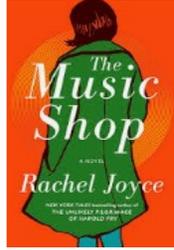
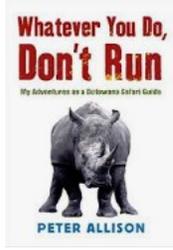
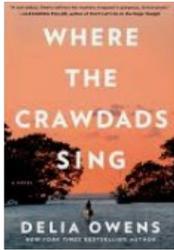


WHAT TO READ NEXT

PRESENTED BY THE ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

December 2018

JESSICA selected a combination of authors and characters to sit at her imaginary dining table: authors **DELIA OWENS** and **PETER ALLISON**, as well as **FRANK**, a character from the novel **THE MUSIC SHOP**. She shared, "I love to dine with folks who have a good story to tell. Although I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Owens once, there was much more to say. Peter Allison has tangled with a honey badger and lived to tell the tale—what could make for better dinner conversation?" She also explained why she included the fictional Frank, "No one talks about music and life like he does, and I've got so many unanswered questions!"



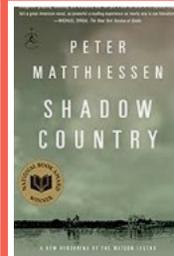
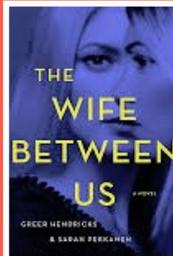
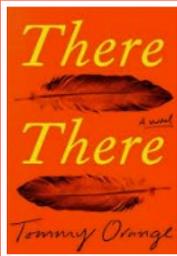
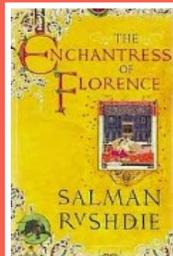
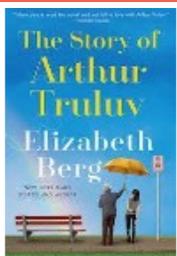
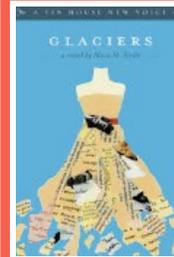
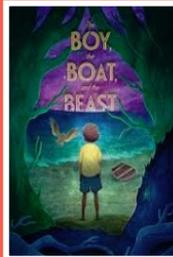
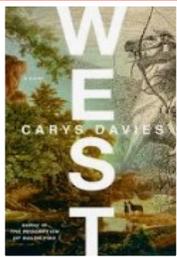
JESSICA suggests reading these novels: **WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING** BY **DELIA OWENS**, **WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T RUN** BY **PETER ALLISON**, AND **THE MUSIC SHOP** BY **RACHEL JOYCE**.

WHO WOULD BE YOUR IDEAL LITERARY DINING COMPANIONS? AND WHY?

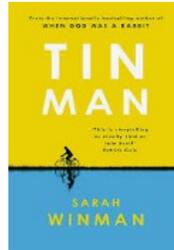


BEST BOOKS WE READ IN 2018!

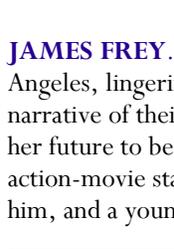
Throughout the past year, Essex Library Staff have been keeping track of the books we read. This collection represents our absolute favorites. We hope you will enjoy them too!



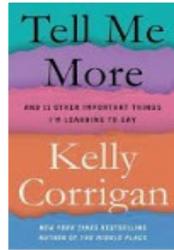
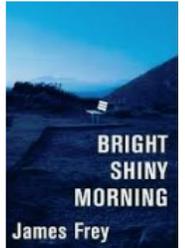
MONTHLY STAFF FAVORITES



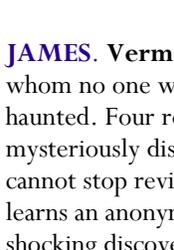
JANA: **TIN MAN** BY **SARAH WINMAN**. This is almost a love story, but it's not as simple as that. Ellis and Michael are twelve-year-old boys when they first become friends, and for a long time it is just the two of them, cycling the streets of Oxford, teaching themselves how to swim and dodging the fists of overbearing fathers. One day this closest of friendships grows into something more. Then we fast-forward a decade or so, to find that Ellis is married to Annie, and Michael is nowhere in sight. What happened?



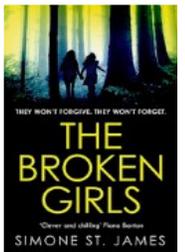
REAGAN: **BRIGHT SHINY MORNING** BY **JAMES FREY**. This is a sweeping chronicle of contemporary Los Angeles, lingering on a handful of lost souls and capturing the dramatic narrative of their lives: a bright Mexican-American woman who allows her future to be undone by a moment of humiliation, a narcissistic action-movie star whose passion for the unattainable nearly destroys him, and a young couple who flee their suffocating hometown.



SUE: **TELL ME MORE: STORIES ABOUT THE 12 HARDEST THINGS I'M LEARNING TO SAY** BY **KELLY CORRIGAN**. With refreshing candor and a deep well of empathy, Corrigan created a story-driven collection of essays on the twelve powerful phrases we use to sustain our relationships. Maintaining the ever-relatable voice that defines her work, this book is a moving and meaningful take on the power of the right words at the right moment to change everything.



ANNA: **THE BROKEN GIRLS** BY **SIMONE ST. JAMES**. **Vermont, 1950:** There's a boarding school for the girls whom no one wants. It's called Idlewild Hall and rumored to be haunted. Four roommates bond over their fears, until one of them mysteriously disappears. **Vermont, 2014:** Journalist Fiona Sheridan cannot stop revisiting the events surrounding her sister's death. She learns an anonymous benefactor is restoring the school. When a shocking discovery is made, she decides to write an exposé.



ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

HAVE A QUESTION, COMMENT OR SUGGESTION? CONTACT US!

Call 860-767-1560; visit www.youressexlibrary.org, or drop by the Essex Library at 33 West Avenue in Essex, CT.

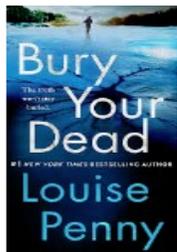
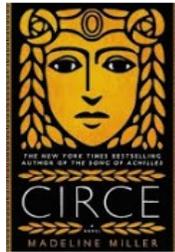
WHAT TO READ NEXT

MONTHLY STAFF FAVORITES CONTINUED...



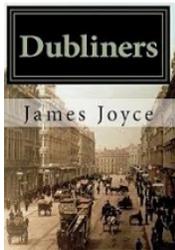
ANN: *THE LIBRARY BOOK* BY SUSAN ORLEAN. On April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. The fire was disastrous, reaching 2000 degrees and burning for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed 400,000 books and damaged 700,000 more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who?

DIANE: *CIRCE* BY MADELINE MILLER. In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child, not powerful like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Increasingly isolated, she turns to mortals for companionship, leading her to discover a power forbidden to the gods: witchcraft. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft and tames wild beasts.



EMILY: *BURY YOUR DEAD* BY LOUISE PENNY. An obsessive historian's quest for the remains of the founder of Quebec, Samuel de Champlain, ends in murder. Could a secret buried with Champlain for nearly 400 years be so dreadful that someone would kill to protect it? Although he is supposed to be on leave, Chief Inspector Gamache cannot walk away from a crime that threatens to ignite long-smoldering tensions between the English and the French.

RICHARD: *DUBLINERS* BY JAMES JOYCE. This collection of short stories examines how one's surroundings can shape and influence a person. In each story, Joyce documents the daily lives and hardships of fictional Dublin citizens. His collection, progressing from the struggles of childhood to the struggles of adulthood, includes one of Joyce's most famous short stories, "The Dead," which demonstrates the ways memories of the past intrude upon the present.

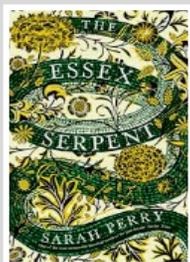


ELA BOOK GROUPS

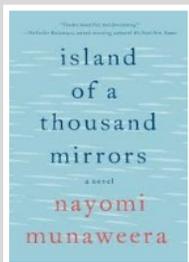
Book Groups:
If you enjoy lively discussion with other book enthusiasts, please join us!



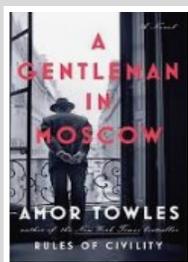
First Thursday
December 6
4:00 PM
The Essex Serpent



Historical Fiction
January 8
10:30 AM
A Thousand Mirrors

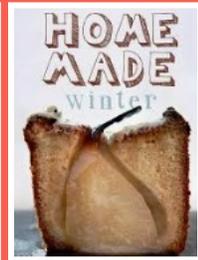
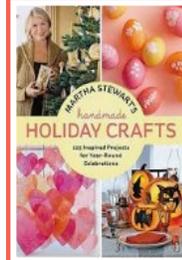


Third Wednesday
January 16
10:30 AM
A Gentleman in Moscow



HOMEMADE GIFTS

At this time of year, we have lots of pressure to buy just the right gift. Instead, how about making something meaningful from scratch? We've selected a few books to help you out.



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