

I love books. And, I'm guessing if you read this column on a regular basis, you're a book lover too. For those of us ardent readers, we not only love reading books, we love reading about books. Personally, I read reviews, visit book sites like Goodreads.com, subscribe to podcasts, and if I overhear someone say, "I just finished this great book..." you can bet I'm all ears.

The other day I listened to a podcast featuring book recommendations from New York Times bestselling authors. This gave me an idea. If book lovers are interested in learning what famous people are reading, why not take a peek at the reading lists of people we actually know? To this end, I reached out to a variety of local leaders to find out what they have been reading lately. What follows are their recommendations. So, now when you run into these people around town, you might be able to strike up a conversation about books. Wow. To a book lover like me, that would be a little slice of heaven. Enjoy the following and remember your Columbus Public Library is an excellent source of books, book recommendations, and so much more.

Steve Borer, Principal at Lakeview Jr-Sr High School, recommends "Mindset: The New Psychology of Success" by Carol Dweck. He says, "This is a must read for anyone who wants to improve in any aspect of their life: teacher, businessman, spouse, parent, you name it. How we view the world and the circumstances that occur are generally viewed from two very different mindsets: a growth mindset or a fixed mindset. Reading this book helps you better understand how and why you respond to certain circumstances."

Kelli Keyes, Columbus Public Library Customer Service Librarian recommends "Undetected" by Dee Henderson. She says, "This is Dee Henderson's newest book. It can also be read as a series starting with "Full Disclosure," and "Unspoken." She is an award winning novelist that keeps you riveted to your seat as you read her suspense novels. I would recommend all her books and the series. Her characters will challenge and inspire the reader.

Anne Kinnison, Finance Director with the City of Columbus, recommends "The Art of Arranging Flowers" by Lynne Branard. She says, "When I first picked it up, I thought it was a reference book, but it is a novel. The owner of a flower shop can make the perfect flower arrangement for any occasion and know which flowers are just what the person needs, such as healing, sympathy, congratulations, etc. She comes from a dysfunctional family, but gradually through friends, employees and customers, she heals."

John Lohr, Columbus City Councilman, recommends "Boom!: Talking about the Sixties" by Tom Brokaw. He says the book is "a really good compendium of the sixties. Being a Vietnam veteran, I was a bit uncomfortable with some of the Vietnam interviews and conclusions in the book, but perhaps I come from a different perspective."

Mike Moser, Columbus Mayor, recommends the Metal Working Shop series by David Gingery. Mike was interested in this series because it explains how the author made a whole metal working shop from scratch using recycled aluminum scrap and he says, "He was very ingenious and his son, Vince, has taken over the family publishing business and has written several books in the same vein."

Paul Schumacher, Senator, 22nd legislative district, recommends "The Ascent of Money" by Niall Ferguson. Senator Schumacher says, "Ferguson is a leading economic historian and Harvard professor.

The book is easy to read and explains how money came to be and how the financial system became a central part of world economies.”

Crissy Stevens, Room Sales Manager at Ramada Columbus and River's Edge Convention Center, recommends the Mark of the Lion series by Francine Rivers. She says the series is “set in Rome at the dawn of Christianity. This series is excellent historical fiction, with a variety of characters that get you invested in the story line. Love, conflict, fear, joy and excitement keep those pages turning! The author does a skillful job of developing her characters and the plotline, while pointing to the truth of the gospel.”

Cindi Stewart, Senior Pastor at First United Methodist Church recommends “The Five Secrets You Must Discover Before You Die” by Dr. John Izzo. She says, “This is a book that I have read many times and preached on it many times too. Dr. Izzo reminds us of the kind of legacy that we want to leave behind, and the secrets are simple yet powerful to live well and to die happy. I truly enjoy books that inspire me to be my best self.”

Steven Woodside, Columbus High School Principal, recommends “The Time of Our Lives: A Conversation About America” by Tom Brokaw. He says, “With two sons serving in the Air Force as defenders of the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, I was particularly interested in Tom Brokaw's work in which he shares stories of Americans making a difference. American history is rich with tradition, sacrifice and innovation. In a troubled world, it is becoming more difficult for people to have dreams and aspirations for a future. Hearing accounts from other Americans who have been change agents in communities across the country, engaged me as a reader. The author's purpose to provide a vision of hopefulness and direction for moving forward in recapturing the American Dream captivated my attention.”