



BiblioBites

Director's note

Dear Folks,

We would like to introduce you to several new initiatives we have been working to bring to you.

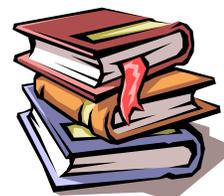
For our youngsters who are just learning to read, we are introducing our DeSoto Reading Friends. We are seeking children (kindergarten through third grade) who would like to meet with a high school or adult reading friend each week. We are also looking for our high school and adult Reading Friends who want to share their love of reading with our young readers. Use our form at https://desotobocc.com/departments/public_library to sign up today. Just as soon as we have a match, we will pair you up and arrange for you to meet your new Reading Friend.

We have a heart for those individuals who cannot visit our facility on a regular basis. We want to be able to offer books to those individuals closer to home. We are looking for organizations or individuals who would be willing to build and sponsor a DeSoto Sharing Library. These are small free libraries, built on the concept of sharing, give one, take one.

With community support, we can all help improve some of our literacy needs in DeSoto County and be a stronger community as a result. Ask us about how you can help.

Come see us,

Linda



Volume 11, Issue 2

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Join us for an in person book chat with Jolaine.

Wednesday mornings at 11a.m.

Our first meeting was Wed, Jan 26. The group talked about various books we have read. Some we loved, some we didn't finish. Some recent, some ages ago. Some that surprised us and some that we love and come back to over and over again. Here are some of the works touched on:

Historical Fiction or Nonfiction works:

Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919 by Stephen Puleo

The Overstory by Richard Powers

Works with elements of magical realism or the fantastic:

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Zafon

Spinning Silver by Naomi Novik

The Man Who Was Tuesday by GK Chesterton

Till We Have Faces by CS Lewis

Dependable, impactful, and feel good favorites:

I Still Dream of You by Fannie Flagg

American Tragedy by Theodore Dresser

Works of literature that have been turned into movies or television:

The Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon

Phryne Fisher book series by Kerry Greenwood

Queen's Gambit by Walter Tevis

Various works by Philip K Dick

Reading list classics that were remembered positively:

Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Works for children:

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

Richard Scary's books

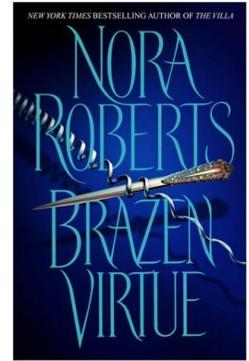
Liz likes—by Liz Coronado

Check out the book **Brazen Virtue** by **Nora Roberts** before watching the new *Netflix* thriller "Brazen," based on this vintage Nora Roberts classic. After a demanding book tour, superstar mystery novelist Grace McCabe decides to visit her sister, Kathleen, who's embroiled in a custody battle after a bitter divorce. Arriving in D.C., Grace is shocked to find Kathleen living in a run-down neighborhood and,



hoping to afford a hotshot lawyer, supplementing her meager teacher's salary by moonlighting as a phone sex operator. According to Kathleen, Fantasy, Inc., guarantees its employees ironclad anonymity. But Grace has her doubts which are confirmed one horrifying cherry-blossom-scented night when one of Fantasy, Inc.'s operators is murdered. As Grace is drawn to help solve the crime, her life turns into a scene from one of her own books. Yet as one of her biggest fans, investigator Ed Jackson, warns her: This isn't fiction. Real people die and Grace could be next. For she's

hoping to trap a killer more twisted than anything she could imagine. And not even Ed may be able to protect her from a rendezvous with lust and death. The story makes you hold your breath anxious to see if they get the bad guy before the heroine becomes another victim. It's a perfect blend of mystery, suspense, and romance.



Bookmarked—by Jolaine Konstantinidis

Joan Is Okay by **Weike Wang** arrived just in time for Chinese New Year! The only other novel I had read previously that touched on Chinese culture was *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord, a 1984 children's novel I read with my middle school kids. I remember liking it because it was about a young girl making room in her life for both Chinese and American culture. So, when I heard about this new novel, I was eager to get my hands on it. Even though Joan is in her mid-thirties, a graduate of Harvard and an established physician attending in a New York city ICU, she is in many ways as innocent as Shirley Temple Wong of the previously mentioned kid's story.

While *Joan is Okay* touches on many issues—sexism, racism, familial relationships and expectations—I appreciate the fact that Joan is a woman dealing with her own personal identity. She may be Asian American, but she approaches her coming of age as earnestly as a woman of any other ethnicity might. Her personality might just be a bit more delightfully peculiar than most, undoubtedly, but Joan is more than okay!



Choice for children—Kara Illguth

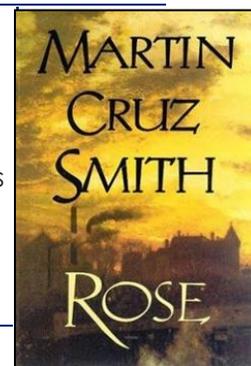
Have you ever heard of a “bridge book?” No, it’s not a book about bridges (which we do have plenty of). They are specifically curated books that are a bridge for readers who are going from picture books to chapter books. They are usually still heavily illustrated, with larger font and short chapters. They are meant to help give a young reader the confidence they need to make the jump into chapter books without feeling too overwhelmed.

One of our many sets of bridge books at the library is the series **Mia Mayhem** by **Kara West**. The series stars an adorable character named Mia and it goes through all of her adventures, and mishaps, of becoming a superhero. It’s sure to engage and delight readers who are taking that leap into chapter books.



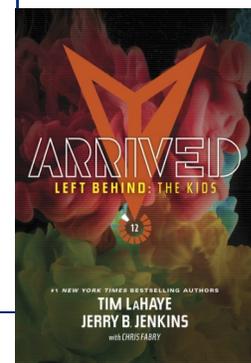
Robert recommends—by Robert Anders

Not everything **Martin Cruz-Smith** writes has something to do with Russia. A coal mine in England? But not to worry - while the backdrop has changed the protagonist still maintains the headstrong underdog position that readers have come to expect from the Renko series. **Rose** is a terrific story, full of intrigue, with a complicated plot that kept many questions in the air, in some cases trusting the reader to connect the dots.

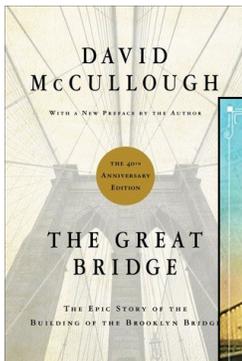


Student review—Alexandria Wilson

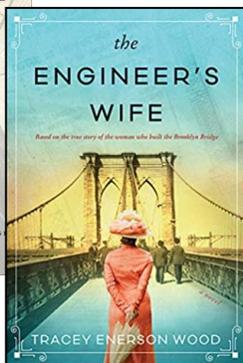
Have you ever waited and waited for someone to call you, or to come to your house? This is almost exactly how Judd, Vicki, Lionel, and the others felt waiting on Jesus to return. They’ve waited seven years, and the big day has finally come. **Tim LaHaye** and **Jerry B. Jenkins** explain in **Arrived** an example of the glorious appearance of Jesus Christ. **Left Behind: The Kids** is one of my favorite series ever, and I kind of don’t want it to end. I definitely suggest that you read **Arrived**, and the whole **Left Behind: The Kids Series**.



Pairing nonfiction with fiction —by Karen Smoke



Historical fiction gives us a look back at what the lives of people in the past were like. But as fiction, there may be quite a bit of fabrication. When I saw **The**



Engineer's Wife by **Tracey Enerson Wood** on the processing cart, I was immediately interested in reading it. I’d read **The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge**, by **David McCullough** back when it was first published in 1972. The Brooklyn Bridge was at once the greatest engineering triumph of the age, a surpassing work of art, a proud American icon, and a story like no other in our history. At the center of the drama were the chief engineer, Washington Roebling and his remarkable wife, Emily Warren Roebling.

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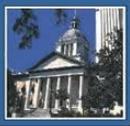
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Wednesday & Friday
8:30—6:00

Saturday:
9:00-2:30

Closed Sunday and Monday




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00 Walk & Talk 10:30 Toddler Story-time 3:15 Storytime <i>Kids' Craft Pick-up</i>	2 10:00 Grace's group 3:00 iPads & ebooks 3:15 Art for kids 3:30 Kids' Story & Craft on Facebook	3 9:00 @ ARC 3:15 Storytime	4 3:30 Kids' Story & Craft on Facebook	5 10:30 Craft-a-palooza
Free Books						
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Pairing nonfiction with fiction —by Karen Smoke

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Emily Roebling refuses to live conventionally—and she's determined to make change. But then her husband asks the unthinkable: give up her dreams to make his possible. Emily's fight for women's suffrage is put on hold, and her life transformed when her husband is injured on the job. Under his guidance, she assumes his role, despite stern resistance and overwhelming obstacles. But as the project takes shape under Emily's direction, she wonders whose legacy she is building—hers, or her husband's. As the monument rises, Emily's marriage, principles, and identity threaten to collapse. When the bridge finally stands finished, will she recognize the woman who built it? **The Engineer's Wife** delivers an emotional portrait of a woman transformed by a project of unfathomable scale. Both books are great reads, together they provide a provocative look back at the lives of the people who built the bridge.