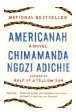
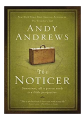
PARK RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOOK DISCUSSION SETS

Ackerman, Diane **THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE** (NF) 2007
The true story of Warsaw Zoo keepers 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. Nonfiction.

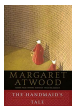


Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi **AMERICANAH** 2013
A young woman from Nigeria leaves behind her home and her first love to start a new life in America, only to find her dreams are not all she expected.



Andrews, Andy **THE NOTICER** (NF) 2009
The Noticer is part auto-biographical, part fiction, and all inspiring. It is the story of “Jones,” a mysterious old man who has a knack for showing up at just the right time in people’s lives. He notices stuff, stuff that they miss and he gives them the one thing we all so often need: perspective. Nonfiction. Generously donated by the **MBC Book Club**.

Atkinson, Kate **LIFE AFTER LIFE** 2013
Ursula Todd is born on a cold snowy night in 1910, twice. As she grows up during the first half of the twentieth century in Britain, Ursula dies and is brought back to life again and again. With a seemingly infinite number of lives it appears as though Ursula has the ability to alter the history of the world, should she so choose.



Atwood, Margaret **A HANDMAID’S TALE** 1998
This 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**.**

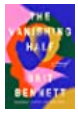
Atwood, Margaret **THE TESTAMENTS** 2019
A long-anticipated sequel to the best-selling The Handmaid’s Tale is set 15 years after Offred stepped into an unknown fate and interweaves the experiences of three female narrators from Gilead.

*Backman, Fredrik **ANXIOUS PEOPLE** 2020
Taken hostage by a failed bank robber while attending an open house, eight anxiety-prone strangers—including a redemption-seeking bank director, two couples who would fix their marriages and a plucky octogenarian—discover their unexpected common traits.

Backman, Fredrik **A MAN CALLED OVE** 2014
A curmudgeon hides a terrible personal loss beneath a cranky and short-tempered exterior while clashing with new neighbors, a boisterous family whose chattiness and habits lead to unexpected friendship.

Backman, Fredrik **BEARTOWN** 2017
In the tiny forest community of Beartown, the possibility that the amateur hockey team might win a junior championship, bringing the hope of revitalization to the fading town, is shattered by the aftermath of a violent act that leaves a young girl traumatized.

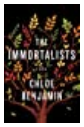
Bennett, Brit **THE MOTHERS** 2016
Seventeen year old Nadia Turner has her world turned upside down when her mother commits suicide and shortly thereafter, she discovers she’s pregnant with the pastor’s son’s child. Nadia finds a safe harbor in her best friend Aubrey, but as the years go by, her past decisions invade the present, ushering in a new wave of wounds. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**



*Bennett, Brit **THE VANISHING HALF** 2020
Separated by their embrace of different racial identities, two mixed-race identical twins reevaluate their choices as one raises a black daughter in their southern hometown while the other passes for white with a husband who is unaware of her heritage.

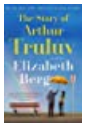
Benjamin, Melanie **THE AVIATOR’S WIFE** 2013
Despite her own major achievements, Anne Morrow Lindbergh is viewed merely as Charles Lindbergh's wife. The fairy-tale life she once longed for will bring heartbreak and hardships, ultimately pushing her to reconcile her need for love and her desire for independence, and to embrace, at last, life's infinite possibilities for change and happiness. Generously donated by the **Courtland Avenue Ladies Book Club.**

Benjamin, Melanie **THE SWANS OF FIFTH AVENUE** 2016
A triumphant new novel about New York's "Swans" of the 1950s and the scandalous, headline-making, and enthralling friendship between literary legend Truman Capote and peerless socialite Babe Paley. Generously donated by **Babes with Big Books.**

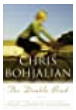


Benjamin, Chloe **THE IMMORTALISTS** 2018
It's 1969 in New York City's Lower East Side, and word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold children sneak out to hear their fortunes. Their prophecies inform their next five decades. Golden boy Simon escapes to the West Coast, searching for love in '80s San Francisco; dreamy Klara becomes a Las Vegas magician, obsessed with blurring reality and fantasy; eldest son Daniel seeks security as an army doctor post-9/11, hoping to control fate; and bookish Varya throws herself into longevity research, where she tests the boundary between science and immortality.

*Berg, Elizabeth **THE CONFESSION CLUB** 2019
Invited to join a supper club where friends in their community support each other throughout private setbacks, two women enduring difficult relationships discover the power of friendship and sharing their secrets.

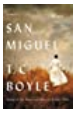


Berg, Elizabeth **THE STORY OF ARTHUR TRULUV** 2018
Arthur, a widower, meets Maddy, an angry and friendless teenage girl, while visiting his late wife at the cemetery, where he goes every day for lunch. Against all odds, the two strike up a friendship that pulls them out of a serious rut. They band together with Arthur's nosy neighbor Lucille, to create lives that are truly worth living. Proving that life's most precious moments are sweeter when shared, they go from strangers, to friends, to an untraditional but loving family. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**



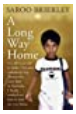
Bohjalian, Chris **THE DOUBLE BIND** 2007
Working at a homeless shelter, student Laurel Estabrook encounters Bobbie Crocker, a man with a history of mental illness and a box of secret photos, but when Bobbie dies suddenly, Laurel embarks on an obsessive search for the truth behind the photos.

Boyle, T. C. **THE TORTILLA CURTAIN** 1995
The story of illegal aliens in California, told through the eyes of two very different couples, one well-off Anglos, the other illegal Mexicans living in a canyon. The novel chronicles their relationship against the background of growing hostility between immigrants and natives.



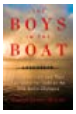
Boyle, T. C. **SAN MIGUEL** 2012
The lives of three women on turn-of-the-20th-century San Miguel are shaped by ambition and circumstance, including the wife of a Civil War veteran who hopes to recover her health, her rebellious aspiring actress daughter and a librarian who wonders if the island's peace will endure in the face of looming war. Generously donated by the **Presbyterian Women of the Park Ridge Presbyterian Church.**

Brennert, Alan **HONOLULU** 2010
A young "picture bride" leaves her native Korea, where girls are so little valued that she is known as Regret, and journeys to Hawaii in 1914 in search of a better life. Jin is quickly married off to a poor, embittered laborer who takes his disappointments out on his new wife, forcing her to make her own way in a strange land.



Brierly, Saroo **A LONG WAY HOME** (NF) 2014
A full-length account of the author's inspirational effort to find his India birthplace describes how he was accidentally separated from his family in the mid-1980s, his survival on the streets of Calcutta, his adoption by an Australian family, and his headline-making Google Earth search. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **Book Babes Book Club.**

*Brown, Austin Channing **I'M STILL HERE** (NF) 2018
The author's first encounter with a racialized America came at age seven, when her parents told her they named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a white man. She grew up in majority-white schools, organizations, and churches, and has spent her life navigating America's racial divide as a writer, a speaker, and an expert helping organizations practice genuine inclusion.



Brown, Daniel **THE BOYS IN THE BOAT** (NF) 2014
This robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. Nonfiction.

Brunt, Carol Rifka **TELL THE WOLVES I'M HOME** 2013
A moving story of an adolescent girl's struggle to comprehend love in 1987 and a culture under strain as it comes to terms with a complicated disease.

*Bryson, Bill **A WALK IN THE WOODS** (NF) 1997
Traces the author's adventurous trek along the Appalachian Trail past its natural pleasures, human eccentrics, and offbeat comforts. Generously donated by **Tattered Readers.**

Chamberlain, Diane **NECESSARY LIES** 2014
Caring for her family on their mid-20th-century tobacco farm after the loss of her parents, 15-year-old Ivy connects with Grace County social worker Jane, who strains her personal and professional relationships with her advocacy of Ivy's family, whose dark secrets test Jane's resolve against racial tensions and state-mandated sterilizations.

Chast, Roz **CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT?** (NF) 2016
Spanning the last several years of their lives and told through four-color cartoons, family photos, and documents, and a narrative as rife with laughs as it is with tears, Chast's memoir is both comfort and comic relief for anyone experiencing the life-altering loss of elderly parents. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

Cline, Emma **THE GIRLS** 2017
Mesmerized by a band of girls in the park she perceives as enjoying a life of free and careless abandon, 1960s teen Evie Boyd becomes obsessed with gaining acceptance into their circle, only to find herself drawn into a cult and seduced by its charismatic leader.

*Coates, Ta-Nehisi **BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME** 2015
Told through the author's own evolving understanding of the subject over the course of his life comes a bold and personal investigation into America's racial history and its contemporary echoes.

Conklin, Tara **THE HOUSE GIRL** 2013
A novel of love, family, and justice follows Lina Sparrow, an ambitious first-year associate in a Manhattan law firm, as she searches for the "perfect plaintiff" to lead a historic class-action lawsuit worth trillions of dollars in reparations for descendants of American slaves.

Dedman, Bill **EMPTY MANSIONS** (NF) 2014
A cousin of Huguette Clark and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist trace the life of the reclusive American heiress against a backdrop of the now infamous W. A. Clark family and include coverage of the internet sensation and elder-abuse investigation that occurred at the end of her life. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

Diffenbaugh, Vanessa **THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS** 2012
A mesmerizing, moving, and elegantly written debut novel, beautifully weaves past and present, creating a vivid portrait of an unforgettable young woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past.

Doerr, Anthony **ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE** 2017
Set during World War II, the novel expertly interweaves the lives of a blind French girl, Marie-Laure, and an orphaned German boy, Werner, whose paths collide as they try to survive the physical and emotional destruction of the war. Generously donated by **St. Paul of the Cross Book Club**.

*Doyle, Glennon **UNTAMED** (NF) 2020
An activist, speaker and philanthropist offers a memoir wrapped in a wake-up call that reveals how women can reclaim their true, untamed selves by breaking free of the restrictive expectations and cultural conditioning that leaves them feeling dissatisfied and lost.

Ebershoff, David **THE DANISH GIRL** 2015
The remarkable story of Lili Elbe, a pioneer in transgender history, and the woman torn between loyalty to her marriage and her own ambitions and desires. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

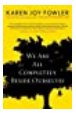
Egan, Jennifer **MANHATTAN BEACH** 2018
Anna and her father Eddie arrive at the home of Dexter Styles on Manhattan Beach searching for a job during the Depression. After Eddie goes missing five years later, Anna supports her mother and sister by working at the Brooklyn Naval Yard. One night, Anna approaches Styles for information about her father. They become involved, but he is still marked by his past relationship with Eddie.

Eggers, Dave **THE CIRCLE** 2014
Hired to work for the Circle, the world's most powerful Internet company, Mae Holland begins to questions her luck as life beyond her job grows distant, a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken, and her role at the Circle becomes increasingly public. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

Faye, Lyndsay **JANE STEELE** 2017
Suffering at the hands of cruel family members and brutal school administrators, sensitive orphan Jane Steele murderously retaliates against her abusers. She takes a job as a governess working with mysterious servants while falling in love with her employer, in a serial-killer reimagining of Jane Eyre.

Ferrante, Elena **MY BRILLIANT FRIEND** 2012
The story begins in the 1950s, in a poor but vibrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Naples. Growing up on these tough streets the two girls learn to rely on each other ahead of anyone or anything else. As they grow, as their paths repeatedly diverge and converge, Elena and Lila remain best friends whose respective destinies are reflected and refracted in the other. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

Ford, Jamie **LOVE AND OTHER CONSOLATION PRIZES** 2017
Ernest, a half-Chinese orphan, is raffled off as a prize at Seattle's 1909 World's Fair. The winning ticket belongs to the flamboyant madam of a high-class brothel. After becoming the new houseboy, he finds friendship and opportunities. Fifty years later, in the shadow of Seattle's second World's Fair, Ernest struggles to help his ailing wife reconcile who she once was with who she wanted to be, while trying to keep family secrets hidden from their grown-up daughters. The story is based on true events.



Fowler, Karen Joy **WE ARE ALL COMPLETELY BESIDE OURSELVES** 2014
Coming of age in middle America, eighteen-year-old Rosemary evaluates how her entire youth was defined by the presence and forced removal of an endearing chimpanzee who was secretly regarded as a family member and who Rosemary loved as a sister.

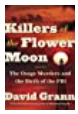
Gabrial, Marius **THE PARISIANS** 2019
Paris, 1940. The Nazis have occupied the city--and the Ritz. The opulent old hotel is now full of swaggering officers, their minions and their mistresses. For American Olivia Olsen, working as a chambermaid at the hotel means denying her nationality and living a lie, every day bringing the danger of discovery closer. When Hitler's right-hand man moves in and makes her his pet, she sees an opportunity to help the Resistance--and draw closer to Jack, her contact. Within the hotel, famed designer Coco Chanel quickly learns that the new regime could work to her benefit, while Arletty, one of France's best-loved actresses, shocks those around her--and herself--with a forbidden love. But as the war reaches its terrible end, all three women learn the true price of their proximity to the enemy. Generously donated by the **Book Babes.**

Gaffigan, Jeannie **WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU PEARS** (NF) 2019
The wife of acclaimed comic Jim Gaffigan shares an uplifting account of her fight to survive a brain tumor, the toll its treatment took on her family and the lessons she learned along the way. Generously donated by **MBC Book Club**.

*Gates, Melinda **THE MOMENT OF LIFT** (NF) 2019
A timely call to action for women's empowerment identifies the link between women's equality and societal health, sharing insights by international advocates in the fight against gender bias. Generously donated by **Babes with Big Books.**

Genova, Lisa **STILL ALICE** 2014
Feeling at the top of her game when she is suddenly diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease, Harvard psychologist Alice Howland struggles to find meaning and purpose in her life as her concept of self gradually slips away.

Gilbert, Elizabeth **CITY OF GIRLS** 2019
Set in the theatre world of 1940s New York, a young woman discovers that she does not have to be a "good girl" in order to be a good person. Generously donated by **Pagewiners Book Club**.



Grann, David **KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON** (NF) 2017
In 1920s Oklahoma, many members of the oil-wealthy Osage Nation were dying untimely and suspicious deaths, and investigating these crimes led to the establishment of what is now known as the FBI. Nonfiction**.**

Hainey, Michael **AFTER VISITING FRIENDS** (NF) 2014
A nonfiction story that traces Michael's decade-long investigation into the mystery of his father's sudden death, describing his father's achievements as a dynamic reporter, the author's examination of inconsistencies in his father's medical records and the honor code of secrecy that challenged his research. Nonfiction.

Hannah, Kristin **THE NIGHTINGALE** 2015
Reunited when the elder's husband is sent to fight in World War II, French sisters Vianne and Isabelle find their bond as well as their respective beliefs tested by a world that changes in horrific ways. Generously donated by **St. Luke's Pageturners Book Club.**

Harper, Jane **THE LOST MAN** 2019
Meeting at the remote fence line separating their cattle ranches on an isolated belt of the Australian outback, two brothers navigate the haunting realities of the isolation that ended their third brother's life.

Harrison, A.S.A. **THE SILENT WIFE** 2013
Told in alternating voices, this gripping debut exposes the 20-year relationship of Jodi and Todd; it's a comfortable, stable union marred only by Todd's infidelities. When his last one goes too far, Jodi learns the lengths she's willing to go when she's got nothing left to lose. Generously donated by the **MBC Book Club.**

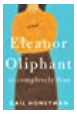
Haruf, Kent **OUR SOULS AT NIGHT** 2016
In Holt, Colorado, widower Louis Waters is initially thrown when the widowed Addie Moore suggests that they spend time together, in bed, to stave off loneliness, but soon they are exchanging confidences and memories. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

Hawley, Noah **BEFORE THE FALL** 2016
On a foggy summer night eleven people depart Martha's Vineyard on a private jet headed for New York. Sixteen minutes later, the unthinkable happens: the plane plunges into the ocean. The only survivors are Scott Burroughs and a four-year-old boy, who is now the last remaining member of an immensely wealthy and powerful media mogul's family. As the mystery surrounding the tragedy heightens, odd coincidences point to a conspiracy.

Heiny, Katherine **STANDARD DEVIATION** 2017
Divorcing his wife to marry his girlfriend, Audra, is the one impulsive thing Graham Cavanaugh has ever done. Audra is charming and spontaneous and fun, but life with her can be exhausting, constantly interrupted by phone calls, burdened by houseguests, and populated by old men with backpacks full of origami paper. As Graham and Audra struggle to define their marriage and raise a child with Asperger's, they decide to establish a friendship with his first wife, Elspeth.

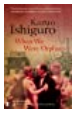
Hodgman, George **BETTYVILLE** (NF) 2016
When George Hodgman leaves Manhattan for his hometown of Paris, Missouri, he finds himself in a head-on collision with his aging mother, Betty, a woman of wit and will. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

Hoffman, Beth **SAVING CEECEE HONEYCUTT** 2010
Relegated to the care of an eccentric great-aunt after her mentally unbalanced mother's accidental death, 12-year-old CeeCee is quickly surrounded by the strong women and cultural elements of her new Savannah community.



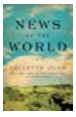
Honeyman, Gail **ELEANOR OLIPHANT IS COMPLETELY FINE** 2017
Office worker Eleanor adheres to a strict routine that has insulated her from the memories of her traumatic childhood but has not shielded her from loneliness. But after she meets Raymond, she attempts to rediscover her memories and in the process learns how relationships operate and that other people can be a source of joy rather than destruction.

Hosseini, Khaled **AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED** 2013
A novel about how people love, how they take care of each other, and how choices made today can resonate through future generations. Author Khaled Hosseini gives readers a multi-generational family story revolving around siblings and how they love, betray, hurt, honor, and would do anything for one another.



Ishiguro, Kazuo **WHEN WE WERE ORPHANS** 2001
Christopher Banks, an English boy born in early-20th-century Shanghai, is orphaned at age nine when both his mother and father disappear under suspicious circumstances. He grows up to become a renowned detective, and more than 20 years later, returns to Shanghai to solve the mystery of their disappearances. Generously donated by the **Literary Luminaries Book Club.**

Ivey, Eowyn **THE SNOW CHILD** 2012
A childless couple working 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.

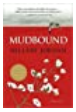


Jiles, Paulette **NEWS OF THE WORLD** 2016
In the wake of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through northern Texas to deliver a young orphan to her relatives in San Antonio. Their 400-mile journey south through unsettled territory and unforgiving terrain proves difficult and at times dangerous. Yet as the miles pass, the two lonely survivors tentatively begin to trust each other, forming a bond that marks the difference between life and death in this treacherous land.

Johnson, Julia Claiborne **BE FRANK WITH ME** 2016
Meet Frank. Frank is an odd 9-year-old boy who has a higher IQ than Einstein's and dresses as if he were on a movie set in the early 1920s–and he is someone with whom you are sure to fall in love. Frank's reclusive mother is an author whose publisher has just sent Alice Whitley to serve as an assistant and ensure the next book is completed.

Johnson, Kirk Wallace **THE FEATHER THIEF** 2018
Documents the astonishing 2009 theft of an invaluable collection of ornithological displays from the British Museum of Natural History and tracing the author's years-long investigation to track down the culprit and understand his motives, which were possibly linked to an obsession with the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. Nonfiction.

Jones, Tayari **AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE** 2018
Celestial and Roy are newly married professionals leaning in to a bright future when Roy is convicted of a crime he did not commit. This is not a heroes vs. villains tale with a tidy resolution. It is a complicated, messy, moving, and thought-provoking story about love, family, and the wide-reaching effects of incarceration.



Jordan, Hillary **MUDBOUND** 2008
In 1946, city girl Laura McAllan tries to adjust after moving with her husband and two children to an isolated cotton farm in Mississippi. Tensions rise when her brother-in-law and the son of sharecroppers return from World War II as men changed by the scars of combat.

Joyce, Rachel **UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY** 2012
Harold Fry is convinced that he must deliver a letter to an old love in order to save her, meeting various characters along the way and reminiscing about the events of his past and people he has known, as he tries to find peace and acceptance.

Kalanithi, Paul **WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR** (NF) 2016
A profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir by a young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis who attempts to answer the question. What makes a life worth living? At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **Babes with Big Books Book Club**.

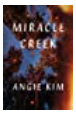
Keane, Mary Beth **ASK AGAIN, YES** 2019
A family saga about two Irish American families in a New York suburb, the love between two of their children, and the tragedies that threaten to tear them apart and destroy their futures.

Kelly, Martha Hall **LILAC GIRLS** 2016
The lives of three women converge at the Ravensbrück concentration camp as one resolves to help from her post at the French consulate, one becomes a courier in the Polish resistance, and one takes a German government medical position. Generously donated by **Once a Quarter Book Club.**

Kent, Hannah **BURIAL RITES** 2013
Set against Iceland's stark landscape, this is the story of Agnes, who, charged with the brutal murder of her former master, is sent to an isolated farm to await execution. As Agnes's death looms, the farmer's wife and their daughters learn there is another side to the sensational story they've heard. Generously donated as a gift from **The Max C. Mielecki Trust**.

Khong, Rachel **GOODBYE VITAMIN** 2017
Struggling with disillusionment after a broken engagement, Ruth moves back home with her parents to discover that her father's erratic memory loss and her mother's eccentricity are manifesting in near comical ways that help Ruth transform her grief.

Kidd, Sue Monk **THE INVENTION OF WINGS** 2014
The story follows Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid, and continues for the next thirty-five years of their lives. Inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, a feminist, suffragist and an abolitionist. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



Kim, Angie **MIRACLE CREEK** 2019
A dramatic murder trial in the aftermath of an experimental medical treatment and a fatal explosion upends a rural Virginia community where personal secrets and private ambitions complicate efforts to uncover what happened.

King, Lily **EUPHORIA** 2014
Frustrated by his research efforts and depressed over the death of his brothers, Andre Banson runs into two fellow anthropologists, a married couple, in 1930s New Guinea and begins a tumultuous relationship with them. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

Kingsolver, Barbara **FLIGHT BEHAVIOR** 2012
Dellarobia Turnbow is a discontent farmwife engaging in a flirtatious relationship with a younger man when she discovers an unusual fire in a forested valley behind her house. This curiosity causes a stir in the scientific and local communities, garnering a great deal of media attention and leads to Dellarobia confronting and questioning everything she thought she believed in.

*Kline, Christina Baker **THE EXILES** 2020
Sent to a Tasmanian penal colony after conceiving her employer's grandchild, a young governess befriends a talented midwife and an orphaned Aboriginal chief's daughter while confronting the harsh realities of British colonialism and oppression in 19th-century Australia.

Kline, Christina Baker **ORPHAN TRAIN** 2014
Close to aging out of the foster care system, Molly Ayer takes a position helping an elderly woman named Vivian and discovers that they are more alike than different as she helps Vivian solve a mystery from her past.

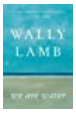
Ko, Lisa **THE LEAVERS** 2017
One morning, Deming Guo's mother, an undocumented Chinese immigrant named Polly, goes to her job at the nail salon and never comes home. With his mother gone, eleven-year-old Deming is left with no one to care for him. He is eventually adopted by two white college professors who move him from the Bronx to a small town upstate.

Korelitz, Jean Hanff **YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN** 2014
A successful New York City therapist with the perfect family she always wanted has her life turned upside after her husband goes missing and a chain of horrible revelations send her reeling. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Krueger, William Kent **ORDINARY GRACE** 2014
Looking back at a tragic event that occurred during his 13th year, a man explores how a complicated web of secrets, adultery and betrayal shattered his Methodist family and their small 1961 Minnesota community.

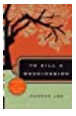
Kurson, Robert **ROCKET MEN** (NF) 2018
The inside story of mankind's historic first mission to the Moon, a tale of bravery and sacrifice by three legendary astronauts, and a journey that forever changed our understanding of our place in the universe. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **The Pickwickers Book Club**.

Lahiri, Jhumpa **THE LOWLAND** 2013
Brothers Subhash and Udayan Mitra pursue vastly different lives; Udayan in rebellion-torn Calcutta, Subhash in a quiet corner of America, until a shattering tragedy compels Subhash to return to India, where he endeavors to heal family wounds.



Lamb, Wally **WE ARE WATER** 2013
Anna Oh, a middle-aged wife, mother and artist, divorces her husband after 27 years of marriage to marry Viveca, the Manhattan art dealer who orchestrated her professional success.

Larson, Erik **DEAD WAKE** (NF) 2015
A 100th-anniversary chronicle of the sinking of the Lusitania that discusses the factors that led to the tragedy and the contributions of such figures as President Wilson, bookseller Charles Lauriat and architect Theodate Pope Riddle. Nonfiction.



Lee, Harper **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD** 1960
Growing up in the 1930's, a six-year-old experiences Southern prejudice when her father, a lawyer, is asked to represent a black man accused of beating and raping a white girl.

Lee, Harper **GO SET A WATCHMAN** 2015
Twenty years after the trial of Tom Robinson, Scout Finch returns home to Maycomb to visit her father Atticus and struggles with personal and political issues as her small Alabama town adjusts to the turbulent events beginning to transform the United States in the mid-1950s.

Lee, Min Jin **PACHINKO** 2017
Pachinko follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young tubercular minister offers to marry and bring her to Japan. So begins a sweeping saga of an exceptional family in exile from its homeland and caught in the indifferent arc of history.

Lockhart, E.L. **WE WERE LIARS** 2014
Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenager Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Lundberg, Sofia **RED ADDRESS BOOK** 2019
Living alone in her Stockholm apartment, a 96-year-old woman reminisces through the pages of a long-kept address book before starting to write down stories from her past, unlocking family secrets in unexpectedly beneficial ways. Generously donated by **The 20th Century Club Book Marques in memory of Martha Campbell**.

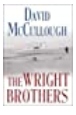
Makkai, Rebecca **THE GREAT BELIEVERS** 2018
A novel set in 1980s Chicago and contemporary Paris follows the director of a Chicago art gallery and a woman looking for her estranged daughter in Paris who both struggle to come to terms with the ways AIDS has affected their lives.

Mandel, Emily St. John **STATION ELEVEN** 2014
One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Manning, Molly Guptill **WHEN BOOKS WENT TO WAR** (NF) 2014
Chronicles the joint effort of the U.S. government, the publishing industry, and the nation's librarians to boost troop morale during World War II by shipping more than one hundred million books to the front lines for soldiers to read during what little downtime they had. Nonfiction.

Mbue, Imbolo **BEHOLD THE DREAMERS** 2016
In 2007, Manhattan-based Cameroonian immigrant Jende Jonga gets a job chauffeuring for Lehman Brothers executive Clark Edwards, easing the financial strain on his family. At first, all goes well, but problems in the Edwards' marriage lead to problems for the Jongas, and when Lehman falls, both families are caught up in the terrible aftermath.

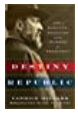
McCracken, Elizabeth **THE GIANT'S HOUSE** 1996
Befriending an adolescent boy who is ostracized for his unusual height, bereft Cape Cod librarian Peggy Cort finds a soulmate in James and comes to love him as he grows into a man of eight feet.



McCullough, David **THE WRIGHT BROTHERS** (NF) 2015
On December 17, 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Wilbur and Orville Wright's Wright Flyer became the first powered, heavier-than-air machine to achieve controlled, sustained flight with a pilot aboard. The Age of Flight had begun. How did they do it? Nonfiction
Generously donated by **The Pickwickers Book Club**.

McLain, Paula **CIRCLING THE SUN** 2015
Beryl broke all the rules for a proper young lady as she grew up in colonial Kenya, then broke ground for women everywhere, first as a horse trainer and then as an aviator. This is a story that weaves together a novelized biography of the first half of Beryl's unique life that takes her from childhood to her attempt at age 34 to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic from Europe to Canada.
Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

McLain, Paula **THE PARIS WIFE** 2011
Meeting through mutual friends in Chicago, Hadley is intrigued by brash "beautiful boy" Ernest Hemingway, and after a brief courtship and small wedding, they take off for Paris, where Hadley makes a convincing transformation from an overprotected child to a brave young woman.

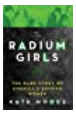


Millard, Candice **DESTINY OF THE REPUBLIC** (NF) 2011
This fascinating true account of President James A. Garfield reveals how he rose from poverty to become a scholar, Civil War hero, and renowned congressman before being nominated for president against his will. Nonfiction.

Miller, Madeline **CIRCE** 2108
In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child, not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology.

Mirza, Fatima Farheen **A PLACE FOR US** 2018
As an Indian wedding gathers a family back together, parents Rafiq and Layla must reckon with the choices their children have made. A Place for Us takes us back to the beginning of this family's life: from the bonds that hold them together to the differences that pull them apart. All the joy and struggle of family life are here, from Rafiq and Layla's own arrival in America from India, to the years in which their children -- each in his or her own way -- tread between two cultures, seeking to find their place in the world, as well as a path home.

Moore, Edward Kelsey **THE SUPREMES AT EARL'S ALL YOU CAN EAT** 2013
Forging a friendship at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Odette, Clarice and Barbara Jean meet regularly at the first diner owned by black proprietors in their Indiana city and are watched throughout the years by a big-hearted man who observes their struggles with school, marriage, parenthood and beyond. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

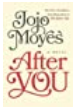


Moore, Kate **RADIUM GIRLS** (NF) 2017
This is the story of hundreds of young, vibrant women who were sentenced to death by their employers. The so-called "Radium Girls" painted luminescent faces on clock and watch dials using a paint mixture that contained radium. Instructed to "lip-point" their brushes as they painted, they absorbed high doses of radium into their bodies. When the effects of the radium led to horrific disfigurement and pain, the company refused to take responsibility. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Moore, Liz **HEFT** 2012
Arthur weighs 550 pounds and hasn't left his rambling Brooklyn home in a decade. Kel navigates life as a poor kid in a rich school, and pins his hopes on what seems like a promising baseball career. An unexpected connection transforms both their lives as they find sustenance and friendship in the most surprising places.

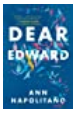
Moriarty, Liane **BIG LITTLE LIES** 2014
A horrible act of violence occurs at the Pirriwee Public School's trivia night fundraiser for parents, but what happened and who was involved? The novel begins six months before that fateful evening and lets us in on the lives of single mother Jane, twice-married Madeline, and Celeste, who secretly suffers from domestic abuse.

Moriarty, Laura **THE CHAPERONE** 2012
A novel about the friendship between an adolescent, pre-movie-star Louise Brooks and the 36-year-old woman who chaperones her to New York City for a summer in 1922 and how it changes both their lives. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



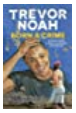
Moyes, JoJo **AFTER YOU** 2015
For Louisa Clark, life after Will Traynor means learning to fall in love again, with all the risks that brings. But here Jojo Moyes gives us two families, as real as our own, whose joys and sorrows will touch you deeply, and where both changes and surprises await.

Moyes, JoJo **ONE PLUS ONE** 2014
A single mom, her math genius daughter, her eye-shadow-wearing stepson, a wealthy computer geek and a smelly dog all get into a car…it sounds like the start of a bad joke, but it's actually another charming novel from Jojo Moyes. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



*Napolitano, Ann **DEAR EDWARD** 2020
A twelve-year-old lone survivor of a plane crash investigates the stories of his less-fortunate fellow passengers before making a profound discovery about his life purpose in the face of transcendent losses.

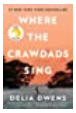
Ng, Celeste **LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE** 2017
Mia Warren arrives with her teenaged daughter, Pearl and rents a house from the Richardson's. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. When old family friends of the Richardson's attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs. Generously donated by the **Knight Readers Book Club.**



Noah, Trevor **BORN A CRIME** 2016
The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime story of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed. Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.

Obama, Michelle **BECOMING** 2018
An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States. In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America, she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private.

Orlean, Susan **THE LIBRARY BOOK** (NF) 2018
The acclaimed best-selling author of Rin Tin Tin and The Orchid Thief reopens the unsolved mystery of the most catastrophic library fire in American history, and delivers a dazzling love letter to a beloved institution—our libraries.



Owens, Delia **WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING** 2018
For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life, until the unthinkable happens. Generously donated by the **MBC Book Club**.

Palacio, R.J. **WONDER** 2012
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which requires enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Patchett, Ann **COMMONWEALTH** 2016
Bert Cousins leaves his wife for Beverly Keating, leaving her to raise four children on her own. Beverly, with two children of her own, leaves her husband for Bert. The six children involved are forced to forge a childhood bond based on the combined disappointment in their parents. As adults, they find their families' stories revealed in a way they couldn't possibly expect.

Patchett, Ann **THE DUTCH HOUSE** 2019
Danny and Maeve grow up in a magnificent house but when they are thrown out of their childhood home by their step-mother they find it difficult to let the past and the house go.

Phillips, Jayne Anne **QUIET DELL** 2013
In 1931, Emily Thornhill, one of the few women in the Chicago press, covers the murders of Asta Eicher and her three children and, obsessed with finding out what happened to this beautiful family, allies herself with the man funding the investigation. Generously donated by the **Happy Bookers Book Club**.

Picoult, Jodi **SMALL GREAT THINGS** 2016
Hesitating to treat the newborn of a white supremacist couple who has demanded that a white nurse assist them, a black nurse is placed on trial in the tragic aftermath and is aided by a white public defender with whom she begins questioning their beliefs as the case becomes more racially charged.

Polonsky, Ami **GRACEFULLY GRAYSON** 2014
Grayson, a transgender twelve-year-old, learns to accept her true identity and share it with the world. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

*Prescott, Lara. **THE SECRETS WE KEPT** 2019
A thrilling tale of secretaries turned spies, of love and duty, and of sacrifice--inspired by the true story of the CIA plot to infiltrate the hearts and minds of Soviet Russia, not with propaganda, but with the greatest love story of the twentieth century: Doctor Zhivago.

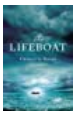
Quinn, Kate **THE ALICE NETWORK** 2017
A female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947are brought together in a story of courage and redemption. Generously donated by the **Pagewiners Book Club**.

Reid, Kiley **SUCH A FUN AGE** 2019
A story about race and privilege, set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.

Reid, Taylor Jenkins **THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO** 2017
Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one in the journalism community is more astounded than Monique herself. Summoned to Evelyn's Upper East Side apartment, Monique listens as Evelyn unfurls her story: from making her way to Los Angeles in the 1950s to her decision to leave show business in the late 80s, and, of course, the seven husbands along the way.

Richardson, Kim Michele **THE BOOK WOMAN OF TROUBLESOME CREEK** 2019
A last-of-her-kind outcast and member of the Pack Horse Library Project braves the hardships of Kentucky's Great Depression and hostile community discrimination to bring the near-magical perspectives of books to her neighbors.

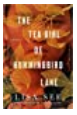
Riggs, Ransom **MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN** 2011
After a family tragedy, Jacob feels compelled to explore an abandoned orphanage on an island off the coast of Wales, discovering disturbing facts about the children who were kept there.



Rogan, Charlotte **LIFEBOAT** 2012
Forced into an overcrowded lifeboat after a mysterious explosion on their trans-Atlantic ocean liner, newly widowed Grace Winter battles the elements and her fellow survivors and remembers her husband, Henry, who set his own safety aside to ensure Grace's.

Rooney, Kathleen **LILLIAN BOXFISH TAKES A WALK** 2017
Embarking on a walk across Manhattan on New Year's Eve in 1984, eighty-five-year-old Lillian Boxfish recalls her long and eventful life, which included a brief reign as the highest-paid advertising woman in America, whose career was cut short by marriage and loss.

Ruiz Zafon, Carlos **THE SHADOW OF THE WIND** 2014
In 1945 Barcelona, Daniel is taken to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books by his father, a secondhand book merchant. Here under the auspices of his father and of Sr. Isaac, the guardian of the Cemetery, Daniel chooses a book, The Shadow of the Wind, written by an unknown author. Daniel embarks on a search to find out more about the book, its mysterious author and his life story.



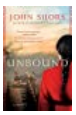
See, Lisa **THE TEA GIRL OF HUMMINGBIRD LANE** 2017
Li-Yan and her family, devote their lives to farming tea. Like her mother, Li-Yan is being groomed to become a midwife in her Chinese village. She yearns for more and is allowed to pursue her schooling. The arrival of outsiders seeking the Pu'er tea of Yunnan brings the modern world into this isolated village. When Li-Yan finds herself alone and pregnant, she leaves her child, wrapped with a tea cake, at an orphanage. Her daughter is adopted by a couple from California, but she is drawn to the study of tea.

Semple, Maria **WHERE'D YOU GO, BERNADETTE?** 2012
When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her.

Septeys, Ruta **SALT TO THE SEA** 2016
As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull. Generously donated by The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.

Shapiro, Barbara **THE ART FORGER** 2012
On March 18, 1990, thirteen works of art worth today over $500 million were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. It remains the largest unsolved art heist in history, and Claire Roth, a struggling young artist, is about to discover that there's more to this crime than meets the eye.

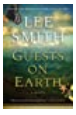
Shapiro, Dani **INHERITANCE** (NF) 2019
The acclaimed author of Hourglass describes her staggering recent discovery that she is not biologically related to her father, tracing her efforts to uncover the truth from a half-century web of family secrets to reestablish her sense of identity.



Shors, John **UNBOUND** 2018
The year is 1548 and the Chinese Empire faces an imminent Mongol invasion. All that prevents the violent end of a dynasty is the Great Wall. Fan has been missing for a year when his wife, Meng, decides to do the impossible, to leave everyone and everything she knows in a daunting effort to find him. At a time when many women fear even stepping outside their homes, Meng disguises herself as a man and begins a perilous journey of deliverance. Generously donated by **The Pagewiners Book Club**.

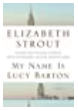
Simonson, Helen **MAJOR PETTIGREW'S LAST STAND** 2010
Major Pettigrew leads a quiet life in a small English village until his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Drawn together by a shared love of literature and the loss of their respective spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali soon find their friendship on the cusp of blossoming into something more.

Sittenfeld, Curtis **SISTERLAND** 2013
When the strongest earthquake in U.S. history occurs just north of their St. Louis home, Kate and Jeremy find the disaster further complicated by Kate's self-proclaimed-medium twin's prediction about a more powerful earthquake, a situation that places Kate under public scrutiny and reveals her own psychic abilities.



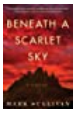
Smith, Lee **GUESTS ON EARTH** 2014
It is 1936 when orphaned thirteen-year-old Evalina Toussaint is admitted to Highland Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, a mental institution known for its innovative treatments for nervous disorders and addictions. Taken under the wing of the hospital's most notable patient, Zelda Fitzgerald, Evalina witnesses the cascading events leading up to the tragic fire of 1948 that killed nine women in a locked ward, Zelda among them. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Stevenson, Bryan **JUST MERCY** (NF) 2014
The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice. Nonfiction.

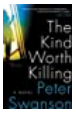


Strout, Elizabeth **MY NAME IS LUCY BARTON** 2016
Set in the mid-1980s, Lucy Barton, hospitalized for nine weeks, is surprised when her estranged mother shows up at her bedside. Her mother talks of local gossip, but underneath the banalities, Lucy senses the love that cannot be expressed. This is the story that Lucy must write about, the one story that has shaped her entire life. A beautiful lyrical story of a mother and daughter and the love they share.

Strout, Elizabeth **OLIVE, AGAIN** 2019
A sequel to Olive Kitteridge finds Olive struggling to understand herself while bonding with a teen suffering from loss, a woman who gives birth unexpectedly, a nurse harboring a longtime crush and a lawyer who resists an unwanted inheritance.



Sullivan, Mark **BENEATH A SCARLET SKY** 2017
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.



Swanson, Peter **THE KIND WORTH KILLING** 2015
Lily Kitner and Ted Severson meet in a London Airport bar and then share several more drinks on an overnight flight to Boston. Ted confides that his wife, Miranda is having an affair with the contractor working on their mega mansion. When Lily asks Ted what he's going to do about his wife's infidelity, Ted, replies, with a grin, that what he really wants to do is kill her.

Sweeney, Cynthia D'Aprix **THE NEST** 2016
If you think your family is dysfunctional, move over, because here come the Plumbs. Suddenly faced with the dismantling of the nest egg they've counted on to solve their financial woes, the four Plumb siblings have to grow up, and fast. But though they all do some terrible things in the name of ambition, there's something lovable about the Plumbs.

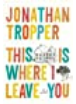
Tartt, Donna **THE GOLDFINCH** 2014
A young boy in New York City miraculously survives an accident that takes the life of his mother. Alone and abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by a friend's family and struggles to make sense of his new life. In the years that follow, he becomes entranced by one of the few things that reminds him of his mother: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the art underworld. It is a story of loss and obsession, survival and self-invention, and the enormous power of art. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.**

Tartt, Donna **THE SECRET HISTORY** 1992
A transfer student from a small town in California, Richard Papen is determined to affect the ways of his Hampden College peers, and he begins his intense studies under the tutelage of eccentric Julian Morrow.

Tóibín, Colm **BROOKLYN** 2009
Eilis Lacey is unable to find a job in Ireland in the years following World War II. An Irish priest from Brooklyn, New York offers to sponsor her to live and work in America, so she decides she must go leaving her mother and sister behind. She adapts to her new life by working in a department store and the pain of parting has subsided until she receives devastating news from home that threatens the promise of her future. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Towles, Amor **A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW** 2016
Deemed unrepentant by a Bolshevik tribunal in 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced to house arrest in a hotel across the street from the Kremlin, where he lives in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history unfold.

Towles, Amor **RULES OF CIVILITY** 2011
A chance encounter with a handsome banker in a jazz bar on New Year's Eve 1938 catapults Wall Street secretary Katey Kontent into the upper echelons of New York society, where she befriends a shy multi-millionaire, an Upper East Side ne'er-do-well, and a single-minded widow.



Tropper, Jonathan **THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU** 2009
Shortly after Judd's wife leaves him for his boss, Judd's father Mort passes away, bringing the entire family together in mourning. During this week of "sitting shiva," Judd realizes his siblings are even more dysfunctional than he is, and the confrontations that ensue are full of raw emotion and humorous consequences.

Tsukiyama, Gail **THE SAMURAI'S GARDEN** 1995
Stephen leaves his home in Hong Kong just as the Japanese are poised to invade China. He is sent to a small Japanese village to recuperate from tuberculosis. There, he meets and develops friendships with adults Matsu, Kenzo, and Sachi, and a young woman, Keiko, his own age. The unwinding stories of his new friends bring him to the beginnings of wisdom, love, honor, and loss.

*Turow, Scott **THE LAST TRIAL** 2020
A brilliant octogenarian defense lawyer on the brink of retirement seeks to prove the innocence of a long-time friend, a former Nobel Prize winner who has been charged with murder.

Tyler, Anne **A SPOOL OF BLUE THREAD** 2015
The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate togetherness, but they are also like all families, in that the stories they tell themselves reveal only part of the picture. Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets.

*Wallace, Chris and Mitch Weiss **COUNTDOWN 1945** 2020
A Fox News Sunday anchor and a Pulitzer Prize-winning AP investigative journalist present a behind-the-scenes account of the secret meetings, global events, leadership decisions, and civilian realities that led to the Hiroshima bombing. Generously donated by the **Pickwickers Book Club.**

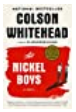
Walter, Jess **BEAUTIFUL RUINS** 2012
A romantic and enjoyable novel that follows a young Italian innkeeper and his almost-love affair with a beautiful American starlet, which draws him into a glittering world filled with unforgettable characters.

Watson, Larry **AS GOOD AS GONE** 2016
One of the last cowboys, Calvin Sidey, a steely, hardened man with his own personal code who lives off the grid in a trailer on the prairie, agrees to help his adult son out and stay with his grandchildren for a week during which he solves problems the Old West way, which has a powerful effect on those around him.

Weiner, Jennifer **MRS. EVERYTHING** 2019
Two sisters struggle to find their place, be true to themselves and adapt to rapid changes happening throughout the latter half of 20th-century America.

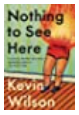
Weir, Andy **THE MARTIAN** 2014
After a bad storm cuts his team's Mars mission short, injured astronaut Mark Watley is stranded. Now he's got to figure out how to survive without air, shelter, food, or water on the harsh Martian landscape until the next manned mission in four years. Generously donated by **I'll Have What She's Reading Book Club**.

Westover, Tara **EDUCATED** (NF) 2018
This memoir traces the author's experiences as a child born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, describing her participation in her family's paranoid stockpiling activities and her resolve to educate herself well enough to earn an acceptance into a prestigious university and the unfamiliar world beyond. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **Babes with Big Books Book Club.**



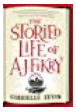
*Whitehead, Colson **THE NICKEL BOYS** 2019
A follow-up to the Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning, The Underground Railroad, follows the harrowing experiences of two African-American teens at an abusive reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. Generously donated by **Who Picked This Book Book Club. *Coming Soon***

Whitehead, Colson **THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD** 2015
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. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



*Wilson, Kevin **NOTHING TO SEE HERE** 2019
Agreeing to help her former roommate care for two stepchildren who possess the ability to spontaneously combust when agitated, Lillian endeavors to keep her young charges cool in the face of an astonishing revelation.

Wingate, Lisa **BEFORE WE WERE YOURS** 2017
Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge, until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents but they quickly realize the dark truth. Generously donated by **MBC Book Club**.



Zevin, Gabrielle **THE STORIED LIFE OF A. J. FIKRY** 2014
A middle-aged bookseller mourning his lost wife, a feisty publisher's rep, and a charmingly precocious abandoned child come together on a small island off the New England coast in this utterly delightful novel of love and second chances.

Last updated November 2020
**New discussion set*