

March 28, 2017

Reading Across RI Selection

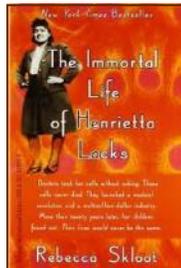
To be determined!

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April 25, 2017

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot, 2011

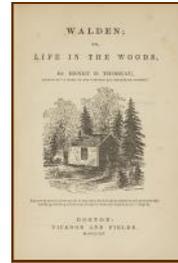
Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells -- taken without her knowledge--became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. The story of the Lacks family is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of.



May 30, 2017

Walden, Or Life in the Woods by Henry David Thoreau, 1854

Nature was a form of religion for naturalist, essayist, and early environmentalist Henry David Thoreau (1817-62). He wished to "live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and ... learn what it had to teach." Toward that end Thoreau built a cabin in the spring of 1845 on the shores of Walden Pond -- on land owned by Ralph Waldo Emerson -- outside Concord, Massachusetts. There he observed nature, farmed, built fences, surveyed, and wrote in his journal. One product of his two-year sojourn was this book -- a great classic of American letters.

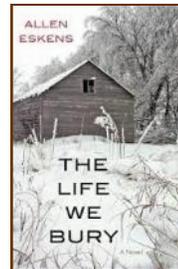


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June 27, 2017

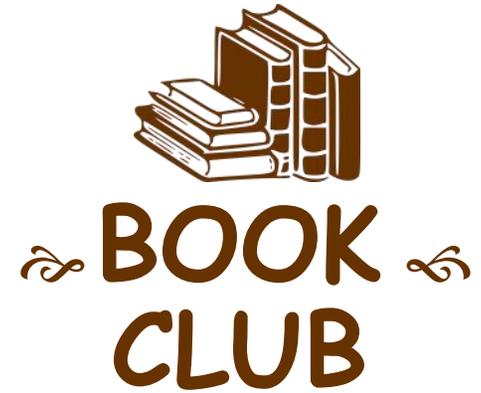
The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens, 2014

College student Joe Talbert has the modest goal of completing a writing assignment for an English class: to interview a stranger and write a brief biography of the person. With deadlines looming, Joe heads to a nearby nursing home to find a willing subject and meets Carl Iverson, a convicted murderer. Thread by thread, Joe unravels the tapestry of Carl's conviction. But as he digs deeper into the circumstances of the crime, the stakes grow higher. Will Joe discover the truth before it's too late to escape the fallout?



"We should read to give our souls a chance to luxuriate." Henry Miller

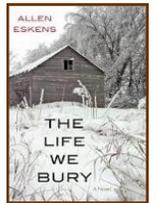
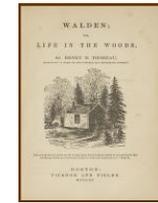
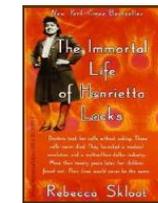
PPL Brown Bag



2016 - 2017 Selections



RARI Selection TBD



Meeting at Noon the last Tuesday of every month at Providence Public Library 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI 02903

Providence Public Library's (PPL) Brown Bag Book Club meets monthly on the last Tuesday of every month (except where noted\*) from 12 to 1 pm in the Trustees' Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The member-chosen titles include classic and contemporary fiction, nonfiction and a group trip to The Gamm Theater in February to see their production of *The Children's Hour* by Lillian Hellman.

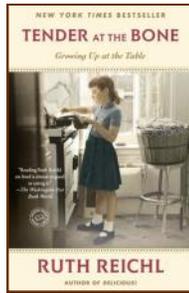
Copies of the month's selection will be made available for check out by club members at the Circulation desk of the Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI 02903. For more information, please call Book Club Coordinator Louise Moulton at (401) 455-8134 or email [lmoulton@provlb.org](mailto:lmoulton@provlb.org).

September 27, 2016

***Tender at the Bone:  
Growing Up at the Table***  
by Ruth Reichl, 1998

At an early age, Ruth Reichl discovered that "food could be a way of making sense of the world. . . If you watched people as they ate, you could find out who they were." Her deliciously crafted memoir is the story of a life determined, enhanced, and defined in equal measure by a passion for food, unforgettable people, and the love of tales well told.

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November 29, 2016

***The Pearl Diver*** by Jeff Talariga, 2004

In 1948, a nineteen-year-old Japanese pearl diver is in her fourth season of perfecting the techniques of her age-old occupation. But her dreams of spending her life diving in the waters of the Inland Sea are shattered when she discovers that she has leprosy. She knows that the shame attached to the disease is inescapable: rejection by her family is imminent, exile unavoidable. Written with precision and eloquence, *The Pearl Diver* is an unforgettable and compassionate tale of one woman's search for wisdom, beauty and self-worth.

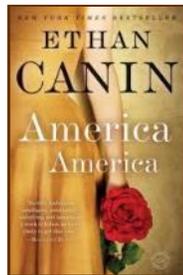


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October 25, 2016

***America, America*** by  
Ethan Canin, 2008

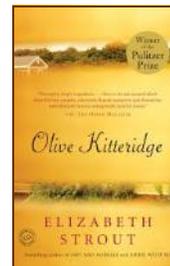
In the early 1970s, Corey Sifter, the son of working-class parents, becomes involved with the powerful Metarey family. Through the family's generosity, he attends a private school and becomes an aide to a New York senator running for president. As the campaign gains momentum, Corey finds himself caught up in a complex web of events in which loyalty, politics, sex, and gratitude conflict with morality, love, and the truth.



December 20, 2016 \*

***Olive Kitteridge*** by  
Elizabeth Strout, 2008

Author Elizabeth Strout binds together thirteen rich, luminous narratives into a book with the heft of a novel, through the presence of one larger-than-life, unforgettable character. *Olive Kitteridge* offers profound insights into the human condition -- its conflicts, its tragedies and joys, and the endurance it requires.

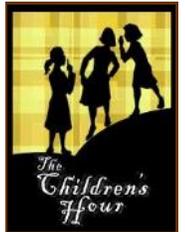


January 31, 2017

***The Children's Hour*** by  
Lillian Hellman, 1934

*The Children's Hour* is a dramatic play that challenged the moral values of contemporary American society in 1934. In an all-girl boarding school run by two women, an angry student lashes out by telling her grandmother that the two headmistresses are having an affair. The accusation proceeds to destroy the women's careers, relationships and lives.

Join us in a group trip to The Gamm Theater for their version of *The Children's Hour*.



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February 28, 2017

***The Book Thief*** by  
Markus Zusak, 2006

The narrator of *The Book Thief* is Death himself, a companionable if sarcastic fellow, who travels the globe "handing souls to the conveyor belt of eternity." Death keeps plenty busy during the course of this WWII tale, even though Zusak works in miniature, focusing on the lives of ordinary Germans in a small town outside Munich.

