

March Staff Picks

Amelia recommends the movie *Spirited Away*

Studio Ghibli is one of my all-time favorite filmmakers. Based in Japan, this studio has made tons of movies, short films, and one television film. What I admire most about their work is the gorgeous animations they create and the beautiful orchestrated music in the background.

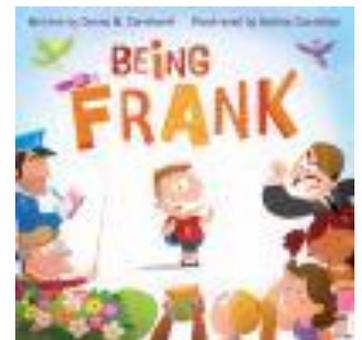
Spirited Away is one of my favorite films by Studio Ghibli. You get introduced to a little girl, Chihiro and her parents. They're driving to their new house after moving. They find themselves a little lost and are greeted by a tunnel leading to an abandoned village with a little sculpture blocking their way. Curiosity overruns them and they decide to take a walk through the tunnel together. Chihiro has a bad feeling about it. Little did she know this little walk would change her life forever.

Her parents become cursed for being greedy and eating the spirit's food, so a witch, Yubaba turns them into pigs. Yubaba is in charge of the bath-house that sits overlooking the whole village. Chihiro is set on a journey to work in this bath-house until she is able to get her parents back. With help from her new friends, the boiler man Kumaji, her mentor Lin, and the mysterious Haku, they help her get the job and teach her how to do everything. Haku helped Chihiro from the beginning and she still cannot understand why. She feels like she knows him and tries figuring out who he is to her. Watch as Chihiro is faced with an unknown world with spirits, totems, and an evil spirit named No Face who finds a liking towards Chihiro.



Calista recommends *Being Frank* by Donna W. Earnhardt, illustrated by Andrea Castellani

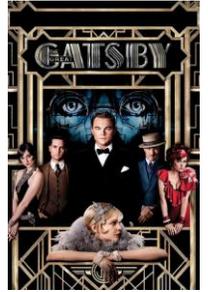
Frank's policy is Always Tell the Truth! However, friends, teachers, and family don't always appreciate Frank's too truthfulness! This troubles Frank, so he seeks advice from his also *very frank* Grandpa. Grandpa Ernest helps Frank realize that you can still tell the truth, but it helps to just add a little extra sweetness to it! Well written, funny, and with some great advice too!



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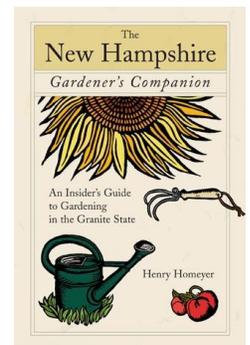
Eileen recommends *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and the 2013 movie adaptation

I'd never read *The Great Gatsby* before. Then this January, it came out of copyright, and to celebrate, the staff of the Planet Money podcast read it from start to finish. And I listened and enjoyed the clever turns of phrase and polished descriptions. That led me to watch the 2013 movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio. It was also witty, and so beautiful to look at! I recommend, either or both, the book and the movie.



Kelly recommends *The New Hampshire Gardener's Companion: An insider's guide to gardening in the Granite State* by Henry Homeyer

Continuing my quest to “think green and gardening” I am recommending Henry Homeyer’s *The New Hampshire Gardener’s Companion*. For those who have recently moved to this area, and even those of us who have been here much longer, this is a great organic resource for tips and tricks and just general information about gardening in the Granite State. Even though this book was published in 2007 it is still very relevant to today’s gardening. Henry has been gardening since he was a small boy under his grandfather’s tutelage and continuing for decades. He completed the master gardener program offered by the UNH Cooperative Extension in 1998. This guide to gardening in New Hampshire is primarily based on methods he has tried and found to work. While there are no pretty glossy photographs one would expect to see in such a resource, I found it refreshing to read through a gardening book that focused on the basics. I did enjoy the occasional block print illustrations sprinkled throughout, though.

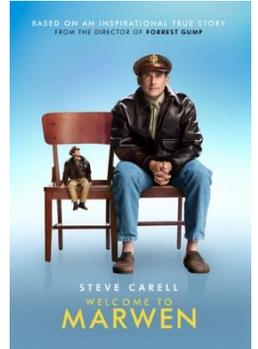


The author begins with the basics: types of NH soils (great explanation of pH and how the naturally occurring crushed granite is beneficial), growing seasons, and water needs. He then covers growing vegetables, annual and perennial flowers, trees, shrubs, lawns, and invasive plants. Garden solutions is last including coping with pests and diseases without using pesticides, which I personally strive for. I enjoy a fresh vegetable I can munch on while out in the garden without worrying about washing pesticides off first. In addition to all of the above areas, he also shares some great resources for finding organic seeds, fertilizer, plants and even tools in the New England area. The glossary and index at the back of the book are most helpful too. I began garden planning and brushing up on my gardening knowledge just before the new year and this little NH gardening primer is definitely a wonderful resource.

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Linda recommends the movie, *Welcome to Marwen*

This movie is based on the life of Mark Hogancamp, aka Captain Hogie. The artist uses his gift of creativity to heal and recover from a brutal beating that robbed him of most of his memories. *Marwen* – the artist’s portrayal of his world in miniature – is conveniently located outside his mobile home. Although Hogie scripts and films life in *Marwen*, art imitates life and all is not predictable. There are a number of women in Hogie’s life that care for him and keep him grounded. These women populate *Marwen* in the form of dolls. The film is engaging and inspires viewers to use their imagination. The talented Steve Carell portrays the artist. *Welcome to Marwen* won Leo Awards (June 2019) for Best Cinematography in a Motion Picture and Best Sound in a Motion Picture. Released in December 2018, this PG-13 movie is worth viewing.



Sarah recommends *Into the Planet: My life as a cave diver* by Jill Heinerth

"I am not fearless. I'm alive today because I've learned to embrace fear as a positive catalyst in my life. As I dwell on the threshold of darkness, I might be scared, but I don't run away."

This is a breathtaking memoir of Jill’s path to becoming an intrepid and accomplished cave diver, one who has seen places never seen by anyone else. Jill dives into an Antarctic B15 iceberg, explores seams in rocks found in cow ponds in Florida that lead into deep underwater caverns, outmaneuvers mudslides inside of rainforest caves while cave diving, and even swims inside conduits in volcanoes. Jill’s personal journey to reckon with life-long fears while developing resilience has led to a unique passion and legacy. She takes the reader across thresholds into previously unknown territory, sharing awe-inducing photos of the biodiversity and geology that she finds in the most unexpected places. The library just purchased her children’s book, *The Aquanaut*, which has vibrant illustrations of her adventures and encourages children to cultivate boldness and bravery. If you enjoy thrilling true stories set in the natural world, this one might be for you! I found it very hard to put down.

