about other ways to support local book groups. Registration is appreciated, but drop ins are also welcome.
For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Book Clubs Library Program
Posted by Sarah B. on Sep 12, 2013 Sarah B.'s blog Add new comment

Next Booksplus Discussion: This Sunday--September 8th--at 2 p.m.



view in catalog
ISBN:
9780385536820
Our next book to be discussed is a thrilling read about early 70?s Britain. I always enjoy novels set in the author?s youth. In an interview, McEwan describes this period of rock and roll and changing mores as the time of his life, ?when it was very bliss to be alive.? Rent was cheap even in London. For only three pounds a month, McEwan scored a large apartment, and could live off writing a few reviews and articles each month. He spent the rest of his time, reading, writing, and socializing.
This novel combines a spy novel, a love story, and a journey into the literary world of early 70s England. McEwan, who has won many prizes, could have titled it a spy in the house of literature.
Read more »
For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Book Clubs Fiction Sweet Tooth : a novel
Posted by Dory L. on Sep 4, 2013 Dory L.'s blog Add new comment

2013 One Book One Bloomington Announcement!

Earlier this week, the 2013 One Book, One Bloomington Community Read title was announced on WFHB's Interchange radio program. All of the nominated books for 2013 have been banned or challenged.

This year, the community voted for *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.
In this dark vision of a future United States, the handmaid Offred is defined solely by her biological function as a child-bearer. Forbidden even to read, she tries to survive in oppressive and dangerous circumstances. The novel explores themes of power, gender conflict, the individual in society, language and storytelling. Have you read this dystopian classic?

Please visit www.mcpl.info/onebook for upcoming information on public book discussions and a related film festival. Or listen to the announcement and interview with MCPL director Sara Laughlin and MCCSC North High School librarian Kathy Loser on the Interchange radio broadcast on the WFHB website.

For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Book Clubs Library Program One Book Post-apocalyptic
Posted by Sarah B. on Jan 18, 2013 Sarah B.'s blog Add new comment

Oprah's Book Club 2.0

Just released today (so new, it isn't even in our catalog yet!) is *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, the debut novel by Ayana Mathis. This book has gotten some good reviews, including a glowing review from the often hard to please New York Times reviewer, Michiko Kakutani. But what makes this book especially noteworthy? One word: Oprah.
Yep. In case you missed it, last year Oprah renewed her book club, renamed Book Club 2.0 and chose *Wild*, Cheryl Strayed's memoir of her redemptive and inspring through hike of the Pacific Crest Trail.
This year Oprah chose something completely different, but no less interesting sounding. *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* is about a young African-American woman who during the Great Migraration leaves Georgia and settles in Philadelphia. Hattie's struggles and those of her children are interwoven in twelve narrative threads coming together to paint an intimate picture of a singular family, but also that of a greater nation. Sounds great. I can't wait until it hits the library shelves!

For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews African American Book Clubs Fiction
Posted by Sarah B. on Dec 6, 2012 Sarah B.'s blog Add new comment

Books Plus Holiday Tea--Dec. 2nd at 2 p.m.

"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home." Anna Quindlen spoke about the importance of books in *How Reading Changed My Life.*
Whether you're reading about Antarctica or Vinegar Hill, Bloomington, Indiana, books teach us

about the world and its interesting and quixotic people. Through books we expand our horizons and experience many lives in one. We're captivated by each of these created worlds for a few hours.

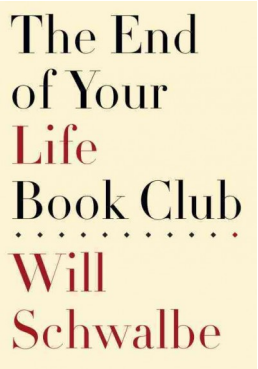
So please come to our annual Books Plus Holiday Tea and Open House on Sunday, December 2nd. The Friends of the Library will provide delectable treats, and we will also have two booklists to hand out: one of nationally recommended books of 2012, and another of library staff's favorite books of the year. Whether you're giving gifts, choosing next year's reads for your book club, or just want to gather a batch of good books before winter storms slam in, these lists will help.

You can meet and chat with other book lovers. Please come and share your favorite books of the year with us and each other.

For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Best of Lists Book Clubs

Posted by Dory L. on Nov 21, 2012 Dory L.'s blog Add new comment

The End of Your Life Book Club



view in catalog

ISBN:
9780307594037

You don't have to be in a book club to be touched and inspired by this generous, warm-hearted account of a son helping his mother through her last year of life with the help of books. Former teacher and refugee worker, Mary Anne Schwalbe, had always been close to her son, Will, who was an editor and worked in publishing. Not only did they constantly share books and recommend titles to each other, but they also had many discussions--some heated--about these same books.

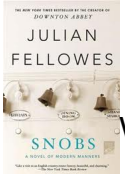
After his mom was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Will spent a lot of time with her in hospital waiting rooms before her doctor visits and chemo treatments. On one of those trips they decided to pass the time by exploring the same books. "But how can we have a book club without food?" Mary Anne asked.

But *The End of Your Life Book Club* is so much more than analyzing contemporary literature *Ã deux*. Will also chronicles his mother's illness, her acceptance of her forthcoming death, and the effect these changes had on the family.

In one chapter Mary Anne and her husband revisit her favorite foreign city, London, where she lived as a young student. The book that mother and son shared that month was *Felicia's Journey* by Will Trevor. In another section, Mary Anne, Will and his brother discuss Russell Banks' *Continental Drift* while sharing a table with Mary Anne's birthday-bash barbecued pig. Will had stayed awake the night before regretting that he had encouraged his mom to read such a depressing book, but at the party, he heard her recommending it to many people.

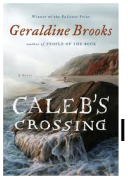
Read more »
For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Book Clubs Memoir Nonfiction The End of Your Life Book Club
Posted by Dory L. on Nov 17, 2012 Dory L.'s blog Add new comment

August Books Plus



Whether you're inside enjoying the cool air or outside braving the weather at pool-side, consider that small country across the pond. Yes, England, and we're not talking about the Olympics but a *Downton-Abbey* type novel set in contemporary times. Are the rich really different from you and me? Screenwriter, novelist, and actor, Julian Fellowes tackles this subject in *Snobs*, a novel about a middle-class woman named Edith who would love the wealth and title of the Earl, Charles Broughton, whom she'd love to marry.
Fellowes knows about castles and big estates. He's the son of a diplomat, and he visited many of the estates he writes about. He's also known struggling actors who aren't sure how they will pay next month's rent. As *New York Times* reviewer, Jonathan Ames said, *Snobs* is a "field guide to the behavior of the English aristocracy." Ames also wrote, "When you read a book, you're lost in time. All the more reason to read *Snobs*. It will distract you pleasantly. It's like a visit to an English country estate: breezy, beautiful and charming."
Read more »
Adult & Teen Services News For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Book Clubs Britain Fiction Library Program Snobs : a novel
Posted by Sarah B. on Jul 27, 2012 Sarah B.'s blog Add new comment

Books Plus for June



In *Caleb's Crossing*, Pulitzer-Prize winner Geraldine Brooks returns to the seventeenth century setting she captured so well in *Year of Wonders*, but this time around she's chosen the New World for her location. The novel tells the story of a deep friendship between a young Pilgrim servant girl, Bethia, and a member of the local Native American tribe, Caleb Cheeshahteaumauck, who later became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard. Before becoming a novelist, Brooks was an investigative reporter who covered the international beat. She brings her investigative and research skills to this novel, and a sense of narrative developed by writing many pieces of journalism and several nonfiction books.
Please join us this Sunday as we discuss this novel with its historical American themes. Here's what the *New York Times* said about it: "*Caleb's Crossing* could not be more enlightening and involving. Beautifully written from beginning to end, it reconfirms Geraldine Brooks' reputation as one of our most supple and insightful Â-novelists."

Books Plus meets the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome. Join the discussion or simply come to listen.
No registration necessary. **Drop in.**
2 p.m., First Sundays
See the full summer schedule below.
Read more »
For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Book Clubs Caleb's crossing Library Program
Posted by Sarah B. on May 29, 2012 Sarah B.'s blog Add new comment

1 2 next ? last »