
CORALVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

STAFF PICKS 2018

FICTION

TELL TALE BY JEFFREY ARCHER—Jeffrey Archer always tells a good story. This volume, his first short story collection in almost a decade, contains engaging tales of travel and adventure—the perfect way to deal with cabin fever! [F A671, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

HAG-SEED BY MARGARET ATWOOD—A humorous, contemporary, and heartfelt reinvention of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. After being deposed as the artistic director of the renowned Makeshiweg Theatre Festival by his scheming assistant, Felix is heartbroken and his production of *The Tempest* is cancelled. Needing to earn a living while plotting his revenge, Felix takes a job teaching prisoners at a nearby correctional facility through a “Literacy through Theatre” program, where Felix and his new production of *The Tempest* become hits with the prisoners. But will Felix ever get his chance at retribution? [F A887, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE STORY OF ARTHUR TRULUV BY ELIZABETH BERG—A delightful, quick book. A family by choice can be wonderful. [F B493, CD book, ebook]

THE SELECTION BY KIERA CASS—This book is categorized as a dystopian novel but it plays out a little more like a fairy tale. The world around them is dystopian, but in the palace it's full of everything

royal. I enjoyed this book because the story line is different than those of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*. If you've never listened to an audiobook—this is a good one to start with! [YA C343, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

HOPSCOTCH BY JULIO CORTÁZAR—You can read this novel straight through and get a pretty good story about an expatriate Argentinian writer who returns home after the disappearance of his mistress and must start earning a living at a picaresque series of jobs, or you can “hopscotch” through the novel, reading the so-called “expendable” chapters at the end, which offer you subplots and even more richness than the basic story. [ebook, ON ORDER]

STARS OVER CLEAR LAKE BY LORETTA ELLSWORTH—A romantic story that takes place in Clear Lake, Iowa. Historical references are enlightening about the Surf Ballroom and the presence of German POWs in Iowa during WWII. [F E74, LP, ebook, eaudio]

THE MAGUS BY JOHN FOWLES—The first novel by postmodern British novelist John Fowles recounts the adventures of Nicholas Urfe, an Oxford graduate who goes to teach on a small Greek island and gets involved in a complex psychological game with a wealthy island recluse. It's a real head trip. [F F789, ebook, eaudio]

THE LIST BY PATRICIA FORDE—*Fahrenheit 451* meets *The Giver* in this spellbinding book about language, the

environment and humanities role in protecting them both. [YA F711, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE SECRET HISTORY OF TWIN PEAKS BY MARK FROST—A must read for fans of the original series. This collection of documents dating from the Lewis and Clark expedition to the present day reveals previously unknown links between the happenings in Twin Peaks and leads readers to yet more questions. [F F939, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

DIFFICULT WOMEN BY ROXANNE GAY—Roxane Gay gained popularity with her bold and candid voice in a book of essays called *Bad Feminist*. The short stories collected in *Difficult Women* challenge the context and connotation of the book's title by celebrating women who persisted and endured. She accepted the Paul Engle Prize for literature at the Coralville Public Library in 2016. [F G285, ebook]

DESCENT BY TIM JOHNSTON—Tim Johnston, who is originally from Iowa City, is the author of *Descent*, a literary thriller about a family that has always been captivated by the Rocky Mountains. On their last family vacation before the oldest daughter, Caitlin, goes off to college, the Courtlands leave their home in the Midwest to visit Colorado. One morning, Caitlin and her brother, Sean, go out for an early morning run, but only Sean returns. As the search for their Caitlin stretches on into the months, the remaining family descends into a shared nightmare while each of their paths become more solitary. Johnston's writing style is simple, effective, and evocative, the suspense building throughout to an

avalanche of an ending. [F J73, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE STAND BY STEPHEN KING—In this classic tale of good versus evil, a government-manufactured virus leaks out and kills the majority of the US population. Protagonists of many different backgrounds meet each other seemingly by chance. But as the story progresses and higher powers come to light, it becomes clear that something—or someone—is recruiting as many forces as possible to defeat the dark man in the west. Definitely a captivating read from start to finish and, on the whole, it is paced very well considering its epic-sized story line. [F K54, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE GIRL WHO TAKES AN EYE FOR AN EYE BY DAVID LAGERCRANTZ—Lisbeth Salander is back with a vengeance. A good continuing story of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* series. [F L 174, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE GRACEKEEPERS BY KIRSTY LOGAN—Privileged few live on land in the future, while the rest of humanity is left to the whims of the seas. Landlocker Callanish and dampling Noah are drawn together by their shared secrets as their lives shatter around them. [ON ORDER, ebook, eaudio]

THE LIES OF LOCKE LAMORA BY SCOTT LYNCH—Locke is the best thief in Camorr, a city-state that resembles a fantastical collision of Venice and London. When a new crime lord with lofty ambitions muscles into town, Locke will have to use all of his cunning to keep himself and his loved ones alive. [F L987, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

TOMORROW SERIES BY JOHN MARSDEN—This riveting series features protagonist Ellie Linton, who is part of a small band of teenagers waging a guerrilla war on enemy invaders in their fictional home town of Wirrawee, Australia. In the first book, the teens had gone camping, and when they returned home they found their town had been invaded and taken over, and their friends and family were taken prisoner. After short period of shock and recovery they start making plans to fight back. I listened to the first book, and really enjoyed the Australian narrator. The story has a good amount of action and excitement, a little romance, and believable situations and reactions, both positive and negative. [YA M364, CD book, ebook]

A MADNESS SO DISCREET BY MINDY MCGINNIS—Grace Mae doesn't know which is worse: the asylum or the upper class home she came from. She finds escape in an ethical asylum where the doctor uses her photographic memory for investigating crimes using criminal psychology. In this historical mystery McGinnis explores what it means to be insane. [Mys M478 McGi, YA M478 McGi, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE CITY AND THE CITY BY CHINA MIEVILLE—This is a new take on the classic detective-centered murder mystery. *The City and the City* submerges the reader in an extreme and intricately designed setting in which two neighboring cities, Beszel and Ul Qoma, exist under an unseen governing entity known as Breach. Citizens of both cities are forbidden to even acknowledge the other side under penalty of being taken by Breach, never to be seen again. The

story is told through Detective Borlu's perspective, who is investigating a murder of a Jane Doe in the city of Beszel. The case unravels a scandal of epic proportion that begins to blur the lines between the two cities. Mieville's detailed storytelling not only makes the idea of the two cities believable, but it sparks conversation about the relationship between governing bodies and their citizens. Whether or not you like political commentary or just a good ol' fashioned Law-and-Order-esque story line, this book provides both. [F M632, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

MEN WITHOUT WOMEN BY HARUKI MURAKAMI—Let this collection of short stories be your introduction into the strange and wonderful world of Japanese writer Haruki Murakami. These stories observe the title's theme to describe with depth and complexity the relationships, and, at times, the alienation and the loneliness, concerning men and women, with a Murakami twist. [F M972, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE REST OF US JUST LIVE HERE BY PATRICK NESS—Mikey doesn't know if the indie kids are falling in love with vampires, fighting zombies, or what this time around. He is just hoping that none of his friends become collateral damage. Whatever it is, he just wants to finish high school and deal with his own problems, without having to worry about the high school being blown up (again). [YA N463, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

DEPT. OF SPECULATION BY JENNY OFFILL—A short but rich lyrical novel about a woman who wants to be an "art monster"—to live only for writing—but

who instead is also a wife and mother, torn between her love for her family and her desire to be something else. Offill is also the author of several children's books, including the delightful *17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore*. [F 032, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

AKATA WITCH BY NNEDI OKORAFOR- Twelve year-old Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has latent magical abilities. She is a Free Agent descended from Leopard People and has a lot to learn! Sunny must join forces with three other teens with special powers to defeat a monster and save the world. If you like Harry Potter, give this very imaginative and fast-paced book a try. The sequel is called *Akata Warrior*. [YA 041, ebook]

YOU BRING THE DISTANT NEAR BY MITALI PERKINS—This book is told in alternating voices across three generations, beginning in 1965 when the Das family immigrates to America, and stretching through the present. Each Das woman – from matriarch Ranee, to her daughters and granddaughters – grapples with identity and acceptance as they decide which Bengali traditions to uphold in America. This book is full of heart and is a journey worth taking! [YA P449, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

SMALL GODS BY TERRY PRATCHETT— In the Discworld, gods are powered by the belief of their followers. This is unfortunate for the great god Om as his followers believe in his church instead of him. This has left him stuck in the form of a tortoise, a creature not usually equated

with greatness nor godliness. To make matters worse, his only remaining follower, while kindhearted, is not considered very bright. [F P912, ebook]

LA BELLE SAUVAGE: BOOK OF DUST VOLUME 1 BY PHILIP PULLMAN—A riveting fantasy for teens and adults and a must-read for fans of *The Golden Compass*. *La Belle Sauvage* is Philip Pullman's first book in a long anticipated trilogy, companion to *His Dark Materials*. Set a decade before *The Golden Compass* in the same parallel alternate world of Oxford, where each human is connected to a daemon (an animal manifestation of the soul), free thinking is at odds with oppressive religious rule. Lyra, the heroine of the original books, is only an infant. 11-year-old Malcolm Polstead, a local innkeeper's son, is the compassionate, bold hero who meets baby Lyra and discovers her need for protection from impending forces of nature and mysterious, evil factions bent on doing her harm. With his canoe, La Belle Sauvage, as transport, Malcolm and a cranky but courageous kitchen-girl, 16-year-old Alice, intrepidly risk their lives to keep Lyra safe. Fans of *His Dark Materials* will devour *La Belle Sauvage*. Readers new to Pullman's trilogies will find *La Belle Sauvage* a fascinating introduction to Lyra's story and, along with Malcolm, begin to understand the significance of Lyra's destiny. [YA P982, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

JACKABY BY WILLIAM RITTER—When starting this book I was skeptical and wasn't sure what I was getting into. But I was very quickly caught up in the enigmatic story of Mr. Jackaby. It's a mix between magic and a *Criminal Minds*

episode. Loved it! [YA R615, ebook, eaudio]

UNDER THE NEVER SKY BY VERONICA ROSSI—This futuristic sci-fi novel is one that grabbed my attention from the beginning. The way the book is written is fascinating and vivid, but easy to follow. I loved the story line and the trust the main characters build over the course of the book. It left me wanting more! [YA R883, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE INEXPLICABLE LOGIC OF MY LIFE BY BENJAMIN SAENZ—This is a beautifully written novel exploring big themes including death, loss, forgiveness, violence, homophobia, and ethnic identity. His previous book, *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* is also an incredible read. [YA S127, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

LOCK IN BY JOHN SCALZI—A near-future SF/mystery/thriller that takes place 25 years after an epidemic that has minor effects for most, but leaves 1% of the population “locked in,” conscious and aware, but unable to control their bodies at all. The technological solution is a neural network that allows those locked in to control android bodies. Two investigators, one a locked-in android FBI agent, look into what appears to be a simple murder, but turns out to involve those at the highest political and corporate level. [F S282, CD book, ebook]

THE SCREAMING STAIRCASE BY JONATHAN STROUD—For fifty years Britain has been infested with a variety of dangerous ghosts and specters that can only be seen and banished by children and teenagers. In their first case together, the three teens of Lockwood & Co. have to

survive one night in the country’s most haunted house. Somehow very creepy and funny at the same time. First of five in the Lockwood & Co. series. [YA S925, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE HATE U GIVE BY ANGIE THOMAS—This book is one of the most powerful books I’ve ever read. It is important, educational, and happening in our world right now. If you can only read one book in 2018, please pick this one. [YA T454, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

INFINITE JEST BY DAVID FOSTER WALLACE—If you ever feel the urge to dive head first into dense dialogue spanning topics of drug use, high society, parenting, and tennis to a point where you believe you may drown, then this is the book for you. Although the plot may be highly diluted at times, this lengthy novel is infinitely fun to read due to Wallace’s writing style. Not one sentence holds semblance to another, which is quite impressive considering the 1000+ page count. [F W188, ebook]

NONFICTION

THE DEVIL'S HIGHWAY BY LUIS ALBERTO URREA—Urrea tells the tragic true story of a group of men who attempted to cross the border from Mexico into the US in 2001. Although migration from Mexico is at a 20-year low, border crossing deaths are now at near-record highs. The death toll is so high that Americans have a hard time grasping the magnitude of the situation. The dying are anonymous outsiders, but this powerful story puts human faces and

identities on them. It is a story of courage, unimaginable hardship, desperation, and fortitude. [304.873 U81, ebook, eaudio]

KISSES FROM KATIE BY KATIE DAVIS—This book was just what I needed at the time. Katie goes to Africa and gives her honest confession on following the Lord's plan for her. The book left me inspired to say yes, like Katie does throughout the book when presented with his ultimate plan. Her story is one that I will forever be grateful I read when I did. [362.732 D262, ebook, eaudio]

WHEN WOMEN WERE BIRDS BY TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS—A memoir that weaves the origin of the author's voice with the stories that emerge from her mother's blank journals. Wonderfully tangential and thought provoking language, her fifty four variations on voice circle around an exploration of her voice and the mystery of her mother's choice to withhold her voice. [508.092 W727, ebook]

AND SOON I HEARD A ROARING WIND: A NATURAL HISTORY OF MOVING AIR BY BILL STREEVER—Streever takes off for a journey in a fifty-year-old sailboat and explores the history of wind along the way. From balmy tropical breezes to devastating storms, Streever takes you through all the ways wind has helped and harmed humankind in this fascinating and readable history. [551.518 S915, ebook]

HAMILTON: THE REVOLUTION BY LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA & JEREMY MCCARTER—If you can't get enough of the revolutionary musical about founding

father Alexander Hamilton, then pick this up! The entire libretto is here, along with often hysterical and always enlightening commentary from the creators about what went into making *Hamilton* the hit that it continues to be. [782.140268 M672, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

FANTASYLAND: HOW AMERICA WENT HAYWIRE: A 500-YEAR HISTORY BY KURT ANDERSEN—*Fantasyland* is as close to a comprehensive answer for how we arrived at this cultural moment as you could get. With clear and compelling writing, Andersen communicates why fantasy, the difference between what is real and what is fake, has fascinated us, misinformed us, and educated us for over 500 years. [927 A544, ebook, eaudio]

THE MIRACLE OF DUNKIRK BY WALTER LORD—If you enjoyed last summer's new film *Dunkirk* directed by Christopher Nolan, then you may appreciate this historical account of Operation Dynamo, on which the film was based, during the early days of World War II. Unlike a number of other accounts about the rescue of some 340,000 Allied troops trapped in Dunkirk as German troops advanced, Lord's account is very readable. The rescue shows what good can come when people band together. [940.5421 L867, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

WE WERE EIGHT YEARS IN POWER BY TA-NEHISI COATES—Though the book contains eight essays written during the Obama administration, the title actually harks back to the Reconstruction era in the South, when blacks briefly were able to elect their own representatives before Jim Crow laws once again rendered them powerless. Even if you read Coates's

essays in *The Atlantic* when they came out, they bear rereading in this collection, which also contains a new introduction to each piece. Taken together, they are an incisive look at the way race still divides our country. [973.932 C652, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

OBAMA: AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT BY PETE SOUZA—If you're like me and believe that President Obama's eight years in office went by too quickly, then you just might appreciate this book. Pete Souza was President Obama's official photographer during both terms of his presidency and he captures in his images both the man he is and the leader he was. Given the current political situation, I was at once heartened and saddened by the images in this terrific collection. [973.932 S729, ebook]

WRITER, SAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY: ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S SECRET ADVENTURES, 1935-1961 BY NICHOLAS REYNOLDS—We know Hemingway as a writer, a bullfighting fan, a drinker, and a legend in his own time, but Reynolds reveals an unknown part of Hemingway's history—the many ways he helped US intelligence services from the Spanish Civil War through Cuba in the 1950s. [B H488 Hemingway, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

DEAR FRIEND, FROM MY LIFE I WRITE TO YOU IN YOUR LIFE BY YIYUN LI—In this memoir, devoid of sentiment, but fraught with meaning, Yiyun Li describes her inner life during a time of depression and hospitalization. This is a book about despair, but also about hope and determination; about thinking deeply in darkness, while

embracing the light. Born in China, Li graduated from the Iowa Writer's Workshop and the Nonfiction Writing Program. [B L693 Li, ebook]

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE BY KIMBERLY BRUBAKER BRADLEY—When Ada and Jamie are evacuated from London during World War II, they escape not only the bombs, but extreme poverty and their cruel mother. They are housed with Susan Smith, a reluctant and sad surrogate parent. The move is difficult and they are scared to embrace the opportunities and kindness, fearing a return to London following the war. Slowly Ada, Jamie, and Susan find they need each other. The complex characters draw you into this heartwarming historical novel. I highly recommend the audio book. [jF B811, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

THE WAR I FINALLY WON BY KIMBERLEY BRUBAKER BRADLEY—This wonderful book picks up eleven-year-old Ada's story shortly after *The War That Saved My Life*. There is much in store for Ada, including an operation to fix her clubfoot and a new friendship with a Jewish German refugee, as World War II creeps ever closer to her home. Ada's journey includes heartbreak and loss, but much love and laughter, and it will stay with you. This sequel stands alone, but the first book is highly recommended, as well. [jF B811, CD book, ebook, eaudio]

ADA TWIST, SCIENTIST BY ANDREA BEATY—Ada Twist provides hope for those infinitely curious children getting themselves into trouble while testing

their hypotheses of the world, asking Why this? and What's that? With a story that rhymes and never fails to be clever, Ada Twist finds her way as a scientist, asking questions and seeking answers while her loyal parents kiss her and say, "You'll figure it out." [E B369 BEA]

THE LEGEND OF ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS BY DREW DAYWALT—Learn the true and hilarious origin story of rock, paper, scissors. These warriors (that is, the objects of which I'm speaking) have proven themselves in battle to be the biggest fish in their respective small ponds. But one day, these warriors meet one another and must prove who is the greatest once and for all. [E D276 DAY]

SAFFY'S ANGEL BY HILARY MCKAY—This is the first of six titles in the Casson Family series, a mix of laugh-out-very-loud and oddly sweet moments in the life of an eccentric British family full of great characters. Hilarious and moving. [jF M478 McKa, eaudio]

GHOSTS OF GREENGLASS HOUSE BY KATE MILFORD—Looking for a riveting book? Part mystery, part ghost story with a touch of romance and humor, *Ghosts of Greenglass House* is sure to please. Particularly likeable Milo, adopted Chinese son of isolated Greenglass House innkeepers, is looking forward to winter break, usually a time of few guests. Solitude is shattered when two recognized thieves show up for a second stay along with a suspicious art student. Milo, hoping for the appearance of his long-absent friend Meddy, is drawn into a layered mystery, reflected in chapter heading illustrations, involving a hidden map and quirky, devious characters who

are not always as they seem. Ever self-conscious of people's notions about his Chinese heritage, Milo summons up confidence and wits to boldly investigate puzzling clues. Engaging readers to the very last page with intriguing, unpredictable twists and turns, *Ghosts of Greenglass House* rivals the first book, *Greenglass House*, and can be read as a stand-alone. Like any great mystery, readers may finish the last page only to reread the entire adventure. [jF M644, ebook]

THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF BY JERRY PINKNEY—Trip trap, trip trap, trip trap! With wit and eventually brawn *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* prove more than a match for the troll in this new retelling by master storyteller and illustrator Jerry Pinkney. Pinkney breathes lively freshness into the classic *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. No stone troll at the end of this version but the open-ended possibility of a lesson learned, even as the troll receives his just due. For proof, examine the exquisite end pages that extend the tale. The artist's note provides additional food for thought. [j398.24 P655]

AFTER THE FALL: HOW HUMPTY DUMPTY GOT BACK UP AGAIN BY DAN SANTAT—Humpty Dumpty is afraid of heights following his great fall from the famous wall. (Mother Goose wrote a whole story about it and everything.) This is how the pieces are put back together and Humpty overcomes his fear to once again reach great heights. (This time, with a happy ending.) [E S233 SAN]

HER RIGHT FOOT BY DAVE EGGERS AND ILLUSTRATED BY SHAWN HARRIS—A fascinating book about the Statue of Liberty. While the background information, including both well-known and not-so-well-known facts, is interesting and humorously presented, it is the author's observations about the statue that are most enlightening. Why do we rarely see the *feet of the statue* represented? His examination of why the Statue of Liberty is moving makes this book about much more than a statue. Eggers says, "If the Statue of Liberty is a symbol of freedom, if the Statue of Liberty has welcomed millions of immigrants to the United States, then how can she stand still?" She cannot wait to meet them. Eggers has also written a fascinating look at the Golden Gate Bridge in *This Bridge Will Not Be Gray* (illustrated by Tucker Nichols). [j974.7 E29, ebook]

WONDER WOMAN: THE STORY OF THE AMAZON PRINCESS BY RALPH COSENTINO—This children's graphic novel is a wonderfully accessible introduction to the story of Wonder Woman for parents and children who read picture books. With simple yet gripping sentences, as well as clear and engaging illustrations, this book not only explains the origins of Wonder Woman, but introduces her roster of primary villains. [jGN C834]

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Y: THE LAST MAN SERIES BY BRIAN VAUGHAN—A mysterious plague has killed every male on earth except 20-something slacker Yorick Brown and a monkey. In five volumes, we are taken on an interesting and often perilous journey

through time and over several continents as Yorick and his female companions attempt to discover exactly why he and his monkey are the sole remaining male mammals left on the planet. While the art is not all that inspiring, the writing makes the series a fun, genre-defying, highly addictive, and unpredictable compilation of interwoven stories. [GN Vaughan]

SAGA BY BRIAN VAUGHAN—I initially mistook Saga to be a science fiction version of *Romeo and Juliet*, but it is so much more. What starts as a story of two lovers from warring planets quickly becomes a tale about what it means to be a family when dominant cultures think you shouldn't exist. [GN V364]

I HATE FAIRYLAND BY SKOTTIE YOUNG—Join Gert, a 40 year old woman stuck in the body of a six year old, in her mad adventures in fairyland. *Tank Girl/Deadpool* meets *Alice in Wonderland!* [ON ORDER]

THE BEST WE COULD DO BY THI BUI—This beautifully drawn graphic memoir recounts the story of a Vietnamese immigrant who tries to understand her parents by interweaving her experience becoming a parent with her parent's history as first generation immigrants to the United States. Thi Bui beautifully illustrates her parents stories, including their lives in Vietnam, their ultimate escape and difficulties making a place in a new country. The story comes full circle in this memoir, as she grapples with understanding the sacrifice that her whole existence is based on, as she becomes a parent herself. [GN B Bui]

TRIVIA NIGHT FOR GROWNUPS!

Thursday, February 22 from 6—8 pm

Meeting Rooms A & B

Prizes! Refreshments! Good times!

READING WITHOUT WALLS CHALLENGE

Expand your horizons! Read a fourth book from one of the following categories and tell us about it! We'll enter you into a special prize drawing for tickets to the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts.

1. Read a book about a **character** who doesn't look like you or live like you.
2. Read a book about a **topic** you don't know much about.
3. Read a book in a **format** that you don't normally read for fun such as a graphic novel or a novel in verse.

Coralville Public Library
1401 Fifth Street
Coralville, IA 52241
319.248.1850
coralvillepubliclibrary.org

**Find us on Twitter, Facebook,
Instagram, and YouTube!**