

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Programs for Movie Lovers and Reading Enthusiasts

While many area residents are busy baking holiday goodies, the library is whipping up fun winter programs for teens and adults.

The first of these boredom-busting programs is a Movie Marathon on Wednesday, December 30. The first movie starts at 10:00 a.m. and our third movie should easily wrap up before 5:00 p.m.

Patrons in grades 6-12 are welcome to bring their pillows, blankets, and bean bags and settle in for the day. They are also welcome to bring a snack or drinks to share, but it is not required. I will pop some popcorn to enjoy during the movies and pizza will be served for lunch.

The event is open to grades 6-12, but parents should be advised that at least one of the movies may be rated PG-13. Please call the library or visit the Teen Space to see which movies we'll be viewing.

What about the grown-ups? Drop your teen off at the library for one of these programs and check out a book to take back to your quiet house. For reading inspiration, check out the CPL Book Discussion Group's 2016 reading list at <http://www.columbusne.us/library>.

Our first selection for the year is Upton Sinclair's novel, "The Jungle." In this story a Lithuanian immigrant brings his family to America for a better life. The realities of working conditions in the meat-packing industry are far from what he pictured, however. The author intended to highlight terrible working conditions, but "The Jungle" also shed light on poor sanitation practices and brought change in the meat-packing industry. Booklist describes "The Jungle" as, "the darkest kind of American folktale, in which an immigrant is trodden under the existential forces born of modern civilization."

The book discussion group will meet on Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Sinclair's important novel.

On February 25 the group will read and discuss, "Between Shades of Gray" by Ruth Sepetys. This novel received many starred reviews, including one from Kirkus: "This bitterly sad, fluidly written historical novel tackles a topic woefully underdiscussed in English-language children's fiction: Joseph Stalin's reign of terror. On June 14th, 1941, Soviet officers arrest 15-year-old Lina, her younger brother and her mother and deport them from Lithuania to Siberia." About the author, Kirkus says, "Sepetys' flowing prose gently carries readers through the crushing tragedy of this tale that needs telling."

Other titles the book club will discuss this year include back-to-back chats about Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Go Set a Watchman." Later we will read "The Girl on the Train" by Paula Hawkins, "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah, and the One Book, One Nebraska 2016 title, "The Meaning of Names" by Karen Gettart Shoemaker.

Book club books are made available each month at the front desk. This group is free, relaxed, and fun. Every year participants say that one of the best things about book club is reading things they wouldn't otherwise select on their own. This opportunity to read "outside the box" is a reason they keep coming back.

If you have questions about any of these activities, please call me at 402-562-4201 or email me at rmcphil@columbusne.us.