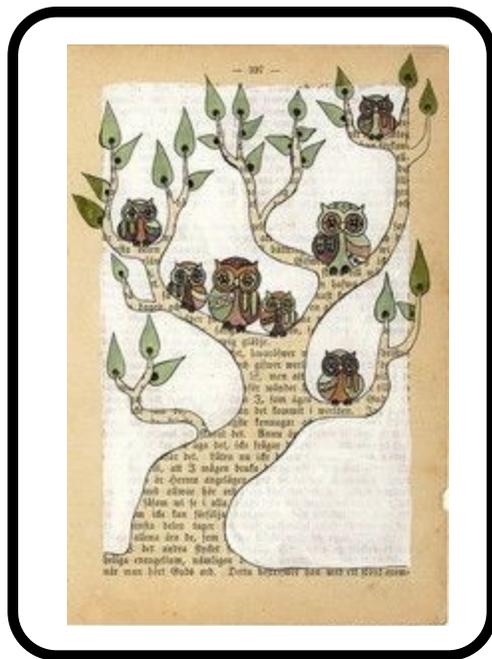


The Lost Sun (Gods of New Asgard, Book 1) by Tessa Gratton (Y GRA, Y cd FIC GRA) - Strong writing and an inventive recasting of mythological characters combine to create an evocative, romantic adventure. Soren and Astrid's struggle to understand their place in the larger world will resonate with readers, while their intense, moving romance will elicit plenty of sighs. This rousing narrative offers all the best elements of a mythological quest while giving unfamiliar readers a thorough but not heavy-handed introduction to the traditional tales.

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STAFF PICKS

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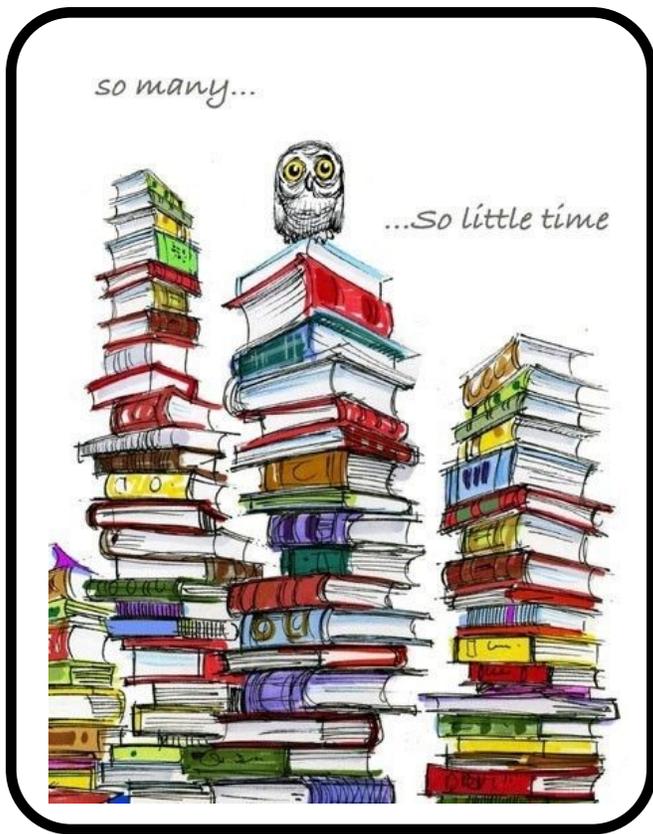
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Compiled May 2016

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"No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting."

Mary Wortley Montagu



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The staff at the Hershey Public Library would like to share with you some of the wonderful books we've been reading this past year.

Enjoy!
Key:

LP (Large Print) **B** (Biography)

cd (audio book on cd) **Pb** (paperback)

☉ (Debut-new author's first book)

*Book suggested for book groups

() Numbers shown at the end of book summaries in parenthesis are the number of Staff members who have recommended the book.

150 Pounds: A Novel of Waists and Measures by Kate Rockland (FIC ROC)

- A smartly-written novel of two women starting at opposite ends of the scale and finding compromise and friendship in their journey toward 150 pounds.

A Clue to the Exit: A Novel by Edward St. Aubyn (FIC STA) - Charlie Fairburn has been given six months to live. He resolves to stake half his fortune on a couple of turns of the roulette wheel and, to his agent's disgust, to write a novel - about death. Set on a train, it involves a group of characters locked in a debate about the nature of consciousness.



All the Birds in the Sky by Charlie Jane Anders (FAN AND) - Like the work of other 21st century writers, *All the Birds in the Sky* is a book which elevates Anders' humor above the morass of dystopian novels that have flooded the literary landscape. The result feels like one of William Gibson's baroquely complex

worlds, aerated by lighter-than-air dialogue and an engaging, diverse cast of supporting characters you'd love to meet at your next end-of-the-world party. ☺

Career of Evil by Robert Galbraith (MYS GAL, LP FIC GAL, cd FIC GAL) - *Career of Evil* is the third in the highly acclaimed series featuring private detective Cormoran Strike and his assistant Robin Ellacott (*Cuckoo's Calling* and *The Silkworm* are the first two in the series). It is a mystery and also a story of a man and a woman at a crossroads in their personal and professional lives.

Wildflower by Drew Barrymore (B BAR) - *Wildflower* is a portrait of Drew's life in stories as she looks back on the adventures, challenges, and incredible experiences she's had throughout her life.

Wishful Drinking by Carrie Fisher (B FIS) - Finally, after four hit novels, Carrie Fisher tells about the crazy truth that is her life in her first-ever memoir. Fisher reveals what it was like to grow up a product of "Hollywood in-breeding," come of age on the set of a little movie called *Star Wars*, and become a cultural icon and bestselling action figure at the age of nineteen.

Wool by Hugh Howey (SF HOW) -

Hugh Howey delivers the key elements of great science fiction: an authentic and detailed future-world; realistic, relatable characters to live in it; and a taut, thoughtful story. It has attracted hard-core science fiction fans as well as general readers, much like 'The Hunger Games.'"



Books in a Series

What are books in a series? A book series is a sequence of books having certain characteristics in common that are formally identified together as a group. Book series can be organized in different ways, such as written by the same author, or marketed as a group by their publisher.

If you are not sure what the order of books are in a series, visit

<http://ww2.kdl.org/libcat/whatsnext.asp> for a complete list of almost all authors.

Books In a Series Recommended by the Staff:

The Brixton Brothers Series by Mac Barnett (J BAR) - Seventh-grader Steve Brixton is obsessed with the Bailey Brothers, a pair of sibling sleuths who solve crimes in a mystery book series. Steve read all fifty-eight Bailey Brothers mysteries, sent away cereal box tops to get his Bailey Brothers Detective's License, and studies The Bailey Brothers' Detective Handbook. By using the tactics of his fictional heroes (with varying degrees of success), Steve inadvertently becomes America's top sleuth.

not-too-distant future. It marries the fantastical world of Harry Potter with a touch of Orson Scott Card—where fantasy is reality, geeks are cool, and the possibilities are endless.

The Revenant : A Novel of Revenge by Michael Punke (WES PUN) - A thrilling tale of betrayal and revenge set against the nineteenth-century American frontier. It is the astonishing story of real-life trapper and frontiersman Hugh Glass and one of the great tales of the nineteenth-century West. *

The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks (FIC BRO, LP FIC BRO, cd FIC BRO) - In her gorgeously written novel of ambition, courage, retribution, and triumph, Brooks imagines the life and character of King David in all his complexity. The language is clear and precise throughout when describing King David and the novel is timeless. *

Surprised by Oxford: A Memoir by Carolyn Weber (248.2 WEB) - *Surprised by Oxford* is the memoir of a skeptical agnostic who comes to a dynamic personal faith in God during graduate studies in literature at Oxford University. Rich with illustration and literary references the book is both humorous and spiritually perceptive.

The Swans of Fifth Avenue: A Novel by Melanie Benjamin (FIC BEN, LP FIC BEN) - The author of *The Aviator's Wife* returns with a triumphant new novel about New York's "Swans" of the 1950s. It tells all about the scandalous, headline-making and enthralling friendships between literary legend Truman Capote and his 'swans.' This is a wonderful, engrossing novel. *

The Time Between by Karen White (FIC WHI, LP FIC WHI) - Author Karen White delivers a novel of two generations of sisters and secrets set in the stunning South Carolina Lowcountry. This story is about complicated relationships, dysfunctional families, deep dark secrets and trying to learn to become whole again. It is romantic, emotional, and intriguing. *

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White (J WHI, dvd KF-C) - An affectionate, sometimes bashful pig named Wilbur befriends a spider named Charlotte, who lives in the rafters above his pen. Wilbur is devastated when he learns of the destiny that befalls all those of porcine persuasion. Determined to save her friend, Charlotte spins a web that reads "Some Pig," convincing the farmer and surrounding community that Wilbur is no ordinary animal and should be saved. In this story of friendship, hardship, and the passing on into time, E.B. White reminds us to open our eyes to the wonder and miracle often found in the simplest of things.

Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs by Johann Hari (363.45 HAR) - It is now one hundred years since drugs were first banned in the United States. On the eve of this centenary, journalist Johann Hari set off on an epic three-year, thirty-thousand-mile journey into the war on drugs. *Chasing the Scream* reveals his discoveries entirely through the stories of people across the world whose lives have been transformed by this war.

Chose the Wrong Guy, Gave Him the Wrong Finger by Beth Harbison (FIC HAR, LP FIC HAR) - Runaway bride Quinn Barton helps make other women's wedding dreams come true, but can't find her own happy ending in this smart, funny, and unapologetically romantic tale of finding love—and the guts to embrace it.

Circling the Sun by Paula McLain (FIC MCL, LP FIC MCL, cd FIC MCL) - *Circling the Sun* brings to life a fearless and captivating woman—Beryl Markham, a record-setting aviator caught up in a passionate love triangle with safari hunter Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen. Set against the majestic landscape of early-twentieth-century Africa, McLain's powerful tale reveals the extraordinary adventures of a woman before her time, the exhilaration of freedom and its cost, and the tenacity of the human spirit. *



The Crying of Lot 49 by Thomas Pynchon (FIC PYN) - *The Crying of Lot 49* is Thomas Pynchon's classic satire of modern America. It is a story about Oedipa Maas, a woman who finds herself enmeshed in what would appear to be an international conspiracy. When her ex-lover, wealthy real-estate tycoon Pierce Inverarity dies and designates her the co-executor of his estate, Maas is thrust into a paranoid mystery of metaphors, symbols and the United States Postal Service.

Do You Believe?: A Novel by Travis Thrasher (FIC THR) - An inspiring, heart-stirring, and faith-affirming story about how God works in the lives of those who believe. Evocative and moving, this sweeping narrative challenges you to confront the question: Do you really believe in the power of the cross, and if so, what are you going to do about it?

Downton Abbey: A Celebration - The Official Companion to All Six Seasons by Jessica Fellowes (791.43 FEL) - This is a compilation of in-depth interviews with the cast who have worked on the show for six years and know it so well, as well as a complete episode guide for the first five seasons and a teaser for the sixth. This book is packed full of stunning location shots and stills from all six seasons of the show including exclusive behind-the-scenes photography.

For the Love: Fighting for Grace in a World of Impossible Standards by Jen Hatmaker (248.843 HAT) - Author Jen Hatmaker is convinced life can be lovely and fun and courageous and kind. She reveals with humor and style how Jesus' embarrassing grace is the key to dealing with life's biggest challenge: people. In this raucous ride to freedom for modern women, Jen Hatmaker bares the refreshing wisdom, wry humor, no-nonsense faith, liberating insight, and fearless honesty that have made her beloved by women worldwide.

Forgiven: The Amish School Shooting, a Mother's Love, and a Story of Remarkable Grace by Terri Roberts and Jeanette Windle (289.7 ROB) - On October 2, 2006, a gunman entered an Amish one-room schoolhouse, shooting ten girls, killing five, then finally taking his own life. This is his mother's story. Not only did she lose her precious son through suicide,

The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: A Walk Through the Forest that Inspired the Hundred Acre Wood by Kathryn Aalto (578 AAL) - Beautifully written and thoroughly researched, this is a vivid guide to the 6,000 acres of Ashdown Forest in England, a landscape celebrated as the make-believe Hundred Acre Wood where Christopher Robin and friends had their adventures.

Nimona by Noelle Stevenson (Y STE) - A bestselling graphic novel based on Stevenson's beloved and critically acclaimed web comic. It is a story in which each of the main characters rescue allies, friendships, the Kingdom, and ultimately, themselves.

The Patron Saint of Lost Dogs by Nick Trout (FIC TRO, LP FIC TRO, cd FIC TRO) -This book is every bit as sweet as the golden retriever who sets Trout's novel into a whirl of motion that never lets up from the very first page. It is a story that reminds us of the truth that is hidden away in our hearts: loving our animals is a sure way to heal our souls. It is highly recommended for anyone who has ever had a beloved pet.

Pointe by Brandy Colbert (Y COL) - Colbert managed to weave together intense topics such as eating disorders, rape, kidnapping, drugs, sex, and of course friendship in a brilliant story. There's a lot of moral gray area in this book, yet it is everything you could possibly ask for in a gritty, realistic YA contemporary novel. It is poignant, sad, dark and heartbreaking.

The Price of Inequality by Joseph Stiglitz (305.5 STI) - A forceful argument against America's vicious circle of growing inequality by the Nobel Prize-winning economist. Stiglitz exposes the efforts of well-heeled interests to compound their wealth in ways that have stifled true, dynamic capitalism. He explains how inequality is affected by every aspect of national policy and with characteristic insight he offers a vision for a more just and prosperous future, supported by a concrete program to achieve that vision.

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline (FIC CLI) - An action-packed, highly entertaining, nostalgic thrill ride through the past combined with the danger and excitement of a

and the humorous, *Lust and Wonder* is an intimate and honest memoir.

The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto by Mitch Albom (FIC ALB, LP FIC ALB) - Mitch Albom, a lifelong musician himself, creates his most unforgettable fictional character—Frankie Presto, the greatest guitarist to ever walk the earth—in this magical novel about the bands we join in life and the power of talent to change our lives. (3)*

The Mark and the Void: A Novel by Paul Murray (FIC MUR) - A novel about international finance that not only isn't dense, boring, or annoyingly didactic, but is, in fact, a hilarious page-turner that nonetheless provides real insight into the ongoing economic crisis.

Me Before You by JoJo Moyes (FIC MOY, LP FIC MOY) - A contemporary love story, this book brings to life two people who couldn't have less in common. It is a heartbreakingly romantic novel that asks, "What do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart?" (2)*

The Meaning of Human Existence by Edward O. Wilson (128 WIL) - This illustrious book presents 160 photographs, some for the first time, that follow abolitionist Frederick Douglass throughout his life. It shows truth-telling aspects of photography and how it could be used as a tool in the fight against slavery.

Moonrise by Cassandra King (FIC KIN) - Set in the Blue Ridge mountains in a mysterious mansion with eerie gardens where night flowers bloom, *Moonrise* is a mystery, a romance, a story of friendships and betrayals, and ultimately one of love and forgiveness. King took her inspiration from Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca.

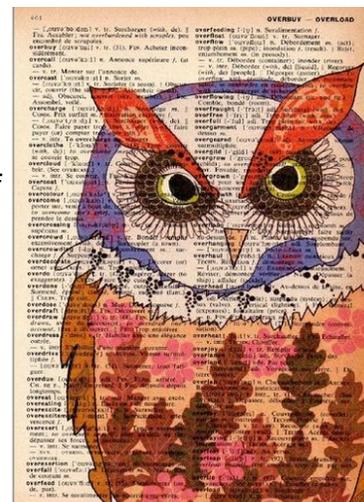
Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase by Louise Walters (FIC WAL) - A riveting debut with an impeccably researched past and charismatic present-day voices. *Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase* is full of unrequited love and old family secrets that combine to create a crackling multigenerational saga infused with passion and WWII-era historical detail. * ☺



but she also lost her understanding of him as an honorable man. Her community and the world experienced trauma that no family or community should ever have to face.

Garden Plants for Honey Bees by Peter Lindtner (638.1 LIN) - This book contains colorful photographs on every page showing the flowers that attract honey bees along with a rating scale for pollen and nectar for each plant. Also, the book is arranged according to month that the plants flower, so it can be a very helpful field guide.

George by Alex Gino (J GIN) - George is an important contemporary book. The younger we start teaching kids about being transgender, the better the chances are of saving transgender kids years of trying to figure out who they are. It also helps undo some of the transphobia that kids of this age might have already learned and internalized. Thanks to this work, trans youth will hopefully find themselves with more friends like Kelly and less bullies like Jeff.



Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America by Jill Leovy (364.152 LEO) - A masterly work of literary journalism about a senseless murder, a relentless detective, and the great plague of homicide in America. It gives a compelling analysis of the factors behind the epidemic of black-on-black homicide, one which deserves a wide audience.

H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald (598.9 MAC, LP 598.9 MAC) - Helen Macdonald's story of adopting and raising one of nature's most vicious predators has soared into the hearts of millions of readers worldwide. Fierce and feral, her goshawk Mabel's temperament mirrors Helen's own state of grief after her father's death and together raptor and human "discover the pain and beauty of being alive." *



Hiding in the Light by Rifqa Bary (248.2 BAR) - Rifqa Bary grew up in a devout Muslim home, obediently following her parents' orders to practice the rituals of Islam. *Hiding in the*

Light is the story of Rifqa's remarkable spiritual journey from Islam to Christianity. It is also the untold story of how she ran from her father's threats to find refuge with strangers in Florida, only to face a controversial court case that reached national headlines.

In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick (910.91 PHI) - Philbrick brings the memory of the story of the Whaleship Essex back to life again with his very well written book. The main events in this book took place in the time period of 1819-1821 and provides a very interesting history of Nantucket and the Whaling Trade. After several months at sea, the Essex was attacked and rammed by an eighty-five foot whale. It is fascinating to read about the attack of the giant whale on the ship, and to realize that the attacking whale was the actual basis for the whale in "Moby Dick." *

The Kashmir Shawl by Rosie Thomas (FIC THO) - Sorting through her parents' possessions after their deaths, Mair Ellis discovers a Kashmir shawl that once belonged to her Welsh grandmother. Curiosity drives Mair to trace the history of the shawl, a quest that takes her from Wales to India. As she pieces together her grandmother's past, the two women's stories intertwine, transporting the reader between the Kashmir of WWII and the present day. An engrossing, intelligent, and satisfying read, this publication is the American debut of a UK best-seller. (2)*

The Lake House by Kate Morton (FIC MOR, LP FIC MOR) - Living on her family's idyllic lakeside estate in Cornwall, England, Alice Edevane is a bright, inquisitive, innocent, and precociously talented sixteen-year-old who loves to write stories. One midsummer's eve, after a beautiful party drawing hundreds of guests to the estate has ended, the Edevanes discover that their youngest child, eleven-month-old Theo, has vanished without a trace. What follows is a tragedy that tears the family apart in ways they never imagined. (5)*

The Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig (FIC DOI, LP FIC DOI) - Over the course of a 36-year literary career, Doig painted as detailed and complete a picture of the American West as any writer of the last century and remained, at heart, an old-fashioned storyteller. *The Last Bus to Wisdom* is an unpredictable and boisterous road novel that offers a fresh take on several familiar Doig themes: nontraditional families, deep connection to the land, the West as a hardscrabble world of work and the profoundly (and often humorously) interwoven nature of everyday individual lives and political and social history. *

The Lavender Garden: A Novel by Lucinda Riley (FIC RIL, LP FIC RIL) - This is a story about an aristocratic French family, a legendary chateau, and buried secrets with the power to destroy two generations torn between duty and desire. A tale of wartime espionage and loyalties gained and gambled, *The Lavender Garden* will appeal to fans of historical fiction, Kate Morton, and Helen Bryan." *

The Little Paris Bookshop: A Novel by Nina George (FIC GEO, LP FIC GEO) - From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, Monsieur Perdu prescribes novels for the hardships of life. Using his intuitive feel for the exact book a reader needs, Perdu mends broken hearts and souls. Filled with warmth and adventure, *The Little Paris Bookshop* is a love letter to books, meant for anyone who believes in the power of stories to shape people's lives. *

The Looney Experiment by Luke Reynolds (FIC REY) - This is a story about Atticus Hobart who seems to struggle with everyday life. He lacks courage and is also bullied by Danny Willis who thinks he is better than anyone else. Mr. Looney, a 77 year old substitute English teacher, makes his way into Atticus's life and with his crazy teaching shows Atticus what the meaning of courage is.

Lust and Wonder: A Memoir by Augusten Burroughs (B BUR) - In chronicling the development and demise of the different relationships he's had while living in New York, Augusten Burroughs examines what it means to be in love and what it means to be figuring it all out. With Augusten's own unabashed way of detailing both the horrific