

# What to Read Next



## Entertaining Over the Holidays?

Whether you truly enjoy entertaining, or you feel like you drew the short straw this holiday season, we have some great choices available to help you with your holiday decorating and planning.



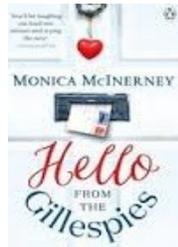
## What's Your Genre?

**Sue:** "Lately, one of my favorite genres is non-fiction: specifically focusing on self-awareness and mindfulness. I enjoy this genre because it helps me learn new things, and there are many unique topics to peruse. I have found that reading about mindfulness is particularly helpful in today's often stressful world."

Sue recommends the following works: *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain, *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams, and *Why Won't you Apologize? Healing Big Betrayals and Everyday Hurts* by Harriet Lerror, Ph.D.



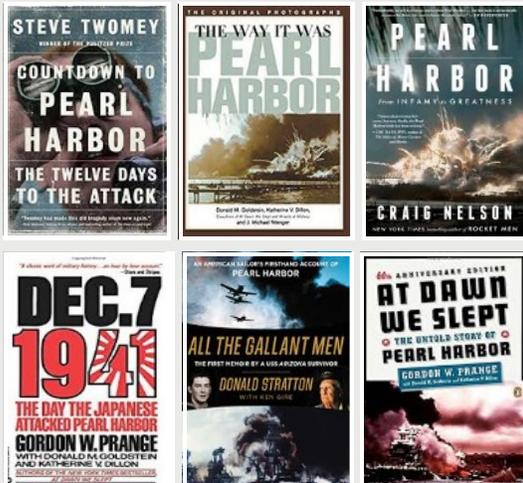
## Monthly Staff Favorites



**Diane:** *Hello from the Gillespies* by Monica McInerney. For more than thirty years, Angela Gillespie has sent friends and family around the world an end-of-the-year letter titled 'Hello from the Gillespies.' Until this year, it's always been cheery and full of good news. Accidentally, she tells the truth instead: the Gillespies are far from the perfect family. When Angela is taken from them in a most unexpected manner, her family brilliantly pulls itself together.

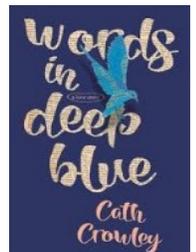
## Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

On December 7, 1941, a wave of Japanese airplanes struck Pearl Harbor. Over the course of two hours, more than 3,500 Americans perished or were wounded. To honor and remember their valor, we have selected the following books for your perusal.



**Jessica:** *Words in Deep Blue* by Cate Crowley.

Two teens find their way back to each other in a bookstore full of secrets and letters hidden in books. Years ago, Rachel had a crush on Henry Jones. Before moving away, she tucked a love letter into his favorite book in his family's bookshop. She waited, but he never came. When she returns to the city and to the bookshop, she has to work alongside him. Perhaps it is possible that love and second chances are enough.

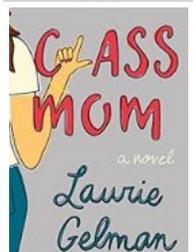


**Richard:** *Avenue of Mysteries* by John Irving.

Fourteen-year-old Juan Diego has a thirteen-year-old sister named Lupe, who thinks she sees what's coming with her own future and her brother's. Since she is a mind reader, she is usually right about the past, but she doesn't know the future as accurately. Imagine the terrible burden of believing you know the future of someone you love. What might a young girl be driven to do if she thought she could change the future?

**Emily:** *Class Mom* by Laurie Gelman.

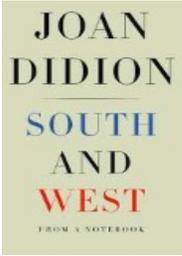
Jen Dixon is not your typical Kansas City kindergarten class mom. She already has two college-age daughters, and it's her second time around the class mom block with five-year-old Max, this time with a husband by her side. Though her best friend and PTA President sees her as the wisest (or oldest) candidate for the job, not all of the other parents agree with her style. Relatable, irreverent, and hilarious in the spirit of Maria Semple!





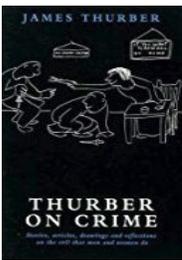
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## Monthly Staff Favorites Continued...



**Jana:** *South and West* by Joan Didion. Joan Didion has always kept notebooks of overheard dialogue, observations, interviews, drafts of essays and articles. *South and West* includes excerpts from two of her notebooks. One excerpt traces a road trip she took with her husband in June 1970 through the South. The other excerpt is from "California Notes," which she filled while on an assignment for *Rolling Stone* to follow the Patty Hearst trial of 1976.

**Anna:** *Ancillary Sword* by Ann Leckie. What if you once had thousands of bodies and near god-like technology at your disposal? And what if all of it were ripped away? Athoek was annexed some six hundred years ago. By now, everyone is fully civilized or should be. However, everything is not as tranquil as it appears, and old divisions are still troublesome. Worse, the alien Presger might have taken an interest in what's going on with no guaranty the interest is benevolent.



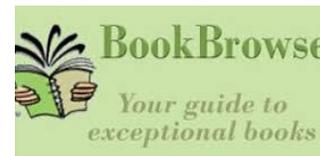
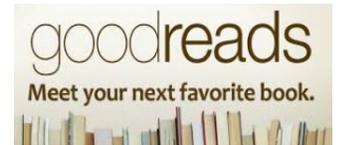
**Ann:** *Thurber on Crime* by James Thurber. One of the greatest American humorists of our century, James Thurber was not a man to shrink from danger—as long as he was safely ensconced behind his typewriter or drawing board. With cheerful equanimity, he catalogues the horrible things that men and women do to each other in his essays on domestic strife, gangland shootings, kidnapping, murder, robbery, smuggling, Prohibition, and much more. The delightfully unpredictable writing is enlivened by his jaunty cartoons.

**Norma:** *Bluebird Bluebird* by Attica Locke. When it comes to law and order, East Texas plays by its own rules—a fact that Darren Mathews, a black Texas Ranger, knows all too well. Deeply ambivalent about growing up black in the Lone Star State, he was the first in his family to get as far away from Texas as he could, until duty called him home. Darren must solve two murders and save himself in the process—before Lark's long-simmering racial fault lines erupt.



## Websites We Browse to Find: What to Read Next!

After finishing a terrific book, do you sometimes find yourself wondering **What to Read Next?** We have all struggled with that dilemma, and we want to share some of our favorite websites with you. Of course, you can also chat with one of us at the Essex Library!



## Follow Us On Twitter!

Along with our **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Pinterest** pages, the Essex Library is now using **Twitter**. We regularly tweet our book recommendations! If you need a book suggestion after-hours, please check out our staff picks by following us at <https://twitter.com/sxlibrary>.



## ELA Book Groups:

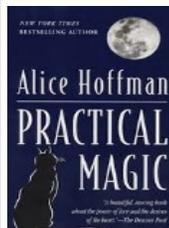
### Book Groups:

If you enjoy lively discussion with other book enthusiasts, please join us!

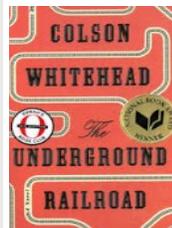


Book Group

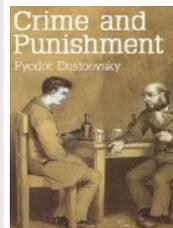
**First Thursday**  
December 7  
4:00 PM  
*Practical Magic*



**Historical Fiction**  
January 9  
10:30 AM  
*Underground Railroad*



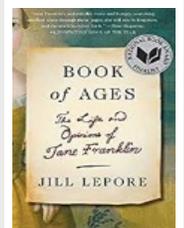
**Classics Book Group**  
January 11  
5:30 PM  
*Crime and Punishment*



**Third Wednesday**  
January 17  
10:30 AM  
*Never Let Me Go*



**American History**  
January 18  
5:00 PM  
*Book of Ages: Jane Franklin*



Check our website for more information or reading suggestions! Read our "What to Read Next?" webpage to learn more about the services Essex Library offers, as well as what our librarians are reading: [www.youressexlibrary.org/what-to-read-next/](http://www.youressexlibrary.org/what-to-read-next/)



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