

2023-24 Book Club Selections Descriptions

<p><i>Horse</i> Geraldine Brooks</p>	<p>The story, which takes place in the antebellum South, is about Lexington, considered the greatest horse of his age, and the enslaved boy who trained him. Interwoven with it are threads about horse racing; horse paintings and painters; art history, restoration, and provenance; science and women in STEM; rearticulation of animal skeletons...some of which are placed in New York in the mid-1950s and 2019 in Washington, DC.</p>
<p><i>The Book of Lost Names</i> Kristen Harmel</p>	<p>Eva is a young woman who uses her talent for forgery to help hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis. In this novel Eva decides she must find a way to preserve the real names of the children, who are too young to remember who they really are.</p>
<p><i>The Magnolia Palace</i> Fiona Davis</p>	<p>This two-part novel is a story of secrets, betrayals and murder in one of the famous Gilded Age Mansions (The Frick Museum), in NYC. It begins with the story of Lillian Carter, an artist's model as she needs to turn to another avenue of employment, a result of the turns of her life.</p> <p>The next part of the story, an English model, Veronica Weber, now employed there, follows a series of hidden messages that could solve the mystery of a 52-year-old murder in the Frick family.</p>
<p><i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i> Isabel Wilkerson</p>	<p>The story of how and why millions of Black Americans left the South between 1915 and 1970 to escape the brutality of the Jim Crow Laws and to find safety, better pay, and more freedom in what is known today as The Great Migration.</p>

<p><i>Pandora's Clock</i> John J. Nance</p>	<p>In a German forest, Ernest Helms sees a man trying to break into his car. After a scuffle, Helms escapes with only a cut on his hand. Hours later, he collapses aboard a flight from Frankfurt to New York. The pilot radios London to plan an emergency landing but both Heathrow and Germany deny permission to land. The pilot and passengers are caught between a deadly disease and a world that would rather shoot them down than risk contamination.</p>
<p><i>Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo</i> Lawrence Anthony</p>	<p>When the Iraq war began, conservationist Lawrence Anthony could think of only one thing: the fate of the Baghdad Zoo, caught in the crossfire at the heart of the city. Hostilities and uncontrolled looting devastated the zoo and its animals. Working with members of the zoo staff and a few U.S. soldiers, he bartered for food on war-torn streets, and scoured bombed palaces for desperately needed supplies.</p>
<p><i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> Bonnie Garmus</p>	<p>Set in the 1950s-1960s California, Elizabeth Zott, a strong and self-assured, self-educated woman becomes a chemist at a male-dominated research institute. There, she meets and falls in love with another chemist, but life soon leaves her to be a single, jobless mother. She reluctantly and unexpectedly becomes the star of a hit cooking show on TV, where she is able to intermingle her love of science with the challenge to women to change the status quo. However, her entire career trajectory is an uphill battle against sexism, both explicit and implicit.</p>

<p><i>The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek</i> Kim Michele Richardson</p>	<p>The book takes place in the Kentucky hills during the Great Depression in 1936. As part of a literacy project, library books are delivered on horseback to people living in the hills of Kentucky. The book tells the story of one family with a genetic health condition that actually turns their skin blue. The mother becomes a packhorse librarian despite the challenges she encounters. Themes include distrust of authority, the random and dangerous nature of prejudice, the power of community, and the importance of caring. The book is based on actual events.</p>
<p><i>Ordinary Grace</i> William Krueger</p>	<p>Frank Drumm is 13 years old and lives in New Bremen, Minnesota, where it's summertime, a summer that begins with the death of a child on railroad tracks outside the town. More death is to follow, in a summer that will change lives in the small town forever. Themes include grief, sibling relationships, faith, loyalty, trust, respect, mystery, bullying, mental health, friendship, community, loss of innocence, forgiveness, prejudice, and the Grace of God.</p>
<p><i>The Girl Who Wrote in Silk</i> Kelli Estes</p>	<p>A novel of Chinese Immigration to the Pacific Northwest is a dual historical and contemporary novel in which modern-day aspiring hotelier Inara Erickson discovers a beautifully embroidered sleeve depicting a tragic event from the 1880s through which Chinese American Mei Lien lived over a hundred years before.</p>