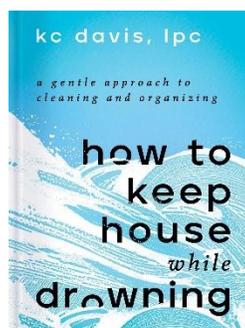


WAREHAM FREE LIBRARY – JANUARY 2023 STAFF READER'S ADVISORY PICKS

Week of 1/2-1/7/2023



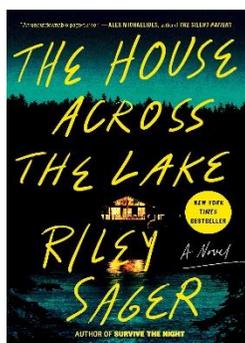
Bri

Title: How to Keep House While Drowning

Author: K.C. Davis

Self-Help

An interesting nonfiction book that one of the WFL patrons suggested I check out - I really enjoyed it! The book that focused on "a gentle approach to cleaning and organizing" and is a good, quick read for anyone who likes organization tips or cleaning gurus like Marie Kondo. Along with suggestions about how to keep your home neater, it contains gentle reminders that mess is not a moral failing. I liked the way the book was structured - lots of short chapters and main points in bold. A nice read for anyone whose new year's resolution is to get more organized!



Christina

Title: The House Across the Lake

Author: Riley Sager

Suspense/Thriller

Actress Casey Fletcher heads to her family's lake house in Vermont to recuperate after a traumatic experience and a streak of bad press. Soon after her arrival, Casey saves her neighbor, former model Katherine Royce, from drowning and the two begin a friendship. But Casey, who is prone to boredom and curiosity, begins spying on Katherine and her husband, Tom, who live in the house across the lake. Casey believes there is trouble in paradise for the Royces, and when Katherine goes missing a few days later, she instantly suspects Tom is involved. But there are more layers to the mystery for Casey to unravel: a suspicious new neighbor, a stalled-out business endeavor, reports of other young women who had also vanished from the area, and an old folk's tale about the lake that seems too crazy to be true.

It took me a while to get pulled into this one, mostly due to frequent references to alcohol and what I initially thought was a bit too much focus on Casey's past. Things did get more interesting as I went along, and as someone with a great appreciation for psychology, I enjoyed the plot twists and lingering questions involving the supporting characters' lives. It'll keep you guessing until the last few pages!



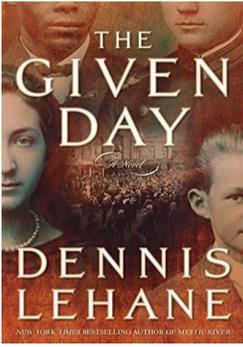
Jen

Title: Guncle

Author: Steven Rowley

Fiction

This book is very funny! It is about a once-famous gay sitcom star whose unexpected family tragedy leaves him caring for his niece and nephew over the summer and how he manages these new responsibilities. The book deals with issues of loss and gay love.



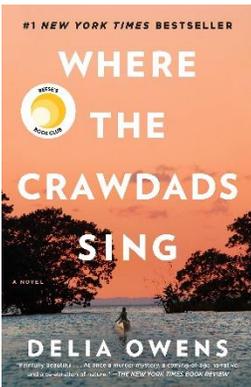
Kathy

Title: **The Given Day**

Author: **Dennis Lehane**

Historical Fiction

Set in Boston at the end of the First World War this novel captures the political and social unrest of a nation caught at the crossroads where past meets future. Filled with a cast of richly drawn, unforgettable characters, *The Given Day* tells the story of two families—one black, one white—as well as Babe Ruth! The story begins with Babe Ruth and could have been a standalone novel. It travels from Post World War I to prohibition and is the first book of the Joe Coughlin trilogy (followed by *Live by Night* and ending with *World Gone By*). Deeply researched and over 700 pages, it is a remarkable piece of historical Boston fiction.



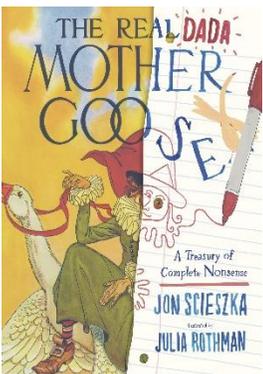
Kaya

Title: **Where the Crawdads Sing**

Author: **Delia Owens**

Fiction

A bildungsroman story about a young girl named Kya who has survived on her own in the marshes of North Carolina. The subject of gossip and prejudice with the local coastal townsfolk, she becomes the first to face the pointing fingers when the local "golden" boy is found dead. As the story unfolds, the author shows the feral beauty of nature and the incredible connection that Kya has formed with it as she learns nature's secrets and survives on its quiet wealth. I don't always enjoy stories that are primarily about someone's life (I typically enjoy fast-paced thrillers and fantasy novels), but this story was so beautiful and moving and included some murder mystery vibes that had me intrigued. When the last page was turned (and I was shedding MORE tears), I was left thinking about nature and how incredible life truly is - from the tiniest snail to the vastness of the ocean and how much human nature is reflected in the patterns in the world around us.



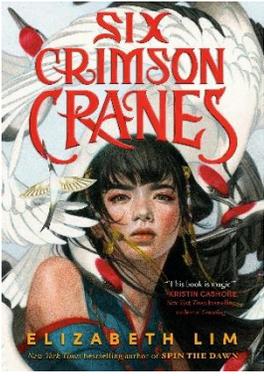
Marcia

Title: **The Real Dada Mother Goose: A Treasury of Complete Nonsense**

Author: **Jon Scieszka** Illustrator: **Julia Rothman**

Juvenile Picturebook Fiction

This entertaining and irreverent re-imagining of six familiar rhymes is so much fun! Each nursery rhyme has eleven different variations of the original...Morse Code, different languages, censored, book report style, multiple choice, anagram, secret code, recipe, and backward to mention a few. The illustrator uses a flock of "dada" geese that convert the rhymes along with engaging illustrations. If you're a fan of languages and puzzles, you will devour this title!



Melissa

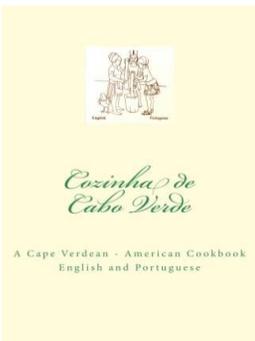
Title: **Six Crimson Cranes**

Author: **Elizabeth Lim**

YA Fantasy Fiction

Princess Shiori of the Kingdom of Kiata and her six brothers find themselves cursed by their stepmother and fleeing their home in search of a cure. However, this twisted fairytale has you wondering if the curse isn't a blessing in disguise as aggressive warlords, malevolent priestesses, evil enchanters, a dragon king, star-crossed lovers and misguided soldiers all come together in a wonderful tale of a young woman's coming of age as she faces the realization of her former selfishness, current responsibilities, and the emergence of a greater world view. A stellar read that has me wildly anticipating the conclusion to this duology in "The Dragon's Promise."

Week of 1/9-1/14/2023



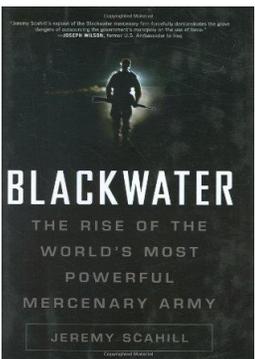
Bri

Title: **Cozinha de Cabo Verde**

Author: **Thomas D. Lopes**

Cookbook

So my book recommendation is a Cape Verdean American cookbook! It's a CVN publication, straight out of New Bedford. As someone of Cape Verdean descent, I've been interested in exploring and learning more about different Cape Verdean dishes. This cookbook is great because it has recipes I recognize as familiar from my childhood, and other recipes that I'm curious to try. It is also interesting because many of the recipes are written in both English and Portuguese. I think exploring culinary heritage and food traditions is a really good way to connect with your cultural background and family history!



Christina

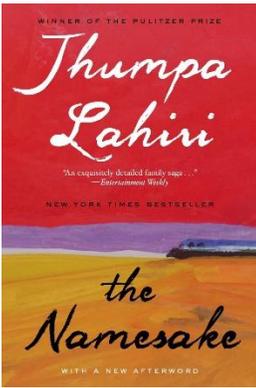
Title: **Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army**

Author: **Jeremy Scahill**

Non-Fiction/Investigative Journalism

This is sort of an old one (2007), but oldies are still goodies! Investigative journalist Jeremy Scahill provides an in-depth look into a part of the U.S. military-industrial complex that has gone largely unnoticed: private military companies. The details regarding Blackwater's origins, connections, and involvement in the war on terror, namely in Iraq, can be shocking, painful, and frustrating, but certainly eye-opening.

A great, informative read for anyone interested in learning more about the inner workings of our nation's military and government.



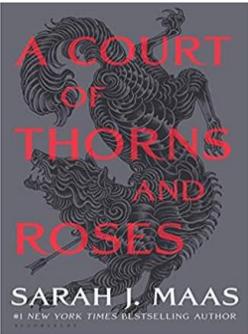
Jen

Title: **The Namesake**

Author: **Jhumpa Lahiri**

Fiction

This is a novel about Gogol Ganguli, an Indian-American, who struggles with his name and the traditions of his family. He is embarrassed by them in front of his American friends, but eventually grows to appreciate what he and his family went through when moving to America.



Kaya

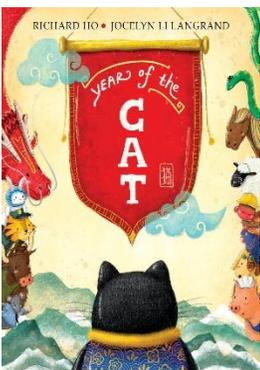
Title: **A Court of Thorns and Roses**

Author: **Sarah J. Maas**

Fantasy/Fiction

There I was - a recent graduate, burnt out, with all fervor and love for reading sucked away from my body. The pandemic had just begun and I needed something to do; since I had heard such great things about this book, I decided to give it a try. At first, it read a little like a Wattpad fanfiction and I was entertained. But holy cow, nothing could have prepared me for how much the book took off. It truly just kept getting better and better and by the end I was in shock.

I have never read something that had such a phenomenally layered plot, and complex character development. There was action, world-building, curses and challenges, and all of the dark allure of a fantasy world full of danger and temptation. It blew my mind. This series genuinely brought back my love for reading, and I would recommend it to any adult or young adult who enjoys fantasy.



Marcia

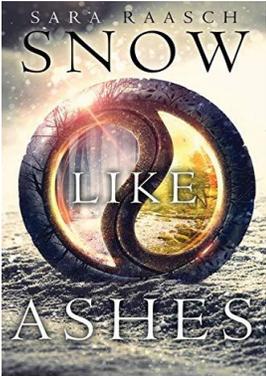
Title: **Year of the Cat**

Author: **Richard Ho** Illustrator: **Jocelyn Li Langrand**

Juvenile Picturebook Fiction

Lunar New Year begins on January 22nd this year and we celebrate the year of the rabbit. Those born in the year of the hare are said to be lucky, kind, and peaceful. The animals of the Chinese Zodiac are based on a Chinese folktale in which 13 animals race to the Emperor's Palace.

There is NO Year of the Cat in the lunar calendar, because in the traditional folktale Rat was tricky and pushed Cat into the river and she never made it to the palace. This beautifully illustrated story is a re-imagination of the Zodiac animals feeling guilty about Cat's misfortune and how they go on an adventure-filled journey to find Cat to apologize, only to find that she is not upset at all! She explains that 'Every year is the Year of the Cat,' & holds a fantastic celebration for all.



Melissa

Title: **Snow Like Ashes**

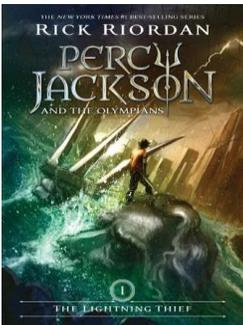
Author: **Sarah Raasch**

YA Fantasy Fiction

With the Kingdom of Winter conquered, lacking a conduit to its elemental magic, and the people enslaved, any hope of freedom rests on the few that escaped during Spring's siege. Meira, one of this small band, has lived on the run since a baby. Trained as a warrior, she would do anything to see Winter's power & magic restored. In the midst of fragile alliances, personal & political betrayals, dangerous magic & heart-breaking friendships, Meira 'finds' herself & her role in the destiny of her people.

Great world-building, engaging characters and subtle plots - this book builds momentum as you read it leaving you wildly anticipating the next in the series.

Week of 1/16-1/21/2023



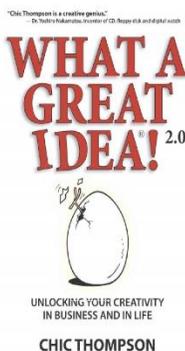
Bri

Title: **Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief**

Author: **Rick Riordan**

YA Fantasy Fiction

I loved this book, in particular, and the Percy Jackson series as a whole as a kid. Riordan is really skilled at blending Greek mythology with current day themes to make a modern day story. The Lightning Thief is a great introduction to the Rick Riordan universe; the author does a really amazing job of world building and connecting all of the different storylines together. After reading this first book, I immediately wanted to read the rest of the series! I've actually decided that I want to go back and re-read the series now, since the new Percy Jackson and the Olympian series is coming out on Disney+ next year and I want to prepare myself by refreshing my memory.



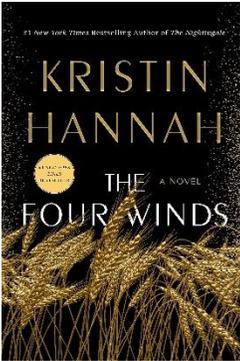
Christina

Title: **What a Great Idea! Inventions That Changed the World**

Author: **Stephen Tomecek**

Non-Fiction

This is a fantastic way to introduce children to the origins of so many things that are a huge part of everyday life. From academics and anesthesia, to tools and technology, and everything in between - you'll learn the ways that each invention works and how different societies have been impacted by them.



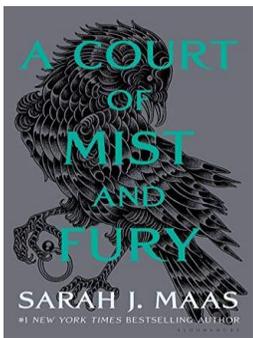
Jen

Title: **The Four Winds**

Author: **Kristen Hannah**

Fiction

I found this book to be really heartfelt and poignant. It takes place during the Great Depression (1930's) at a time when the country was in crisis with people out of work and the drought devastating the Great Plains. It is about the hope, courage, and strength of a young woman named Elsa who has been forced to travel from Texas to California to seek a better life for her two young children, and her struggles to keep her children fed, alive and safe.



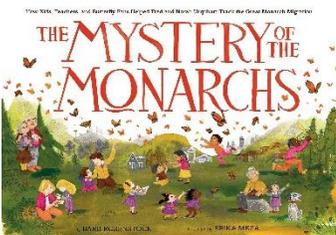
Kaya

Title: **A Court of Mist and Fury**

Author: **Sarah J. Maas**

Fantasy/Fiction

The 2nd book in an incredible series, this book stood out to me as one of the most impactful stories I have ever read. With incredible characters, beautiful imagery and themes, and a bit of spice to make things even more interesting. Following the events 'Under the Mountain,' Feyre finds herself haunted by what she has experienced and unsure of how to balance a life caught between the Night and the Spring courts. As she navigates her new life among the Fae, she realizes that the looming war is only just beginning.



Marcia

Title: **The Mystery of Monarchs**

Author: **Barb Rosenstock** Illustrator: **Erika Meza**

Juvenile Nonfiction

This book tells the story of a boy from Canada who was obsessed with bugs from a young age. When he was 16 he wrote to a renowned entomologist to ask where the monarch butterflies went in the winter. He was surprised to find out that no one knew. He became a professor of entomology and made it his life's work to discover the secret of the monarchs. It took him 50 years with the help of school children, their teachers, and nature enthusiasts from three countries, but, finally, in 1975 the winter resting place for millions of monarchs was discovered!

This inspiring story teaches children perseverance, determination, the importance of collaboration, and an enduring love of the natural world and all of its creatures.



Melissa

Title: The House in the Cerulean Sea

Author: T. J. Klune

Fantasy Fiction

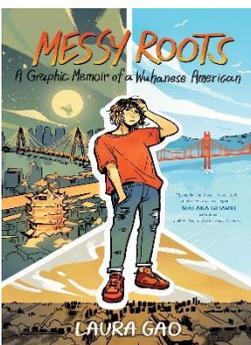
Although this book begins slowly (to set the plot line and character base line), it soon becomes a nicely-paced tale of an unconventional "found" family and what it means to accept yourself and others - with all of the talents, insecurities and failings - and truly understand what being part of a family really means.

Linus Baker is an OCD, meticulous, and zealous case worker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He dreams of white sand beaches, sunshine and ocean breezes. His world is turned on its head when he's assigned a new case at an island orphanage situated in the house on the cerulean sea and he finally sees and experiences all of these wonders. The drama begins when his desire to do his work to the "nth" degree conflicts with his moral, ethical and empathetic desire to support both the odd assemblage of children in this house and the eccentric Master. The "management" of the DICMY have no interest in the actual welfare of these individuals, nor do the townspeople living on the mainland, all parties just want to keep the island's inhabitants under control, as far away from the public as possible, and ensure that they don't bring about the possible end of the world.

I loved this story's heartfelt dive into what it's like to be an outsider, a reviled or feared person in a very biased and uneducated environment, when you're only being yourself. The story does an excellent job of dissecting negative bias and depicting the emotions that both those under scrutiny for being different and those judging them feel, and why/how these emotions can be divisive and destructive. Of course, it also shows what can happen when you squash your true nature and try to please everyone except yourself.

A really lovely book that will appeal to both youth and adults trying to determine their own self-worth and place in the world and in a "family" and the love and/or rejection inherent in both.

Week of 1/23-1/28/2023



Bri

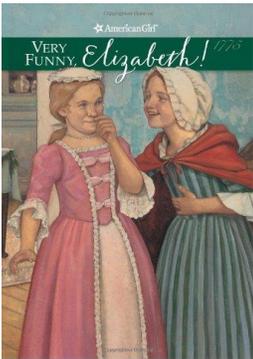
Title: Messy Roots: A Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese American

Author: Laura Gao

YA Graphic Novel/Non-Fiction

This is a book that I read when it was first released and I think it's a really interesting memoir about what it's like growing up as an Asian American. As a graphic novel it's a quick and easy read, yet it has wonderfully nuanced observations. I especially remember laughing at the author's recounting of her childhood, since so many of her experiences were familiar to me and would be to other Asian kids growing up in the states. The way she incorporated Chinese

mythology, and related the story of Chang'e and her guardian rabbit to her own life was really clever and engaging! What intrigued me the most about this recent memoir was that it depicted how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the author and her family as Chinese immigrants specifically from Wuhan. I think there are a lot of books that talk about pandemic life, but this particular memoir approached it from a unique perspective I hadn't seen in other works.



Christina

Title: **Very Funny, Elizabeth!**

Author: **Valerie Tripp**

Juvenile Fiction

I finally decided to check out an American Girl book! I never read them when I was younger, but it's certainly better late than never. In this story, we meet three young girls named Elizabeth, Felicity, and Annabelle, who live in colonial Virginia. Elizabeth and Annabelle are sisters, while Felicity is Elizabeth's best friend and partner in mischief-making, of which prim-and-proper Annabelle is usually the target. Things go awry, however, when Annabelle becomes engaged. Elizabeth believes that the match doesn't quite suit her sister and decides to pull another prank with Felicity during the engagement announcement party. After some ensuing chaos, the incident results in each of them learning valuable lessons about themselves and one another.

My favorite part of this book was the changing dynamic between the sisters and Annabelle's realization that Elizabeth sometimes teases her in an effort to help rather than irritate. Overall, it's a refreshing story about growing up and learning to understand the reasons behind other people's behavior.



Kaya

Title: **The 39 Clues**

Author: **Rick Riordan**

YA Adventure/Mystery

This is a collaborative series (each book written by a different author) with this being the first. The main story follows the adventures of Amy and Dan Cahill (siblings) and opens with the loss of a beloved family member.

At the reading of the will, a huge family secret is revealed spurring Amy and Dan to look back at the influence their family has had throughout history. As the siblings start their quest to find 39 Clues - ingredients to a serum that can create the most powerful person on Earth - it's a race against their relations to uncover the fascinating historical truths about events, geographical wonders, people, inventions, elements, and institutions.

This was such a fun and educational read for me when I was in grade school and middle school! I learned about a wide variety of topics while being completely engaged by the incredible excitement, mysteries, action, adventure, and drama. I would recommend it for young adults who enjoy things like *Sherlock*, *Nancy Drew*, or *The Magic Tree House*.



Marcia

Title: **Lightlark**

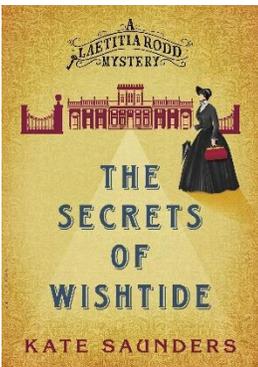
Author: **Alex Aster**

YA Fantasy Fiction

This story revolves around an event called the Centennial, which takes place every 100 years on the island of Lightlark. The deadly game summons the six rulers of the realms, who battle for a chance to break the curses that plague their kingdoms.

One realm suffers from a curse in which all the women must kill whoever they fall in love with. Their young ruler, Isla Crown, must lie, cheat, and betray in order to win the Centennial.

Amazing plot twists, romance, and adventure fill this impossible to put down tale. Universal Studios bought the film rights... Lightlark may be coming to the big screen!



Melissa

Title: **The Secrets of Wishtide**

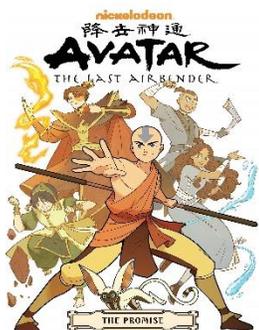
Author: **Kate Saunders**

Mystery

It's Victorian London and 52-year old Laetitia (Letty) Rodd, an archdeacon's widow, discreetly investigates "inappropriate" matters for well-respected members of society hoping to avoid scandal and blots on their good names. In this case, she begins what appears to be a simple enough inquiry into the background of a seemingly unsuitable marriage candidate for the son of landed gentry, but the situation quickly devolves into murder, blackmail, betrayal, and heartbreak. Letty, her sly landlady (Mrs. Bentley), and Letty's brother (Fred, the criminal barrister providing the cases) are wonderfully indomitable characters chock full of keen intellect, common sense, and close-mouthed discretion, well-balanced by a youthful sense of adventure and mischief that has not succumbed to age.

I would recommend this series of books to any fan of Sherry Thomas' "Lady Sherlock" novels, C.J. Archer's "Cleopatra Fox" novels, or Agatha Christie's "Miss Marple" novels. A wildly fun quick read that will have you looking for the next in the series.

Week of 1/30-2/4/2023



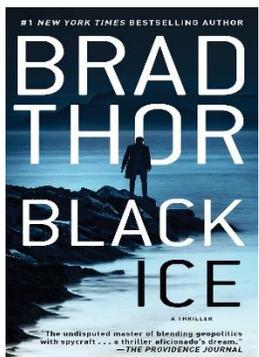
Bri

Title: **Avatar the Last Airbender: The Promise**

Author: **Gene Luen Yank**

YA Graphic Novel

Avatar the Last Airbender was one of the most iconic shows from my childhood, almost any twenty something has seen this series! It's still one of my favorite animated series, and it maintains its appeal for kids today. This graphic novel is great because it picks up exactly where the show had left off. It's a really good continuation of the story for anyone who's recently binged the series and wants to know what happens to Aang and the gang next.



Christina

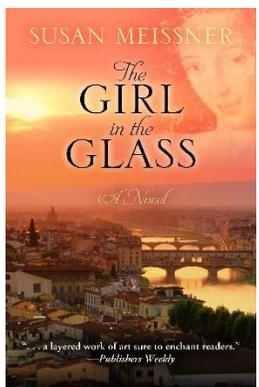
Title: **Black Ice (Book 20 of the "Scot Harvath" series)**

Author: **Brad Thor**

Action Thriller

Scot Harvath has been having the summer of his life in Norway with his girlfriend, Solvi, but his vacation mindset is disrupted when he sees a "ghost" - a man he killed on assignment years ago - get out of a taxi. Harvath becomes obsessed with discovering the man's identity, which takes him into the center of an operation involving Russia and China.

After getting some initial help from Solvi, he calls in a highly skilled intelligence team, and delves into his new mission taking them deep into the Arctic Circle. Together, can they endure the race against time and the forces of nature to prevent a potential third world war?



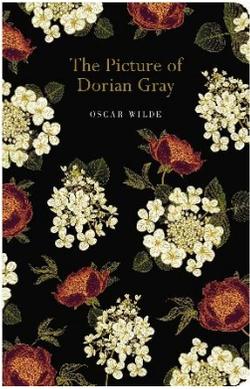
Jen

Title: **The Girl in the Glass**

Author: **Susan Meissner**

Fiction

This book is a soul-searching journey as much for the reader, as it is for Meg, a book editor who has always dreamed of going to Florence, Italy. This dream was spurred on by a painting hanging in her grandmother's house when she was a young girl. This book shares the timeless splendor of Florence, and its exquisite sculptures, paintings, cathedrals and museums. The story captures the spirit of Italy and your heart with a story of love, heartache and the power in each of us to shape our future, despite anything that's happened in the past.



Kaya

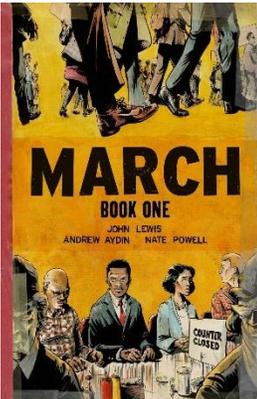
Title: **The Picture of Dorian Gray**

Author: **Oscar Wilde**

Fiction

In 19th century London, a handsome young man named Dorian Gray has his portrait painted. As the image is completed, Dorian realizes that he will outlive the portrait and the youthful beauty that it captures. Driven by narcissistic pride, and the poor influences of a companion, Dorian makes the first of a lifelong series of terrible choices – he makes a deal with the devil. As the years pass and Dorian looks as young and as handsome as ever, the portrait begins to reveal the rotting and corrupted character that Dorian has truly become.

This book was tragically beautiful, full of thought-provoking ideas, and dark seduction. Oscar Wilde corrupts his own characters in such a way that the reader can only sit back and read in horror as the story unfolds. The book originally faced much criticism for its scandalous themes, but as Wilde says in this story: “The books that the world calls immoral, are books that show the world its own shame.”



Marcia

Title: **March: Book One**

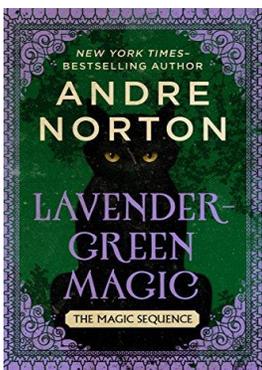
Authors: **John Lewis & Andrew Aydin**

Illustrator: **Nate Powell**

YA Graphic Memoir

March is a vivid first-hand account of Congressman John Lewis' lifelong involvement in the Civil Rights movement. Book One recounts his youth, the pivotal meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., their struggle to bring an end to segregation through non-violent lunch counter sit-ins, and his first rally on City Hall steps.

This three book series is amazing for teens. The illustrations are incredibly impactful - you can't "un-forget" the violence Lewis endured in his fight for justice.



Melissa

Title: **Lavender-Green Magic**

Author: **Andre Norton**

YA Magic/Time Travel

With their father MIA in Vietnam, Holly, Judy, and Crockett Wade move from Boston to the small town of Dimsdale, MA to live with their grandparents. The usual fears of a new school, new neighbors and an unfamiliar environment plague Holly and she worries that she'll never fit in. However, with the discovery of an old scented pillow embroidered with broken circles, Holly begins to have strange dreams and the children find a maze (similar in design to the embroidery on the pillow) in the junkyard next door. What they fail to realize is that the maze is a path to another time. Their "timely" journey takes them to colonial New England where they meet a healer (Tamar) and engage in a

perilous race to save their town from the clash between the forces of good and evil as two witches duel for control.

This is truly one of my well-loved favorite reads from childhood. It traveled with me as we moved from town-to-town, school-to-school, and my siblings and I were continually faced with meeting new neighbors and finding our way in strange places. I still pick it up to read about once a year and it never fails to enthrall me. A must read for any tween/teen fearing similar challenges or just looking for a magical read.