BOOK CLUB ASSISTANCE

Need help selecting or scheduling titles for your book club? We’re here to help!

Meet with an adult services librarian for one hour to hear about great books and schedule your kits. Make an appointment at the desk or online: www.wakegov.com/libraries/services/adults

BOOK CLUB KITS

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BOOK CLUB KITS for KIDS

Wake County Public Libraries is pleased to offer Book Club Kits for Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade! Ask a staff member for details.

SPOTLIGHT ON: ENGAGING BOOKS FOR DISCUSSION

Check out these kits for a lively discussion:

Books with complex characters and motivations.
For example, the characters in the following books have past histories that trouble their present: Jessica Knoll’s Luckiest Girl Alive, Celeste Ng’s Everything I Never Told You, or Marilynnne Robinson’s Lila.

Books you can read together.
You can discuss both books at the same meeting or in separate meetings. Examples: Deep South by Paul Theroux and If the Creek Don’t Rise by Leah Weiss; The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien and Grunt by Mary Roach; Another Brooklyn by Jacqueline Woodson and Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson.

Books that raise many, many issues.
Examples: Being Mortal by Atul Gawande; Evicted by Matthew Desmond; Kindred by Octavia Butler.

And as always, your library is a great resource! We can provide the knowledge and tools to make your book club a success.
- Request a Book Club Assistance appointment for a one-on-one meeting with a librarian to help you learn how to request book club kits or pick out titles for your club.
- Visit one of the library’s book discussions for ideas. All of the regional libraries offer monthly book discussions, and you do not have to be a regular participant to drop by and sit in on a discussion.
- Explore our Book Club Resources Information Guide http://guides.wakegov.com/bookclubresources
NEWLY ADDED FICTION

All the Birds in the Sky
Anders, Charlie Jane

News of the World
Jiles, Paulette

Lilac Girls
Kelly, Martha Hall

Second Mrs. Hockaday
Rivers, Susan

Last Painting of Sara DeVos
Smith, Dominic

Paris Architect
Belfoure, Charles

Marriage of Opposites
Hoffman, Alice

What She Knew
Macmillan, Gilly

Bruno, Chief of Police
Walker, Martin

NEWLY ADDED NON-FICTION

Hidden Figures
Lee Shetterly, Margot

Furiously Happy
Lawson, Jenny

Undoing Project
Lewis, Michael

Square Meal
Ziegelman, Jane

Glitter and Glue
Corrigan, Kelly

New Jim Crow
Alexander, Michelle

Just Mercy
Stevenson, Bryan

NONFICTION THAT READS LIKE FICTION:

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls
The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette’s brilliant and charismatic father captured his children’s imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn’t want the responsibility of raising a family.

The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes by Caitlin Doughty
Doughty’s memoir tells the story of her first year working as a crematory operator at a small, low-end funeral business in Oakland and her move from there to mortuary school and into the wider world of the funeral industry. The book is part memoir and part meditation on the business and philosophy of death customs in America. Doughty’s experiences with grieving families, learning on the job, and conversations with death professionals all come to inform her personal manifesto and commitment to confronting society’s chronic death phobia and advocating for families’ direct involvement with funeral ritual and customs. Doughty pulls no punches in her frank and often graphic descriptions of what happens to the human body after death, both before and after it arrives at the mortuary.

Empty Mansions by Bill Dedman
When Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Bill Dedman noticed in 2009 a grand home for sale, unoccupied for nearly sixty years, he stumbled through a surprising portal into American history. Empty Mansions is a rich mystery of wealth and loss, connecting the Gilded Age opulence of the nineteenth century with a twenty-first-century battle over a $300 million inheritance. At its heart is a reclusive heiress named Huguette Clark, a woman so secretive that, at the time of her death at age 104, no new photograph of her had been seen in decades. Though she owned palatial homes in California, New York, and Connecticut, why had she lived for twenty years in a simple hospital room, despite being in excellent health? Why were her valuables being sold off? Was she in control of her fortune, or controlled by those managing her money? Richly illustrated with more than seventy photographs, Empty Mansions is an enthralling story of an eccentric of the highest order, a last jewel of the Gilded Age who lived life on her own terms.

READ, WATCH, DISCUSS:

Read: The Handmaid’s Tale by Margaret Atwood
Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred and the other Handmaids are valued only if their ovaries are viable. Offred can remember the years before, when she lived and made love with her husband, Luke; when she played with and protected her daughter; when she had a job, money of her own, and access to knowledge. But all of that is gone now...

Watch: The Handmaid’s Tale
(2017; created by Bruce Miller, available on Hulu)

Read: Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
In the near future, scarce fossil fuels have ended America’s era of prosperity, sent small-town Americans to precarious vertical trailer parks at urban fringes, and the entire population into the OASIS, an immersive virtual reality, for education and escape. A possibly autistic genius obsessed with the geek side of 1980s pop culture had designed OASIS, and he leaves his entire fortune, including control of OASIS, to whoever can complete a quest he designed within it.

Watch: Ready Player One
(March 2018, directed by Steven Spielberg)