

September 24th

***A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles**

When Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat, the count is sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

October 22nd

***The Lottery and Other Stories* by Shirley Jackson**

Twenty-four unusual short stories that range from hilarious to horrible, to the unsettling and ominous.

November 26th

***A Man Called Ove* by Fredrick Backman**

People call Ove "the bitter neighbor from hell." But behind the cranky exterior is a story of sadness. So when one morning a chatty young couple with two young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical tale which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations.

December 17th

***The Great Santa Search* by Jeff Guinn**

Trouble began when a Philadelphia merchant hired a neighbor to dress as Kris Kringle in order to lure shoppers into his store. Much to Santa's chagrin, it's been pretty much downhill since. Now not a Christmas can go by without phony Santas posing across the country. But when it's announced that a new reality TV show will feature a competition to find the "real" St. Nicholas, Santa knows it's time to step in!

Join us! Pick up your copy from the front desk. The book is usually available in book, large print and audiobook format. The Book Discussion Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month. Discussion begins at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments are served.

R I V E R D A L E PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book Discussion 2018



93 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Riverdale, NJ 07457
973-835-5044; fax 973-835-2175

January 22nd

***Villette* by Charlotte Bronte**

Lucy Snowe is alone in the world after a terrible event of which she never speaks. With no home, no family, and no prospects, she sets sail from England to find employment in a girls' boarding school in a small town. There she struggles to retain her self-possession in the face of unruly pupils, an initially suspicious headmaster, and her own complex feelings, first for the school's English doctor and then for a dictatorial professor.

February 26th

***In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende**

Richard Bowmaster hits the car of Evelyn Ortega—a young, undocumented immigrant from Guatemala—in the middle of a snowstorm in Brooklyn. What at first seems just a small inconvenience takes an unforeseen turn when Evelyn turns up at Richard's house seeking help. Three very different people are brought together in a mesmerizing story that moves from present-day Brooklyn to Guatemala in the recent past to 1970s Chile and Brazil, sparking the beginning of a long love story between Richard and Lucia.

March 26th

***The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand**

This modern classic is the story of intransigent young architect Howard Roark, whose integrity was as unyielding as granite...of Dominique Francon, the beautiful woman who loved Roark passionately, but married his worst enemy...and of the fanatic denunciation unleashed by an enraged society against a great creator.

April 23rd

***The Child* by Fiona Barton**

As an old house is demolished a workman discovers human remains. For journalist Kate Waters, it's a story that deserves attention. As Kate investigates, she unearths connections to a crime from decades earlier: A child was stolen from the maternity ward and was never found. Her parents were left devastated. But there is more to the story, and Kate is drawn into the pasts of the people who once lived in this neighborhood. And she soon finds herself the keeper of unexpected secrets that erupt in the lives of three women—and torn between what she can and cannot tell...

May 21st

***Daring to Drive* by Manal al-Sharif**

Manal al-Sharif grew up in Mecca the daughter of a taxi driver, born the year strict fundamentalism took hold. In her adolescence, she was a religious radical. But what a difference an education can make. By her twenties Manal was a computer security engineer. That's when the Saudi kingdom's contradictions became too much to bear. She was forbidden from driving on Saudi streets. Manal's memoir is an "eye-opening" account of the making of an accidental activist, a vivid story of a young Muslim woman who stood up to a kingdom of men—and won.

June 25th

***The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George**

From his bookstore Monsieur Perdu prescribes novels for the hardships of life. Using his intuitive feel for the exact book a reader needs, Perdu mends broken hearts and souls. The only person he can't seem to heal through literature is himself; he's still haunted by heartbreak after his great love disappeared. She left him with only a letter, which he has never opened. After Perdu is finally tempted to read the letter, he departs on a mission to the south of France, hoping to make peace with his loss and discover the end of the story.

July 23rd

***Uncommon Type: Some Stories* by Tom Hanks**

A gentle Eastern European immigrant arrives in New York City after his family and his life have been torn apart by his country's civil war. A man who loves to bowl rolls a perfect game—and then another and then another. An eccentric billionaire and his faithful executive assistant venture into America looking for acquisitions and discover a down and out motel, romance, and a bit of real life. These are just some of the tales Tom Hanks tells in this first collection of his short stories.

August 27th

Shakespeare Play

Play reading and performance.

September 25

***Dark Matter* by Blake Crouch,**

A mind-bending, relentlessly paced science-fiction thriller, in which an ordinary man is kidnapped, knocked unconscious--and awakens in a world inexplicably different from the reality he thought he knew.

October 23

***The Witches* by Stacy Schiff,**

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Cleopatra* analyzes the Salem Witch Trials to offer key insights into the role of women in its events while explaining how its tragedies became possible.

November 27

***Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande**

Modern medicine has transformed the dangers of childbirth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the face of our inevitable aging and death, what it can do often runs counter to what it should do. Now Atul Gawande reveals the suffering this has produced. He examines the profession's limitations and failures as life draws to a close, and he shows how the ultimate goal is not a good death, but a good life -- until the very end.

December 18

***Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie**

In India, one thousand and one children are born in the hour following the midnight commemorating the country's independence from British rule. Of those children, none is more entwined with the destiny of that land than Saleem Sinai, of dubious birth. He recounts a life both reflecting and re-creating the modern history of his homeland.

Join us! Pick up your copy from the front desk. The book is usually available in book, large print and audiobook format. The Book Discussion Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month. Discussion begins at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments are served.

R I V E R D A L E PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book Discussion 2017



93 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Riverdale, NJ 07457
973-835-5044; fax 973-835-2175

January 23***Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende**

In 1939, as Poland falls under the shadow of the Nazis and the world goes to war, young Alma Belasco's parents send her away to live in safety with an aunt and uncle in their opulent mansion in San Francisco. There she meets Ichimei Fukuda, the son of the family's Japanese gardener, and between them a tender love blossoms. Following Pearl Harbor, the two are cruelly pulled apart when Ichimei and his family - like thousands of Japanese Americans - are declared enemies by the US government and relocated to internment camps.

February 27***Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi**

Two half sisters, Effia and Esi, unknown to each other, are born into two different tribal villages in 18th century Ghana. Effia will be married off to an English colonial, and will live in comfort in the sprawling, palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle, raising half-caste children who will be sent abroad to be educated in England before returning to the Gold Coast to serve as administrators of the Empire. Her sister, Esi, will be imprisoned beneath Effia in the Castle's women's dungeon, and then shipped off on a boat bound for America, where she will be sold into slavery.

March 27***The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead**

A magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South.

April 24***Night* by Eli Wiesel**

Elie Wiesel is the internationally celebrated author, Nobel laureate, and spokesperson for humanity whose decision to dedicate his life to bearing witness for the Holocaust's martyrs and survivors found its earliest and most enduring voice in *Night*, his penetrating and profound account of his personal experience in the Nazi death camps.

May 22***Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware**

From New York Times bestselling author of the "twisty-mystery" (Vulture) novel *In a Dark, Dark Wood*, comes *The Woman in Cabin 10*, an equally suspenseful and haunting novel from Ruth Ware--this time, set at sea.

June 26***Before the Fall* by Noah Hawley**

Eleven people - ten privileged, one down-on-his-luck painter - depart Martha's Vineyard on a private jet headed for New York. Sixteen minutes later, the unthinkable happens: the plane plunges into the ocean. The only survivors are Scott Burroughs - the painter - and a four-year-old boy, who is now the last remaining member of an immensely wealthy and powerful media mogul's family.

July 24***Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult**

Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?

August 28***Shakespeare Play***

Play reading and performance.