

CATTAILS

APRIL/MAY 2021

FROM THE
OUACHITA PARISH
PUBLIC LIBRARY

READING
RATES
DROPPING IN
LOUISIANA
CHILDREN

10 WAYS TO SET YOUR
CHILD UP FOR SUCCESS

BOOK
RECOMMENDATIONS

CRIME FICTION,
POETRY AND HUMOR



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HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All branches of the Ouachita Parish Public Library will close early at **5 p.m. Thursday, April 1** and remain closed through **Sunday, April 4** for the Easter holiday. Regular hours will resume Monday, April 5.

Branches will also close on **Monday, May 31** for Memorial Day. Regular hours will resume **Tuesday, June 1**.

STAFF PICKS

Alex McGarey

OLLIE BURNS MEMORIAL BRANCH CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

The Last Wish by Andrzej Sapkowski (Book 1 in *The Witcher* series)

I picked up *The Last Wish* not because of *The Witcher* series on Netflix (which is excellent), but rather because of the video game series. Ever since I first picked it up, I was hooked. This isn't your typical fantasy book. In *The Last Wish*, you will be transported to another world where monsters aren't just lurking in the dark places of the world, but also in the hearts of men. *The Last Wish* introduces Geralt of Rivia, a Witcher, who is a genetically mutated monster hunter. Geralt travels the land, taking contracts for monster hunting and trying to make a living. Geralt's story is more about family than it is about the world around him. If you loved *The Witcher* on Netflix or if you like dark fantasy, check out *The Last Wish*.

**Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-audiobook*



Betty Neathery Armstrong

OUACHITA VALLEY BRANCH CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The Return by Nicholas Sparks

I am a longtime fan of Nicholas Sparks. I thoroughly enjoy his bittersweet, romantic novels, which is why I grabbed a box of tissues before I began to read the book. *The Return* was a slightly different read than most of the Sparks books that I have read – I only used a couple tissues instead of the entire box! The adventure begins when military doctor Trevor Benson is seriously injured in a bombing in Afghanistan. He returns to his small hometown in North Carolina to visit his ailing grandfather. Trevor's last conversation with his grandfather left him with a puzzling message to decipher. After his grandfather's death, Trevor inherits a small rundown cabin and his grandfather's hobby, beekeeping. I was especially interested in the tending of the bees and gained knowledge and a whole new respect for bees. The book has multiple plots of drama, intrigue and mystery, and I think it portrays the true meaning of love and forgiveness! **Available in print, large print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*



Sandra Robinson

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL BRANCH MANAGER

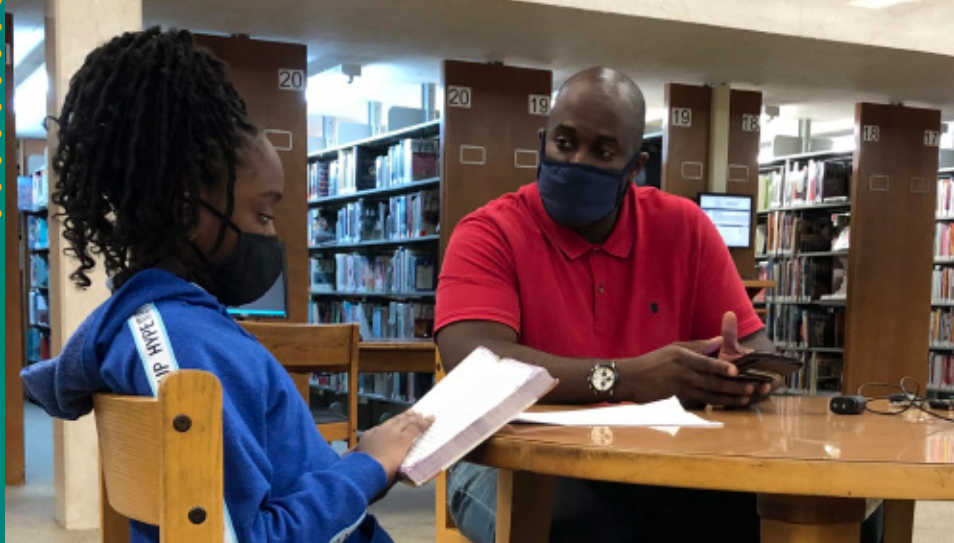
Finding Mrs. Ford by Deborah Goodrich Royce

Susan Ford's quiet life is turned upside down when a mysterious man attempts to visit her, but he is intercepted by the FBI. I enjoyed this novel more than I expected to. The mystery genre is my favorite. I love to try to solve the mystery before the end of the book and this book did not disappoint. It was suspenseful and entertaining from the beginning to the end. The twists and turns will keep you guessing. *Finding Mrs. Ford* is a page-turning thriller you will not be able to put down! **Available in print and on Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*



Early
childhood
literacy rates
are falling.
You have
the power to
help children
read.

THIS NATIONAL
LIBRARY WEEK,
WE ARE RAISING
AWARENESS
TO ADVANCE
LITERACY.



THE SITUATION

According to a recent Louisiana Department of Education report, **more than half of our children were below reading level** in 2020. For kindergarteners, 59.6 percent of students were not reading on level.

THE FUTURE IMPACT

Literacy leads to success in reading, and also in math and science. Word problems on tests demand good reading skills, so students who struggle with reading can fall behind in other subjects. Early intervention is important because **children who do not read proficiently in the third grade are four times more likely to not graduate from high school on time**. Early improvements in reading can make a huge difference!

(Double Jeopardy: How Third Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 1 Jan. 2012, www.aecf.org/resources/double-jeopardy)

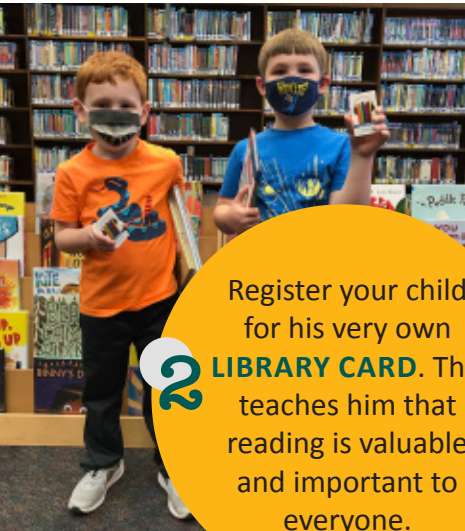
RAISE AWARENESS

During National Library Week (April 4-10), post a picture of you reading with your child on social media! Be sure to tag the Library on Facebook (facebook.com/OuachitaParishPublicLibrary) or Instagram (@[oplib](https://instagram.com/oplib)). If you would like the Library to share your photo on our social media, send the image to us in an email at dtolbird@oplib.org.



10 Ways to Set Your Child Up for Success:

1 **READ ALOUD** to your child for at least 15 minutes every day. It is never too early or too late in life to read to your child.



2 Register your child for his very own **LIBRARY CARD**. This teaches him that reading is valuable and important to everyone.

3 **MODEL READING** to your child by reading books for yourself. Try to read print books instead of e-books, since young children can't yet differentiate screens for reading and screens for other purposes. If they see you reading, they will want to read.

4 **ASK QUESTIONS** before turning the page. For example, ask questions like, "Where is the monkey?" or "What do you think this character will do next?" or "How would you feel if this happened to you?"



5 Let your child **PICK OUT HER OWN BOOKS**. Even if you think dinosaurs are boring, if she selected a dinosaur book, read it aloud with her.

6 **NEVER USE READING AS PUNISHMENT**. Your child should associate reading with fun, not with discipline.

7 **POINT OUT WRITTEN WORDS** you see around you. Show your child the words on the cereal box, the billboard and on the drive-through menu.

8 **BUILD VOCABULARY** by giving everything a name. For example, use names to describe the individual ingredients while cooking or use words to name flora and fauna you see at the park. "I am stirring corn kernels and black beans into the taco soup," or "Look at the cardinal! See the red bird on the branch of the pine tree?"

9 When reading aloud with your child, **TRY USING DIFFERENT VOICES** for different characters. This will keep your child engaged and you will build sweet memories with your child.

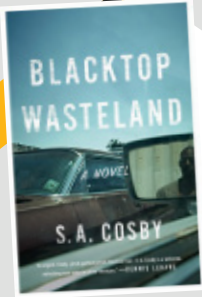
10 Ask family to consider **GIVING BOOKS AS PRESENTS** for birthdays and major holidays. This will make it easier for you to grow an at-home library for your child. It's important for your child to use their Library card to borrow thousands of books, but having books of their own helps create confidence and a sense of achievement that can lead to improved reading skills.

If your child hasn't enrolled in school yet, try our **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** program! If you read just three books a day, you'll reach your goal within one year. If you read one book a day, you'll reach 1000 in three years. Your children will receive a sticker for every 100 books read and a book of their own when they complete the program. Sign up at www.oplib.org/1000-books.



CRIME FICTION

BOOKS PACKED WITH SUSPENSE AND MYSTERY



BLACKTOP WASTELAND BY S.A. COSBY

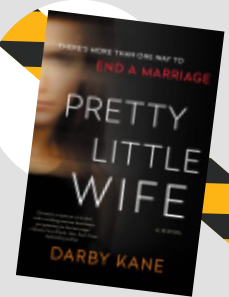
Beauregard “Bug” Montage: husband, father, honest car mechanic. But he was once known as the best getaway driver on the East Coast. After a series of financial calamities, Bug reluctantly takes part in a daring diamond heist to solve his money troubles. When it goes horribly wrong, he’s sucked into a grimy underworld which threatens everything.

**Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*

PRETTY LITTLE WIFE BY DARBY KANE

With a small town in an uproar, everyone is worried about the whereabouts of their beloved high school teacher. Everyone except Lila, his wife. She’s definitely confused about her missing husband, but only because she was the last person to see his body, and now it’s gone.

**Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*



BEARSKIN BY JAMES A. MCLAUGHLIN

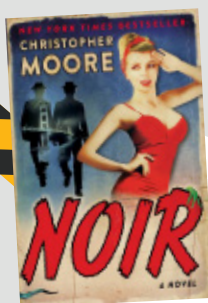
Rice Moore has found a job protecting a remote forest preserve. It’s hard work, and totally solitary – perfect to hide away from the Mexican drug cartels he betrayed back in Arizona. But when Rice finds the carcass of a bear killed on the grounds, the quiet solitude he’s so desperately sought is suddenly at risk. More bears are killed on the preserve and Rice’s obsession with catching the poachers escalates.

**Available in print, large print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*

I KNOW YOU KNOW BY GILLY MACMILLAN

Twenty years ago, eleven-year-olds Charlie Paige and Scott Ashby were murdered in the city of Bristol, their bodies dumped near a dog racing track. A man was convicted of the brutal crime, but decades later, questions still linger. When a long-dead body is found in the same location the boys were left decades before, the disturbing discovery launches another murder investigation.

**Available in print, large print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*



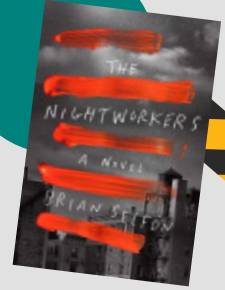
NOIR BY CHRISTOPHER MOORE

The absurdly outrageous, sarcastically satiric, and always entertaining author Christopher Moore returns in finest madcap form with this zany noir set on the mean streets of post-World War II San Francisco. A suspicious flying object has been spotted up the Pacific coast in Washington State near Mount Rainier, followed by a mysterious plane crash in a distant patch of desert in New Mexico that goes by the name Roswell. But the real weirdness is happening on the streets of the City by the Bay.

**Available in print, large print, book-on-CD and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*

THE NIGHTWORKERS BY BRIAN SELFON

Shecky lives in old Brooklyn with his niece Kerasha and nephew Henry, and while his deepest desire is to keep his little makeshift family safe, that doesn't stop him from taking advantage of their talents. Kerasha, the famed former child-thief of Bushwick, is still learning the family trade, but her quick mind and quicker fingers are already being put to use. They love one another, but trust is thin when secrets are the family trade. **Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*

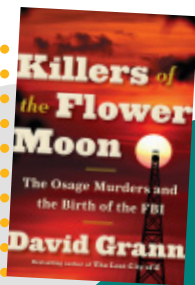


GIRL WAITS WITH GUN BY AMY STEWART

Constance Kopp doesn't quite fit the mold. She towers over most men, has no interest in marriage, and has been isolated from the world since a family secret sent her and her sisters into hiding. When a belligerent and powerful silk factory owner runs down their buggy, a dispute over damages turns into a war of bricks, bullets, and threats. When the sheriff enlists her help in convicting the men, Constance is forced to defend her family — and she does it in a way that few women of 1914 would have dared. **Available in print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*

TRUE CRIME

PAINSTAKING RESEARCH AND GRIPPING REALITY

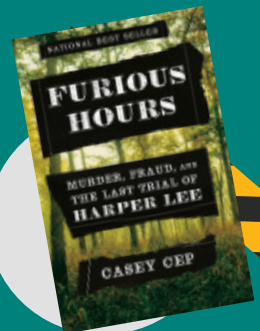


KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON: THE OSAGE MURDERS AND THE BIRTH OF THE FBI BY DAVID GRANN

NONFICTION - A true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history. In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian Nation in Oklahoma after oil was discovered beneath their land. Then, one by one, they began to be killed off. In this last remnant of the Wild West, virtually anyone who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. **Available in print, large print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*

FURIOUS HOURS: MURDER, FRAUD, AND THE LAST TRIAL OF HARPER LEE BY CASEY CEP

NONFICTION - The stunning story of an Alabama serial killer and the true-crime book that Harper Lee worked on. Reverend Willie Maxwell was a rural preacher accused of murdering five of his family members for insurance money in the 1970s. With the help of a savvy lawyer, he escaped justice for years until a relative shot him dead at the funeral of his last victim. Despite hundreds of witnesses, Maxwell's murderer was acquitted — thanks to the same attorney who had previously defended the Reverend. **Available in print, large print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*



I'LL BE GONE IN THE DARK: ONE WOMAN'S OBSESSIVE SEARCH FOR THE GOLDEN STATE KILLER BY MICHELLE MCNAMARA

NONFICTION - A masterful true crime account of the Golden State Killer — the elusive serial rapist turned murderer who terrorized California for over a decade — from Michelle McNamara, the gifted journalist who died tragically while investigating the case. **Available in print, large print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*

READING IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

FOR THE SANDERSON FAMILY, READING IS FUN AND IMPORTANT.



I hear kids say they hate reading, and I tell them that they haven't given themselves enough time to find what they're interested in.

For the Sanderson family, libraries are a way of life.

"I've been going to the Library since I could walk," said Neal Sanderson.

Neal and his wife Lacy's early love of libraries is one of the many reasons reading is a priority in their family. Both Neal's grandmother and Lacy's mother were school librarians.

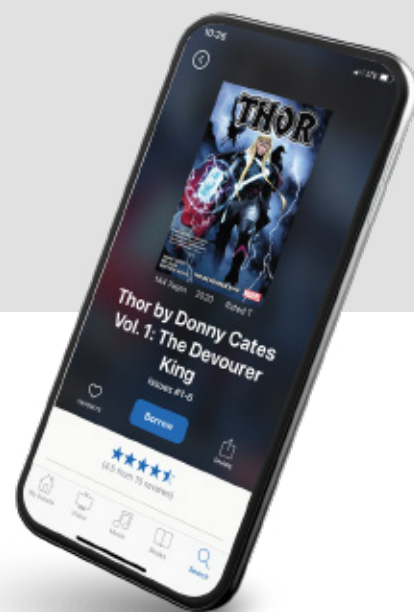
"It wasn't an expectation, but a privilege, to go the Library," said Neal.

The husband and wife are a teaching team, with Lacy teaching choir and music at Woodlawn Elementary and Woodlawn Middle Schools and Neal coaching many sports and teaching physical education at Woodlawn Middle. They have instilled a love of reading in their children, Kaylyn and Breaux, and in their dozens of students.

"I like watching their imaginations and seeing them get excited about the stories," said Lacy.

Both Kaylyn (13) and Breaux (8) read many books and participate in the Library's summer reading program. Kaylyn forms bonds with the characters in her books, and Breaux likes books that can make him laugh.

After Kaylyn won the summer reading grand prize, a bicycle provided by the Kiwanis of Greater Ouachita, she also won Student of the Year at her school. When putting together her scrapbook for the award, she knew she had to visit the Library.



“We were so thankful for the ladies there for helping her get excited about reading and we wanted to include them in the picture to thank them. They are such a big part of her story,” said Lacy.

Lacy said her daughter is very competitive, so the Library summer reading program and her school’s book club competitions have encouraged her to read even more.

But reading was not always so easy for Kaylyn.

“Kaylyn had problems learning to read, so we had to find books that sparked that love for her. I hear kids say they hate reading, and I tell them that they haven’t given themselves enough time to find what they’re interested in,” said Lacy.

Neal agrees. His advice to parents wanting their children to read more is to be patient and positive.

“Expose them to as many opportunities as you can. It doesn’t matter how long it takes. Once they can read, they can read anything,” he said.

Neal said he tries to talk about books as much as possible with his students and athletes.

“When I was growing up, when you were reading books, you were considered a nerd,” Neal said. “Now it’s normalized for everybody. They want to read books. I think it carries a bit more weight

if your football coach says you’re not a nerd for reading.”

Neal reads all genres, but some of his favorite books are graphic novels. He recently finished *Thor: The Devourer King* by Donny Cates on the Hoopla app.

“I was very artistic growing up and I had dreams of drawing comic books. That never came about, but I still love the artwork,” Neal explained. “The artwork is unreal. The writing is inspiring. The plots are unbelievable.”

Lacy and Breaux also like to use the Hoopla app. They read the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney together on the Hoopla app during quarantine.

“We would go outside and sit on the swing together. We couldn’t go to the Library then, but we could still read outside on the Hoopla app,” Lacy said.

No matter the medium or the genre, both Neal and Lacy agree that reading is important throughout life.

“Reading is reading. If your child is only reading a certain type of book, let them read it,” Neal said. “Once you can read, there’s not anything you can’t learn or teach yourself.”

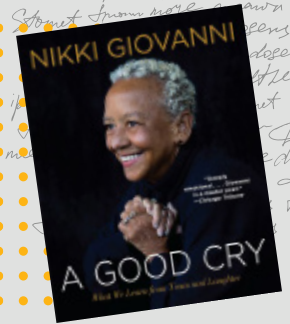
“**Once you can read, there’s not anything you can’t learn or teach yourself.**”

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

CELEBRATE POEMS OPEN PAGES AND YOUR MIND CHECK OUT BOOKS BELOW

A GOOD CRY: WHAT WE LEARN FROM TEARS AND LAUGHTER BY NIKKI GIOVANNI

In *A Good Cry*, Giovanni takes us into her confidence, describing the joy and peril of aging and recalling the violence that permeated her parents' marriage and her early life. She pays homage to the people who have given her life meaning and joy: her grandparents, the poets and thinkers who have influenced her, the students who have surrounded her, and her good friend, Maya Angelou. **Available in print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*



HOW TO FLY: IN TEN THOUSAND EASY LESSONS BY BARBARA KINGSOLVER

Barbara Kingsolver offers reflections on the practical, the spiritual, and the wild. She begins with "how to" poems addressing everyday matters. Next come rafts of poems about making peace (or not) with friendship, family and death. Some poems reflect on the redemptive powers of art and poetry itself; others consider where everything begins. Closing the book are poems that celebrate natural wonders – birdsong, ghost-flowers, coral reefs, deadly deserts, and thousand-year-old beech trees. **Available in print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as an e-book*



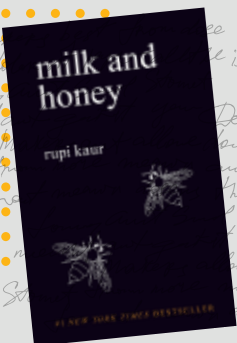
THE ROSE THAT GREW FROM CONCRETE BY TUPAC SHAKUR

This collection of more than 100 poems that honestly and artfully confront topics ranging from poverty and motherhood to Van Gogh and Mandela is presented in Tupac Shakur's own handwriting on one side of the page, with a typed version on the opposite side. **Available in print and on Hoopla as a spoken word album*



MILK AND HONEY BY RUPI KAUR

Milk and honey is a collection of poetry and prose about survival. It is split into four chapters, and each chapter serves a different purpose, deals with a different pain and heals a different heartache. The book takes readers through a journey of the most bitter moments in life and finds sweetness in them because there is sweetness everywhere if you are just willing to look. **Available in print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book*



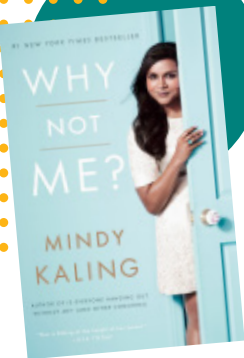
THE TRADITION BY JERICHO BROWN

Jericho Brown's daring new book *The Tradition* details the normalization of evil and its history at the intersection of the past and the personal. Brown's poetic concerns are both broad and intimate, and at their very core a distillation of the incredibly human: What is safety? Who is this nation? Where does freedom truly lie? **Available in print and on both cloudLibrary and Hoopla as an e-book and e-audiobook*



NEED A LAUGH?

HUMOROUS BOOKS



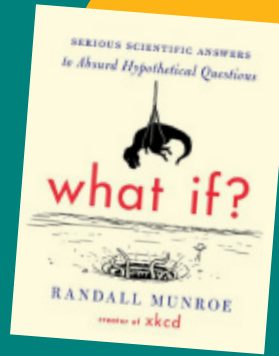
WHY NOT ME? BY MINDY KALING

Beloved comedian Mindy Kaling turns the anxieties, the glamour, and the celebrations of her second coming-of-age into a laugh-out-loud funny collection of essays that anyone who's ever been at

a turning point in their life or career can relate to. And those who've never been at a turning point can skip to the parts where she talks about meeting Bradley Cooper. **Narrated by the author. Available in print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as both an e-book and e-audiobook*

MY FAVORITE HALF-NIGHT STAND BY CHRISTINA LAUREN

Millie Morris has always been one of the guys. A UC Santa Barbara professor, she's a female-serial-killer expert who's quick with a deflection joke and terrible at getting personal. And she, just like her four best guy friends and fellow professors, is perma-single. So when a routine university function turns into a black tie gala, Millie and her circle make a pact that they'll join an online dating service to find plus-ones for the event. **Available in print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as both an e-book and e-audiobook*



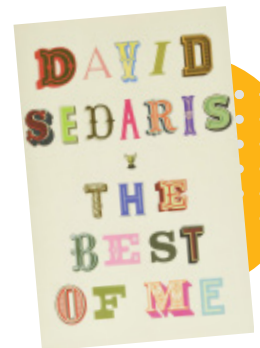
WHAT IF? SERIOUS SCIENTIFIC ANSWERS TO ABSURD HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS BY RANDALL MUNROE

How dangerous is it, really, to be in a swimming pool in a thunderstorm?

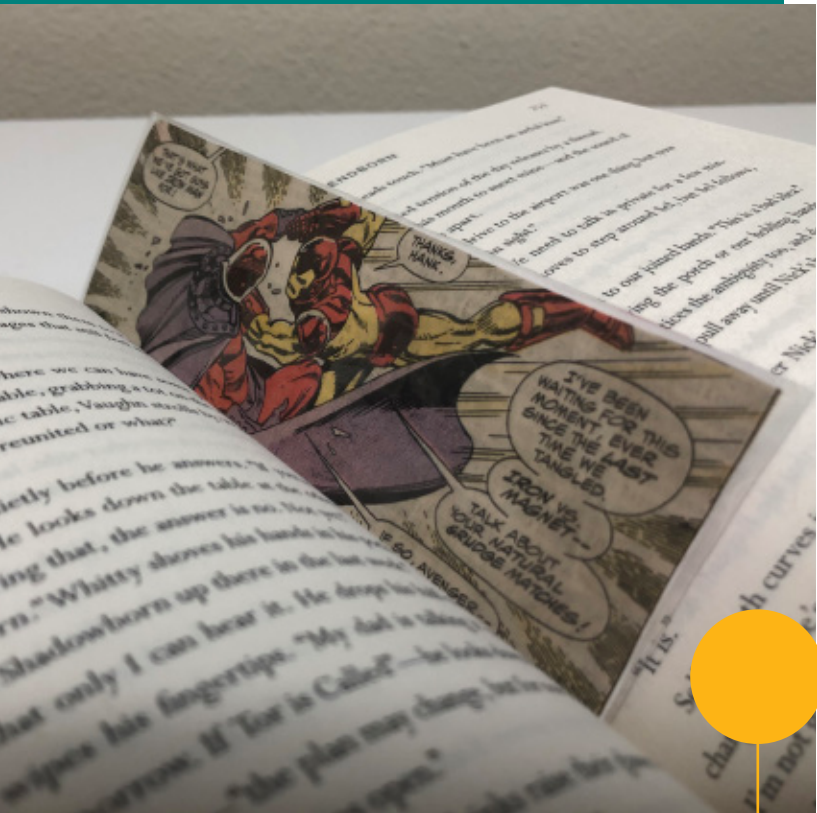
If we hooked turbines to people exercising in gyms, how much power could we produce? When (if ever) did the sun go down on the British empire? Former NASA employee Randall Munroe's responses are masterpieces of clarity and hilarity, studded with memorable cartoons and infographics. **Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*

THE BEST OF ME BY DAVID SEDARIS

Full of joy, generosity, and the incisive humor that has led David Sedaris to be called "the funniest man alive," *The Best of Me* spans a career spent watching and learning and laughing – quite often at himself – and invites readers deep into the world of one of the most brilliant and original writers of our time. **Narrated by the author. Available in print, large print and on cloudLibrary as an e-audiobook*



LIBRARY PROGRAMS



GENEALOGY AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY APRIL 7 | 10:30am

The first recorded evidence of a desire for library service in Ouachita Parish goes back to 1882. Join Lora Peppers on Facebook Live as she shares the history of the Ouachita Parish Public Library system.

INTRO TO NEWSPAPERS.COM MAY 12 | 10:30am

Join Cyndy Robertson, Head of Genealogy and Special Collections, as she introduces Newspapers.com, the largest online newspaper archive. You will learn the basics for searching the database to find information. We go live on Facebook at 10:30 a.m. May 12.

SPRING GARDENING

APRIL 13 | 2:00pm

Get ready for spring planting in the garden: beginner's edition! Join us as we make a DIY planter and share helpful tips and tricks for a beautiful summer harvest. Pick up flower and vegetable seeds in a Grab & Go Kit at your local branch, while supplies last.

VIRTUAL STORY TIME

EVERY THURSDAY EXCEPT APRIL 1 | 4:00pm

Join your favorite children's librarians for books, crafts and songs on Facebook Live, every Thursday at 4. There will be no story time on April 1.

DOWNTOWN STORY TIME STROLL

Explore Downtown West Monroe as you read *Bunny's Book Club* written by Annie Silvestro and illustrated by Tatjana Mai-Wyss. Pages are posted in the windows of each of the participating merchants. Pick up a map at your local branch or any of the participating merchants. Book pages will be up through April.



TEEN TUESDAYS

POETRY POTLUCK APRIL 20 | 4:00pm

Roxanne Santos will introduce modern and classic forms of poetry to satisfy every taste. Join us live on Instagram (@oplib).

COMIC BOOKMARKS MAY 11 | 4:00pm

Upcycle old comic books into awesome bookmarks featuring your favorite comic characters with this simple craft. Using just a few materials, you can make a bookmark out of nothing more than an old comic, a piece of cardstock and some glue. Pick up your Grab & Go Kit for this craft from your local library today! Join us live on Instagram (@oplib).

TRIVIA

Test your knowledge against the librarians on Facebook Live!

COMICS FRIDAY, APRIL 16 | 10:30am

SUMMER FRIDAY, MAY 14 | 10:30am

LIBRARY BOOK CLUBS



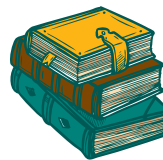
ONLINE BOOK CLUB

Join our Facebook group and discuss great books at your own pace! Books are available in print and on the Hoopla app as both e-book and e-audiobook format.

BEFORE THE COFFEE GETS COLD

APRIL-MAY

BY TOSHIKAZU KAWAGUCHI



LOST IN THE STACKS BOOK CLUB

If you love literary fiction, you'll love the Lost in the Stacks Book Club. For the Zoom link, email bpearce@oplib.org.

WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING

APRIL 13 | 5pm

BY DELIA OWENS

ORPHAN MASTER'S SON

MAY 11 | 5pm

BY ADAM JOHNSON



MOCHA MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Mocha Monday Book Club reads books by authors of color or featuring people of color. For the Zoom link, email jgeever@oplib.org.

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS

APRIL 5 | 5pm

BY REBECCA SKLOOT

HOMEGOING

MAY 3 | 5pm

BY YAA GYASI



RAINBOW READS BOOK CLUB

The Rainbow Reads Book Club is for members of the LGBT community and their allies. For the Zoom link, email lcunningham@oplib.org.

RED, WHITE, AND ROYAL BLUE

APRIL 26 | 5pm

BY CASEY MCQUISTON

UPRIGHT WOMEN WANTED

MAY 24 | 5pm

BY SARAH GAILEY



from the ARCHIVES

HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY



The first public library in Ouachita Parish opened in 1916, after more than three decades of dreams, bequests and community commitment. In 1882, Louisa Lamy McGuire bequeathed her husband's law office and books for the purpose of a public library. No one took immediate action and sadly, McGuire's will was all but lost to history.

In 1915, the Civic League of Monroe launched a fundraising drive with members donating \$2.50 each toward support of a library. Members from two Monroe book clubs, The Book Club and the Twentieth Century Book Club, joined efforts with the Civic League in support of a public library. It was at that time, some 33 years after Louisa Lamy McGuire's death when

one member of the Civic League, Judge A. A. Gunby, discovered her will in the archives of the Ouachita Parish Courthouse. At long last, a home was secured for a library in Ouachita Parish.

By this time, the original building was in a state of decay and was used for coal storage. A committee appeared before the Monroe City Council and asked for the building, located on Wood Street near the courthouse. The council granted the request and workers shoveled out coal, applied a fresh coat of paint, and built shelves. Laura Taylor Jones was regarded as one of the founders of the Library, since she secured many pledges and more than 400 books. In total, Jones and the book clubs donated 731 books.



The Monroe Public Library opened its doors on May 8, 1916 with an income of \$50. Operating hours were from 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Alice Gillam was the first librarian. She was followed by Edith Gunby and then Lillian Herron Mitchell who remained librarian for 15 years. The Library quickly outgrew its space and in 1920, Anna Ruth Meyer left her home on Jackson Street plus \$20,000 (more than \$250,000 in today's dollars) to be used for upkeep of a free public Library for all.

Meyer's estate kept the Library operating until 1932. Some support was provided by the City of Monroe and the Ouachita Parish Police Jury until 1940 when the Monroe Public Library was reorganized. With support from the City of Monroe, the City of West Monroe and the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, the name was changed to the Ouachita Parish Public Library.

A branch opened in West Monroe in 1941 and bookmobile service began in 1948. After much fundraising and activism work from leaders of the Colored Chamber of Commerce, the Carver Branch opened in 1949 to serve Black patrons, as the system was not integrated at the time. A bond issue of \$700,000 was passed in 1956 to provide funds for new constructions of the Main, West Monroe and Carver Branches.



Over the years, more branches opened to serve all of Ouachita Parish:

- The Ouachita Valley Branch opened in 1977;
- The Anna Meyer Branch relocated to its current location on Highway 165 South in 1994;
- The West Ouachita Branch opened in 2001;
- The Louise Williams Branch opened in 2005;
- The Sterlington Memorial Branch opened in 2007;
- The Ollie Burns Memorial Branch opened in 2010;
- And the Cpl. J.R. Searcy Memorial Branch opened in 2011.



Ouachita Parish Public Library
1800 Stubbs Avenue
Monroe, LA 71201
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Monroe, LA 71203
Permit # 41

VISIT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH!

MAIN BRANCH 1800 Stubbs Avenue, Monroe, LA 71201 | Phone: (318) 327-1490

ANNA MEYER

1808 US Highway 165 South
Monroe, LA 71202
Phone: (318) 327-1351

CARVER-MCDONALD

2941 Renwick Street
Monroe, LA 71201
Phone: (318) 327-1477

LOUISE WILLIAMS

140 Bayou Oaks Drive
Monroe, LA 71203
Phone: (318) 327-5422

OLLIE BURNS

5601 Hwy. 165 By-Pass
Richwood, LA 71202
Phone: (318) 327-1235

OUACHITA VALLEY

601 McMillan Road
West Monroe, LA 71291
Phone: (318) 327-1470

SEARCY MEMORIAL

5775 Jonesboro Road
West Monroe, LA 71292
Phone: (318) 327-1240

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

305 Keystone Road
Monroe, LA 71203
Phone: (318)-327-1382

WEST MONROE

315 Cypress Street
West Monroe, LA 71291
Phone: (318) 327-1365

WEST OUACHITA

188 Hwy 546
West Monroe, LA 71291
Phone: (318) 327-5414