

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

### Book Club Announces Reading List

With just a few weeks left of 2017, the library is looking ahead, planning programs for all ages. Our long-standing book discussion group leads the way with a suggested reading list for the community for the first half of 2018.

The CPL Book Discussion Group meets eleven times each year at the library, usually on the last Thursday of the month. The library offers multiple copies of each book club selection for checkout. This group is free, relaxed, and fun.

Our first selection for the year is "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" by Atul Gawande. This book earned "Best Book of the Year" from several sources. In it, the author explores the subject of death and dying, and how modern medicine approaches this subject – perhaps to the detriment of the patient.

A reviewer at The Wall Street Journal had this to say: "Dr. Gawande's book is not of the kind that some doctors write, reminding us how grim the fact of death can be. Rather, he shows how patients in the terminal phase of their illness can maintain important qualities of life."

Copies of "Being Mortal" will be available in early January. Join us on Thursday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss this acclaimed book.

On February 22 the group will discuss, "A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail" by Bill Bryson. Having never really hiked before, Bryson decided to tackle the AT, acknowledging the danger: "Daniel Boone, who not only wrestled bears but tried to date their sisters, described corners of the southern Appalachians as "so wild and horrid that it is impossible to behold them without terror." The author's hiking partner's antics, the eccentricities of people they meet on the trail, and the lessons learned throughout the endeavor are recounted hilariously with Bryson's brand of sarcastic wit.

Join us on March 29 to talk about "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman. In this debut novel, readers meet a cantankerous widower whose lonely, dark days are disrupted by a young and spirited family that moves in next door. The film adaptation of this story was well-received by audiences, which is no surprise considering the amount of praise the novel earned.

A starred review from Publishers Weekly called this, "a fuzzy crowd-pleaser that serves up laughs to accompany a thoughtful reflection on loss and love."

Joe Starita's nonfiction work has been popular with book club members and in April we will read "A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become America's First Indian Doctor." Join us on April 26 to talk about this fascinating woman who earned her medical degree in 1889.

Later in 2018 we will read and explore the themes in "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas.

About this young adult novel Kirkus wrote, "This story is necessary. This story is important." Pick up a copy in May and find out why.

In June we will choose our books for the remainder of the year before we revisit Fredrik Backman, this time in his novel, "My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry."

Book club books are made available each month at the front desk. If you have questions about the book club, please call me at 402-562-4201 or email me at [rmcphil@columbusne.us](mailto:rmcphil@columbusne.us).