



Lariat & Topaz present

Adult Book Pairings for Programming

LIBRARY RENAISSANCE
OUR QUEST FOR RENEWAL

TLA ★ **2025**

TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

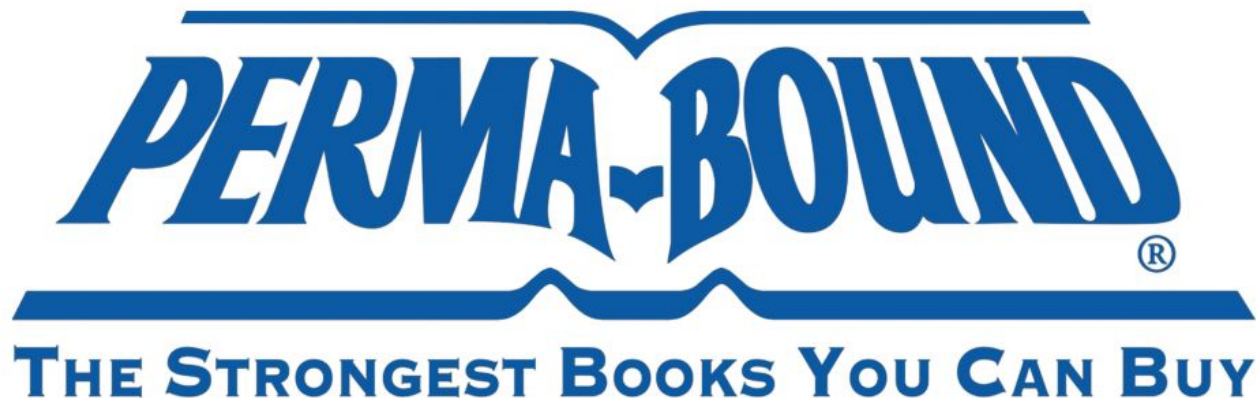
DALLAS ★ APRIL 1 – 4

TLA Reading Lists

txla.org/ReadingLists

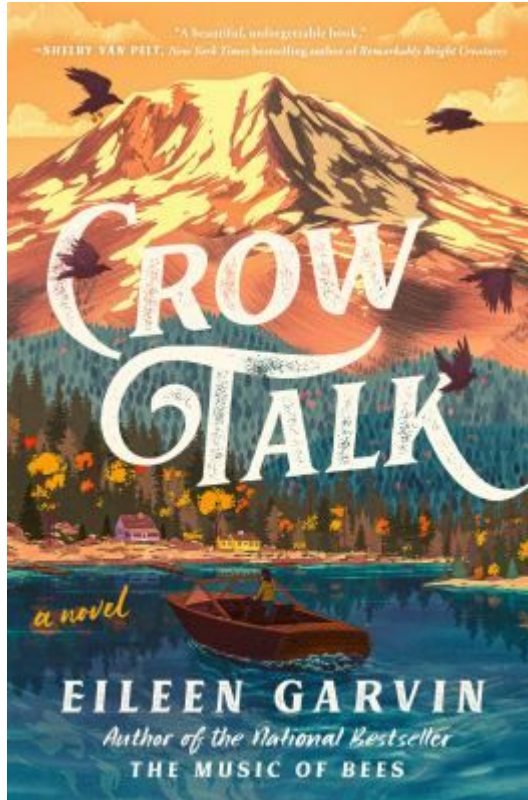


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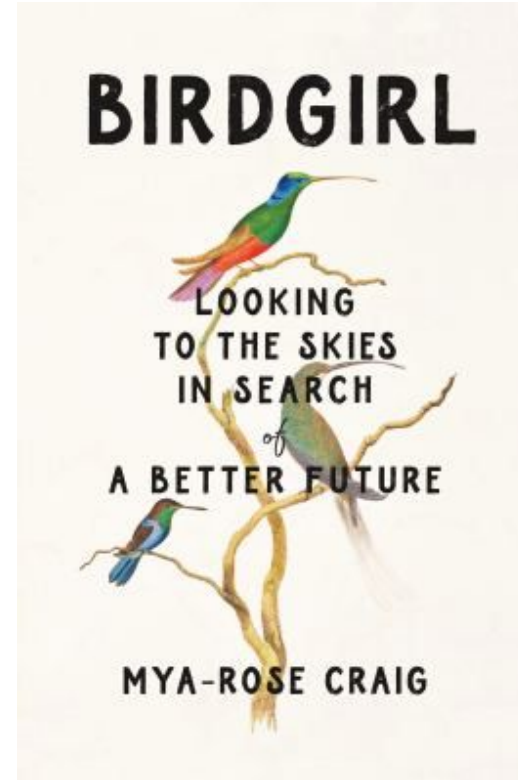


**Sponsor of the Texas Topaz
Nonfiction Reading List**

Birds / Nature



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Birds / Nature

Audience: Adults interested in nature, animal stories, or birding specifically.

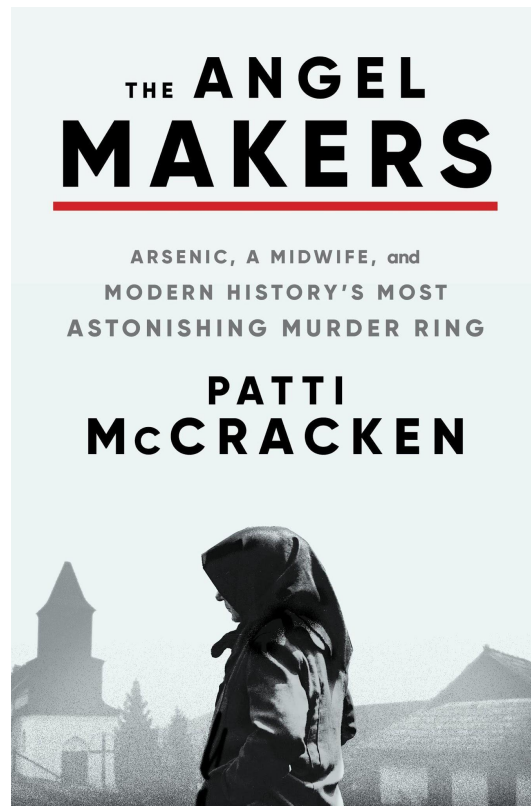
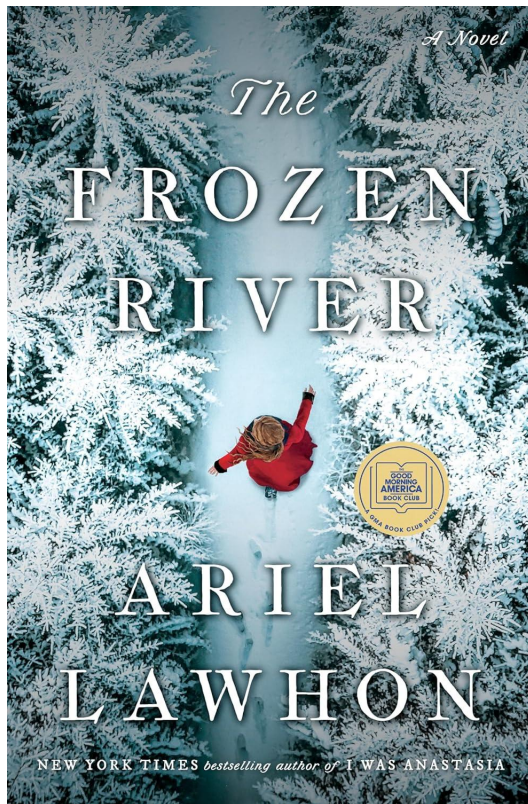
Programs:

- Educational bird programs based in Texas: Window to the Wild <https://www.windowtothewild.org> or Blackland Prairie Raptor Center <https://bpraptorcenter.org>
- Great places to bird watch <https://www.visitdallas.com/blog/best-birdwatching-in-dallas>
- Texas Ornithological Society <https://www.texasbirds.org>
- Texas Audubon Society <https://tx.audubon.org>
- Crafting Bird Feeders, Creating a Birding Diary

Read-A-Like Titles



Midwifery & Crime



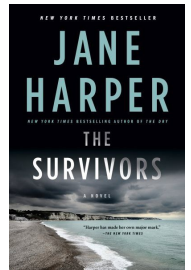
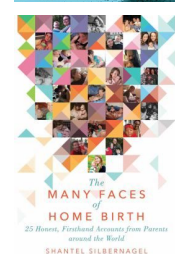
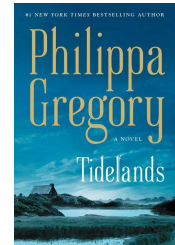
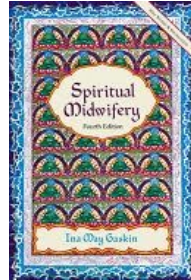
Midwifery & Crime

Audience: Adults interested in medical crimes, alternative medicine or natural childbirthing

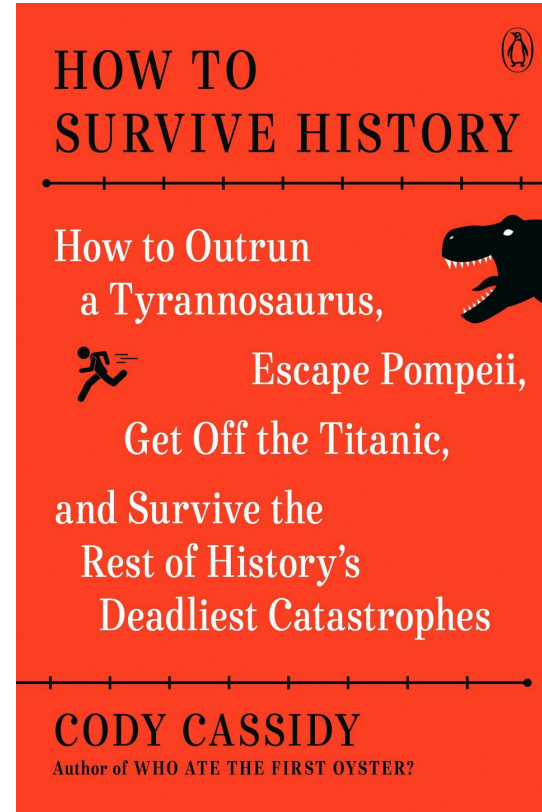
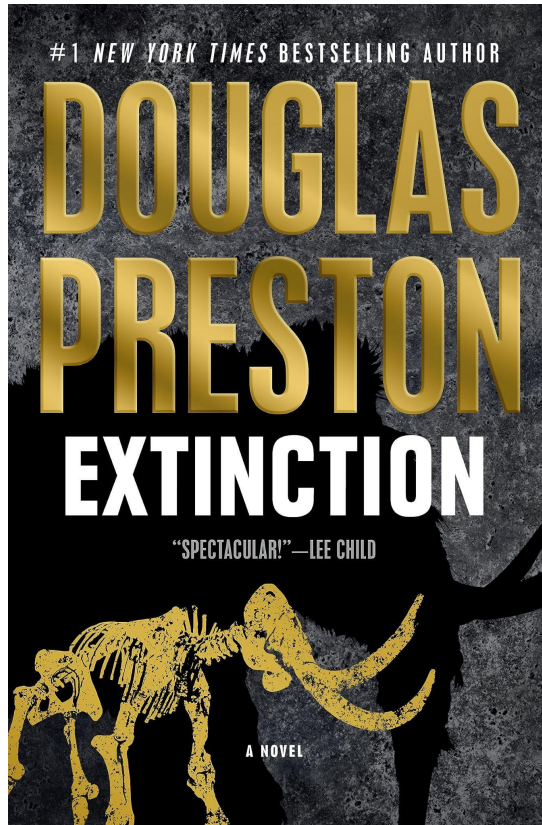
Programs:

- **The History of Midwifery:** A lecture or presentation by a historian, midwife, or medical professional on the evolution of midwifery practices throughout history
- **Modern Midwifery: Choices and Care:** Invite a panel of midwives to discuss the role of modern midwives, the services they provide, and the benefits of midwifery care.
- **Pregnancy and Postpartum Health** Offer a series of workshops or classes on prenatal and postpartum health, covering topics such as nutrition, exercise, and emotional well-being. Invite healthcare professionals, such as midwives, nurses, and lactation consultants, to lead the sessions.

Read-A-Like Titles



Extinction/Survival



Extinction/Survival

Audience: Adults interested in de-extinction, survival, and dinosaurs

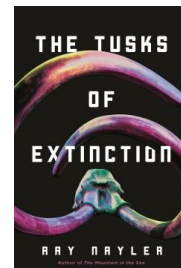
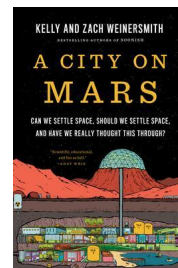
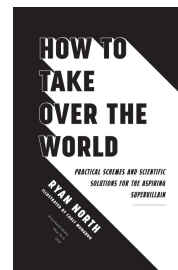
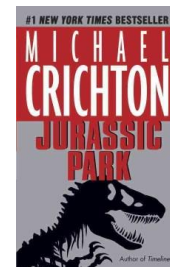
Programs:

- Dino digs or bring a dinosaur exhibit/info sessions
- Prepping sessions: tips and tricks to prep for the worst (supplies, how-tos, etc.) or create a go-bag program. Collaborate with local Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camping groups, etc.
- Basic Life Skills program series

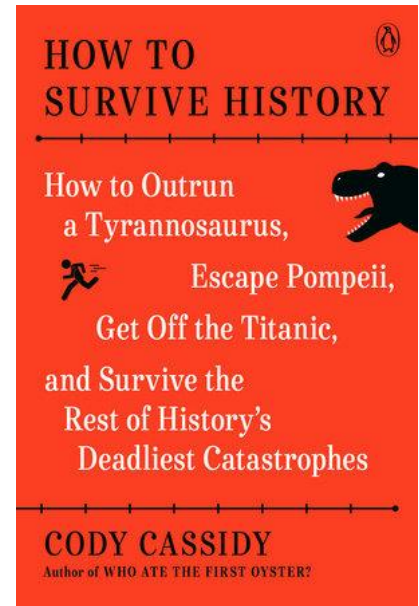
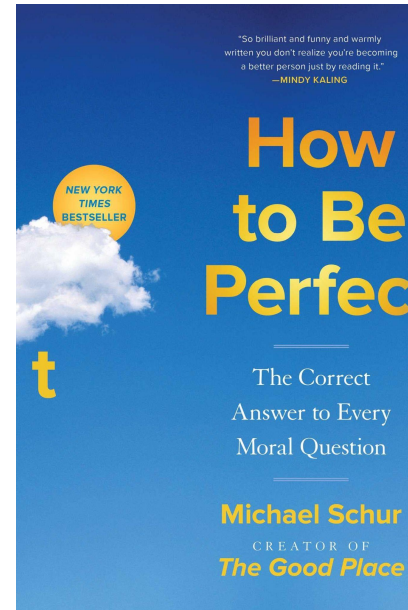
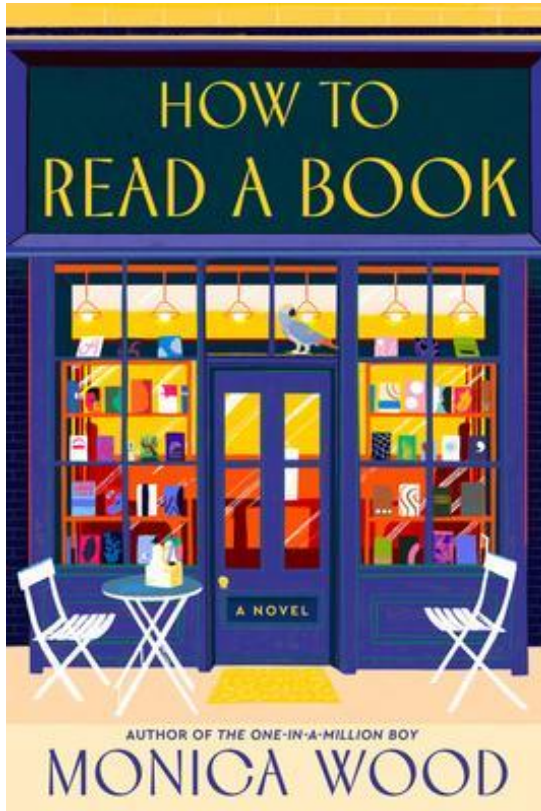
Book Display Ideas:

- Camping or Survival Guides & Stories
- Dinosaurs & Other Extinct Animals
- Harvesting, Hunting, Gathering, Farming

Read-A-Like Titles



How-To Guides



How-To Guides

Audience: Adults interested in learning new things and becoming better people.

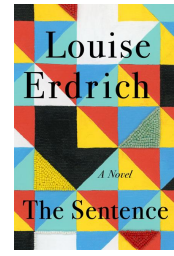
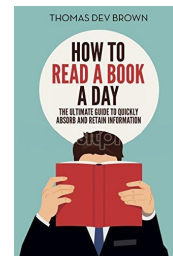
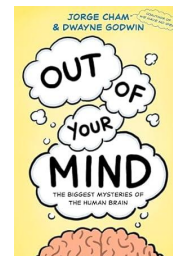
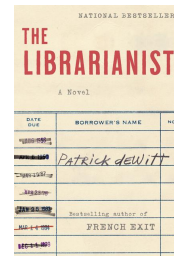
Programs:

- Learning @ the Library series: Host various workshops on skill-building of any type. Collaborate with local organizations for more specific ideas. Ex. bee-keeping, cooking, gardening.
- Offer a place for patrons to learn/utilize new technology. Makerspaces, 3D printing, quilting machines, etc.
- DIY workshops

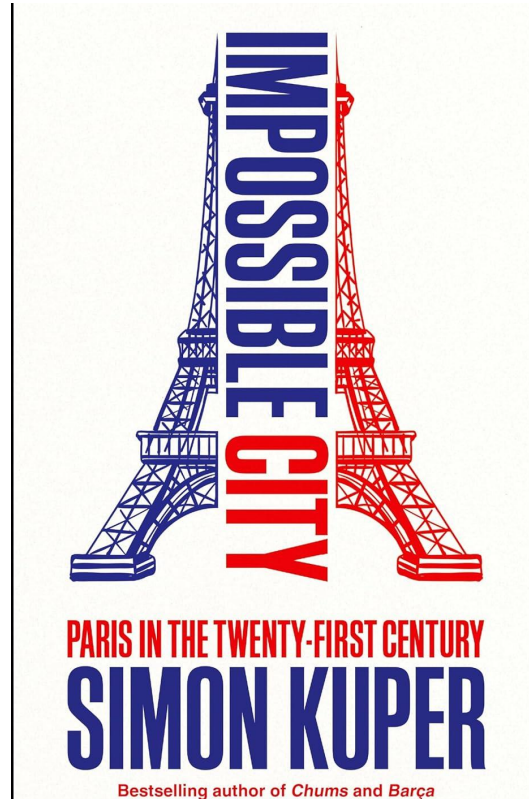
Book Display Ideas:

- How-To Guides
- Books About Books
- Philosophical/Meaning of Life Books

Read-A-Like Titles



Paris



Paris

Audience: Adults interested in Parisian memories, magic, & meta literature.

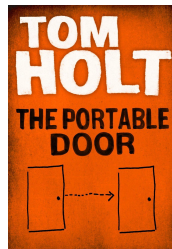
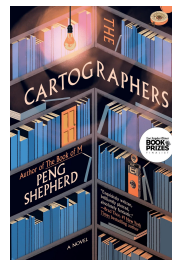
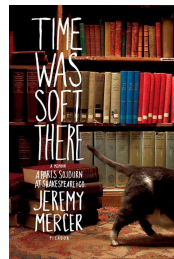
Programs:

- Paint Like a Parisian workshop paired with a 'cafe' experience
- A literary stroll through Paris (selected readings)
- Magic of Paris contest (stories, art, etc): reimagine Paris landmarks or features into magical artifacts, properties, or talents
- Magical Salon series: feature fantasy novels, books about magicians, and magic, etc. Could include discussions, readings, music performances, and games.

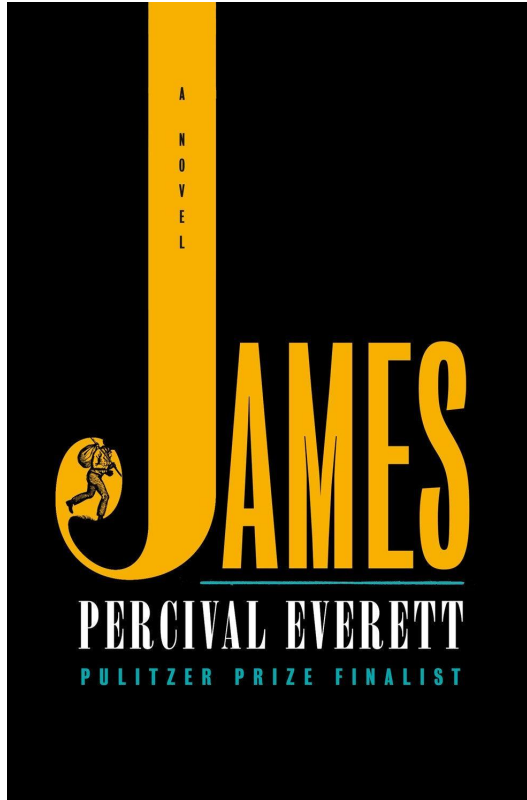
Book Display Ideas:

- Paris When It Dreams (dreamy, surreal, aspirational, and/or magical realism)
- Magical Meanderings

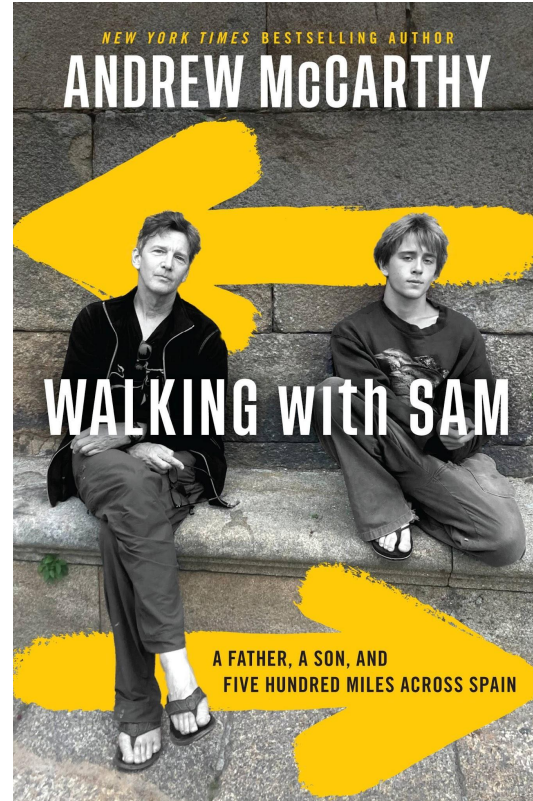
Read-A-Like Titles



Journeys/Male Bonding



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Journeys/Male Bonding

Audience: Adults interested in journeys that build connections between men and/or generations

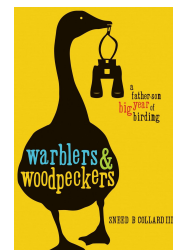
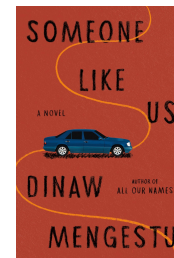
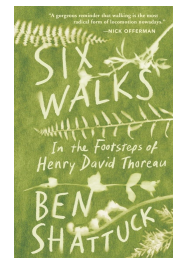
Programs:

- 'Man Cave' book club (books featuring strong male protagonists)
- DIY/Maker workshops: 3D printing, laser cutting, CNC milling, etc.
- Dad & Me storytimes
- Partner with scouts or other youth programs to offer programming supportive of merit badges or similar skills

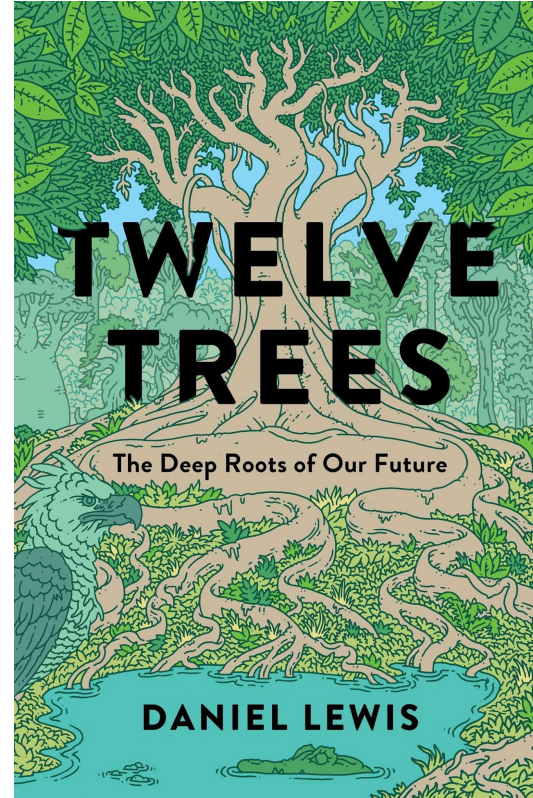
Book Display Ideas:

- Brotherhood & Bonds: explore the complexities of male relationships
- The Quest: focus on men working together to accomplish a goal
- Stories of Strength: fathers/sons supporting each other through hard times

Read-A-Like Titles



Plant Power



Plant Power

Audience: Adults interested in exploring gardening, forestry, and/or how we interact with plants.

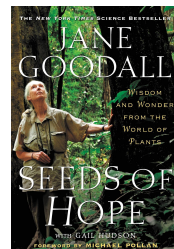
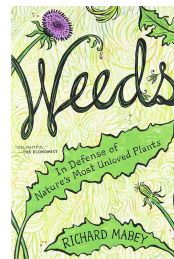
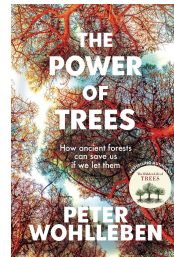
Programs:

- Literary high tea book club, event, or series
- Start a seed library
- Present a series of garden-focused programs: Pollinators, Container gardening, Herbs, Preserving food, Native plant landscaping, etc. Partner with Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and/or the Native Plant Society of Texas
- Community Connections: Plan/participate in a tree planting event, BioBlitz, community garden, etc.

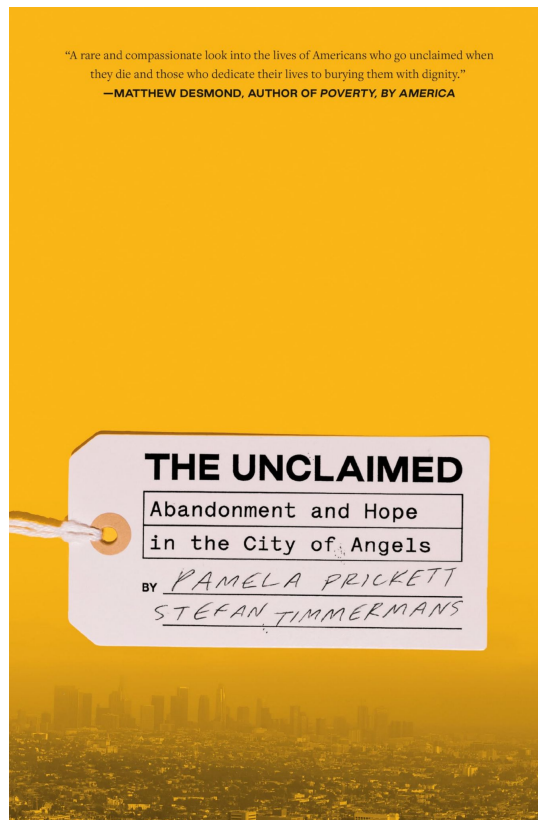
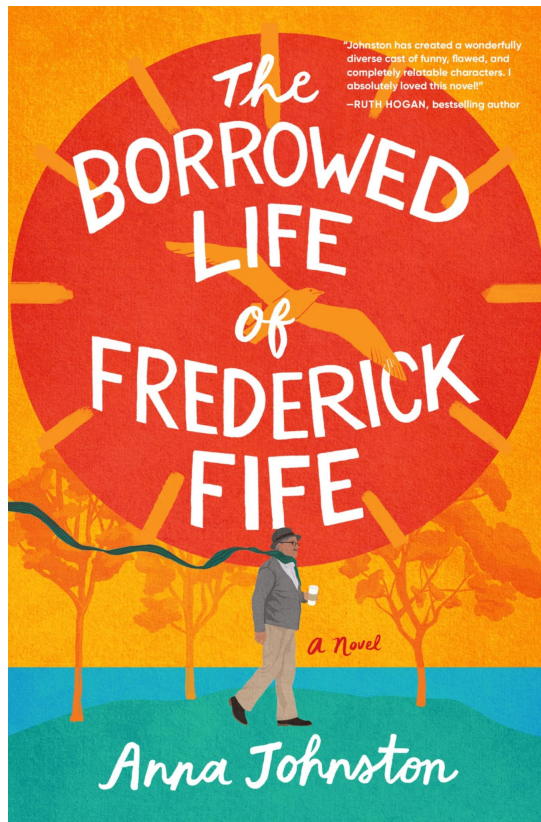
Book Display Ideas:

- Texas Gardening: From Soil to Table
- Cozy Cottage Reads
- Mama (Earth) Says: Native Seeds Meet Local Needs

Read-A-Like Titles



Senior Citizens



Senior Citizens

Audience: Adults planning for the future and adults with elderly parents.

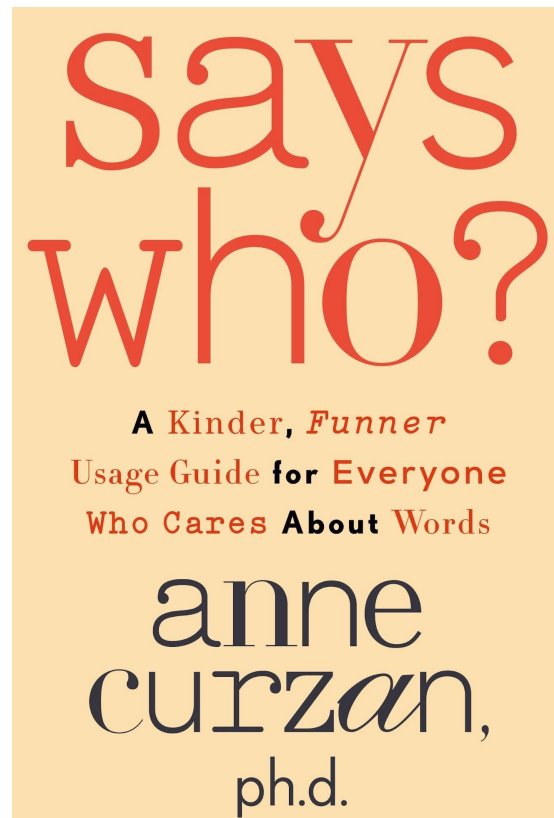
Programs:

- Legacy Writing & Genealogy: Guided workshop for seniors to write personal narratives, memoirs, or letters to loved ones. Encourages documentation of life experiences.
- End-of-Life Planning: Partner with legal & financial experts to discuss wills, estate planning, power of attorney, and advance directives. Provide/create checklists for the process.
- Social & Volunteerism Fair: Showcase volunteer opportunities, social groups, and resources for seniors to stay engaged and connected. Include senior mentorship programs.

Book Display Ideas:

- Golden Years / Senior Protagonists
- Looking Back / Stories Told in Retrospect
- Life Planning

Books and Words



Books and Words

Read-A-Like Titles

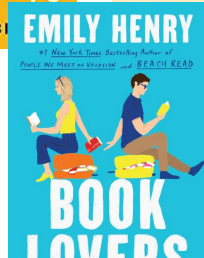
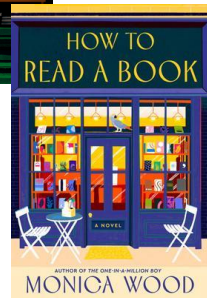
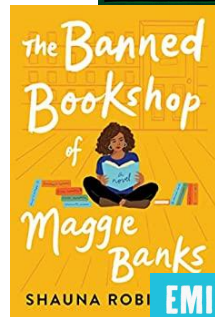
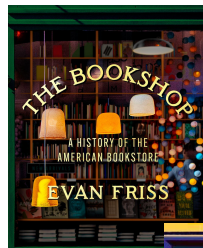
Audience: Adults interested in the power of words and stories; those who support libraries and freedom to read; those interested in increasing their language usage

Programs:

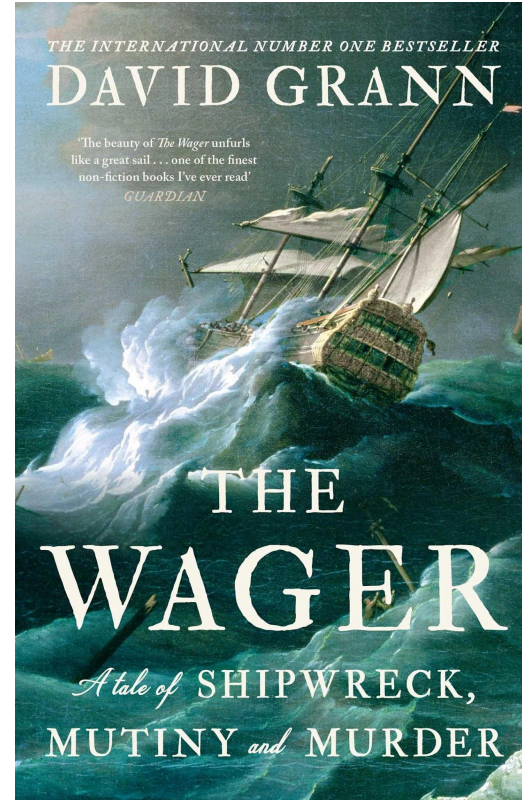
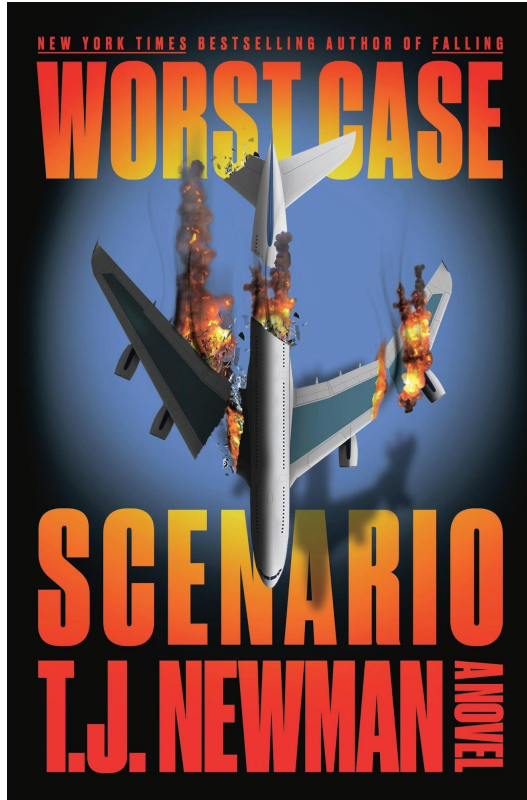
- Scrabble night; create your own crossword puzzles or crossword competitions
- Banned Book Bingo
- Banned Book Reading Challenge
- ESL classes
- Etymology classes

Book Display Ideas:

- Someone Says You Can't Read This/Don't Read These
- Words Make the World Go Round/The Secret Life of Words



Against the Odds



Against the Odds

Audience: Adults interested in adventure, action, and survival stories.

Programs:

- Self-defense strategies/police officer as a speaker
- Survival strategies
- Natural disaster planning classes
- Navigating natural disaster aftermath

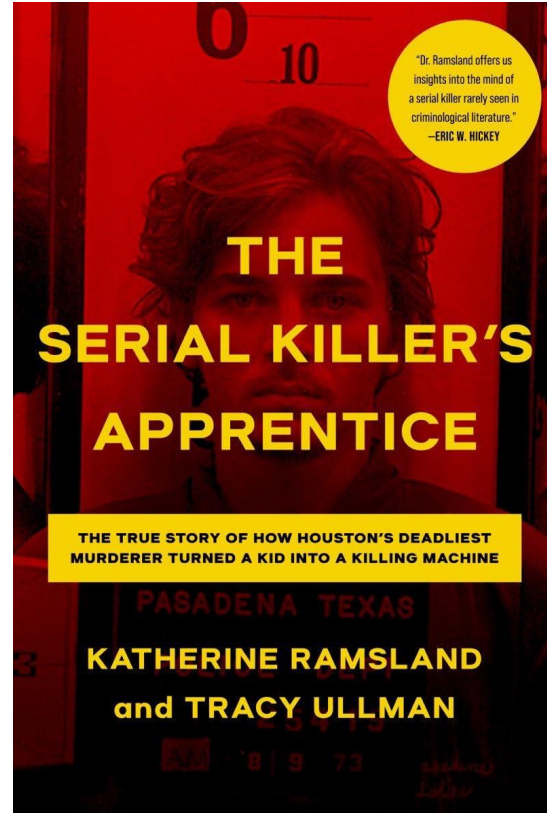
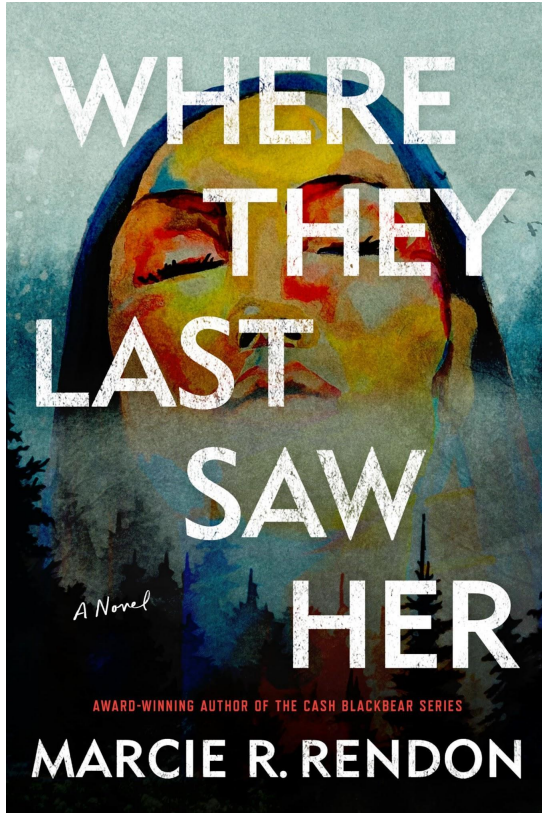
Book Display Ideas:

- How to Survive
- Would You Survive This?
- Are You Prepared?

Read-A-Like Titles



Vulnerable Populations



Vulnerable Populations

Audience: Adults interested in true crime, criminal psychology or contemporary issues affecting young people / indigenous populations.

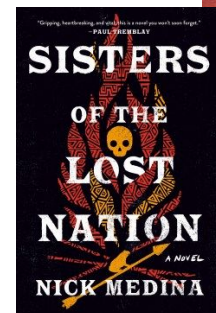
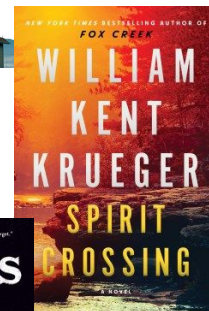
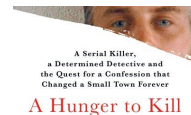
Programs:

- **Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Awareness & Prevention:** Host educational sessions to raise awareness about the crisis of MMIP, discuss risk factors, safety planning, and available resources for families and individuals. Partner with MMIP advocacy groups.
- **Healthy Relationships & Consent Education:** Facilitate workshops on healthy relationships, consent, boundaries, and identifying red flags in a way that is culturally appropriate and addresses potential power imbalances and historical context.

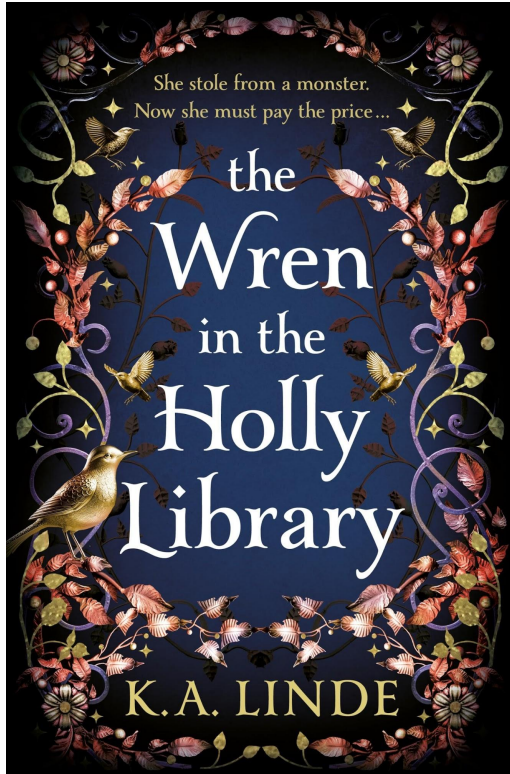
Book Display Ideas:

- Feature books addressing issues faced by vulnerable youth, such as bullying, poverty, mental health challenges, and foster care. Include information on local youth support services.
- Showcase books that promote empathy, understanding, and allyship towards vulnerable populations. Include books on social justice, human rights, and overcoming prejudice.

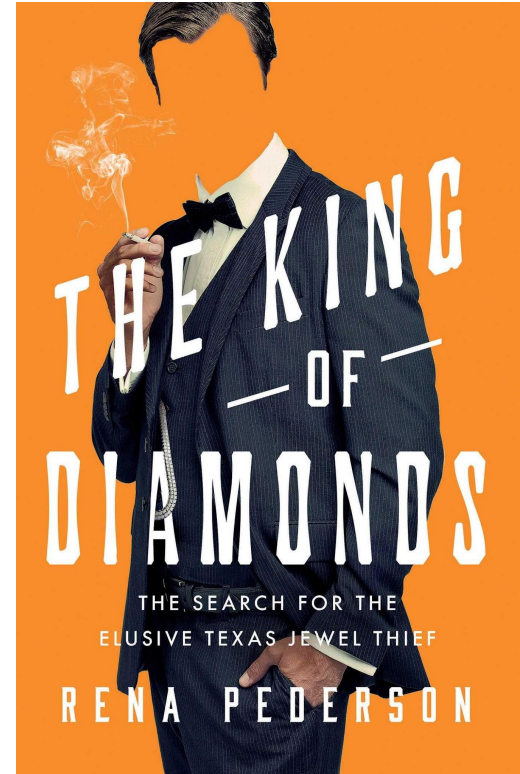
Read-A-Like Titles



Heists



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Heists

Audience: Adults interested in heists, history, and adventure.

Programs:

- Heist film series - show famous heist movies from different time periods
- Conduct a creative writing workshop focused on heist stories. Learn about plotting, character development, and creating suspenseful scenes.
- Escape Room Challenge - set up in the library with a heist theme. Solve puzzles to pull off the heist and escape within a set time limit.
- Heist Themed Trivia Night - Questions relating to famous heists in history, literature, and film.

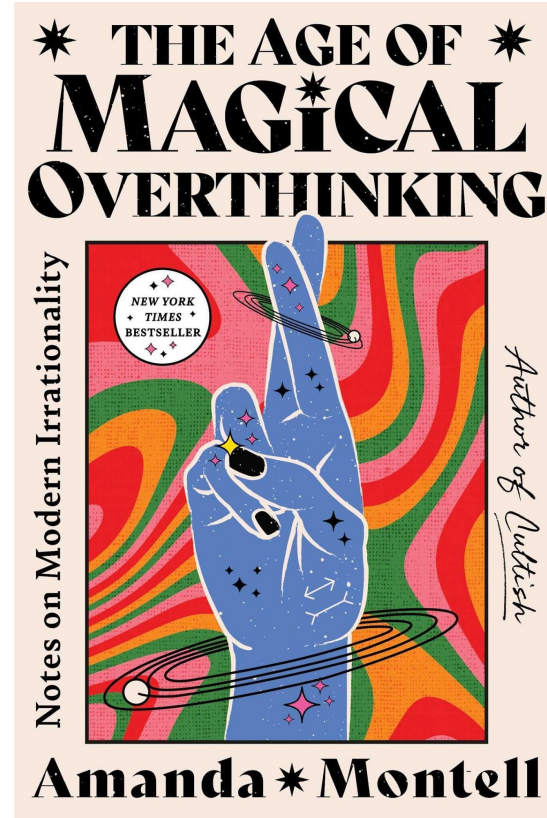
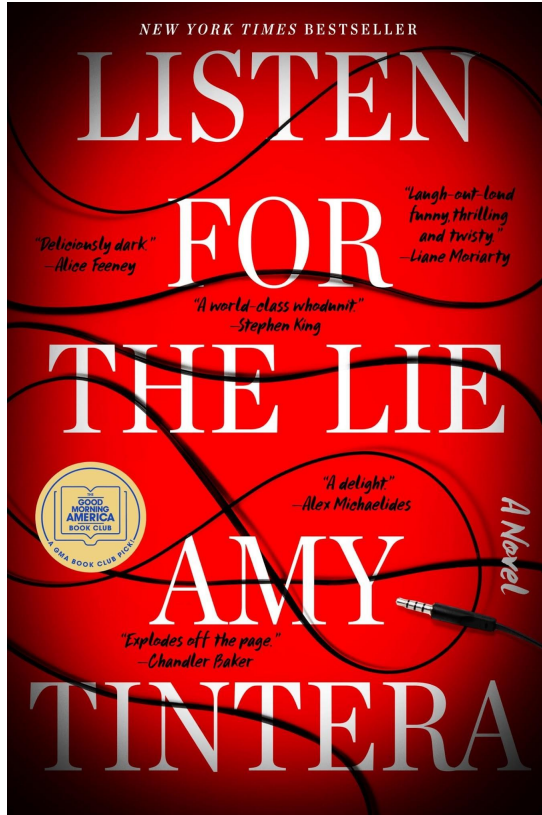
Book Display Ideas:

- Masterminds and Thieves
- Heist Thrillers
- Behind the Heist

Read-A-Like Titles



Overthinking, Biases, and Perceptions



Overthinking, Biases, and Perceptions

Read-A-Like Titles

Audience: Readers interested in human behavior or psychological themes

Programs:

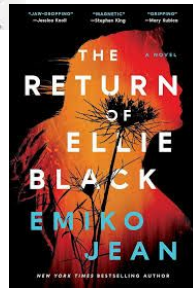
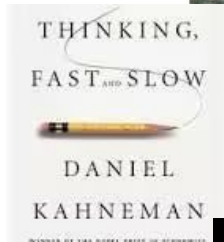
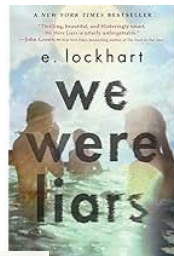
- Escape Room challenge Create an escape room based on themes from both books. Participants can solve puzzles related to memory, perception, and cognitive biases to "escape."

Include clues and challenges inspired by the plot of "Listen for the Lie" and the concepts from "The Age of Magical Overthinking."

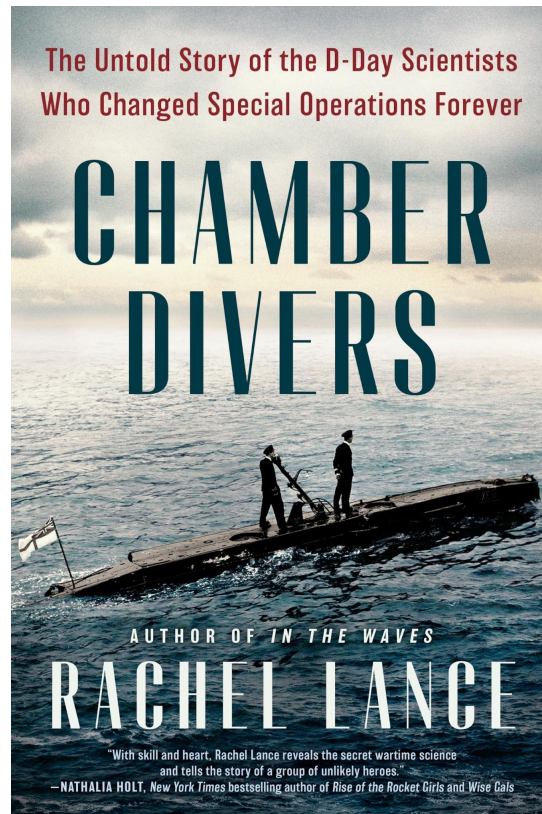
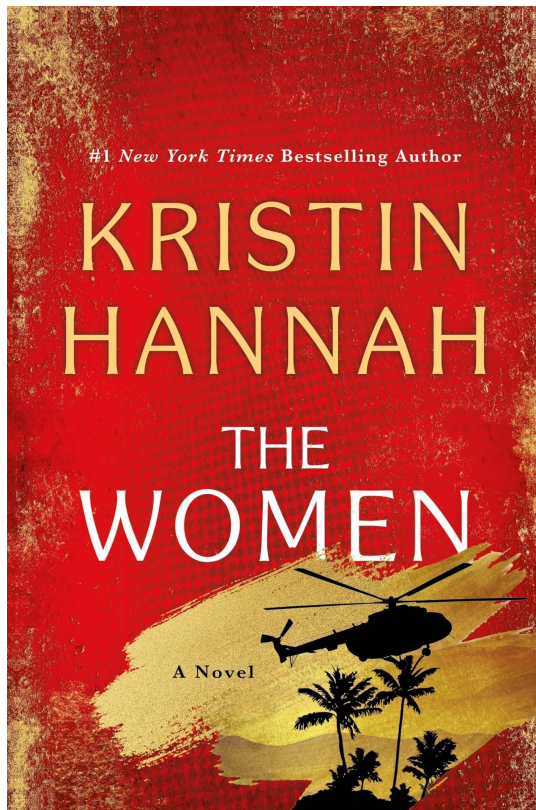
- CSI - Mystery Night - Solve a crime together with a psychological theme

Book Display Ideas:

- Perception vs reality, suspense, thriller, mental health



Women in War Time



Women in War Time

Audience: Adults that Like History, Women's History, Women in War

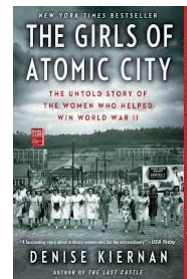
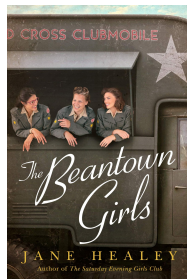
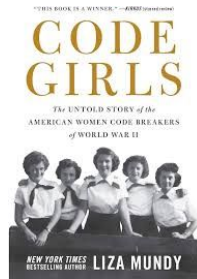
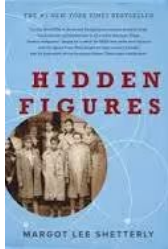
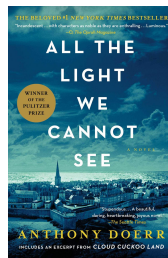
Programs:

- Living history talks or lectures - Have veterans, who are willing speak and record their war experiences or professors from area colleges. Psychological effects of war. Women in war as possible topics
- Encourage patrons to create art or junk journal entries based on the novels
- Film Screenings - The Vietnam War Documentary or Saving Private Ryan
- Letter writing campaign to the troops, service project to send care packagees

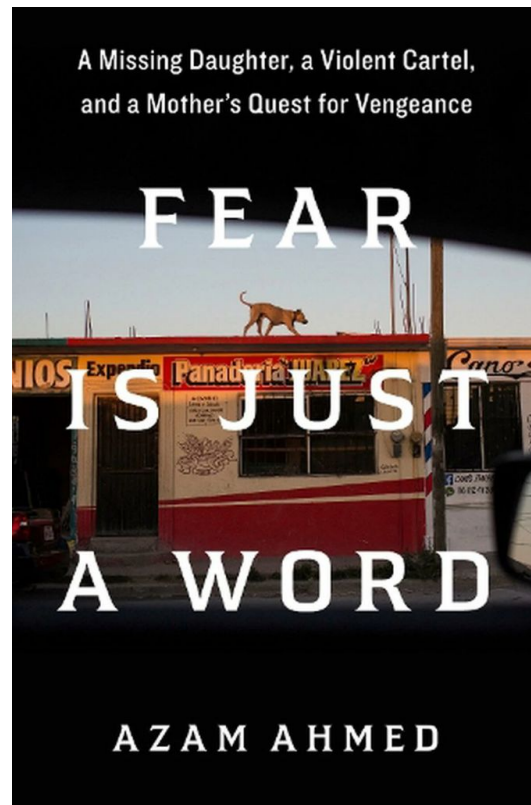
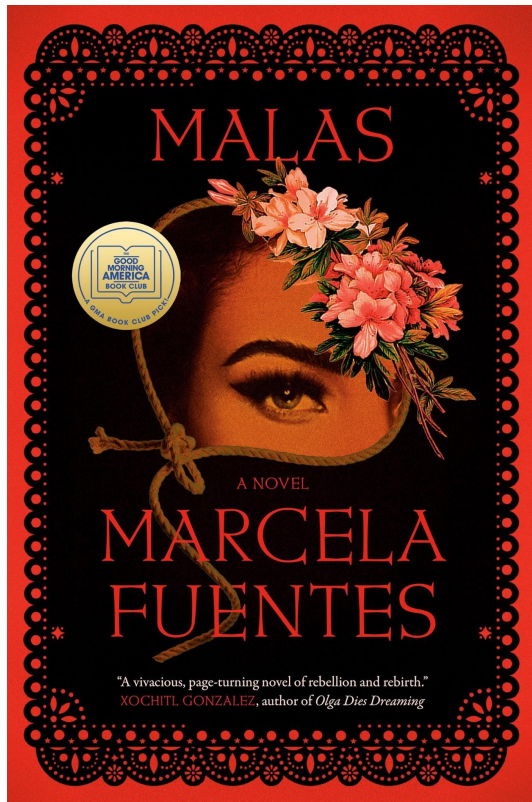
Book Display Ideas:

- War, Women's History

Read-A-Like Titles



Texas Border



Texas Border

Audience: Those that like a strong female protagonist, cultural enthusiasts, and social justice advocates

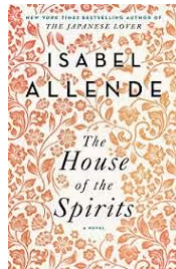
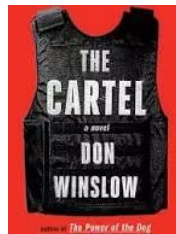
Programs:

- Historical Context Lectures: Provide lectures on the historical periods and social issues depicted in both books, such as cartel violence in Mexico and Tejano history in Texas.
- Cultural Exhibits: Set up exhibits showcasing Mexican and Tejano art, history, and traditions, providing a visual and interactive experience.
- Resilience Workshops: Offer workshops on building resilience and coping with trauma, inspired by the characters' experiences in the novels.

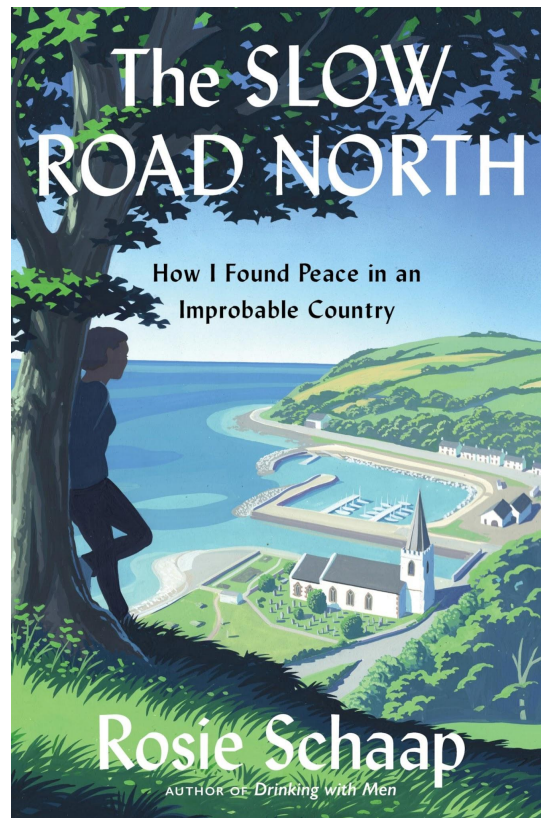
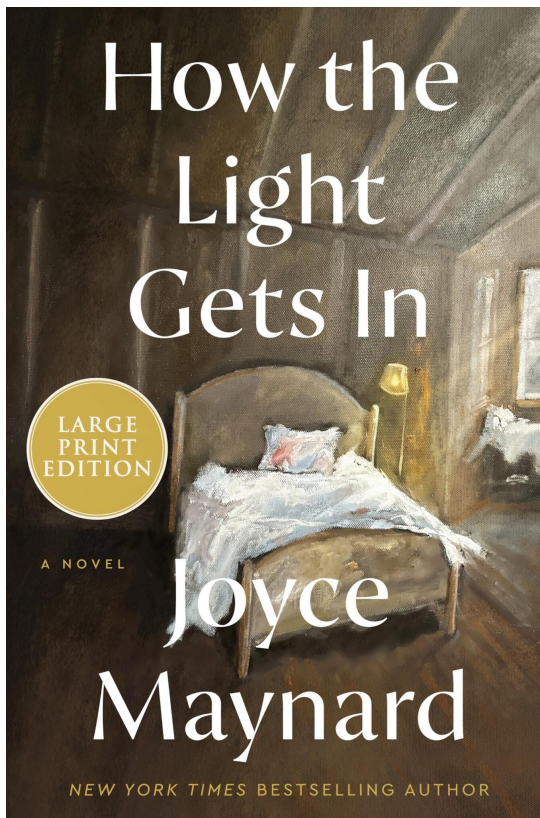
Book Display Ideas:

- Courage and resilience, cultural heritage, true crime and justice, multigenerational stories

Read-A-Like Titles



Grief



Grief

Read-A-Like Titles

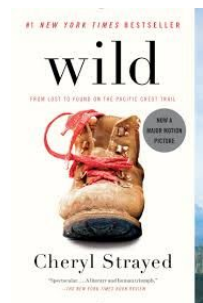
Audience: Patrons that are dealing or interested in grief, hope

Programs:

- Travel Writing Workshop: Host a workshop where participants can learn the art of travel writing, inspired by Schaap's journey.
- Map Your Journey: Create a program where participants can map out their own significant journeys and share stories.
- Memoir Writing Class: Offer a class on memoir writing, encouraging participants to explore their own life stories.
- Mental Health Awareness Event: Host an event focusing on the themes of resilience and healing, which are central to Maynard's book.

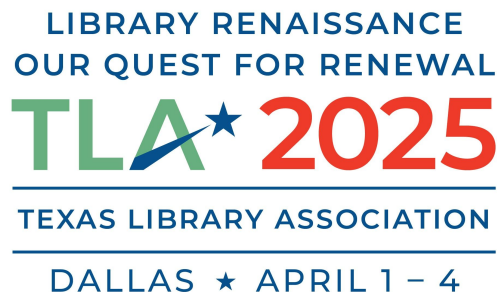
Book Display Ideas:

- Travel, Journey and self discovery, Memoir, Healing



TLA Reading Lists

<https://txla.org/tools-resources/reading-lists/>



Thank you for attending!

And thank you to the 2024 Lariat & Topaz Committee Members for their hard work!

Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List

Jennifer Shaw - Chair
Miranda Robbins - Vice Chair
Diane Bruxvoort
Jackie Chetzron
Mary Jo Humphreys
Sherece Johnson
Tina Oswald
Alex Riggs
Mary Woodard

Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List

Paige Bowman - Chair
Shelly Landreth
Megan Firestone
Kandra Gibbs
Amber Seely
Theresa Tongio Holden
Matthew Glaser
Liz Nebeker