



2024 Reading Challenge

FEBRUARY

A book with a color in the title

A reader from Tyngsborough read *Silver Nitrate* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia: “This book was 1. not scary and 2. not that interesting. HOWEVER, I really liked the setting and characters, so that kept me reading. Probably one of my least favorite books I've read of hers. But I will still read all the new things she publishes!”

A reader from Orleans read *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins: “I've read the Moonstone, excellent book. Thought I would try this one, as well.”

A reader from Northfield read *The Gold Bug* by Edgar Allen Poe: “I am a devoted Poe fan and somehow never read this short story. It came with other short stories that i have read, it was nice re reading them as well. It was a well written perfect Poe short story.”

A reader from Springfield read *Crimson Lake* by Candice Fox: “Great ‘who done it’ book. I did not see that ending coming! I enjoyed the author’s style of writing and will read some more from her. I enjoyed the character descriptions. The pets were interesting.”

A reader from Georgetown read *Roses are Red* by James Patterson: “This is a very distressing story about a lot of murders in the DC area. Alex Cross is on the case of these bank robbers and the many cold blooded murderers. The Twist in the story is that the Mastermind behind the murders was directing the FBI’s Violent Crime Unit. Very Scary!”

A reader from Gardner read *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry: “Wow! Another fascinating read from Lois Lowry. I read *The Giver* for the first time in 2022 when I was 22 and I loved it (I had never seen the movie either). For some reason, I did not know that there was a continuation of the series. When researching a book with a color in the title for my February read, I stumbled upon *Gathering Blue*. The world Lowry has created is absolutely fascinating to me. I thoroughly enjoyed reading Kira's story and having that same "something is wrong" feeling in my gut the whole time. Lowry leaned into a stylistic dialect with these characters and that choice made the story so lifelike. After being disappointed in the cliffhanger ending of *The Giver*, I am ecstatic to continue diving into this series!”

A reader from Sharon read *Black Kids* by Christina Hammonds Reed: “Great young adult book and a good read for all adults.”

A reader from Somerville read *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “An international friends-to-enemies LGBTQIA+ rom-com between the First Son of the United States and a Prince of England. The story is engaging and fun, steamy at parts, but also cute and heartwarming.”

A reader from Marblehead read *The Red Lamp* by Mary Roberts Rinehart: “I did not like this book. It was pretty much a series of diary entries, so I couldn't track the story as it went along.”

A reader from Berkley read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I loved this book many years ago. I haven’t seen either of the films based upon it. What impressed me this time reading it was the evolution of all the characters, including those who were abusive to the protagonist, softening and expressing regret, as well as the growth of the heroines as they matured and grew in wisdom and confidence.”

A reader from Spencer read *Green City* by Allan Drummond: “This inspiring, true story in picture book form illustrates one community's resilience and innovation despite suffering complete devastation and loss due to a tornado. I liked it very much.”

A reader from Pittsfield read *Pieces of Blue* by Holly Goldberg Sloan: “I loved this book! I thought the writing was superb and the story was excellent. It was not predictable, the descriptions were wonderful and the characters believable. I read it in 48 hours and highly recommend it. At the very end, she writes about the pieces of blue that she sees of the ocean and it is like the pieces of blue are the parts of her life coming together! Enjoy it!”

A reader from Sharon read *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry: “Sequel to *The Giver*, which I read for January (and *Gathering Blue* had not been written at the time I first read *The Giver*).”

A reader from Medway read *The Only Purple House in Town* by Ann Aguirre: “I didn't realize it was a fantasy/magical realism book. I wouldn't have read it if I had known, but it was OK: a cute love story.”

A reader from Woburn read *The Silver Chair* by C.S Lewis: “I really enjoyed this book. I love the character development that Eustace Has had from the Dawn Voyager to this book. I enjoyed every twist and turn this adventure had and I glad Rillin was found and that Caspian get to live on.”

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Wisdon of Sally Red Shoes* by Ruth Hogan: “The best part of this story is the author's skill at characterization. ALL the characters - living and dead, canine and human, real or imagined are finely drawn and fully realized.”

A reader from Amesbury read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “Wild.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *Lilac Girls: A Novel* by Martha Hall Kelly: “This book was interesting because it explored events of WWII from three very different perspectives: the only female German doctor at Ravensbruck concentration camp, a young Polish woman who becomes a prisoner at Ravensbruck, and an American philanthropist. Of course, all of their stories cross paths by the end. This is a work of historical fiction. The doctor and philanthropist were real people while the prisoner, Kasia, was based on the research and the experiences of actual prisoners at that camp.”

A reader from Scituate read *Red Rock Stories* by Stephen Trimble: “I thought the book would celebrate the magic of southern Utah, but it is focused on a very narrow group of people.”

A reader from Rochester read *The Rarest Blue* by Baruch Sterman: “Ancient Jews risked their lives for a sacred dye discovered by the Minoans, stolen by the Phoenicians, and revered by Roman emperors. Then it vanished with the Roman Empire before re-emerging in the 19th century. This is an amazing story, full of mystery and intrigue, of how a rare blue changed the course of history.”

A reader from New Bedford read *Yellow Star* by Jennifer Roy: “This book was written as an account of the Jewish people in the Lodz ghetto in Poland during the Holocaust. It was told through the eyes of one of only 12 children to survive. The story starts when she’s just 4 years old and continues until they are liberated by the Russians when she’s just about 10. In an ironic turn of events, the yellow star that all Jewish people in Europe were forced to wear during WWII is what actually saved the remaining Jews in the Łódź Ghetto. Reading this, one is transported into a child and feeling the horrors, confusion and even joy as only a child can.”

A reader from Blandford read *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess: “I found this to be a very thought provoking read. Once I became somewhat accustomed with Nadsat, the invented slang that is used throughout the book it became much easier to understand. The concept of rehabilitation versus the chance that an individual will grow up and no longer desire the criminal ways of their youth. The rehabilitation in the book is a forced re programming of ones reaction to violence. This comes at the cost of free will. If you can handle the gore and violence of the story it really highlights some important issues.”

A reader from Billerica read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “I really enjoyed this book. It was an interesting take on race in America and a deep dive into the publishing world. I found that I learned a lot about the publishing side of things while being thoroughly engrossed in the plot. I never knew what was coming next and would recommend this to everybody.”

A reader from Reading read *Blackout* by Dhonielle Clayton: “Can’t wait to read the sequel, Whiteout!”

A reader from Dartmouth read *Woman With A Purple Heart* by Diane Hanks: “Loved this historical fiction of the nurses who worked at Hickman Field military base & were indeed heroes on December 7, 1941. Nurses are often overlooked but this portrayed them as major players in the medical world as they truly are now. Interestingly, the author gave many of the character their actual names, spoke with many about the events. The author’s notes reported that the Purple heart given to the heroin was rescinded by the military because they changed the criteria and she was later only eligible for the Bronze Star which she was given. At least the author realized the value of each and every woman on the front lines in all capacities”

A reader from Ludlow read *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell: “Yes, I reread the classic! This tells the tale of a horse’s life through his eyes. The time of the book is probably 19th century England but the harsh

reality of a horse as a workmate is timeless. Even then treatment of them varied, as it does today. Happy the Black Beauty gets the happy ending he so deserved. Still brings a tear to my eye though!”

A reader from Newton Upper Falls read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “I’m happy that the February reading challenge provided me with the incentive to read ‘Yellowface.’ I recently finished Kuang’s ‘Babel,’ which I enjoyed tremendously. Kuang likes to vary widely the genres she tackles, and ‘Yellowface’ is a different world from ‘Babel,’ while still exploring the theme of culture clash. The narrator in ‘Yellowface’ is comically self-deluded, and not very likable, but there are plenty of ideas worth discussing after reading the novel.”

A reader from Oxford read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: “Wow this book was not something i would normally chose, but i stepped out of my comfort zone. This book is about a Satanist community and a young womens quest to break free but also is miserable without her family and close friends. I actually had a few nightmares while reading this book.”

A reader from Roslindale read *All Boys Aren’t Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto* by George M. Johnson: “This had been on my summer reading list as I was trying get through as many banned books as I could. Now I had a chance to read it this winter with this challenge. A wonderful read that brings a lot of food for thought around the experiences of a young person who identifies as Black and queer and explores the intersection of these identities.”

A reader from Spencer read *The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan: “Two dissimilar siblings confront their complicated family situation, arcane magic, and dangerous Egyptian gods in a worldwide quest. This enthralling adventure is filled with twists and turns, as the young protagonists must fight for their lives as well as for the world.”

A reader from Dracut read *The Man with the Silver Saab* by Alexander McCall Smith: “Just love the characters in this book series and look forward to the next one.”

A reader from Foxborough read *Get a Life Chloe Brown* by Talia Hibbert: “Fun and steamy and realistic romance that reinforces “you can’t judge a book by the cover” because you never know what battles someone is fighting behind closed doors.”

A reader from Wakefield read *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery: “Even after more than 50 years since I read the 1st time, lovely story with exceptional characters.”

A reader from Hudson read *Black Boy Joy* by Edited by Kwame Mbalia: “A beautiful, joyful collection of short stories. It’s been on my list for a long time, and I was happy to have a reason to move it to the top!”

A reader from Somerville read *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier: “Chocolate counts as a color, right? This book was wild and I really didn’t like it.”

A reader from Brighton read *Black Cake* by Charlene Wilkerson: “It was a great book, I wanted to keep reading to know what was going to happen next. My fiancé is Jamaican, and his mom makes ‘black cake’ we call it rum cake. It was fun to follow the cake and family’s journey throughout the book.”

A reader from Basking Ridge read *Pink Is For Boys* by Robb Perlman: “Cute and sweet.”

A reader from North Dighton read *Blacktop Wasteland* by S. A. Cosby: “This was a great read that kept me hooked from start to finish. Incredibly well written, I was able to put myself deeply into a setting that I would have had no way to envision otherwise. You felt the heat, the fear, the adrenaline, and the thrill every chapter along the way.”

A reader from Northampton read *Black Buck* by Mateo Askaripour: “Sales! Whew. This book--or sales manual--is invigorating, exhilarating, quite a ride. Reminds me a bit of *The Circle* by Dave Eggers and the obvious comparison is *Sorry to Bother You*, but it is its own compelling story of right now with a ton of relevance. Really good.”

A reader from dover foxcroft read *Blue Summer* by Jim Nicholas: “Liked that the book was set in Maine, didn't like the structure of the book, moving between two different time periods. Sad story about an abusive step dad and the consequences that occurs because of that. The protagonist has been problems but mostly was very likable. On the whole though i wouldn't recommend it.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Red Address Book* by Sofia Lundberg: “When she was a young girl, Doris was gifted a red address book by her father. Now at age 96, Doris reflects on the entries in the address book- all the people she has loved. A nice debut novel by this Swedish author.”

A reader from Wakefield read *The Woman With A Purple Heart* by Diane Hanks: “Even though Pearl Harbor is one of the most widely known events in US history, I enjoyed reading this account of the women who worked as Army nurses the day of the attack. It's a perspective I didn't know much about. What I appreciated even more was that this book explored Annie's conflicted feelings between loyalty to the US and realizing the injustices the US was inflicting on Japanese Americans.”

A reader from Peabody read *Russian Winter* by Kalotry: “Interweaves Russian past with Boston’s fairly recent history that includes the world of ballet.”

A reader from North Andover read *The Amber Spyglass* by Philip Pullman: “This is the last book in a series. I read the first two books years ago, so I didn't remember much. I think that largely contributed to me not liking this book, because I was no longer invested in the characters or story.”

A reader from South Hadley read *True Colors* by Kristin Hannah: “Great novel about sibling bonds and tribulations of love.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Black Cake* by Charlmaine Wilkerson: “Thought this was ok. The story did the thing I hate where information it's with held to build suspense. Some of the story felt far fetched to me.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: “Lovely book...family recipe left as an inheritance, voice recording sharing family history and family secrets. All elements spun together in a story of how the inheritance of memories and secrets will impact each family member. When the secrets are revealed, the remaining family members understand how the secrets shaped their own relationships.”

A reader from Dartmouth read *Butcher & Blackbird* by Brynne Weaver: “This book had captured my attention by being promoted as a "friends-to-lovers dark romantic comedy full of murder, chaos, and sizzling chemistry—unlike anything you’ve read before." I had never read a romantic comedy about serial killers before! It was a very interesting book. Parts of it were really gory and yes, parts of it were funny. I would not call this book a favorite, nor would I necessarily recommend it (except to the right person), but I enjoyed it enough to read the second in the series after it is released. Intriguing premise, strange story, but definitely entertaining.”

A reader from PEPPERELL read *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman: “For such a short novel, it has such a big impact. The way that mental health has been ‘managed’ throughout history is terrifying and fascinating. The dissention into madness confounded by the environment and ‘healthcare

advice' is astonishing. In the end, I was left to wonder if she committed suicide or was completely lost to her illness without hope of return."

A reader from East Otis read *The Black Guy Dies First: Black Horror Cinema from Fodder to Oscar*: "Fun and funny."

A reader from Feeding Hills read *Dear Emmie Blue* by Lia Lewis: "This was an enjoyable and engaging book, that I learned about from an internet search for books with a color in the title. After slogging thru *Moby Dick* last month this was a joy. I would never have found/picked this book if I weren't choosing something for the book challenge. I think the story was so personally engaging because I saw myself in Emmie, although I am much older than her. Her angst around romance and family made me feel like my own experiences were 'normal' even though this is a work of fiction! And Emmie's quirky behavior and sweet disposition makes a reader root for her! A really fun read that I plowed thru in just five days...leaving plenty of time for me to choose a book for March - I think given the March prompt I won't find such a guilty pleasure of a read!"

A reader from Sandwich read *The Girls in Navy Blue* by Alix Rickloff: "This was a fun read - part historical fiction, part mystery. Each of the 3 women in the story had a compelling story in the navy. I read through quickly wanting to understand the mystery at the end. And then, I wanted more."

A reader from Northampton read *Blackouts* by Justin Torres: "This book mentioned a number of things I had learned about or just heard about, so that touchstone of reality drew me in - and confused me a bit! I had to double check that it was truly a work of fiction sometimes."

A reader from East Longmeadow read *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells: "Red is the color traditionally tied to February via Valentine's Day, however romance is not a thematic thread in this sci-fi thriller. What this novella offers is an intriguing alternative - a friendship between humans and bots, or at least one unconventional bot. Murderbot, the protagonist, is uncertain about pursuing such an obvious breach of protocol but when the survey team he is assigned to protect finds themselves in peril, he is compelled to acknowledge his messy emotions. An unexpected sense of humor helps, and guarantees that ALL SYSTEMS RED will find a place on the bookshelf next to John Scalzi's Hugo Award-winning REDSHIRTS. Who knew that the far reaches of the galaxy could be so colorful?"

A reader from Seekonk read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: "A brutally tender and fiercely honest look into what it means to be a black woman in early twentieth-century rural Georgia. Walker holds back no punches in sharing the lives of her characters and their relationships, creating a story that is as beautiful as it is heartbreaking."

A reader from Chelmsford read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by Simon Armitage (translator): "A beautiful translation of a classic tale, and perfectly green!"

A reader from Wareham read *The Blue Umbrella* by Emily Ann Davison: "This title shows in a beautifully illustrated book how a simple act of kindness can change an entire community!"

A reader from Wilmington read *Roy* by Ron: "I liked how it was a mystery."

A reader from Franklin read *The Second Death of Edie and Violet Bond* by Amanda Glaze: "I enjoyed this book and its setting of 19th century California depicting the oppression of women. The main theme of spirit mediums and those that can cross between life and death is not a topic I normally choose to read but this was an enjoyable story that I would recommend to others."

A reader from Hadley read *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik: “Loved how the first person point of view frequently moved between characters.”

A reader from Amherst read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “What an amazing journey through time and place. Ms. Walker captures the people and black culture in Georgia through Celie’s life and reflections, and her correspondence with her sister, Nettie. Amazing, heartbreaking and triumphant.”

A reader from Wilmington read *Orange Outlaw* by Ron Roy: “I liked how it was a mystery.”

A reader from Bedford read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “Not a book I would typically read. I thank my book club for this one. It was delightful!”

A reader from Beverly read *Red House* by Sarah Messer: “Isn’t it amazing how few books have a ‘color’ word in their title?! Take a look through any library and you will not find many. The paucity of ‘color’ word books made this a unique and fun challenge. This year I have given myself an additional challenge to ‘love on my home library,’ so I am trying to reread some of the books I own. I reread *Red House, Being A Mostly Accurate Account of New England’s Oldest Continuously Lived-In House*. This house in Marshfield, Massachusetts was owned for over 300 years by the Hatch family. Numerous changes were made to the house during those years. The many generations of the Hatch family lived interesting lives full of love, heartbreak, and adventure. If you are a reader who enjoys books about New England history this book may be for you.”

A reader from WEST YARMOUTH read *Blue Skinned Gods* by SJ Sindu: “Greed, love, dishonesty, spirituality, experimentation, sexuality and a boy who was born with blue skin raised as a god. A wonderful read.”

A reader from Hanson read *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly: “I do not normally gravitate towards historical fiction, but this author is local to me so I thought I’d try it. Excellent book. Each of the three main characters draws you in and you as the reader understand why they each made the decisions they did. The subject matter was unpleasant but incredibly informative.”

A reader from Worcester read *How Long ‘til Black Future Month?* by N.K. Jemisin: “A really solid and fascinating collection of speculative fiction/sci-fi short stories. Short fiction isn’t always my favorite, but Jemisin is so talented that she encapsulates whole worlds within her shorts. Glad I picked this one up.”

A reader from Sunderland read *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt: “What a great writer and a captivating plot!”

A reader from Berkley read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “Interesting, well written and entertaining too!”

A reader from Gloucester read *The Green Man* by Kingsley Amis: “Strange little meditation on life, death, and the hereafter. As a horror story. Relentlessly brilliant language of self absorption.”

A reader from Amherst read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “This is a beautiful book about finding your place in the world. It’s about finding the good in others and looking past prejudice and fear of the unknown or fear of those who are different from you. It’s about how we can all learn from the way children see the world. Fantastic read!”

A reader from Berkley read *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “I’ve read multiple works by this author and have loved them. *Half of a Yellow Sun* is equally as beautiful and moving. Her story telling is poetic.”

A reader from North Attleboro read *Blue Moon* by Lee Child: “Very Good action thriller as Jack Reacher takes on 2 rival Ukranian & Albanian gangs that have taken over a small city and who have taken all of an older couple's life savings to pay for their daughter's cancer surgery.”

A reader from Malden read *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson: “This was an incredible book, probably will end up being one of my all time favorites. The prose, the story, the characters - this book has it all. The author says he was inspired by *The Princess Bride* and you can clearly see that in the way he tells this story!”

A reader from Boston read *The Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard: “Great book!”

A reader from Belchertown read *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Emmuska Orczy: “Enjoyable and quite silly.”

A reader from Newton read *Black AF History: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America* by Michael Harriot: “I chose this book in honor of Black History Month, and I’m so glad I did! The author made a book about history interesting and accessible and he brought humor to it. I learned a lot and really enjoyed this book!”

A reader from Sharon read *Red Storm Rising* by Tom Clancy: “I originally read this book when it first came out. A friend just reread it and said she enjoyed reading it again so I thought I would, too. I saw similarities between the Russian/Soviet aggression described in the book and current events, though the politics and technology have changed a bit. I had also forgotten how full of jargon Clancy's books can be but I enjoyed the fast pace and suspense of it.”

A reader from Haverhill read *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman: “Just as good as the show!”

A reader from Boston read *purple hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “i love reading adichie's work, it is always amazing!”

A reader from Foxboro read *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch: “I read this book before watching the movie, I cried through the book and did the same through the movie. I loved bringing an image to my mind while watching the movie.”

A reader from Northampton read *Deep as the Sky, Red as the Sea* by Rita Chang-Eppig: “I read the *Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi* not too long ago and was hoping for something in a similar vein. *Deep as the Sky, Red as the Sea* was not that but it was a good book. I'd be more likely to recommend it to someone who enjoyed Elena Ferrante's novels rather than someone looking for a swashbuckling novel.”

A reader from East Longmeadow read *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells: “The first entry in a series called *The MurderBot Diaries*, “*All Systems Red*” tells the story of a construct: part human, part robot. Technically termed a SecurityUnit, MurderBot (as it refers to itself), is assigned to a small group of scientists who are exploring an unknown planet. When a situation arises where the humans' lives are in jeopardy, MurderBot acts in a most unrobot fashion, and ultimately decides its own fate, calling to attention what it is that defines humanness. The fifth installment, “*Network Effect*”, earned Wells the Hugo award for best science fiction novel.”

A reader from Boston read *North Woods* by Daniel Mason: “This book was a slow burn, but came together beautifully in the end. It was unique and unlike anything I have read. The blend of environmental science, story-telling, history, ghost story, poetry, illustration, and local flair was refreshingly different.”

A reader from South Hadley read *Blue Dahlia* by Nora Roberts: “The great gardening information saved this from being simply a romance novel.”

A reader from Amherst read *Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson: “Yellow Wife was my pick for the February Challenge of a book with a color in the title. Yellow Wife was very difficult to read but also very important as I educate myself during Black History Month. It follows the harsh life of Pheby Delores Brown as she ends up a slave at Devil’s Half Acre. I was not prepared for the grueling yet truthful details and they will stick with me for a very long time.”

A reader from Woburn read *Why Wakanda Matters: What Black Panther Reveals About Psychology, Identity, and Communication* by Sheena C. Howard: “I liked this less than I expected to, but Chapter 8 in particular was extremely well-written and thought-provoking.”

A reader from Woburn read *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation As An Exercise In Hope* by Esau McCaulley: “This book was phenomenal.”

A reader from Andover read *Bluegrass Undercover* by Kathleen Brooks: “The title was interesting I was not sure what to expect. I found myself unable to put the book down. I wanted to know if Annie caught the bad guys. If Cade got the girl I was blindsided by who the bad guy turned out to be. A good read.”

A reader from Wenham read *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line* by Deepa Anappara: “Slow, yet vivid storytelling that balances the humor of a child with the trauma and injustice experienced by a struggling and ignored community.”

A reader from Worcester read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: “This novel came highly recommended in online reviews I’d read and didn’t quite live up to the hype. I didn’t like the prose and I felt like the characters were rather flat. It wasn’t an awful book by any means, it was just not what I expected. I am a huge horror fan so my baseline for horror is usually 3.5-4 stars out of 5, and this was a 2 star book to me. I’ve read a lot of new thriller/horror this year and sadly, this was the most disappointed I’ve been in a book.”

A reader from Brookline read *Red, White, and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “This is my first queer contemporary romance novel! It was super cute and quippy however I think we needed a villain. I enjoyed the trials and tribulations of Henry and Alex and enjoyed the pacing however it was a little predictable and felt it lacked strong side characters (sorry June and Norah). I think it was a cute story which played into an election very well. 3/5.”

A reader from Orleans read *Raven Black* by Ann Cleeves: “First book in the Jimmy Perez detective series. Set in the Shetland Islands, Scotland. A good mystery that keeps the reader intrigued.”

A reader from Ware read *Six Crimson Cranes* by Elizabeth Lim: “This was a tough read for me I almost DNF it a couple times but got through. I won’t lie, I wish I picked a different book for this challenge.”

A reader from Spencer read *The White Lady* by Jacqueline Winspear: “World War I and II, women in resistance. Couldn’t put it down!”

A reader from East Sandwich read *The Red Pony* by John Steinbeck: “Reaffirmed my love of Steinbeck.”

A reader from Newton read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “Slow burn and a bit anxiety provoking.”

A reader from melrose read *The midnight library* by Matt Haig: “This book I had actually read a bit ago and I have just reread it again. I had posted about it in my LinkedIn as well. One of the quotes that I really

loved: "You don't have to understand life. You just have to live it." Life and what the future holds are very unknowns - even though, that can be very scary, it is also very exciting. Our decisions, no matter how small or big, affect our future. It was very interesting how this library had a book about our actual life and then many many other books that showed what our life would have been like if we had made other decisions. If we had the choice to see how those decisions would have impacted our lives, after reading the book of the choice...would we choose our life or picked something else? Loved it."

A reader from Lowell read *The Green Mile* by Stephen King: "REALLY enjoyed this book. I had low expectations and was worried I wouldn't finish before March (it's 600 pages), but I couldn't put it down. Not the *best* book I've ever read, but definitely one of the most consistently entertaining/engaging."

A reader from Bellingham read *Red Dragon* by Thomas Harris: "I've owned the Hannibal series for years without ever reading through them. And I ended up reading through Red Dragon in 2-3 days! I'm glad this challenge got me to pick up this super engaging read!"

A reader from Attleboro read *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly: "True story of a group of Polish women in a concentration camp who were experimented on during WWII. The story was told from 3 characters - one American who helped the women post-war, the female doctor in the concentration camp who performed the surgeries, and one 'rabbit' from the camp. Good story, difficult to read in the middle, but good ending."

A reader from Salem read *Bloody Rose* by Nicholas Eames: "This follow up to Kings of the Wyld was really enjoyable - very different in tone to the first book, but still a lot of fun. The POV character, Tam, is surprisingly, not Rose, but the band's new bard, which is exciting. We get to learn about Rose and her background along with Tam, which makes it really fresh to see the world through her eyes. Published in 2018, I'm eagerly awaiting book three in this world."

A reader from Harvard read *The Silver Star* by Jeannette Walls: "For this month, I scoured my to-read shelves to find a title that fit the prompt. I settled on *The Silver Star*, whose memoir I had devoured nearly two decades ago. This book, published in 2013, felt like leftovers that were cut from *The Glass Castle*. A punchy young girl (named Jean) and her older sister end up leaving Southern California after their neglectful mother has disappeared for artistic growth opportunities. The girls make their way to Virginia and try to make their place in a world struggling with economic downturn, the end of the Vietnam War, and racial integration. Overall, there are some enjoyable moments, but we never seem to dive beyond surface level. Had this book been written today, I suspect it would not do well."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Lost and Found of Green Tree* by Bobbie Candas: "This is an enjoyable read. My Grammie was a Swedish Finn so I particularly liked all the last names of the characters."

A reader from North Attleboro read *Red String Theory* by Lauren Jessen: "I liked the premise, but it was a little longer than it needed to be."

A reader from Arlington read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: "A classic that I hadn't gotten around to reading yet. I liked it more than I expected I would."

A reader from Pepperell read *The Red Address Book* by Sofia Lundberg: "A little slow at times but overall a good story and lesson in preserving one's "story"/history to pass along to the future generations. An ending that had me teary with the main character finally connecting with her long lost love in the final days of their life."

A reader from Indian Orchard read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “I was captivated by this book, great read.”

A reader from Edgartown read *Raven Black* by Ann Cleeves: “Good mystery. Takes place in Shetland area, small town, winter time.”

A reader from Upton read *Where the Grass Is Green and the Girls Are Pretty* by Lauren Weisberger: “This was an enjoyable read from the author of *The Devil Wears Prada*.”

A reader from Chicopee read *The House On The Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “This was a book that I would never choose on my own but ended up loving it. Very heartwarming & humorous story with some great messages, lessons & wisdom for YAs & adults.”

A reader from Plympton read *Run on Red* by Noelle W. Ihli: “A thriller crime cat and mouse involving two college age girls being chased by an unknown vehicle on a back country road. Lots of twists and turns in the story, like the road they are on. Easy reading, fast paced, not a literary classic but enjoyable reading.”

A reader from Scituate read *The Ghost Orchid* by Jonathan Kellerman: “Excellent, as always. A bit of a surprise ending that worked for me.”

A reader from Beverly read *Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson: “A heartbreaking but important story from the history of our country.”

A reader from Berkley read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “This book is about magical orphans living in an orphanage on an island. A caseworker, Linus, is sent to this highly classified orphanage for a month. The magical children at this house are very scarred, most facing prejudice and trauma from a very young age. Linus was very lonely, glum, and never broke the rules, but through his time on the island, with the six magical children, the master of the house Arthur, and another magical adult Zoe, Linus realizes his life finally has some color, as he falls in loves with the children, and Arthur. Throughout all this, he also strives for a more inclusive society for the magical youths, and tries to create a world that sees the children for who they are, not what they are. He ultimately quits his job, after ensuring the orphanage won’t get shut down, and moves to the house to live with Arthur, Zoe, and all the children. I enjoyed this book a lot more than I anticipated, falling in love with all the characters and the overall message of the book.”

A reader from Wilbraham read *The Stranger at Black Lake* by Christina McDonald: “A novella that’s a prequel to a later work by McDonald.”

A reader from Lexington read *The Deep Blue Good-By* by John D. MacDonald: “I originally picked this for January as I read the Travis McGee series back in the 80’s and 90’s. Ultimately went otherwise for January, but the color on the *Deep Blue Good-By* made this a good February titles well. What a treat. I had forgotten how character driven this book was. Really delved into the mind of Travis and the characters he worries about and assists. A very tense and well paced story. Travis is clever, but human and imperfect. We feel the pain he shares with mistakes made. Looking forward to rereading others in the series.”

A reader from Halifax read *The Black Count* by Tom Reiss: “I reread a lot of Dumas' works last year. Based on this account of his father's life, the French really were that badass.”

A reader from Woburn read *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys: “I am simultaneously distraught and grateful when historical fiction teaches me about something horrific from the past that I had absolutely no idea about. This book did just that.”

A reader from Westfield read *The Red Notebook* by Antoine Laurain: “A lost purse containing a red moleskin notebook holding thoughts of self sparks a quest to meet the writer. A cat named Belphégor wonders why his owner is looking at him from a window across the street instead of being home. Sit down at an outside cafe or bench and read this little story. It is so much better to be walking in Paris sitting at a cafe or visiting a bookstore named La Cahair Rouge than driving through a drive up. I have also read *The Yellow Eyes of Crocodiles* by Katherine Pancol because of its Paris setting and quirky story.”

A reader from Franklin read *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess: “This was my first time reading the book despite watching the Kubrick film several times in college. Reading the author's introduction and the controversial final chapter shifted my perspective on the story.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “The book fell flat in my opinion. It turned out to be more a jab at twitters discourse than a critique of racism. It read more like a diary entry at the end of a bad day than anything else.”

A reader from Ipswich read *A Beautiful Blue Death* by Charles Finch: “Finch's first murder mystery. Well written. Engaging characters. I am glad I picked it up because of the word Blue! I didn't guess ‘Who done it.’”

A reader from Dracut read *The Red Address Book* by Sofia Lundberg: “Telling her life's story through letters to her greatniece, Doris share memories of people in her address book. Some happy, some sad, some with regret, all with emotions felt by the reader.”

A reader from Wrentham read *The Red Bike* by Tara Delaney: “Although it was not a page turner for me, it did give a lot of food for thought.”

A reader from Oxford read *Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson: “Not a favorite - none of the characters were likable, it was sometimes hard to determine which character was narrating a chapter, and some plot points seemed to be thrown in randomly.”

A reader from Arlington read *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith: “I chose this book for February because I had heard good things about it, and wanted to explore another form of British Literature. Some criticism of the book was that ‘it knew everything but didn't no anybody.’ I did find almost all the characters quirky and memorable. Archie and Samad's relationship was quite humorous and it was compelling to see the opposite tracks that the twins Magid and Mallit went along with the banter between Irie and Hortense. I did feel like the story started to go off the rails towards the end but there was quite and interesting twist ending. I would certainly recommend people read this with a few reservations.”

A reader from Rindge read *Sapphire Blue* by Kerstin Gier: “The second book in a time traveling series!”

A reader from Dracut read *The picture of Dorian Grey* by Oscar Wilde: “I found it interesting that beauty was so important. It was social currency. I think Henry was the devil, and dorian made a bargain with him while sitting for his portrait with Basil. I didn't really like reading the book. It was hard to follow as the passages were so lengthy, but I did like the idea.”

A reader from Easton read *Black Eyed Susans* by Julia Heaberlin: “I picked this months Color in the Title challenge because it looked like an interesting mystery. It had me guessing until the end. There was a lot of detail about new DNA techniques that were fascinating. Definitely a good read.”

A reader from Danvers read *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman: “Do I get double credit because there are two colors in the title?”

A reader from Erving read *The Indigo Notebook* by Laura Resau: “I happened to pick this up at a “little library” last fall, and it happened to have a color in the title. I think it is a “young adult” novel; it appealed to me just fine, though.! Zeta, the protagonist, is a young teen whose eccentric mother moves her from country to country about every year. Now I’m Ecuador, she gets involved in a bit of a mystery. It was an easy read, and really quite enjoyable!”

A reader from Beverly Hills read *Black Summer* by M W Craven: “An interesting thriller, with enough twists and turns to keep you turning the pages. It involves a celebrity chef who was convicted of murdering his daughter, whose body was never found. Then she turns up alive and attention turns to the detective responsible for the conviction.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: “A heavy read, but an interesting story. Though not my favorite genre, definitely thought-provoking.”

A reader from Hopedale read *Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson: “This isn’t a book I would have picked on my own, but happy to have the challenge to get me out of my comfort zone. Looking forward to next month’s challenge.”

A reader from Northfield read *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn: “The Rose Code takes place in the 1940's, when England is fighting the German Nazis. Three women, Osla, Mab and Beth accept jobs at Bletchley Park to help their country. They find out that the jobs that they are tasked to do are assisting in breaking the German military code, utilizing the Enigma and Bombe machines. The last code they break, The Rose Code, reveals a traitor in their midst. It was hard to stop reading this book, until the end!”

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I can't believe it took me this long to actually get to read it.”

A reader read *Reservation Blues* by Sherman Alexie: ““Accurate portrayal of a people caught between two cultures. ‘He saw the faces of millions of Indians.’”

A reader from South Hadley read *Get A Life, Chloe Brown* by Talia Hibert: “A very nice book with a lot of diverse representation !”

A reader from Holyoke read *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga: “It took me a chapter or two to really get into this book, as the main character's attitude and speech patterns are so different from the style I'm used to. But they, of course, fit perfectly with the story the author was telling. The main character is by no means a hero (or a villain, necessarily), but the setup of the storytelling did an amazing job of fleshing out the world he lives in and providing context before you even realize where the story is going. Great little flashes of humor too.”

A reader from Brewster read *The Last White Rose* by Alison Weir: “The Last White Rose about King Henry the VIII's mother Elizabeth, was very informative but got a little repetitive. The author did a very good job. Kept me reading, couldn't put it down.”

A reader from Maynard read *Leave the Grave Green* by Deborah Crombie: “Duncan and Gemma solve their 3rd murder together and sleep together for the first time.”

A reader from Newton read *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell: “I loved how this book was centered around nature and the island that Karana lives on. I also think that it's very cool that Karana makes friends with animals to keep her company while she is alone on the island. Karana is also very resourceful and uses the materials on the island to craft everything that she needs to live.”

A reader from Groton read *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell: “I read this classic for the first time this month. Almost all the characters, both horses and people, are male. I did not realize that drunk horse riding was as much of a problem as drunk driving is today.”

A reader from Salem read *Black Earth: The Holocaust as history and warning* by Timothy Snyder: “This is one of my favorite historians! However I was a bit disappointed with how the book was organized and how he framed his argument. However, I was incredibly appreciative of the book's topic. As a former history major with a focus on Eastern Europe, I appreciated the focus on this part of WWII as it was extremely consequential and not frequently discussed among Americans.”

A reader from Derry read *Baltimore Blues* by Laura Lippman: “The first book in what turned out to be an on going series. *Baltimore Blues* is a conventional mystery book set in the title city. The author Laura Lippman brings to her home town a character that reads stand in for herself, a former newspaper reporter turned author writes about a former newspaper reporter turned private eye Tess Monaghan. As this is an origin story of sorts the reader is given large portions of Tess's past and her stumbling into a new career. This is an entertaining read, as Laura Lippman tends to be, straight forward, well told, littered with a cast of characters both suspects and a village building for future works. The actual story avoids pit falls and cliches while dabbling in the occasional trope of the mystery novel. Not wanting to give anything away, I'm intentionally staying away from the plot points. *Baltimore Blues* is the perfect blend of modern and classic with a well paced not telegraphed story. Recommendation would be perfect vacation or winter weekend read.”

A reader from Derry read *Red Rucker: My Uncensored life in Rock* by Sammy Hagar: “A Sammy can't drive 55 autobiography that's title says it all. Not for faint of heart or sensitive to a look back at what now is a very different time. Warts and all Sammy Hagar tells his life story, from a hard scrabble existence with an abusive alcoholic father to reaching the heights of fame with an alcoholic abusive Band mate Eddie Van Halen, the troubled genius guitar player for the 4 man band of his own name Van Halen. Filled with wild stories, fast cars, fast times and deeply honest moments about the dark times in his life. This is an entertaining combination of personal and music history. This is a good book to read if you are not disturbed by honest recollections from a time not like we live in now.”

A reader from Northampton read *The Darling Dahlias and the Red Hot Poker* by Susan Wittig Albert: “1935 small town Darling, Alabama - the Red Hot Pokers (Kniphofin Uvaria) are in bloom, a hurricane threatens, Huey P. Long and his body guards are coming to town and an arsonist is setting fires. This is book 10 in The Darling Dahlias series. I love the descriptions of flowers and gardening, the optimism of the members of the Darling Dahlias Gardening Club, the intelligence, strength and caring friendships of these women and the portrayal of real life politics, segregation, gender and class differences in the dark days of the Great Depression. Start with book 1 - The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree and continue the series; read the author's webpage - enjoy!!”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I chose this book as I was not familiar with the story and I know that a movie has just been released and maybe would like to see the

movie. I had a hard time reading the book in the beginning and did have to adjust to the pace and dialect. It was a hard story and sad but did eventually have a change in character in Celie and a connection with her sister and was uplifting to see them both pull through and make their lives finally bring them peace. Glad I did read this book.”

A reader from Boston read *Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “I’m so glad I got to read the book since I had previously seen the movie and the book was so much better than the movie. It was a great romance book to read right around valentine’s day and I really loved all the characters!”

A reader from Rochester read *Green* by Alex Gino: “Green Gibson is a non-binary, adopted middle-schooler working behind the scenes on their school’s production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Characters from the first two books in Gino’s loosely connected series appear throughout the story, although overall I found *Green* to be a slightly lighter read than either *Melissa* or *Rick*.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Scarlet* by Marissa Meyer: “A blast from my past, *Scarlet* tells a really good story for all ages. There are a couple parts that are not great for different reasons - overall, though, the book is a captivating one. Four stars.”

A reader from Braintree read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: “A military science fiction book with Roman gods mythology spin.”

A reader from Watertown read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I picked this book as I have never read it before and I’m glad I can now say that I have.”

A reader from Santa Cruz read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I read this book years ago and found it compelling. I decided to read it for this challenge. Love the way the book is organized and told through letters. I admire the sisters’ strength, bravery and love for one another.”

A reader from Pocasset read *Black Mamba Boy* by Nadifa Mohame: ““*Black Mamba Boy*” by Nadifa Mohamed explores the journey of a young Somali boy named Jama during the 1930s and 1940s. The narrative captures the adventures, and resilience of Jama as he navigates through various landscapes and historical events to find his father. The book offers a poignant exploration of identity, migration, and the human spirit. I really enjoyed this book and highly recommend it.”

A reader from Springfield read *Lavender House* by Rosen, Lec AC: “Great read for February. If you like *Clue* or *Knives Out*, you’ll love this book. Gay main character who ran into tough times gets a second chance. I really liked getting to know each side character too. Great thrilling storyline. I can’t wait to read more books from this author.”

A reader from Wakefield read *Yellowface* by RF Kuang: “Such an interesting and well written book. It took very real and tricky concepts and wrote about them in an intelligent manner that kept me engaged throughout.”

A reader from South Grafton read *The Ballad of Black Tom* by Victor LaValle: “★★★★★ Though I had a vague knowledge of this novella being Lovecraftian and had never read the story it’s retelling—or any other works by H.P. Lovecraft—I was utterly compelled, unnerved, appalled, disturbed, and terrified by *The Ballad of Black Tom*. Victor LaValle’s prose has an ease to it that makes you, as a reader, absorbed into the narrative: the atmosphere makes you unsettled and disturbed from beginning to end. The depth and layers to this short work is truly remarkable. I cannot wait to read more of LaValle’s works!”

A reader from Belchertown read *SugarPlums & Murder* by Maggie Benton: “Another great cozy mystery! Read the other two books, to ensure I read the color Plum for this monthly entry.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *Blues for Mister Charlie* by James Baldwin: “Baldwin’s 1964 three act play was inspired by the brutal murder of Emmett Till. The play sadly is still relevant in our present day society. The play is powerful, well written, dramatic, and thought provoking.”

A reader from Chicopee read *Golden Child* by Claire Adam: “This is an unsettling story of aspiration, betrayal, and love.”

A reader from Providence read *Black AF History The Un-Whitewashed Story of America* by Michael Harriot: “A very eye opening history of how America isn’t very good at ‘liberty and justice for all.’”

A reader from Canton read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “It was sad and a little confusing.”

A reader from Topsfield read *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson: “I enjoyed this book as a child and got the opportunity to read it with my friend’s daughter. She enjoyed it, and I love the idea of shaping the world around you with your imagination!”

A reader from Belchertown read *Blue Monday* by Nicci French: “I was surprisingly disappointed in this book after having read some amazing reviews. While the concept was interesting and the book had a couple of unique twists, it felt as though it took far too long to get to where it was going. The main character, Frieda, was fascinating, but the story dragged on far too long for me to be willing to read the next installment of this series.”

A reader from Mashpee read *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier: “I am new to reading historical fiction. I found this to be an interesting take on the possible story behind the painting. I feel the author did a good job setting the scene for that time period.”

A reader from Boston read *The Pink House* by Cindy Kirk: “A bit of Romance with a mystic under current.”

A reader from Chicopee read *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson: “Johnson challenges us to have a creative imagination in all points of our life. We are never too old to create new experiences like Harold does with his purple crayon.”

A reader from WEST BOYLSTON read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: “Wonderful debut novel. I love the format of moving back and forth in time and different characters’ perspectives.”

A reader from Springfield read *Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson: “I am participating in the #massbookreadingchallenge. February’s challenge/book is a book with a color in the title. This one caught me by surprise. I enjoyed the story it was telling in poem form and it was a quick read but it didn’t really resonate with me.”

A reader from Milford read *Blackouts* by Justin Torres: “History in your peripheral, seen through his eyes, their eyes, and your own. how we thrash when we seek love. ambiguities need not always be resolved.”

A reader from Dedham read *The Red Lotus* by Chris Bohjalian: “Suspenseful.”

A reader from Harwich read *Blue Nights* by Joan Didion: “This author has such an idiosyncratic style — but she definitely gets to me, especially as she looks at adopting and then losing a child, as well as dealing with her own frailty and aging.”

A reader from Dracut read *Red white and royal blue* by Casey McQuiston: “Red white and royal blue is a wonderful LGBTQIA+ story about the FSOTUS and Prince of England. I enjoyed their banter and teasing as well as their fight for their relationship at the end. It shows the struggles of being queer in different countries/places of power (I guess thats the right word?). Definitely one of my new favorite books!”

A reader from Danvers read *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr Suess: “Although I am not Sam I am, And I do not eat green eggs and ham, I do like to read in a boat or on a plane, I do like to read daily even on a train! I will read while in a chair, I will read with a fuzzy bear, I will read inside the car, I will read even at a coffee bar! A ‘colorful’ book teaching a great lesson.”

A reader from Hull read *The Mystery of the Blue Train* by Agatha Christie: “Another great read from the ‘Queen of Mystery!’”

A reader from Bolton read *The gold bug* by Edgar Allen poe: “Not what I expected, but good. Apparently one of the first books to popularize cryptography.”

A reader from Lexington read *A spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler: “Excellent book club pick. Languid telling of a family history that switches points of view as well as time lines. Demands discussion as one reader will not pick up everything in this nuanced novel.”

A reader from Pembroke read *Black Sun* by Rebecca Roanhorse: “I really enjoyed this first book of this epic fantasy set in pre-Columbian setting. I particularly enjoyed the female Teek pirate. I’m looking forward to reading the next two in the series. I also liked that a solar eclipse-convergence- was part of the main plot because of our coming solar eclipse in April.”

A reader from Reading read *The Woman in the Purple Skirt* by Natsuko Imamura: “This is a short novel and a story of obsession and loneliness,The reader watches the narrator stalk another woman in an attempt to befriend her. The book also shows gender and class inequalities in Japan.”

A reader from Scituate read *How green was my valley* by Richard Llewellyn: “A fantastic novel. So beautifully written it truly captures South Wales - in language, in the beauty of the land, in its people. A gem of a book.”

A reader from Sharon read *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green & David Leviathan: “At first I had difficulty finding a book with a color in it that I hadn’t read & that would not leave me feeling depressed or upset with the world. I came across Will Grayson, Will Grayson after a Google search and am glad that I picked it up! It addresses issues of growing up, depression, friendship, finding out who you are and being okay to be yourself in a humorous, light & thoughtful way. Although it is a YA book and definitely written for teens, I was able to relate to the characters and their relationships with one another with slight nostalgia for my high school days. I would definitely recommend the read to YA audiences, as well as, people who love to read YA!”

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I loved reading about Celie and the people in her life! The diary format made it feel so personal, like she was talking to me.”

A reader from Blackstone read *Miss Silver Comes To Stay* by Patricia Wentworth: “I have long been partial to the Golden Age of Detection mysteries. Patricia Wentworth's Miss Maud Silver is one of my favorite characters. She is an elderly gentlewoman, retired governess turned private investigator. She uses her knowledge and experience from teaching and her eyes and ears and common sense noticing and picking up clues the police often overlook. She is on good terms with the local constabularies and takes

no credit for doing what she does best. I have the entire Miss Silver series in my home library. I enjoy solving puzzles and prefer mysteries without graphic detail.”

A reader from Pepperell read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “A glimpse into the world of poor black women, the challenges a few of them faced and their resilience of two sisters separated by unfortunate circumstances. Reading their letters to God and to each other was an interesting way for their story to unfold.”

A reader from Ipswich read *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys: “This was a great read. My grandmother was Lithuanian so it was especially interesting to read this history.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane: “While ostensibly a book about the Civil War, it's really a book about a boy's journey from what he had wanted to be seen as (seeming rather than being) to becoming just that, though not without some things he was ashamed of in the process. A personal growth book first and foremost, and unlike any other book about a war that I have ever read.”

A reader from Springfield read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison tells the story of eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove who thinks beauty, and, in this case, the blue eyes of a white girl will bring her love, kindness, and compassion and whose loveless life leads her down a path to insanity. The story is told from the first person point of view of nine-year-old Claudia MacTeer who, along with her sister, befriends Pecola after her house burns down and she briefly moves in with them. It also has parts told in third person points of view about other important characters in her life. This book made me angry. I mean, who could treat a child like that? I was devastated by the white store keeper who disregards her because of the color of her skin, by her mother who is disgusted by her and who only shows love for the white child she takes care of, and by her father who beats and rapes her. White society's view of what beauty is breaks a child, making Pecola think she is not worthy, and because of her experiences she feels that blue eyes are what matter rather than who she really is. What a heart-breaking story to read! That being said, The Bluest Eye gave me insight into another perspective and made me think about how I see and treat people, about what beauty is, and about what I can do to show true beauty through acts of kindness and compassion.”

A reader from Braintree read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: “Read for library SciFi & Fantasy book club. I liked it, but I had a lot of issues with it as well. It felt glaringly obvious that this is Brown's first published work given the world building and general structural issues, but there are definitely the backbones of a good writer in his prose and general direction. I'm excited to see what he eventually does outside of this series. If he can take what he's accomplished with Darrow and learn how to condense, I can see him producing a really phenomenal work. All this being said, I am currently listening to the second book in the trilogy: suffice to say that despite my grievances, there's certainly enough I enjoyed to continue reading Darrow's journey.”

A reader from Beverly read *Red String Theory* by Lauren Kung Jessen: “I chose a book with not only a color in the title but also set on Lunar New Year, features the legend of the red thread of fate, and a contemporary romance just in time for Valentine's Day. The two main characters are opposites: one focused on science and the solar system while the other an artist who takes chances. Yet, are they truly opposites when both explore the unknown, delving into the meaning of life around them? Surely they do it in their own way yet it's a similar path, one that leads them to each other and the other's influence makes an indelible mark.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by Fannie Flagg: “Just as good as the first time I read it. Fannie Flagg's characters are friends and family.”

A reader from MASHPEE read *DEMON COPPERHEAD* by Barbara Kingsolver: “This is a modern-day David Copperfield - the tale of a boy growing up in a dysfunctional system, never losing faith. It is sad, funny, and heartwarming.”

A reader from Newton read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “This book stirred up some interesting conflicts - it both angered me but I also felt bad at times for June for the media mania she went through. There was outrageous cultural appropriation and disrespect for her friend, but it also brought to light the problems with social media and cancel culture and how terrible of an effect it can have on mental health. It really made me think about how to correctly recount history, particularly since history is filled with so much oppression and discrimination. Overall really enjoyed this read - finished it in only a couple of days after hooking me in!”

A reader from Methuen read *A Study in Scarlet* by Arthur Conan Doyle: “This story was a little confusing because it goes backwards. An event occurs and then in the middle you get a long chunk of backstory which didn't make sense to me until the end. It is satisfying in that the bad guys got their just due.”

A reader from Boston read *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver: “Such an amazing modern retelling of Dickens' David Copperfield.”

A reader from Bourne read *Yellowface* by R.F.Kuang: “A refreshing change from my usual reads.”

A reader from West Boylston read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune: “This would be a beautiful book to annotate. I loved the characters' snarky comebacks- the goofy back and forths reminded me of *Anxious People* for some reason. A sweet story but maybe too didactic.”

A reader from Quincy read *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly: “I really enjoyed this book. I have read a lot of historical fictions that take place in WW2 but this one was unique. This book not only included the perspective of a polish political prisoner, but it also included the perspective of a female doctor who was an unrepentant Nazi (based on a real life woman). To see someone so bigoted that they cannot see the horror they helped perpetrate was heartbreaking and yet made the book feel that much more real.”

A reader from Agawam read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “This book is great for people who are looking for a lighthearted read with some magical elements that gracefully fold into a world recognizable as our own.”

A reader from Burlington read *Silver Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand: “I was surprised to enjoy this book, as I had assumed it would be a light-hearted, summer romance novel. Reading about a huge financial scandal is not something I would have thought I would have enjoyed, but Hilderbrand's development of these characters, specifically Meredith & Connie, made me feel their struggles and root for their happiness. Glad I read this one!”

A reader from Dracut read *a Clockwork Orange* by anthony Burgess: “Glad to finally get a chance to read this book.”

A reader from Berkley read *Run Rose Run* by Dolly Parton & James Patterson: “I didn't like this one. I thought it was boring, corny and predictable.”

A reader from Norwood read *Yellowface* by RF Kuang: “This fell into the category of books where I could not get up and leave it for more than 10 minutes. I was riveted, fascinated, and continually went

"No...No...NOOOOOO". A perfect bookclub read and one where you just want to run around and find someone else who has read it and force them to talk about."

A reader from Whitinsville read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: "I've had *Red Rising* on my 'want to read' Good Reads list for years. This reading challenge offered me the opportunity to prioritize it and I loved it. Now I added *Golden Son* to my 'want to read list. I also grab all the titles from my Good Reads list that had color in the title. I have also read this month *Yellow Face* and *The Golden Couple*; I have a few more chapters of *Red, White and Royal Blue* to complete with *Black Cake* next in line to read."

A reader from Northfield read *The Only Purple House in Town* by Ann Aguirre: "Not my genre but it was a heartwarming story. The owner and renters of the purple house, Violet Gables, created a family situation, a 'found family.' There were some paranormal characters but that did not overwhelm the entire book."

A reader read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: "Once again Morrison's eloquence in writing while presenting and bringing to light a very heavy topic was experienced by me with every page for example 'We were sinking under the wisdom.'"

A reader from East Falmouth read *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare: "I loved this book as a child and, upon re-reading it, still love it!"

A reader from Turners Falls read *NYPD Red* by James Patterson: "This book was amazing right from the start had me hooked to find out who the chameleon is, I can only imagine who is going to fall in love over the next few books. Can't wait to read the rest of the series. I love James Patterson!!!"

A reader from Dedham read *The Golden Couple* by Greer Hendricks: "This book twists and turns, at 70% finished, I still had no idea how it would all come together!"

A reader from Mattapoisett read *Blue Monday* by Nicci French: "Blue Monday was a good thriller that had me guessing right until the end ... it is also a series and I will definitely read the other books!"

A reader from Topsfield read *The Last Black Unicorn* by Tiffany Haddish: "Hilarious and heartbreaking."

A reader from Hatfield read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: "I wanted to like this more than I actually did."

A reader from Easton read *Attack of the Black Rectangles* by Amy Sarig King: "Really good middle grade book about censorship and freedom of speech. Very diverse characters. Very well written. Audiobook has a surprise guest in it!"

A reader from Brookline read *Blue Monday* by Nikki French: "Kept me up late at night!"

A reader from Boston read *Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: "Great read!"

A reader from Wakefield read *Red at the Bone: A Novel* by Jacqueline Woodson: "This book had been on my 'to read' list for a few years. This month's color challenge was a good reason to finally read it."

A reader from NAHANT read *Red, White, and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: "This challenge was the perfect excuse to finally read this book. I've been meaning to read it for a long time, and I'm really glad I did. It was a great escape from reality. Now, I can also finally watch the movie. I didn't want to do that until I read the book first."

A reader from Swansea read *Darling Rose Gold* by Stephanie Wrobel: “A really interesting read - especially in light of the current media coverage of the Gypsy Rose case!”

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *Silver Nitrate* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

A reader from Beverly read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “Really compelling and quick read. It was funny and uncomfortable, with an ending I didn’t see coming.”

A reader from Salem read *The Lair of the White Worm* by Bram Stoker: “I selected this book for this month because, when I looked at my to-be-read list, it was the one with a color in the title that had been there the longest (for the record, 2009 was when I added it to the list, so it's been over a decade). The second one is *Black House* by Stephen King (added in 2012), and I'm strongly considering picking it up before the end of the month to give this thing another try. Why? Because *The Lair of the White Worm* is a terrible book. Even it's Wikipedia article says so. I'm not sure what was wrong with Bram Stoker when he wrote it, but there must've been something. Part racist-screed, part fever-dream, part pseudo-scientific info-dump (and the character who does this the most stands out as a self-insert by the author). All this, and it's still dry-as-dust dull. It's a mess. The best thing that can be said for it is that it's relatively short. So, yes, maybe *Black House* instead. If so, I'll report back.”

A reader from Worcester read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “Truly amazing that this is Morrison's first novel. No one does it quite like her -- the tiny moment of devastation and love leave you breathless.”

A reader from Beverly read *Yellowface* by RF Kuaowg: “3/5 stars!!”

A reader from Brockton read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “It’s hard to enjoy a book when the main character is so unlikeable. I kept hoping she would redeem herself but it didn’t happen.”

A reader from Derry read *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery: “This was the first book that came to mind for the February challenge. I always wanted to read it. It's probably the most joyful story I've ever read. LM Montgomery writes so beautifully. You can practically smell, taste, see and hear all the wonderful things she writes about *Green Gables*. Anne is simply delightful and positive. She turns bad situations to positive life learning lessons. It's infectious. I found while reading her dialogue I read it in her voice, fast and enthusiastic. In the end, when she chooses to stay with Marilla instead of going to University, proves the goodness in her heart. And, that she and Gilbert finally reconcile is the perfect ending. Some of my favorite quotes: ‘Life us worth living as long as there's a laugh in it.’ ‘I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.’ ‘Tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it... yet.’”

A reader from Derry read *The Girl in the Green Raincoat* by Laura Lippman: “Finished Laura Lippmann's *The Girl in the Green Raincoat*. The 11th book in the Tess Monaghan series. In many ways the book is inspired by "Rear Window" the classic Alfred Hitchcock movie that finds Jimmy Stewart housebound believing he has witnessed a neighbor murdering the neighbor's wife. In this case, Tess is 8 months pregnant and confined to bed rest. She notices a girl in green raincoat routine of walking a dog is interrupted, the dog turns up unattended in her yard. Tess' natural investigating takes root and a mystery is about to be solved. Using her friends, associates and connections Tess from her sun porch bedroom manages all the twist and turns a good Laura Lippmann mystery story unfolds. Excellent, quick read with a satisfying conclusion that builds Laura's legacy as a great modern writer of suspense and mystery.”

A reader from Dracut read *A Court of Silver Flame* by Sarah J Maas: “I was initially hesitant to read this book since it is the 4th book in the series and focuses on a newer character than the first three. I ended up enjoying this quite a bit!”

A reader from Wellfleet read *Yellowface* by RF Kuang: “Such a fast read with a very unlikeable narrator, but I couldn't put it down.”

A reader from Blackstone read *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman: “I have seen the show but had never read the book. It's easy to forget when watching the show that it was inspired by someone's actual life story. It was a fascinating and engaging memoir.”

A reader from Sharon read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “I really enjoyed it, it providing a refreshing perspective and was very funny.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Shades of Grey I* by Jasper FForde: “Dystopian fantasy. Ended up liking it, but I hate reading a book only to find out it's going to turn into a trilogy.”

A reader from Barre read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: “Was okay.”

A reader from Middleboro read *red white & royal blue* by casey mcquiston: “First time reading this author. I liked her. Easy read, I did not like the way the press had their way with words, to "out" the characters, Henry and Alex sexual orientation. Couldn't put the book down. Looking forward to other stories by author.”

A reader from Agawam read *Black Girl You Are Atlas* by Renee Watson: “This book of poems and art is made to hit you in the soul. While it is directed toward black women, any woman will feel the impact of many of Renee's words and find themselves reeling through memories that are so so similar to the ones told on these pages. It's beautiful and heartbreaking and uniting all at the same time.”

A reader from Braintree read *Yellowface* by R.F.Kuang: “A great depiction of truth and greed! Kept me interested the whole ride.”

A reader from Worcester read *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Orczy: “A true swashbuckling adventure story! Loved the ending of the book.”

A reader from Fairhaven read *Snow White with the Red Hair Volume I* by Sorata Akiduki: “My favorite character in the book is Zen. He is rebellious and smart. My least favorite character in the book is Marquis Haruka. I like how the author adds sidenotes explaining why they wrote each chapter the way they did. 4 out of 5 stars.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Mystery of the Blue Train* by Agatha Christie: “Pretty slow until the ending of the book. I realized partway through that this is an expansion of a Christie short story that I had already read, the Plymouth Express, which took away some of the intrigue.”

A reader from Avon read *Ebony Gate* by Julia Vee and Ken Bebel: “This book started a little slow but picked up quickly and I had a hard time putting it down. It was an interesting mix of reality and fantasy based on Asian culture. The primary focus is on resolving the theft of an ancient artifact. However, the main character, who tries very hard to maintain her solitude due to past transgressions, learns important lessons about allowing others into her life. I'm guessing the story will continue and I look forward to reading the next adventure.”

A reader from Andover read *anne of green gables* by L.M. Montgomery: “Loved it!”

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers: “Beautifully written book, really an anti-war book, during the Iraq war. It goes back and forth between the time in Iraq, and afterwards when one soldier returns home to Virginia.”

A reader from North Dighton read *Patriarchy Blues: Reflections on Manhood* by Frederick Joseph: “An important exploration of the intersections between masculinity, race, and, to a lesser extent, class. Recommended for readers of bell hooks.”

A reader from Oxford read *Red to the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson: “Not her best work. Although the premise was good (the story of a pregnant teenager and the aftermath), the book fell flat and at times it was confusing following the characters.”

A reader from Dudley read *Yellow Bird: Oil, Murder, and a Women's Search for Justice in Indian Country* by Sierra Crane Murdoch: “I had followed *Killers Of the Flower Moon* with this novel. Learning about U.S. history in the public school system, I recall brutality on the people of Indian Country, yet never details from these novels that wealthy tribe members were targeted and murdered for their fortunes. This book follows the journey of a journalist seeking answers to the truth of a missing person, and winds up uncovering a network of murder, corruption, and power on the reservation. It mentions boarding schools, and I recall a documentary about this on TV of Indian children being taken to boarding school in Canada where they were mentally and physically abused, mistreated, and I could not finish it because I was struggling to understand how this system had went unnoticed. It also shed light as *Killers of the flower Moon* had about alcoholism/ drug use, being introduced by wayward Americans to bring down the tribes people with addiction or poisoning. This level of hate and scandal often go unreprimated by law enforcement, however, some justice is served by the end of *Yellow Bird* due to the dedication and spirit of Lyssa Yellow Bird, a layered character who has lost, loved, and does what she feels in her heart to help her community.”

A reader from Cambridge read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “Such a beautiful story! I adored how Celie's relationship with God and all the other important people in her life evolved over the course of the book. The writing is just gorgeous.”

A reader from Reading read *Red String Theory* by Lauren Kung Jessen: “A sweet romance that explores the concept of fate vs. choice.”

A reader from Erving read *Redshirts* by John Scalzi: “Interesting concept presented. I love alternative universes so enjoyed it.”

A reader from Worcester read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuag: “The book is about a white author, June, who takes a Chinese-American women's novel and published as her own. Interesting about the ins and outs of the publishing community. I didn't like the main character found her to be rather unbelievable. I didn't like the book.”

A reader read *White Women, Race Matters: The Social Construction of Whiteness* by Ruth Frankenberg: “For February’s challenge—a book with a color in the title—I read ‘White Women.’”

A reader from Brookline read *Scarlet (Lunar Chronicles Book 2)* by Marissa Myers: “I am enjoying this series much more than anticipated. The Lunar Chronicles consists of four novels that use classic fairytales to create a dark, sci-fi universe. *Scarlet* focuses on Little Red Riding Hood, but Myers does a great job of making this classic tale her own and weaving in the story from book 1. I cannot wait to read the next two books.”

A reader from Milton read *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman: “The Golden Compass is a adventure/fantasy in which the heroine acquires "the golden compass" which she learns she possesses the power to use it. There are characters including daemons, witches, talking bears, and an aeronaut. I found a

lot of similarities to the Harry Potter books with a touch of Dan Brown. I was surprised that it is rather dark. And, since it's a trilogy with a cliff hanger ending I now need to read the other two books.”

A reader from Foxborough read *Red String Theory* by Lauren Kung Jensen: “I loved this book! It was a light hearted romance with lovable characters. I love the idea of the Red String of Fate and it was well incorporated into this story. Highly recommend!”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn: “Love Kate Quinn books. Especially love how she shares the roles of women in the war and what a truly strong presence they played. Always look forward to hearing the historical context behind her novels and learning of the people and places she writes about.”

A reader from Dedham read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: “This book was a page turner and quick read for me. Our main character grows up as an atheist in a highly religious community/cult. The community knows she isn't a believer, but has always loved and supported her while her mother has not. Her aunt makes her pancakes gives her the love her mother will not give. Her cousin is her best friend, like a sister. Her father disappeared from her life when she was just a child. Come to find out the religious community worships Satan and our main character is the anti-christ. Things escalate when dad aka Lucifer comes back into her life to begin the apocalypse. Our main character not only suffers from being the black sheep, but a crisis in belief.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Golden Spiders* by Rex Stout: “Not my favorite Nero Wolfe book.”

A reader from Franklin read *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson: “This was a lighthearted and fun read that nonetheless had some wholesome and “deep” moments as well. It’s very Princess Bride-esque and Sanderson mentioned that as one of his influences. Highly recommend both this book and his Stormlight Archives series (for the latter, if you don’t mind 1,000+ page books!).”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “The author has written this book in the form of letters. It is about two black sisters living in the South, Celie the oldest and Nettie. Their mother is dying and their Step father rapes Celie for years and as a result she gives birth to two babies a girl and a boy. They are taken away from her immediately after they are born. Nettie runs away from home and meets a Minister and his wife. They go to Africa to teach and bring the word of God to the people. Meanwhile Celie is married off to a widower with four children. She cooks, cleans, tends to the children, and picks the cotton in his field. She calls him Mr. At night he climbs on top of her and does his business. I find it interesting that in that house there is no love. Celie is a slave. She is not even allowed to go to the mailbox. Mr hides Nettie's letters to Celie. Years go by. Many things happen. Celie discovers Nettie's letters. The sisters are reunited along with Celie's children that she gave birth too. Celie and Nettie's Step father, Alphonso had died. The dry goods store he ran wasn't his. It belonged to Celie and Nettie's mother. She left it to them when she died. The girls now can live independently. Also a note When the minister's wife died Nettie married the minister. It was for love. Also another important note, Most of Celie's letters in the book are not paper letters and she addresses them as Dear God.”

A reader from Readville/ Yarmouth read *The Green Road* by Anne Enright: “This dark novel tells of a family returning to their childhood home in a small town on the coast of Ireland. The complicated, intense family dynamics made it a challenge to read.”

A reader from Weymouth read *Green For Danger* by Christianna Brand: “Christianna Brand joins the ranks of such mystery writers like Agatha Christie. The plot takes place in 1942 in a military hospital at

Heron's Park. The author keeps the reader guessing as to which one of the four nurses and three doctors is the murderer. The reader is lead to believe all characters are suspect until the actual murderer is revealed."

A reader from Berlin read *Hearts, Cupids, and Red Roses: The Story of the Valentine Symbols* by Edna Barth: "History of Valentine's Day from antiquity to modern day while also explaining symbols associated with Valentine's Day. It's a nice, short, easy read with some lovely photos. And it has multiple colors - hearts, red, roses!"

A reader from Berlin read *Blueberry Boys* by Vanessa North: "This is a lovely LGBTQIA+ read that has a fat MMC and a MMC with a stutter. It also takes place out in the Berkshires, like around Otis. It's about learning to be yourself, finding those that support you, and also your relationship with religion if you are queer. It's a fab little summery read."

A reader from Dracut read *Purple Hearts* by Tess Wakefield: "Good book - quick read. Relatable characters/situations and fast paced story line. I liked the main characters but was hoping for more of a connection. Overall, good story and would recommend."

A reader from Berlin read *The Canopy Keepers* by Veroinea G. Henry: "The premise of this sounded amazing -- an urban fantasy that takes place in Sequoia National Park with a Black FMC who is a fire chief. And it centers around the relationship between humans and nature. I loved the ideas this had but the execution was meh. It is mainly a slow pace but then picks up too much when it actually gets interesting. It just felt unpolished."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Lilac Bus* by Maeve Binchy: "The author has such a great perception of human nature. The characters are so well-drawn. And the reader gets to know each one even more than they know each other. It was a pleasure to read this book."

A reader from Quincy read *Red Widow* by Alma Katsu: "As a dedicated reader of spy novels for over 65 years this book kept me on the edge of my seat. It was especially exciting because it was told from the viewpoint of 2 women in the CIA who unlocked secrets never meant to be revealed."

A reader from Haverhill read *Lavender House* by Lev AC Rosen: "I liked this book a lot. It's a more of a detective novel than I usually read and it worked really well."

A reader from Plymouth read *twice in a blue moon* by christina lauren: "Cute, lighthearted, romantic!"

A reader from EDGARTOWN read *Woman in. White* by Wilke Collins: "Fascinating."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Lucky Red* by Claudia Cravens: "A debut novel about a young woman surviving in the old west, it was a quick and engaging enough read."

A reader from OXFORD read *Death of the Black Widow* by James Patterson and J.D. Barker: "Likeable main character. I found the outcome to be somewhat predictable but enjoyed the writing and subject."

A reader from Stoneham read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T. J. Klune: "I enjoyed this one! Great message that we don't have to be our worst selves and others can help us!"

A reader from Southampton read *The Hunt for Red October* by Tom Clancy: "Excellent thriller and well written. Strong Characters. I was reminded of Dr. Strangelove with the politics, strong personalities and nuclear weapons in so many hands. Written in 1984 pg. 185 represents the irony and redundancy of human beings. 'He was certain the president would take perverse pleasure in manipulating the grotesque

American legal system to his own advantage, all the time pointing out that, as president, he was constitutionally unable to interfere with the working of the courts.”

A reader from Reading read *Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “Not necessarily realistic but I enjoyed this cute LGBTQ novel.”

A reader from Hadley read *The Temple of the Golden Pavillion* by Yukio Mishima: “Beautifully written coming of age story that is both poetic and deeply unsettling. While I thought this was a really good book with unforgettable characters and many moving moments, I was relieved to finish it so that I could escape the protagonist’s/narrator’s dark mindset. That said, I do recommend it as it isn’t the run-of-the-mill Bildungsroman and provides a unique outlook on life.”

A reader from Colrain read *The Children of Green Knowe* by L. M. Boston: “This is an unusual fantasy story about a young boy who goes to live with his grandmother at Green Knowe (also called Green Noah) and how he becomes friends with three children who lived there hundreds of years ago.”

A reader from Worcester read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “Sad, dark, reflection on one girl’s tragedy.”

A reader from Beverly read *Pink Lemonade Cake Murder* by Joanne Fluke: “I was prepared to enjoy this book. My taste in mystery books has wandered into the cozy mystery genre recently. I like books that have a main character who does something else in addition to solving mysteries. In this case, Hannah owns The Cookie Jar so lots of yummy sounding recipes are included. I would say that more than half the book was devoted to dialogue and much of that didn't really have anything much to do with plot development. Joanne Fluke does have a series of suspense novels so I might try one of them to see what they are all about.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *Ruby Falls* by Debrorah Goodrich Royce: “I couldn’t decide which book to read first: Ruby Falls or the House in the Cerulean Sea as my February choice. For some reason I was called to start Ruby Falls and was so glad I did. It was a page turner and hard to put down. While I didn’t like the twisted ending, and hoped for a happier outcome for Ruby, I enjoyed the book overall.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Blood, Fire & Gold* by Estelle Paranque: “This historical novel covers between 1533 &1589, a time of political & religious intolerance through out Europe. It centers on the 2 most powerful women who were Queen Elizabeth of England and Queen Mother Catherine de Medici of France.. They fought outside usurpers and each other to save their thrones and religious dominance: one a Protestant and one a Catholic.”

A reader from Wakefield read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I liked the beginning and end of the book. I felt like the middle and late-middle kinda got lost and it was hard to keep reading. Sometimes I had to pause because a word was written phonetically, because (I’m assuming) the narrator wasn’t sure how it was spelled, and I had to figure out what she was saying.”

A reader from Weymouth read *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane: “I liked the overall messaging of The Red Badge of Courage. The Red Badge of Courage is a good reminder success doesn't look the same for everyone.”

A reader from Georgetown read *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris: “This book kept my attention throughout! Definitely tried to figure out what would happen next and the varying point of views kept you guessing. The end was not what I was expecting AT ALL! Interested to check out the show.”

A reader from Lancaster read *white horse* by Erika T. Wurth: “Well-balanced with action and necessary details. The ending was almost too predictable. Very women-supporting-women and I love it for that.”

A reader from Quincy read *The Woman with the Blue Star* by Pam Jenoff: “I loved *The Lost Girls of Paris*. This book wasn't it.”

A reader from Middleboro read *The Blue Bistro* by Elin Hilderbrand: “I enjoyed it but at times the main character lost my sympathy so I gave it 3 stars!”

A reader from Brookline read *The girl in the plain brown wrapper* by John D. MacDonald: “The true-and-true formula of the Travis McGee series: our strong hero honors a promise made to a dying woman with whom he had a short fling years ago and finds trouble. The promise consists of checking on her daughter Maureen, who seems to be suffering from an inexplicable mental disorder that triggers multiple suicide attempts. Maureen's husband and younger sister have their hands full but there isn't much that Travis can do. Until he realizes his hotel room has been searched and a very inexperienced hooker is trying to pick him up in bar.... Once again, things are very, very rotten in the beautiful state of California.”

A reader from Reading read *The Girl in the Green Raincoat* by Laura Lippman: “I found this on display at my library, decided to give it a try. Reminded me of the Stephanie Plum books. Light easy read with a twist.”

A reader from Sandisfield read *Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia: “Set in Mexico, this story blends folklore with reality, with a touch of love.”

A reader from Wrentham read *Green eggs and ham* by Dr. Seuss: “Perfect for contrary toddlers and grumpy old men. Dr Seuss is brilliant!”

A reader from Hanson read *The Land of Blue* by Jill Sylvester: “12 y.o. Cassie wakes up after her small family's weekly night out, where her father drinks A LOT. He is missing and no one will tell her where he is. After a bit, she is visited by Agatha, her Entity, who takes Cassie and her best friend to The Land of Blue in search of her father. The story moves between Cassie's life with her Mom living with her grandparents and her time in the Land of Blue. Lots of info about dealing with growing up, depression and being brave.”

A reader from FOXBOROUGH read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “Beautifully written. Powerful and tender at the same time. I am grateful to have finally read this and appreciate the February challenge!”

A reader from Foxborough read *White House by the Sea* by Kate Storey: “A look at a time in history that is often overshadowed by President Kennedy's assassination.”

A reader from Stoneham read *The Red Box* by Rex Stout: “I am rereading mystery series I have enjoyed in the past. The Red Box was the next in the Nero Wolfe series and is a book with a color in the title.”

A reader from Wrentham read *Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson: “I will definitely recommend this book to others. Heavy topic but well written.”

A reader from Quincy read *Black Tide* by Brendan Dubois: “At first I thought “Oh no, another story based on the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum theft... I lived in Boston then and was tired of hearing about it.” However, the author tells a story of what could have happened 5 years later. There are good guys, bad guys, “good” bad guys and plenty of action with an unexpected twist at the end.”

A reader from Amherst read *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly: “A moving read about acts of courage and resistance set against the disturbing atrocities of World War II told by three girls from different countries whose lives intersect and entwine. Their spirits evoke the colors of lilac blossoms. Their choices its scent.”

A reader from Melrose read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I’ve always wanted to read this book. I understand why it is so acclaimed. I appreciate how much Celie, Nettie, and many of the other characters learn about themselves and others as time goes by, and learn to find joy and resolve despite all of the adversity they have faced.”

A reader from Dracut read *Blue Asylum* by Kathy Hepinstall: “A great representation of how easy it was to dismiss women back in the 1800’s. Well written and intriguing to keep the reader anticipating the next page. It is sad that the mentality of women having their own mind is still forbidden in so many parts of the world in 2024.”

A reader from North Bethesda read *Blackouts* by Justin Torres: “Taking place over a conversation between roommates in an institution, *Blackouts* covers their lives, passed from one who is old and dying to the young, and real works like ‘sex deviants’ studying queer individuals in the 1930s. Interspersed are actual blacked out pages from *Sex Deviants* and pictures and art. I can appreciate the artistry of the book and am glad it exists but don’t think I was the intended audience. As my friend Melissa said, that’s ok, not everything has to be for me.”

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Anne of Green Gable A Graphic Novel* by Mariah Marsden: “Great illustrations to help depict story.”

A reader from Richmond read *The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan: “Rereading all of Rick Riordan’s books and I am absolutely loving it. And, perfect timing, because this is a book with a color in the title.”

A reader from Wrentham read *The Ink Black Heart* by Robert Galbraith: “Not the best in the series, in my opinion. It was quite unnecessarily long, but it was still enjoyable.”

A reader from Dracut read *The Red Parts* by Maggie Nelson: “Disappointed was hoping it would be about the trials but instead it was a memoir of the author’s life.”

A reader from Melrose read *The Yellow House* by Sarah M. Broom: “Having lived in New Orleans, this book brought back many memories. The mention of the different locations was like walking through the city. It spoke of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. I felt very sad for the dislocation of so many proud New Orleanians. The terrible beaurocracy made it impossible for so many people to get back and reestablish themselves. This is the story of one family. It was a sad but also inspirational story of the triumph of the human spirit over the challenges that we often have no control over.”

A reader from Essex read *California Golden* by melanie benjamin: “Some interesting history about the early days of surfing in California.”

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *the Scarlet Pimpernel* by baroness orczy: “I chose this book bc it was a final Jeopardy question, and Stan Lee called *The Scarlet Pimpernel* the original superhero. I had missed it when I was younger. I found it to be somewhat of a “kid” book insofar as it was full of tropes (some invented by the author and carrying forward to today) and was extremely easy to predict next steps. That said, it was exciting and I found myself drawn into the story, and wanting to put other things aside so I could find out exactly how the ending (which was predictable) would unfold. It was also interesting to

read something so critical of the French Revolution- I think here in Boston we tend to romanticize it as a vehicle for pure democracy. This certainly lends another perspective on it. Enjoyable read overall!"

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A reader from Franklin read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: "I liked the main story of the book (Eleanor's history) though some of the subplots felt a little thrown-together with not enough depth."

A reader from Dracut read *Red, White and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: "I found this book a light, touching and funny read. I'm not surprised that it was made into a movie."

A reader from Brighton read *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn: "This book was longggg but worth every page. Kate Quinn is an excellent author whose thorough research and creative story building makes for a truly immersive experience. This book provided an in depth view into the lives of the code breakers working at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. Following the epilogue, Kate provides the reader with extensive insight into the research that helped create the book. Would highly recommend!"

A reader from Salem read *green: the history of a color* by michael pastoureau: "Thoroughly enjoyed."

A reader from Florence read *Hijab Butch Blues* by Lamya H: "Enjoyed this book. Wonderful writing of a young Muslim woman finding herself in her faith and in her life."

A reader from Norfolk read *Denium Blue Sea* by Joanne Demaio: "Seaside tale of upcoming wedding."

A reader from Edgartown read *Orange is the New Black* by Kerman, Piper: "Not as great as The Many Lives of Mama Love."

A reader from Plainville read *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant: "A very interesting read, a well-written book."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Acts of Violet* by Margarita Montimore: "What an incredibly creative concept and some swell execution! This is an underrated family drama about a missing relative -- who just happens to be a world-famous and mysterious female magician. I really liked the use of podcast episodes and emails and articles to help advance the story, but what I would have wanted more of was clarity on the finer details and atmosphere of settings. Still a great read though, I really enjoyed it!"

A reader from Reading read *Red Sky at Night* by James W Hall: "A thriller."

A reader from Clinton read *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery: "I've been on a quest to read classic children's literature that I missed out on as a kid, so this seemed like the perfect opportunity to get to know Anne Shirley. I think I would've had a tough time reading this when I was younger, as a lot of the phrasing and vocabulary was challenging for me even as an adult, but I enjoyed it nonetheless. Although, truthfully, I did spend the entire book under the impression that Matthew and Marilla were husband and wife rather than siblings - oops!"

A reader from Holyoke read *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “This is a beautifully written book about a Nigerian teenage girl (Kambili) who has conflicted feelings about her abusive father. Adichie’s richly descriptive language helped me to see and feel the experiences of this young girl.”

A reader from Gloucester read *Wild Women and the Blues* by Denny Bryce: “Also a good book. These women had such a hard life. So much abuse and sadness. But a riveting read. I couldn’t put it down and finished in a few days. Will look for more books by Denny Bryce.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “This book was incredibly heartbreaking and beautifully written. The prose is so well crafted, that I almost didn’t believe that this was Adichie’s debut novel. This is a book that I will hopefully reread, and I want to read more of her work as well.”

A reader from Wakefield read *Red, White, and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “A nice romance for Valentine’s Day!”

A reader from Waltham read *Vermilion* by Molly Tanzer: “Solid debut novel with interesting worldbuilding, though the plot elements are not always fully set up.”

A reader from Wilmington read *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery: “Despite the popularity of this book, I never read it as a kid. I didn’t understand the fascination and the hype. And then on a trip to PEI for a vacation, my husband ended up buying the book for our kids. So it was at hand for this month’s challenge. Having completed it, all I can say is I GET IT NOW. Anne is a delight, the story is sweet yet engaging, and the author’s love for PEI is evident on nearly every page. You feel like you are on the island, you WANT to be there with Anne. So happy I finally gave this book a chance. Looking forward to reading it to my kids.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “The House in the Cerulean Sea is a charming story.”

A reader from Wakefield read *Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson: “I really enjoyed the audiobook version and listened to it twice.”

A reader from Quincy read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “This book was my first foray into cozy fantasy and it was so warm and comforting!”

A reader from Fall River read *Dear Emmie Blue* by Lia Louis: “Really enjoyed this one. Many quirky and lovable characters, an interesting friendship story as well as a good love story, and a number of plot surprises along the way. Going to look for more by this author.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *White Knight* by Meghan March: “This novel features a romance between an undercover investigative journalist (investigating her father’s death) and the owner of an elite cigar club (with ties to the mafia that may have murdered journalist’s father). Part II of a duet (first book *Black Sheep*), in which it starts with a flashback scene and then second chapter jumps into the present by picking up where the first book left off mid-scene with a major cliffhanger. This book was a fun read, although it felt fanciful at times. Much of the violence/danger happens off-page. The big reveal in the third act could have been played to elevate the stakes/drama higher than it ultimately did. The epilogue wrapped everything up almost too neatly with a bow, but after such a gigantic cliffhanger in the first book that was probably justified.”

A reader from west springfield read *a taste of gold and iron* by alexandra rowland: “I’ve read a lot of enemies to lovers books lately so i thought the plot was a bit predictable but the characters and the writing were very good.”

A reader from Northampton read *All the Colors Came Out: a Father, a Daughter, and a Lifetime of Lessons* by Kate Fagan: “Greatly enjoyed the portrayal of an individual with an incurable illness. People see the illness, but that was not what would have defined this father, husband, and basketball junkie.”

A reader from Spencer read *The Blue Sword* by Robin McKinley: “I probably bought this book 20 years ago because it was a fantasy with a horse on the cover and for what ever reason never got around to reading it. It's a little old fashioned but I really enjoyed it. I'm probably going to end up hunting down its prequel sooner rather than latter.”

A reader from Spencer read *The Blue Sword* by Robin McKinley: “I probably bought this book 20 years ago because it was a fantasy with a horse on the cover and for what ever reason never got around to reading it. It's a little old fashioned but I really enjoyed it. I'm probably going to end up hunting down its prequel sooner rather than latter.”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *White Cat, Black Dog* by Kelly Link: “Very dark, odd and interesting short stories that are influenced by fairy tales. I would start each one unsure of how I felt about the direction it was going and very quickly get sucked in. The White Road was terrifying to imagine and Prince Hat Underground was my favorite of them all.”

A reader from Erving read *Anne of Green Acres* by L M Montgomery: “It was very interesting and entertaining about all the situations one young girl could get into unintentionally. It's sad that in the beginning the adoptees wanted a boy & got a girl who had to prove herself to be accepted. Her hate for her red hair got her into some situations that lasted throughout her school years & she might have done better if she could just accept it for what it was but other red heads probably feel the same about their red hair as people often make fun of them for it (a fact my sisters know all too well).”

A reader from Amherst read *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell: “I never read this book as a child so it was a totally unexpected pleasure. The story is told in the voice of a young horse that has been raised in a very kind, calm and compassionate atmosphere. So the horse only knows kindness and goodness until he goes out in the world and sees the other side of humanity which is more often than not the opposite of what he grew up experiencing.”

A reader from Groton read *All Dressed in White* by Mary Higgins Clark & Alafair Burke: “Lots of suspects and secrets in this murder mystery.”

A reader from Webster read *Almost Brown: A Memoir* by Charlotte Gill: “Very relatable memoir about growing up mix-raced.”

A reader from Dartmouth read *Ruby Red* by Kerstin Gier: “This book was the first in a Young Adult trilogy. I will be reading the following two because I enjoyed it. It is about time travel all rolled up with a touch of mystery. The lead character has the gift/curse of the ability to time travel. It was first believed that her cousin had this gift but everyone was taken by surprise when the truth came out. The lead character and a fellow time traveler must travel through time to collect the blood of ten other time travelers to add to what is called the conductor. This blood in the conductor will allow all the time travelers to travel a little more controlled and safely. This book is a mix of intrigue and history.”

A reader from Pembroke read *Vision in White* by Nora Roberts: “Perfect beach read. I enjoyed it.”

A reader from North Attleboro read *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess: “This has been on my TBR pile for a while. It is quite a dark novel. I'm not quite sure how I feel about it.”

A reader from Bolton read *the white tiger* by aravind adiga: “Interesting book...”

A reader from South Hadley read *Summer Bird Blue* by Akemi Dawn Bowman: “Beautiful depiction of grief, friends, and family. The language was very poetic and heartbreaking.”

A reader from Wakefield read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “This book explores complex issues of cultural appropriation in the literary community. It introduced a lot of nuance and left me thinking long after I finished the book.”

A reader from Monson read *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M.Montgomery: “I appreciate the descriptive language and colloquialisms. The setting was beautiful and refreshing. However the characters, especially Anne with her unending optimism and vivid imagination made this book a very enjoyable reading experience.”

A reader from Salem read *The Only Purple House in Town* by Ann Aguirre: “This book was such a sweet little read. I had picked it up back in December but couldn't get into it. When trying to find a book for February's challenge, I decided to try it again. I'm glad I did! It's just the light-hearted read I needed.”

A reader from belmont read *the scarlet alchemist* by kylie lee baker: “Started strong but fizzled out. writing got pretty flat by the end, real shame because the concept is great.”

A reader from Uxbridge read *The Blue Witch* by Alane Adams: “Enjoyed this story.”

A reader from West Tisbury read *Goldenrod* by Maggie Smith: “Fluid. If I read it again at a different time I bet I would latch on to different parts and find another meaning.”

A reader from New Salem read *Blue Moon* by Lee Childs: “I could not put this book down!!! Very good.”

A reader from Burlington read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: “A snarky quick-read horror book about returning to a cult, with some pretty gory bits near the end. Great on audio!”

A reader from Wilmington read *The Book of Silver Linings* by Nan Fischer: “Loved this story of Constance and her finding her way through self-discovery. She finally learns that she doesn't need to please everyone else before herself.”

A reader from Wilmington read *The Hunt for Red October* by Tom Clancy: “Spy novels aren't my favorite genre, and this was no exception. Too technical, too.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *White Horses* by Alice Hoffman: “I don't remember this book being so depressing when I read it as a young woman. Maybe it's a change in perspective as a more mature person.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *Black Water* by Joyce Carol Oates: “Just as terrifying and nightmarish as the first time I read it.”

A reader from Winchester read *Blue Lily, Lily Blue* by Maggie Stiefvater: “I loved this book! the raven cycle is one of the greatest fantasy series ever written and stiefvater is a phenomenal writer.”

A reader from Somerville read *Naturally Tan* by Tan France: “I loved this look inside the life of one of my favorite Queer Eye guys - I learned a lot and I love him even more after reading this. He narrates the

audio version, which I highly recommend, especially since there's a surprise visit from his friend and co-star Antoni.”

A reader from BLANDFORD read *Beneath a Scarlett Sky* by Mark Sullivan: “Fit in perfectly with the genre I've been reading of late.”

A reader from Spencer read *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess: “The use of an invented dialect (Nadsat) immediately immersed me in the world of the text. The theme of technology's effects on political norms and individual morality still feels very relevant today, and I reflected on the theme frequently between readings.”

A reader from Salem read *Rose Cottage* by Mary Stewart: “It felt like a book full of overused tropes. I wanted to like it but didn't.”

A reader from Whately read *The Mystery of the Blue Train* by Agatha Christie: “A murder takes place on a luxury overnight train express to the Riviera. Hercule Poirot assists with the investigation. I like his character and how he solves crimes so I enjoyed this book. It was an entertaining read.”

A reader from Billerica read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “This book was a rollercoaster. Kuang brings us along for a story that felt uncomfortable and tense to be a part of. Sometimes the mystery would feel a bit too far, but the whole book wrapped up tightly and I was really pulled in by Kuang’s commentary on publishing, social media, and performative inclusion.”

A reader from Springfield read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “This book kept me interested. The language was a little hard to understand but I read the whole book in two days. I never saw the movie or read the book but now am interested in seeing both movies.”

A reader from Erving read *violets are blue* by James Patterson: “amazing! Very hard to pick who the killer is. I like the mystery. Thrilling, humorous, sad, loving...so many great things about this book. They way they leave you hanging to decide weather they are real vampires or just a cult who believes highly in trying to be one. Why did he feel so off if the bite wasnt real? I was still able to guess who the killer was, but alot more difficult then usual. This author is so good at details and yes i would highly recomend this book to others.”

A reader from Pepperell read *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant: “I’ve been meaning to read this for ages and so glad I finally took it off my shelf. It started slow for me and I struggled with some of the cultural aspects, but Dinah’s story drew me in, and halfway through I was fully immersed. I loved the way the author pulled this female character from the margins of the past, sweeping her life across the pages of the book and making it feel close—the dusty streets, the glow of the moon, the women’s whispering voices in the red tent. It’s left me pondering the holiness of remembering the people we’ve loved who have died, and the changes that come as we move through different eras of our lives.”

A reader from Andover read *Blue Smoke* by Nora Roberts: “When Reena Hale is 11 years old, her large Italian/Irish family's pizza restaurant was burned in the ground by an arsonist, who was caught and jailed. This created a fire fascination for Reena, and her future career not only as a police officer and firefighter, but also an arson detective. Fast forward 20 years, and the arsonist is released from prison, and it seems every boyfriend of Reena's is a victim, dying in a staged accident and then burnt in a fire. The arsonist leaves menacing phone messages while one of Reena's romantic suitors is always loosing sight of her. Reena works hard to decipher the origins of the fire cases she has been assigned, while the arsonist is on her trail, a looming threat, a crazy fire-setter. As clues surface, Reena waits and plans to take him down, when she realizes he is the bully and fire terrorist from her childhood neighborhood.”

A reader from Allston read *Acts of Violet* by Margarita Montimore: “Book that I had started in previous year but put down and never finished! A fun format with podcast transcripts and a thoughtful commentary on sibling relationships with a hint of magic!”

A reader from Middleboro read *The rose code* by Kate Quinn: “Historical fiction is my favorite genre. One of my favorite parts is at the end reading about all the things that were actually historically accurate. I enjoyed reading this one set during WW2 which focused on the enigma code and a few specific women and how they helped the war efforts.”

A reader from Falmouth read *The Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler: “Meant to list this for February. Good read.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Anne of Green Gables* by LM Montgomery: “They don’t make ‘em like they used to! This is the sort of book I like to read - well written, believable characters and beautiful descriptions.”

A reader from Rockland read *Black Ties and White Lies* by Kat Singleton: “Such a fun book! Can’t wait to read her next in the series.”

A reader from Sutton read *The Golden Enclaves* by Naomi Novik: “This was a disappointing end to a trilogy. I loved the first 2 books and this one fell flat.”

A reader from Melbourne read *Black Cake* by Wilkerson: “Black is used in the title to describe a cake prepared using a recipe passed down from daughter to daughter. It also represents, in varying degrees, the heritage of the characters. Black is also symbolically and/or traditionally to describe a sad mood. The title is a clever reference to all of these things, I think.”

A reader from North Oxford read *Ink Black Heart* by Robert Galbraith: “I had lost track of this series. Found it again and love it!”

A reader from Weymouth read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “This was not my favorite book. I struggled through it and I can appreciate that it was a good story but I don’t think I’ll be re-reading it.”

A reader from Norton read *Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “My first title by this author, enjoyed it thoroughly.”

A reader from Belchertown read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “While *The Color Purple* was first written in the 1980s and was often a book read in schools, I never had the chance to read it until this year! I am so glad that I did! Not only did it cover this challenge, but it was also a book by a Black author for Black History Month! It was an absolutely gorgeous, and at times heartbreaking, tale that kept me riveted and up until nearly 3 AM to finish! I felt so much for Celie and her friends, and loved the incredible character growth that everyone in the novel experiences. Celie’s definition of God by the end of the novel is inspiring and beautiful. I’m so thankful to have finally added it to the books I’ve read - it is my favorite of the year thus far!”

A reader from North Andover read *the rose code* by kate quinn: “It was a good historical novel.”

A reader from Springfield read *Rouge* by Mona Awad: “A spooky but super interesting examination of beauty and mother/daughter relationships! This is not a book I would normally pick up but it was nice to expand my horizons.”

A reader from Danvers read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “This should be required reading for all humans! Everyone can stand to learn the lesson that we are more alike than different and that everyone deserves a chance to be who they truly are, free from the judgement of others.”

A reader from Beverly read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “I loved this book! The chosen family was beautiful, the kids were written like kids and that is something that is hard to find. And the positive queer representation was phenomenal. It was a modern-day fairy-tale that I would recommend to anyone!”

A reader from Quincy read *The White Castle* by Orhan Pamuk: “This was an interesting book- there were so many twists and turns, the characters flipped between being likeable and unlikable, and I am still not sure I understand the ending. At a few points throughout the book, I wondered if this was like *Fight Club*, where the MC was only imagining the other character.”

A reader from Mansfield read *A Study in Scarlet* by Arthur Conan Doyle: “I read several of the Sherlock Holmes books in high school but never this one which is the first of many. I really enjoyed learning of how Holmes and Watson met and Holmes' method of solving their crime.”

A reader from Hudson read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “This novel offered an escape into a fantasy world where a case worker must oversee the care of a group of unusual orphans. It was a nice reprieve from the suspense or historical novels I usually choose. I enjoyed the magical characters who developed into a very unlikely family in their own right.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “I give this book 5 stars. The main character, Linus, lives in a gray world. When he came to the special island of Marsyas he discovered color and it popped his bubble and opened his world to reality. I enjoyed the many colorful personalities displayed by each of the characters.”

A reader from Worcester read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “I can't find the words for this book. It was given to me as a gift and this month's challenge motivated me to start it. It is heartbreakingly sweet and had me sobbing by the end. On my list of favorites now.”

A reader from Brewster read *The Woman with a Purple Heart* by Diane Hanks: “A great historical fiction book about a part of the events that took place on Dec 7, 1941 that we don't hear as much about. Really enjoyed this book!”

A reader from Dighton read *Blueberry Muffin Murder* by Joanne Flike: “One of many delightful cozy mysteries in the series, featuring Hannah Swenson, cookie baker/amateur detective in Lake Eden, MN. Delightful family members pitch in to help, as well as two handsome men. Fun read!”

A reader from Foxborough read *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman: “Short, but powerful. I am not one to comment on its themes and meanings as intended or written extensively about. Her words remind me of my mother who often dreams of renovating the house only to wake up and see nothing's changed, and the yellowed moth-patterned wallpaper that remains half-scraped in our kitchen, a relic from times she would try to enact change and both myself and father would try and calm her and ease away from the labors. Something I am ashamed of, and look down on John for, as I reflect it back and see myself in his mirror just wishing for an easy life without helping the one allowing to be so by making her world better for her. And yet continue to idle and let such projects gather dust. There is a new sink we've had in its box for years now, and the current one has leaks all along its hose. Why do we continue to tarry? Why do I? Do I fear my ineptness, discouraging myself that I'll screw up and make things worse when even a poor but earnest job would be a tremendous improvement? Is it that once the sink is done, then this

project is next, then this, then this, where doing one thing leads into a slow-starting but headstrong locomotion of activity? Will I carry this reflection of villainy and understanding back home with me to do more and be a better son and person? I hope so.”

A reader from Rockland read *White is for Witching* by Helen Oyeyemi: “Really good, confusing, engaging.”

A reader from Lowell read *Lilic Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly: “I didn't really love this book.”

A reader from somerville read *Nineteen Claws and a Black Bird* by Agustina Bazterrica: “Intriguing collection of short stories! Grim and dark yet drew me in and kept me waiting for more!”

A reader from Brooklyn read *Malibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: “I really enjoyed this book! I thought the author did a great job at transitioning from multiple character’s pov within one chapter and within the same moment, rather than giving each character their own chapter and dragging the story out!”

A reader from South Hadley read *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* by Rebecca West: “This has been on my TBR list for a long time and I was glad for the opportunity to read it. It is a huge work-1150 pages- and dense with history but full of beautiful descriptions of the Balkan landscape and peoples. I had to make heavy use of the dictionary and maps but quotes like the following made the effort a bit lighter. ‘It is sometimes very hard to tell the difference between history and the smell of a skunk.’ :)”

A reader from Northampton read *The Color of Water* by James McBride: “The story of a child's growing awareness of racial conflict and religious tensions in the mid-century American South. McBride's mother was fiercely protective of her family and determined that each of her twelve children be educated.”

A reader from BERKLEY read *Plum Tea Crazy* by Laura Childs: “Fun light reading.”

A reader from Sharon read *Blue* by Danielle Steel: “I have to give up reading Danielle Steel books. Her ideas for stories are often interesting and yet her writing style is not.”

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *The Red Badge of Courage* by Steven Crane: “Glad I read.”

A reader from Boston read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: “I have been wanting to read this book for a while since it's a classic, and I finally got to read it. It was different from what I usually read but it's a decent read given that it was out of my comfort zone.”

A reader from SOUTH HADLEY read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “A book about loneliness and plagiarism, wrapped in the publishing industry with a side of racial inequity. I did not love the characters, but I am not sure I was meant to. There is a lot to unpack, especially if you work in the publishing industry.”

A reader from North Chelmsford read *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistlestop Cafe* by Fannie Flagg: “It's got green in the name!”

A reader from Leominster read *Greenglass House* by Kate Milford: “A wonderful mystery to sink into and get lost in. I almost fell out of my chair when the twist came. Overall, not my typical read but definitely an enjoyable one.”

A reader from Melrose read *Blue Shoe* by Anne Lamott: “I was hooked from the start - it was a story I could just sink into, relating to Mattie even though I don’t share many similarities.”

A reader from Chelsea read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “I greatly enjoyed this book. It was a satirical look at the publishing industry. It was fascinating to take a peek behind the curtain. I also loved how the characters operated in the gray and in the end looked out for self. At first I was frustrated by the ending, but in hindsight I guess that was the point.”

A reader from Norwell read *More: A Memoir of Open Marriage* by Molly Roden Winter: “This book is a true story about a women and man who have an open marriage. This book breaks the traditional norm that married couples should only have intimate relations with each other. This book emphasized the emotional impacts on the wife in an open marriage.”

A reader from Grafton read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “Not what I was expecting going into it, combined the prompt with a book to honor Black History Month.”

A reader from Plainville read *Blue Skies* by T.C. Boyle: “I enjoyed the writing style of this book but the topic gave me major anxiety and made it hard for me to really enjoy.”

A reader from Arlington read *The Greengage Summer* by Rumor Godden: “A family of English children are forced by circumstance to spend a whole summer at a French hotel, where they learn to cope more or less on their own. The lives of adults, though they eyes of a child, are endlessly mysterious and fascinating, and the seamy side of life is revealed. This was so well written and absorbing.”

A reader from HOPKINTON read *Rose Cottage* by Mary Stewart: “A comfortable story set in one of my favorite settings - English cottage country with gardens.”

A reader from Braintree read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “This book was almost impossible to put down! It was also interesting to get an inside look at the publishing world.”

A reader from Reading read *Shine Bright: A Very Personal History of Black Women in Pop* by Danyel Smith: “I loved this exploration of black American women in poetry and music, from Phillis Wheatley to Mariah Carey. The author's biographical stories were heartfelt and vividly interwoven with her love of music.”

A reader from Southampton read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I had never read *The Color Purple* before. I listened to the audio read by Walker and it was extremely powerful, heavy, and hopeful. I can see why it has had so many adaptations.”

A reader from Spencer read *Sacre Bleu* by Christopher Moore: “‘This is a story about the color blue. It may dodge and weave, hide and deceive, take you down paths of love and history and inspiration, but it is always about blue.’ This first sentence sums it up well. In the creative, inventive often absurd way of this author, this is a book about the color blue.”

A reader from Cumberland read *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson: “Very interesting perspective from a voice that needs to be heard. Graphic in parts, so readers beware, but nonetheless he needs to continue to be a listened to/read voice for his community. Gave new perspective.”

A reader from Blackstone read *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery: “This has always been my favorite book since I was a kid. It felt so good to reread it after quite some time. I can't even explain how happy it was to be a part of Anne's world again.”

A reader from Hull read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: “Amazing! I would have never found this book without this challenge. This is the first book in 10 years I've read where I actually looked forward to reading it (then I got all the books in the series to read too) it is a dystopian future in space reminiscent of

the hunger games but different enough to be so unique. Literally can't wait to read the rest of the series. Highly recommend!!!"

A reader from Brighton read *The Green Mile* by Stephen King: "King's only attempt to publish a serial novel, finally published as a single volume. An incredible tale of compassion and empathy, with a magical twist that keeps the pages turning!"

A reader from norwood read *Color Purple* by Alice Walker: "Choose this title because of the color theme for February and that I wanted to read it before seeing the new musical version of the movie. It is powerful in the format of letters to God from Celie the main character. It is clear how Celie views Albert because he is referred to as Mr. _____. No first name and no last name."

A reader from North Billerica read *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery: "It is a feel good story, optimistic and heart-warming. It was written for children and in 1908 and you can tell that but I enjoyed it."

A reader from Wrentham read *The Black Family's Guide to College Admissions* by Timothy L Fields & Shereem Herndon-Brown: "As a high school counselor who works at a schools where the student population is more than 70% black, I am always looking to learn how to better serve and guide my students as they navigate post-secondary planning. While much of this book felt like it was a typical college planning advice book (what is a liberal arts college? How far away is too far? Etc.) the book was woven with important considerations that black families want to think about while planning for college."

A reader from Somerville read *Blue Nights* by Joan Didion: "Having read two novels with colors in the title in January (*Blackouts* by Justin Torres and *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang), I chose a work of nonfiction for the February theme: Joan Didion's *Blue Nights*. Technically I read two books on theme this month - I also listened to an audiobook of Lana Del Rey's book of poetry, *Violet Bends Backwards over the Grass*, read by the author. *Blue Nights* was moving, although I preferred *The Year of Magical Thinking*."

A reader from Longmeadow read *The Pale Blue Eye* by Louis Bayard.

A reader from Spencer read *The Blue Sword* by Robin McKinley: "Starts of clearly based on British rule in India, but goes into a rich world of mysticism and magic. The characters and world are so well thought out."

A reader from Plainville read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: "It was an okay read. Brown created an interesting dystopia with humanity settled among the solar system and divided into different colors. I may read the next one in the series but I might not. It didn't hook me like other series such as *Hunger Games*."

A reader from Stoughton read *Perma Red* by Debra Magpie Earling: "Historical fiction set on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The title is a cruel nickname for the main character, with Perma being the town she's from and Red meant both to imply she is a sex worker and to insult her race."

A reader from Georgetown read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: "This book was okay. I feel like there was a missed opportunity for dark humor and satire."

A reader from Melrose read *Chain of Gold* by Cassandra Clare: "I had mixed feelings about this book. There were many characters and different mini-plots so sometimes was confusing. I have decided whether to continue the series."

A reader from Weymouth read *Black Birds in the Sky* by Brandy Colbert: "Very informative. I am so glad that I read this one!"

A reader from Wilmington read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I loved how the sisters still wrote to each other after years of not seeing each other. It was an amazing book and was really eye opening.”

A reader from Brookline read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “I have wanted to read R. F. Kuang for a while, and *Yellowface* has been on my TBR list for several months. So this was the perfect opportunity.”

A reader from Northampton read *Red Card: How The U.S. Blew the whistle on the world's biggest sports scandal* by Ken Bensinger: “This book was not one I would have normally taken off the shelf, but was inspired to do so based on the reading challenge. I was browsing the sports section and saw this book, about soccer. I have loved and played soccer since I was 6 years old, and loosely followed this case when it broke in the news. However, this book was truly eye opening in terms of the amount of work that went into prosecuting the corruption in FIFA and its many affiliate organizations around the world. It was a fascinating read, and I'm extremely glad I picked it for the challenge.”

A reader from pepperell read *Will's Red Coat* by Tom Ryan: “I listen to audiobooks and this was read by the author. So much was added as Tom put his own inflections into the story. What a great story of respect of aging. Though the main character was a dog, we can all learn how to treat others from this story.”

A reader from Andover read *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde: “I have often heard people reference this book when commenting about how good others look for their age. I was surprised to find that the book was very different than what I expected.”

A reader from Beverly read *Silverview* by John LeCarre: “The last book that LeCarre wrote. Deals with aging spies looking back on their career. LeCarre always deals with moral ambiguity. Upon reflecting on his career, one of the retired spies - who formerly oversaw all of the former Soviet countries - sums up his career thusly: "As one old spy to another, I reckon I'd have been more use running a boys' club." That's LeCarre. Loved the book. Very short -200 pages.”

A reader from BREWSTER read *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn: “So well researched - a fascinating bit of WWII history - and well-crafted around the 3 main characters to make a compelling read.”

A reader from SOUTH HADLEY read *Blood Orange* by Harriet Tyce: “This book did not come with enough trigger warnings, so it was hard to get through. The writing style is not the best and the story is so sloppy. It was extremely disappointing overall, which is unfortunate because it had so much potential. I only finished it because of this challenge and I wanted to just be done with the month and read some of my other books lined up.”

A reader from Leominster read *Yellowface* by Rf kuang: “I didn't know what to expect going into this one, so I was surprised that a book about writing, publishing and being an author was not only interesting, but contained a mystery as well. I can see why this one was selected for Reese's book club, and why it won a Goodreads award!”

A reader from Everett read *The King in Yellow* by Robert W Chambers: “Classic spooky stories!”

A reader from East Sandwich read *Yellowface* by R. F. Huang: “Not a fan of the main character - she was a jealous, ego-centric person with out of whack priorities. But I enjoyed learning about the publishing industry and there were many thought provoking race sentiments for a good discussion with my book club members.”

A reader from Amherst read *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister: “Even though rainbow isn't a color, I hope it fits the requirements. I read this book for a class I am in called Reading Children's Books, pretty self-explanatory. This book is my favorite and I was happy to check it out again for the assignment.”

A reader from Salem read *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt: “While it's a very well written book, I didn't really enjoy reading it very much as it's very long, slow, and kinda miserable to read. Despite that, the characters are very well realized and the writing itself is top notch.”

A reader from Dedham read *the artist who painted a blue horse* by eric carle: “I've been reading this book with my son multiple times a week and we go through all the colors together.”

A reader from BECKET read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “This was an excellent book! I thoroughly loved the characters!”

A reader from barnstable read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: “It was a pleasure to read *The Scarlet Letter*. Hawthorne's poetic prose is rich in detail and imagery. Each character is written with such depth and Pearl is truly a wonder. I always enjoy reading the classics from our great American writers.”

A reader from Arlington read *Nine Bar Blues* by Sheree Renee Thomas: “Although I was definitely not the target audience, I really enjoyed this collection of short stories and learned a lot about Black culture. My favorite was “The Parts That Make Us Monsters” - a 5 page story that made me say “wow” and take a breath when I had finished. Sheree's writing is incredible, and her use of water as a connecting thread throughout the stories was mesmerizing. I am glad I took a chance with this one.”

A reader from Boston read *Stone Butch Blues* by Leslie Feinberg: “A really amazing novel. Often hard to read and full of very upsetting moments, but balanced against scenes of joy, pleasure, and community. Next up, for March, I'll be reading Le Fanu's *Carmilla*!”

A reader from LOWELL read *The Blue Castle* by L.M. Montgomery: “On my search for a book with a color in the title (surprisingly no books on my to read list met that requirement), I stumbled about the *The Blue Castle*. I was drawn to it because it felt so similar to my own circumstances. It was fun, light read with a lot of great illuminating insights. The quote 'Fear is the original sin' is certainly one to live by. A nice inspiration to forge on in one's life.”

A reader from Worcester read *the girl with the red balloon* by Katherine Locke: “The book takes place in modern times, in 1988 in East Berlin and in the Łódź ghetto in 1941/42. As a YA book, it was strange to realize, halfway through, that the protagonist and intended audience don't remember a divided Germany.”

A reader from Berkley read *Run Rose Run* by James Patterson & Dolly Parton: “Easy read.”

A reader from Florence read *Blue Skies* by T.C. Boyle: “Book about a family, a son and his parents live on the West coast and a daughter who has moved to Florida with her boyfriend. They are living in a time of extreme weather due to climate change . The son is an entomologist. The earth and all living things are dying, but at the end it suggests that when we are gone the earth, life will recover. Interesting and tragic characters!”

A reader from Stoneham read *The Yellow Dog* by Georges Simenon: “Good classic mystery.”

A reader from Ayer read *the Red Tent* by anita Diamant: “I read this book years ago, and listened to it this time. Sometimes listening to a book is even better than reading it when the narrator is perfect. This one is. I recommend the audio book.”

A reader from Montague read *The Red Pony* by John Steinbeck: “I enjoyed Steinbeck's evocation of the West and his exploration of family dynamics and hero worship.”

A reader from LOWELL read *White Noise* by Don DeLillo: "I've owned this book for 25 years and have tried a few times to read it but never got past the first few chapters. Not because I didn't like it, but because it was almost too good and I wanted to not forget any of it and or save it all up for later. I let that insanity go this time and just enjoyed myself and it was a really special treat. Funny, sharp, silly, poignant. This was the perfect time in my life to have read it. Not sure I would have appreciated it before this phase of life (divorced, middle-aged, father in blended family, etc.)."

A reader from Brookline read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: "This book was absolutely wild. A thought-provoking exploration of race, social media, and achievement culture mixed with a snarky humorous narrator left you cringing but unable to stop reading."

A reader from Brookline read *Black Cloud Rising* by David Wright Falade: "A rarely told story about the experience of recently freed slaves fighting for the union in the civil war, *Black Cloud Rising* explored how emancipation changed the lives and relationships of whites and African Americans alike. Focused on the challenges and contributions of the African brigade the reader is brought to understand how the fight to be truly free continues long after the emancipation proclamation."

A reader from Charlton read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: "I had no expectations. Great book, though I felt stressed reading it. Tough protagonist to sympathize with!"

A reader from Florence read *The Red Widow* by Sarah Horowitz: "Subtitled *The Scandal That Shook Paris and the Woman Behind it All*, *The Red Widow* is the story of Marguerite "Meg" Steinheil, a member of the upper class in Belle Epoque Paris and an inveterate fabulist who became a sex worker in order to maintain her position in society. Meg was "servicing" President Felix Faure when he died of an apparent stroke, and was also present during the (unsolved) double murder of her husband and mother. Through this extraordinary story, Horowitz illuminates the corrupt nature of fin de siecle Paris' justice system and the double standards between the classes and the sexes. I really enjoyed this book. I found it to be very well written, fast paced, and informative. Social history couched within a fascinating true tale of sex, scandal, and murder."

A reader from West Boylston read *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson: "Absolutely fascinating to learn about the Chicago World Fair and the serial killer Holmes. At first I was disappointed that it wasn't a thrilling plot line but then realized that I truly was captivated by the minute details of those events. It even made me stop reading and look online for more info on the World's Fair. Interesting read."

A reader from North Reading read *A Study in Scarlet Women* by Sherry Thomas: "I was skeptical at first as I'm not a big historical fiction fan, but my friend loved it and it had a color in the title so I decided to give it a shot. I loved it and immediately started on the second one!"

A reader from Wrentham read *Green Dolphin Street* by Elizabeth Gouge: "I would have never picked up this book if I hadn't had to find a book for this challenge! This book kept me attached until the very end, as the surprise isn't revealed to one of the characters until the last few pages. I look forward to reading more books by E. Gouge in the future because this one was excellent!"

A reader from Salem read *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Emmuska Orczy: "I was disappointed by my first selection this month (*The Lair of the White Worm*), and this was the third one on my "color-in-the-title" list. Unintentionally, I may be on a French Revolution kick? I chose *A Tale of Two Cities* for January, and now I've read this swashbuckler set in the same period. *Pimpernel*, unsurprisingly, is sillier and more fun than *A Tale of Two Cities*, though I have mixed feelings about whether or not the French Revolution *should* be fun, and further mixed feelings about rooting for aristocracy."

A reader from Braintree read *Betty White: If you ask me, and of course you won't* by Betty White: “Great quick read. Betty White is wholesome in the book and has great comedic quips too all about her life. Cool fact she actually wrote the whole book by hand first before it got typed up and published.”

A reader from SANDISFIELD read *The White Buffalo* by Margaret Coel: “Very much like a Tony Hillerman book.”

A reader from Brockton read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “This book was chosen for one of my book clubs. We will be discussing it this afternoon.”

A reader from Boston read *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver: “Book with a color in the title. This book was heart wrenching, deeply sad, and even hopeful. Kingsolver always does a fantastic job of creating characters so different than myself as the reader that resonate and create a strong sense of empathy and care. The story did a good job of creating hope, without sugar-coating the dire situation the opioid epidemic and poverty has created in rural communities.”

A reader from Fitzwilliam read *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins: “Perhaps this is also rereading — I may have read it decades ago, but the details long forgotten. It's actually three books in series: a Gothic novel followed by a mystery followed by an international thriller —”

A reader from Boston read *Blue Horses* by Mary Oliver: “At first I didn't like this collection as much as some of Mary Oliver's other works because it was obvious that it was written at a later stage of her life, and I didn't feel as connected to the poems as I have with other works. But the second half of this collection contained quite a few poems that I really liked, such as *The Fourth Sign of the Zodiac* and *What Gorgeous Thing*.”

A reader from Melrose read *Yellowface* by RF Kuang: “A scathing satire of publishing in general and racism in American publishing, as well as social media's role in book marketing and the mental health of authors. Very different from Kuang's fantasy work, but an entertaining read nonetheless. 4/5”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Man in the Brown Suit* by Agatha Christie: “This is not what I expected, compared to Mrs. Christie's mysteries with Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple, et. al. It is lighter, less serious, more of an adventure like the *Perils of Pauline*. The reduced tension and "danger" element was enjoyable.”

A reader from Andover read *Red Delicious Death* by Sheila Connolly: “Although this is a "cozy murder mystery" series, the books are well-written and interesting. This orchard series is set in western Mass and provides excellent details about apple orchards.”

A reader from Amherst read *Tarnished Gold* by Ann Aptaker: “Set in New York City in 1950. I loved the noir style of this crime novel about Cantor Gold, art smuggler. However the toxic trope unveiling the murderer at the climax of the mystery soured me on the book.”

A reader from Attleboro read *All Systems Red: Ther Murderbot Diaries* by Martha Wells: “I enjoyed this book. There is something appealing about a security bot that wants to watch television and doesn't want to talk to people. I feel that way too sometimes.”

A reader from Webster read *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery: “This was so wonderful to share this story with my children. Reading it to them was so fun. They loved it. My son could relate to Anne's mischievousness!”

A reader from Woods Hole read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “Absolutely fabulous! The book was recommended to me by the librarians at my local library in Woods Hole.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Red String Theory* by Lauren Kung Jessen: “This was a really sweet romance. I loved all the science talk and comparison to art. I can’t wait to read what Jessen comes up with next.”

A reader from Arlington read *Alice Walker* by the color purple: “In honor of black history month I wanted to reread one of my favorites. This is a book that affected me in a way I’ve learned many other queer women feel. What I love about this book Celie never feels bad about her attraction to shug she is confused but it’s not a bad confusion who realization that sex is meant to feel good for both partners and not something women do to please men Is one of the most important moments and one we often overlook when teaching this book in schools.”

A reader from Brewster read *The Grey King* by Susan Cooper: “This wonderful adventure/fantasy from the series *The Dark is Rising* takes place in Wales, England where young Will Stanton is sent to recover from an illness. Will is an "Old One" and a magician who meets Bran, another boy living nearby who is also gifted with seeing the forces of good and evil. Strange and mysterious events and creatures from the dark threaten the boys. This wonderful series with an Arthurian theme is suitable for an older middle school and young adult reader.”

A reader from North Attleboro read *Red White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “I love this book so much!!!! My favorite part is when Alex has the turkeys in his room XD Seriously though, this book is so romantic and makes me very happy.”

A reader from Seekonk read *Upstairs at the White House: My Life with the First Ladies* by J. B. West: “The book presented a different view of the First Ladies and their families than is usually provided. It was interesting to see how they interacted out of the spotlight. It also provided information about the power and responsibilities of the chief usher of the White House.”

A reader from Brewster read *The house in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “It was very whimsical and sweet. A touch simple in plot. But I think that was how it was supposed to be. Just a nice imaginative story about protecting and valuing people.”

A reader from STOW read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: “Readable and relateable, even without being from Indian culture.”

A reader from BEVERLY read *Green* by Jay Lake: “This was a really odd book. For the first 100 pages the main character didn’t have a name-which made it hard to get into. Then I never knew where the story was going. It wasn’t suspenseful-just seemed random. I’m not sure I would recommend it.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Rosewater* by Tade Thompson: “The first book of a great afro-sci-fi alien-invasion trilogy. Very imaginative and well-written with engaging characters and an interesting plot.”

A reader from Rockland read *The Portrait of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde: “This was not entirely my cup of tea, but that’s ok. Glad to have read a classic and the Audible audio version was well acted. There were sooooo many boring parts where for a whole chapter Henry was waxing on about something or a whole chapter was dedicated to discussing clothes and how many jewels were on something and I was bored. To Tears. But. The storyline was so intriguing and it got very creepy and horror-like as it went on versus

starting from the beginning that way. So, I liked a lot, I disliked a lot...a solid three stars. And also...poor Basil. Right from start til the end.”

A reader from Boston read *Deep as the Sky, Red as the Sea* by Rita Chang-Eppig: “Did not love it but it was a good read.”

A reader from Boston read *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson: “This was my first Brandon Sanderson book. I liked the premise, but found that the plot dragged on a bit. It was all pretty low stakes and the characters felt a bit flat.”

A reader from Northfield read *The Green Road* by Enright, Anne: “Family dynamics from each members' perch take one down The Green Road of birth place setting informing experiences. Then there is gender, 1st-4th child, who bolts, who stays, what each is running from and towards and what those choices wring from the sibling relationships' to the matriarch, who of course is not static either. Angsty. I was surprised that the main characters all stayed on the upside of the green of it.”

A reader from Saugus read *White Chrysanthemum* by Mary Lynn Bracht: “This is a beautifully written book that will leave you heartbroken, horrified, and at times hopeful. This is the first time I ever learned of the history of the comfort women and the horrors they endured.”

A reader from Boston read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune: “It was a slow start for me but I did love the main character, Linus, from the start. While the book progressed fairly predictably and it ended up as a Happily Ever After in most regards, I really loved this story. The kids found a soft spot in my heart and I found myself cheering by the end of the book. So glad I read this and would definitely recommend.”

A reader from Cambridge read *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik: “I liked that the main character was Jewish like me and culturally I really identified with it. A little slow in places but the ending wrapped it all up very nicely.”

A reader from webster read *Red Memory* by Tania Branigan: “This book is about the people who lived through the Cultural Revolution. At times I found it hard to read all the shocking experiences these people had to go through. The book made me think of the other two books I read a long time ago. Imperial Woman, by Pearl Buck. I read that in 1977. And Wild Swans by Jung Chang which I read in 1991. Together they form a picture of a country and culture so very different from mine that made me think and wanting to learn about history since I was a teenager. It was a sad book and eye opening at the same time.”

A reader from Turners Falls read *Delilah Green Doesn't Care* by Ashley Herring Blake: “Such a great book with characters that came alive off the pages and just the right amount of spice! I can't wait to read more of this series!”

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I could see why it was such an impactful book. It raises some really difficult topics and I think back in the 80s they were talked about far less than today. It was slow going for me at first, but starting with about halfway through, as the heroines' lives improved, I started to enjoy the read.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan: “Wonderful novel, good read for Black History month.”

A reader from Billerica read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: “I think this book was very carefully written, the author tied everything up very nicely at the end. I feel like this style of

generational/homecoming/mystery novel is starting to become more popular and this particular book wasn't as groundbreaking to me as I know it is to others. I still enjoyed it, and I loved the commentary on the power of food to bring people together and drive them apart. This is probably one of those books that's more impactful if you're a parent, but I'm a 21-year-old college student so I took what I could from it."

A reader from Stoneham read *Greengates* by R. C. Sherriff: "This novel, published in the 1930s, is about a newly retired man and how his retirement affects his home life and his wife's life, mostly not for the better. While on a hike to one of their favorite places, they discover a means of changing their lives for the better. There is some derogatory language in the latter part of the book which reflects the time in which it was written, this was a lovely book to discover and enjoy."

A reader from Brookline read *BlueStar's Prophecy* by Erin Hunter: "My 9 year old loves the Warriors series and was so excited to suggest this book for the challenge. Now he and I read the books in parallel and discuss the cat characters in the book. I love learning from my kids!"

A reader from Quincy read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: "Readers might think they've heard this story before, less successful writer stealing work from someone else and hoping to get away with it, and yes you have heard this story many times before. However, this book gives you a fresh take on things - at some points you think perhaps there is a lesson learned by the "villain" but in the end, maybe not. I think this book is worth the read."

A reader from Fairhaven read *Mauve: how one man invented a color that changed the world* by Garfield, Simon: "There was a lot of science in this book than I anticipated! And how wonderfully interesting it was to learn how "colors" are invented and many industrial dyes are just offshoots of other chemical processes. Fascinating for anyone who like sci/tech books, how things work histories, or just easy to read nonfiction."

A reader from Wilmington read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: "I did not enjoy this book at all! It was such a let down because I've heard such amazing things about it. I found it boring, in poor taste, and found the character development lacking. Hoping that my pick for March will be much better!"

A reader from Amherst read *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winter: "A classic I'd heard about for years but had never read. I like other books by Jeanette Winterson and was glad to read her earliest work."

A reader from Hanover read *Little White Lies* by Barnes, Jennifer Lynn: "Barnes is known for her young adult mysteries, and its easy to see why. This had more twists than a French braid! Bless her heart."

A reader from Needham Heights read *demon copperhead* by kingsolver, barbara: "This book has been on my nightstand for a bit and I'm so glad that this challenge pulled it to the top of my reading list! It's a very well-written homage to David Copperfield and the Appalachian mountains."

A reader from Wrentham read *The Blue Bistro* by Elin Hilderbrand: "I really enjoyed this book. I didn't realize that it was some of the same characters as *The Hotel Nantucket* which I already read."

A reader from Boston read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: "I was so glad I chose this book for February, having just read *Dune* in Jan, I was excited to explore more interstellar science fiction! Brown's writing style and world view was starkly different than Herbert's, while I found the story quite predictable it was fun to reimagine a interstellar world from a different perspective. I especially like how subtly the book explores the fluidity of identity and how one's perception of themselves and others can shape their actions

and relationships. The characters frequently questioned their loyalties and identities, and challenged traditional notions of allegiance and duty.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *White Ivy* by Susie Yang: “This was an interesting read that I mostly enjoyed, although I found the main character to be unlikeable. She makes questionable decisions in her pursuit of upward mobility and desire to fit in.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Yellow Envelope: One Gift, Three Rules, and A Life-Changing Journey Around the World* by Kim Dinan: “This book is much more than a travel memoir. It's about finding yourself, growing in ways you hadn't imagined, friendship, selfless giving, and being present. It certainly gives a reader a lot to think about.”

A reader from Long Beach read *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells: “Such a fun, short sci-fi book. Wish it was longer.”

A reader from Charlton read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: “I really enjoyed this one, I liked the main character's growth and progress and the idea that a person can choose who they will be despite where they come from.”

A reader from Holden read *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly: “This book tells the story of three women during World War II. One, an American trying to help French orphans and then refugees, another, a Polish political prisoner in a German work camp, and finally, a German doctor whose initial qualms about harming prisoners rapidly fades away until she is performing cruel experiments on them for the love of the Reich. The book was difficult to read at times but was also hopeful and inspiring. The author's ability to weave the history into the story was very well done, I thought and I enjoyed the book.”

A reader from Arlington read *Delilah Green Doesn't Care* by Ashley Herring Blake: “This month I needed an easy read with low stakes. This fluffy, steamy queer romance had a lovely pace and was easy to read. It distracted me from the world's stresses and I could enjoy a little escapism just for a few hours. I'm excited for other books by this author to be a potential palate cleanser.”

A reader from Lynn read *Dreams of Green A Three Kings' Day Story* by Mariel Jungkunz: “I didn't realize that this holiday was celebrated in Puerto Rico. It's a nice picture book but it also teaches you about a cultural event.”

A reader from Charlton read *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess: “I appreciate this book very much. I love the writing and the creative linguistics used to create the language of Alex and his droogs. The ultimate rehabilitation of Alex in the book is too abrupt for me and I can see why the Kubrick movie ends the way it does. I enjoy both the book and the film adaptation.”

A reader from Wrentham read *The Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard: “Someone gave me this book a long time ago - it was in my pile of 'to be read' and since it had a color in the title, I picked it. I thought it would be historical fiction, but it was a fantasy book. Easy read - not something I would pick on my own.”

A reader from Quincy read *The Truth Is a Cave in the Black Mountains* by Neil Gaiman: “Beautifully illustrated, beautifully written. Everything ties together into a captivating story, short but impactful.”

A reader from Dartmouth read *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch: “★★★★★ This was a beautifully written book about a girl growing up in the foster system after her mother committed murder. The main character in the book, Ingrid, was very well developed. This book evoked emotions both good and bad,

which is a sign of a great writer. I am happy the librarians at my local library recommended this to me for February's read. I look forward to reading more Janet Fitch books in the future."

A reader from Sharon read *The Boys In the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown: "An inspirational book about an amazing group of athletes, their coaches, and the impossible challenges they faced. I highly recommend!"

A reader from Northampton read *Green Doors* by Ethel Cook Eliot: "A strange almost-romance from 1933, by an author I knew from her children's books. A psychoanalyst falls in chaste love with a teenage patient referred to him by her sweet-seeming wicked stepmother."

A reader from Franklin read *Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson: "Gripping historical fiction that draws the reader into the story. The characters and situations are so real that you may find yourself holding your breath as you turn the pages."

A reader from Middleboro read *Ribbons of Scarlet* by Kate Quinn, Stephanie Dray et. al: "A historical fiction novel about six women's lives during the French Revolution written by six different authors."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: "This started out as a very tough read but I'm glad I stuck with it, the end was so uplifting. I love Walker's point about wonder and uncertainty bringing you closer to God."

A reader from Belchertown read *A Court of Silver Flames* by Sarah J. Maas: "This book may not be perfect, but I do love it. I'm especially grateful for the mental health representation. SJM provides very real paths for healing, paths I have walked on my own journey. She made me like Nesta and understand Nesta. I'm sure I'll reread this again."

A reader from Salem read *the red tent* by Anita Diamant: "I really did not like this book. It had been recommended to me by a few friends, and it met the criteria, but ultimately I found it very unpleasant to read."

A reader from Plainville read *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls: "I had a bit of trouble find a book with a color in the title. I decided to read this book, as I never did growing up. I faintly remember watching the movie. It was a nice simple read about a boy and his love for his hunting dogs."

A reader from Methuen read *When a Brown Girl Flees* by Aamna Qureshi: "I really loved that this book gave me a perspective I could never experience. I love the story arch and feel it works really well for YA."

A reader from Quincy read *Peach Blossom Spring* by Melissa Fu: "I really enjoyed this multi-generational family story and learning about modern Chinese history."

A reader from Boston read *White Fang* by Jack London: "Oh man, White Fang is wild! It's all about this wolf-dog's crazy life from wild to being domesticated. The way London dives into nature vs. nurture and survival themes is pretty dope. Really makes you think about the wild side in all of us. Plus, the journey of White Fang from the wild to understanding humans is just epic. Totally worth the read!"

A reader from Reading read *Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: "Enjoyed this book. A romance novel /love story that combined celebrity and politics and a bunch of interesting characters throughout who all loved and supported each other. I try to read the book before I watch the show, so will check that out next."

A reader from Franklin read *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli: “A fast read about the drama of high school and in particular, outing someone and its aftermath. I did not want to stop reading so that I could find out what would happen next! Albertalli creates some great characters and I felt their emotions as they grappled with the up's and down's of high school life. I enjoyed the book and recommend it.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Green Eagle Score* by Richard Stark: “Great!”

A reader from Milton read *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters: “This was one of the most enjoyable novels I have read in a long time. It was richly detailed and the setting was described beautifully. I love a book that brings me to tears in the end. What a beautiful story.”

A reader from Montague read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “Racism, child abuse, sexual abuse, bullying, poverty, alcoholism, insanity...this was a difficult book to read. But it is so beautifully written and the characters felt so real. Hope came not from parents, school, church, society...but from a friend.”

A reader from Milton read *The Deep Blue Goodbye* by John D. MacDonald: “I read this many years ago decided to reread the series. This is the first book in the collection and it was published in 1964. Travis McGee is the "salvage consultant" in the series and he never fails to disappoint.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The White Album* by Joan Didion: “I have been wanting to read a Joan Didion book for awhile and just had not. I loved this book and Joan Didion. Planning to read more, if not all, of her books. I appreciate her writing style and social commentary.”

A reader from MILLERS FALLS read *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson: “Amazing, amazing, amazing!!!”

A reader from South Weymouth read *Red Clocks* by Leni Zumas: “Very eerie given the current political climate.”

A reader from Wellesley read *The Empire of Gold* by S.A. Chakraborty: “This is a fantastic ending to a trilogy.”

A reader from New Bedford read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “Had watched movie several times. Didn't realize the book was written in missive style. Not sure if I would have enjoyed it more as prose to get into other characters' heads. Some differences in the book. Enjoyed overall.”

A reader from Wilmington read *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson: “Great to reread this whimsical tale.”

A reader from Reading read *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America* by Erik Larson: “While I'm sure many readers were drawn to this book by the true-crime lure of H.H. Holmes, I found myself entranced by the vision of the 1893 World's Fair. That such an incredible undertaking happened at all feels almost impossible today - the closest analogues to this are when a city hosts the Olympics (but with far less whimsy and artistry) and amusement parks such as Disneyland (and Walt Disney's father worked on the Exposition, and his stories of it may have influenced his son's vision for Disneyland decades later).”

A reader from Mattapoisett read *Mystery of the Blue Train* by Agatha Christie: “A Hercule Poirot mystery that I haven't read! The Great Detective, however, is almost in the background. He and the dead body don't appear until almost 1/3rd of the way through the book. However, Dame Agatha can write a mystery like no other author.”

A reader from Cambridge read *Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath* by Heather Clark: “After rereading ‘The Bell Jar’ in January, I decided to read this bio of Sylvia Plath. It's nearly 1,000 pages, but it's so well done that it's held my attention throughout. It's so interesting to learn more about her and what shaped the work of hers that I've already read!”

A reader from Dartmouth read *Goldenrod: Poems* by Maggie Smith: “I also recently read her memoir.”

A reader from Amherst read *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* by marlon James: “Dark but lovely!”

A reader from Springfield read *Out of the blue* by Jason June: “This queer little mermaid retelling is a book I wish I had as a teen. I loved this book. I can't wait to read more by this author.”

A reader from Boston read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “This was a fun and quick read — magical children, queer adults, and resistance to systems of harm and oppression! I highly recommend it for anyone who loved the Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children series, and I am eagerly awaiting the next installment.”

A reader from Toronto, Ontario read *Blue is the Warmest Color* by Jul Maroh: “The movie based on this novel deeply moved me as a sapphic queer youth grappling with coming out and young adulthood. It was so great to finally read the source material and to revisit the characters that I have loved for so long.”

A reader from Florence read *butterfly yellow* by thanhha lai: “Still reading.”

A reader from Somerville read *Rouge* by Mona Awad: “While Awad definitely has a formula for her books, it's a formula I really enjoy! I was surprised at the relatively happy ending. The double entendre title was perfect for this month's theme.”

A reader from Melrose read *Gold Mountain* by Betty G. Yee: “Very timely for reading around the Lunar New Year, it was a bit mundane. Things seemed to happen so easily for her, I'm not sure I really enjoyed this book at all. At least this month's challenge had me branch out!”

A reader from Montague read *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant: “I selected ‘The Red Tent’, which was hugely popular in the 1990s. I did not read it back then, and got through it easily now. Diamant throws a lot of characters at the reader in the beginning of the book. I’d probably be better served if I knew the Old Testament better. The middle of the book was less confusing because it settled into a story around fewer characters. But then Diamant ended the book with another torrent of characters.”

A reader from Cambridge read *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson: “I love Brandon Sanderson, and this book is now one of my top favorites. It was so good and so much fun to read!”

A reader from Revere read *red white and royal blue* by casey mcquiston.

A reader from East Bridgewater read *White Houses* by Amy Bloom: “While this reads like a memoir, it is actually a fictional account of the relationship between Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt. There has been much speculation about these two women's feelings for each other and Bloom ultimately tells a love story of passion, devotion, and understanding. Narrated in the first person by Hick herself, we see Eleanor through her eyes. as a dedicated partner to FDR, as a fierce advocate for human rights, and as a nurturing friend and caregiver to so many. Hick's voice is tough and unflinchingly realistic at all times, whether describing FDR and his shortcomings, her impoverished and abusive childhood, or her own sexuality. The writing is lovely and engrossing and I was utterly captivated by the story.”

A reader from Edgartown read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: “Loved it!”

A reader from Hanson read *Hijab Butch Blues* by Lamya H: “This was one of the best memoirs I have ever read. I appreciated the intersectional lenses the author is able to view the world through, and feel the weight of this needing to be written under a pseudonym.”

A reader from Plainville read *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “Can’t go wrong with Adichie - a stunning writer.”

A reader from Berkley read *Run Rose Run* by Dolly Parton and James Patterson: “Entertaining read!”

A reader from Lawrence read *Puzzle of Blackstone Lodge* by Martin Edwards: “Golden Age Mystery, think Agatha Christie. Loved the character/detective Rachel Savernake.”

A reader from Springfield read *Yellowface* by R.F Kuang: “This is a darkly funny novel about cultural appropriation, white insecurity when the world turns toward equality, and the weird and dishonest world of publishing.”

A reader from Salem read *Yellowface* by R F Kuang: “I had this on my list and how apropos to meet the Feb challenge prompt! This book is a romp filled with juxtapositions. It will find you laughing and horrified;intrigued about what comes next and worried as to what next is likely to come. It's like a slow moving train wreck you cannot look away from, once the cultural appropriation is recognized. Not a hard read, much easier in my opinion than her most recent work, which I also enjoyed. You are likely to not want to put it down. Just know you will be thinking - oh no, she isn't going to....”

A reader from Beverly read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “Clever, thought-provoking and darkly humorous. Would be a good one for book group discussion. Highly recommend it.”

A reader from North Reading read *Gideon Green in Black and White* by Katie Henry: “I love how Gideon grew as a person as time passed. He became more able to recognize the impact of his words on others, and discovered the joy of finding friends willing to accept him for who he is. I couldn't resist choosing this book to read since there are 3 colors in the title!”

A reader from Newton Highlands read *Red Dragon* by Thomas Harris: “If you can handle creepiness and disturbing psychology, it is hard to pass on this one.”

A reader from Plymouth read *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn: “A compelling mystery with strong female characters.”

A reader from Granby read *White Cat Black Dog* by Kelly Link: “This book of short stories was so intriguing, not what I expected at all. Inspired by fairy tales from across the globe, Link has created a series of comparable stories in her chosen genres. "Kelly Link [an author based in Northampton] has written some very provocative new short stories.. . . Kelly Link is an American author best known for her short stories, which span a wide variety of genres - most notably magic realism, fantasy and horror." Highly recommend.”

A reader from Chester read *Blue Genes* by Val McDermid: “Was ok, not one of her best ones. Odd Science theme.”

A reader from Quincy read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: “Bingeable and spooky.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis* by Maria Smilios: “An excellent book about a group of Black nurses who worked for decades at a hospital for tuberculosis patients in Staten Island in the early 1900s, when segregation and

discrimination were rampant, and before there was a cure. The nurses were underpaid, overworked and mistreated, and put themselves at great risk for contracting TB themselves. They were excluded from the American Nursing Association and only eligible to work at four of New York City's 50 hospitals. But when the time came to test isoniazid, which finally cured TB, these nurses had the expertise to oversee the clinical trials. We owe them a real debt. This was a really good choice for Black History Month, as well!"

A reader from Lynn read *The Yellow Hotel* by Diana Wald: "Very interesting poetry...! Kind of stream of consciousness. I like it, I think."

A reader from Greenfield read *the blues eye* by toni morrison: "So vivid and heart wrenching, this book was a difficult but important read."

A reader from Cambridge read *Notes from a Young Black Chef* by Kwame Onwuachi: "Startling and persuasive."

A reader from Ipswich read *Anne of Green Gables* by L..M. Montgomery: "Absolutely charming!"

A reader from South Hadley read *White Ivy* by Susie Yang: "This book was wild! Lots of twists and turns that I was not expecting. Highly recommend!"

A reader from Seekonk read *The Green Mile* by Stephen King: "I had never read the book before, only seen the movie. I enjoyed the book so much more than the movie!"

A reader from Chelsea read *All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto* by Johnson, George M.: "An important work for teens but also relatable to adults. I appreciated the author's honesty and openness."

A reader from Springfield read *Black Leopard Red Wolf* by Marlon James: "Very good worldbuilding and overall story fun read."

A reader from Medway read *The Green Children of Woolpit* by J. Anderson Coats: "A surprisingly unpredictable children's fantasy with a mildly disappointing end inf. Lots of twists. The atmosphere this book creates is the perfect balance of spooky with a bit of cozy fairy tale. So well written, I was completely engrossed the whole time."

A reader from Hubbardston read *Silverwing: The Graphic Novel* by Opper, Kenneth: "Another book I read as a kid, that I'm now sharing with my daughter. The graphic novel version was just released, and we both really enjoyed reading this one together!"

A reader from Brookline read *The Red Lotus* by Chris Bohjalian: "Amazing that this book came out just before Covid -- a thriller involving a pandemic!"

A reader from Wakefield read *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: "I really enjoyed this book, it was a quick and easy read and a heartwarming story. I am looking forward to watching the movie that I heard was just released and seeing these characters come to life on the screen!"

A reader from Danvers read *The Green Mile* by Stephen King: "Heartbreaking and beautiful."

A reader from Wilmington read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by Simon Armitage: "i can't remember if i have or have not read this in high school because it's been decades! the most recent time i encountered this work is through the 2021 film directed by david lowery. right after the film, i pulled off J.R.R. Tolkien's translation of the same story and re-read it and BOY it was rough. as much as i respect and love Tolkien, that translation was extremely challenging because it was faithful to the original text. and i totally get it, he is a philologist and this is his jam. for this month, i googled around and searched for a

better translation and found it through Simon Armitage's book. first, i just KNEW that there had to be a better translation of this where the story made sense to me in the year 2024 vs. 14th century olde english. second, i love the confidence of the translation that includes both his modern context translation AND the original olde english so you can actually study both and trace the language and figure out phonetically and pronouncing it out loud how the translator derived the actual words out of the super challenging text. third, i enjoyed the specificity of the specific regions of England where the various accents/nuances of the language still exists or doesn't or have evolved in the introduction. finally, my take on this is that this piece of work is an incredible poem about a knight that is tested on his fidelity and faith to his religion, the chivalry and nobility and moral character of sir gawain himself through various temptations. the text was also very clear that there is something from the story about fame and popularity that precedes this gawain and i don't think we get insight into how he struggles with that himself... except that he does utilize it and take advantage of it in terms of getting invited into a strangers (at first) castle and being praised for being the very knight that beheaded the green knight. while we don't see the internal struggle of that fame, we do absolutely observe the struggle of the temptation of the wife of the lord of the castle, especially on the final test where he decides to keep that sash or belt around him.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *Almost Transparent Blue* by Ryu Murakami: “Ryu Murakami is one of my favorite authors so it was great to be able to get my hands on this somewhat rare early work of his. It was essentially plotless, following a group of youths whose entire lives revolve around sex and drugs. Very elegantly written with some scenes that stick with you when you're finished reading.”

A reader from Amherst read *Goldberg Variations* by Susan Isaacs: “This was a very fun read. Light-hearted story of an older grandmother, mostly estranged from her family. Nevertheless she must choose someone to inherit her vast business, so she invites her three grandchildren to come visit and compete for the inheritance. To her surprise, no one wants her company. Over time the grandchildren and she learn to like each other, and she is no longer estranged from her whole family. It was touching, funny, and had some good insights in family dynamics.”

A reader from Danvers read *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “I found areas of hope within a book that covered some difficult circumstances of a family and community in Nigeria.”

A reader from Forestdale read *The Man in the Brown Suit* by Agatha Christie: “This was a new Agatha Christie for me and I really enjoyed it!”

A reader from Sterling read *Blackouts* by Justin Torres: “I was really torn on this book. I liked the second half of it, but the first half I found really confusing and I wasn't sure where the story was. Maybe on a second read through it will be more clear. Maybe the confusion was intentional and what I was supposed to feel. Either way, this just didn't land for me how I hoped it would.”

A reader from Dover read *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn: “An enjoyable read although the ending could have been much stronger.”

A reader from Beverly read *Delilah Green Doesn't Care* by Blake, Ashley: “Sapphic love story.”

A reader from Springfield read *Black Like Me* by John Howard Griffin: “This was my first time having read this book. No doubt a seminal work in the realms of race relations and American history. As a black man, this book had a profound impact on me that I don't think I'll soon forget.”

A reader from Maynard read *Devil in a Blue Dress* by Walter Mosely: “Wonderful LA noir with an engaging protagonist. Want to read the rest of the series!”

A reader from Berkley read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “Playful. Sweet. Tugs at your heart strings. What a fantastic book.”

A reader from Minneapolis read *Weaving the Rainbow* by George Ella Lyon: “Illustrated by Stephanie Anderson. This picture book is so gorgeous and made my little fiber arts heart so happy.”

A reader from Arlington read *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Orczy: “loved it! realized how influential it is.”

A reader from Manchester read *Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “Read this a few years ago, re-read for book club. Liked it more the first time, did not benefit from a re-read. Love the concept though and it was a fun, quick read.”

A reader from Springfield read *Black Water: Family, Legacy and Blood Memory* by David A. Robertson: “Black Water is a beautiful memoir exploring Robertson’s learning and understanding of his indigenous roots that he grew up not knowing about. It’s structured around a father son trip to the Black Water trapline reclaiming their connection to the land.”

A reader from BEVERLY read *Red on Red* by Edward Conlon: “I haven't finished it yet, but it is holding my attention. Not something that I'd ordinarily read.”

A reader from Dartmouth read *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell: “I love horses and had them growing up. I found it hard to read in places where Black Beauty was being mistreated. Some humans can be so cruel to innocent animals.”

A reader from Reading read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “Wow. Heart wrenching, powerful, thought provoking. Alice Walker is a fantastic storyteller.”

A reader from Belchertown read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

A reader from Somerville read *Sure I'll Be Your Black Friend: Notes from the Other Side of the Fist Bump* by Ben Philippe: “This book was a bit scattered in my opinion. It is an essay collection, and was advertised as a lighthearted/funny book. Some of the essays were indeed as advertised, but it turned into a very memoir-esque book in the middle, and wasn't particularly gripping to read.”

A reader from Sutton read *The Color of Water* by James McBride: “Great read.”

A reader from Taunton read *Yellowface* by R.F Kuang: “I’ve seen this book gain popularity though social media and finally had the chance to read it. I loved the pacing of the book and was interested to know what happened next.”

A reader from Wrentham read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.

A reader from Ashland read *The Boy in the Red Dress* by Kristin Lambert: “Very lovely queer historical fiction with a fun mystery. My favorite part was the normalization of queerness in the protagonist's life and the way the city (1929 version!) came to life in the book!”

A reader from Amherst read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: “My friend has been a fan of this series for years and I figured it was time to finally jump in myself, and I don’t know why I waited so long! Brown’s world building, complex characters, and stylistic prose has me hooked and I look forward to the rest of the series.”

A reader from Lawrence read *The Jasmine Throne* by Tasha Suri: “Color (jasmine) in title.”

A reader from North Brookfield read *Lilac Girls* by martha hall kelly: “A real nice story.”

A reader from Whitman read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “Great read!”

A reader from Baldwinville read *Agatha of Little Neon* by Claire Luchette: “This is the best book that I’ve read so far this year, and I wouldn’t have found it without this prompt! It was wry, thoughtful, and full of the kind of character insights that feel true in a visceral, satisfying way.”

A reader from Ipswich read *The House on the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “It was a young adult fantasy book which is not my normal genre, but I really enjoyed the cast of characters and the beautiful language in the book!”

A reader from Worcester read *Dominicana* by Angie Cruz: “Loved it. A store about finding yourself and the immigrant experience.”

A reader from Beverly read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “Layers of intrigue and commentary on the publishing industry and the influence (or tokenism) of race. A real mind-bender!”

A reader from Dracut read *Fox 8* by George Saunders: “I thought the prompt was NUMBER not COLOR -- lol! I really enjoyed this story. The writing style is refreshing and unlike what I've read before.”

A reader from Beverly read *Black AF History: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America* by Michael Harriot: “This book is SPECTACULAR. Michael Harriot is a GEM of a writer that has produced such an engaging, entertaining, and informative account of American history. This should be on everyone's must-read list.”

A reader from Brighton read *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess: “I really liked this book! I've heard so much about it, so this felt like the perfect opportunity to read it.”

A reader from West Boylston read *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Orczy: “Although I enjoyed the book I am unlikely to suggest it to anyone due to the harsh depiction of the ‘Jewish’ character. That said, it was quite interesting to see what was acceptable at that time.”

A reader from Hull read *The Red Pencil* by Andrea Davis Pinkney: “While this is billed as a YA novel, the story of a 12 year old girl Amiri whose family is caught in the Sudanese war is timely and can be appreciated by all ages. I learned so much about Sudan, and the imagery of life in the refugee camp unfortunately still too relevant as is the limitations put on women in this society. Pinkney's narrative verse is packed with vivid imagery that has stayed with me.”

A reader from Wellfleet read *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery: “Even though I trained as a children's librarian and long ago worked as such, I had never read this classic. I did, however, watch ‘Anne With An E’ last winter and enjoyed it very much so when this challenge came along it seemed like the perfect opportunity to finally read the original. I'm so glad I did. Anne on the page is a delight and Montgomery's sly sense of humor perfectly captures both the pleasures and the claustrophobic nature of small town life. If the occasional flowery description and moralizing hint at the book's age, both are easily outweighed by the wonderful characters who reveal greater depth as the book goes on.”

A reader from South Hadley read *The Priory of the Orange Tree (Roots of Chaos)* by Samantha Shannon: “This is a good book and being high fantasy is also long but worth the read. Great world building and great characters. I can't wait to read the next one in the series!”

A reader from Gill read *Lavender Blue Murder* by Laura Childs: “I found this book light hearted and entertaining.”

A reader from Berkley read *Run Rose Run* by James Patterson: “Easy read. Nice collaboration with Dolly Parton. Story is a bit unrealistic. Expected more from Patterson.”

A reader from North Brookfield read *Red to the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson: “This book was a surprising submersion of my senses. Jacqueline Woodson framed place and time like a poem. The book had rhythm. It brought me there via the little moments. It was the memories that stick in people's heads. It was beautiful in the way it evoked emotion; raw and passionate. This is the kind of book that sticks with you for a life time.”

A reader from Amherst read *Beethoven Was One-Sixteenth Black, and Other Stories* by Nadine Gordimer: “Doing some arm chair traveling before a trip to South Africa and this fit the bill for that and a color in the title. Very interesting read.”

A reader from Scituate read *The Mystery of the Blue Train* by Agatha Christie: “Have read many Agatha Christie novels throughout the years however I had not read this one. Because it has a color in the title I chose this book and I am glad that I did.”

A reader from Hadley read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune: “Recommended to me by a friend, it is one of my favorite books that I've read in a long-time. Touching, inventive, fantastical, and loving, so creative and subtle. Love, love, love it!!”

A reader from Rochester read *the atlas of reds and blues* by Devi S. Laskar: “Interesting composition, back and forth from present to past.”

A reader from Foxborough read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: ““Your bubble, Mr. Baker has been popped. Why would you allow it to grow around you again?””

A reader read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: “I really liked this story. It had a few plot twists and very relatable and interesting characters and covered topics from race to family dynamics. There is a streaming series based on the book which I will try to watch.”

A reader from Westport read *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery: “I’ve never read this before and it was so much fun and I loved Anne!”

A reader from West Simsbury read *Love in Color* by Bolu Babalola: “A collection of beautifully woven tales of love, love of all kinds. Babalola’s stories are crafted with exquisitely chosen words and images. Stories to savor.”

A reader from Harwich read *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Orczy: “First published in 1905, this is a dated but charming and fanciful story of the foppish English Lord Percival Blakeney, and his secret, heroic efforts to save aristocratic heads from the guillotine during the French Revolution.”

A reader from Dartmouth read *The Only Urple House In Town* by Ann Aguirre: “This book wasn't my style. It was very deep into fantasy and some didn't make sense to me and was hard to follow along.”

A reader from Florence read *The Curse Workers: White Cat, Red Glove, Black Heart* by Holly Black: “A thoroughly gripping, terrifically well written, YA trilogy that travels the waves of science fiction, horror, fantasy and LGBTQ+ issues. It was completely engrossing and gave me a new way into talking with my transgender grandchild.”

A reader from Ludlow read *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “Red, White, & Royal Blue was the book I selected for February. The plot was predictable, yet a pleasant read with a feel good ending.”

A reader from Medford read *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J Maas: “I really liked it! I'm excited to continue with the series, I've heard it gets even better :)”

A reader from Beverly read *Blue's Bayou* by Lennon, David: “Interesting murder mystery.”

A reader from Hadley read *Five Red Herrings* by Dorothy Sayers: “I enjoy the characters Sayers creates and her thoroughness in developing the plot and setting.”

A reader from Haverhill read *White Tears/Brown Scars: how white feminism betrays women of color* by Ruby Hamad: “It was an incredible look at the part white women have played in racism throughout history and even today. Definitely a necessary read for white women wanting to be better.”

A reader from Reading read *Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives* by Siddharth Kara: “While this is not an easy read, it provides important knowledge about the repercussions and human toll modern technology has on people living right now -- those who are saddled with a life of "artisanal mining" with no chance of escape or betterment. The book did not have answers, which is difficult to sit with, instead it provides history of the situation and bears witness to what's happening every day, now, and the consequences of empire building, colonialism, greed, and corporate lies.”

A reader from Longmeadow read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “Difficult subjects but beautifully written.”

A reader from Greenfield read *The Golden Screen: The Movies That Made Asian America* by Jeff Yang: “A fascinating film history/present/future. Great to revisit some old favorites (how had I forgotten Chutney Popcorn!?) and see their impact, as well as adding to my ever-expanding To Watch list. Golden, indeed!”

A reader from Parkland read *The Golden Gate* by Amy Chua: “Part murder mystery, part historical fiction; this was Amy Chua's first novel and she kept me reading past my bedtime to learn the truth of who killed Walter Wilkinson. Detective Al Sullivan takes you on a historical tour of the San Francisco Bay Area and will charm you with his relationship with his 11-year old niece, Miriam, who is wise beyond her years.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Token Black Girl* by Danielle Prescod: “This memoir provided a window into many spaces I have no lived experience in: being the only Black person in predominantly white communities, being a student at a private Catholic high school, being a young person in a loving and supportive upper middle class family, and being an employee in oft coveted companies in the fashion industry. In spite of the financial and familial privilege Prescod has, racism and the traumas a Black person experiences as a result of systemic racism are ever present. These specific traumas I do not have to endure because I am white. Because I did not grow up with the same financial and familial privilege, I found myself, at times, envious of the love, support and guidance Prescod received from her family and also the opportunities and resources she had access to that I did not. This led me to ask myself: would I want to trade her privilege for my own? I realized my answer was "no" because whiteness is a highly powerful form of privilege in and of itself. Prescod's memoir helped me to understand that with greater depth and nuance. It also helped me to want to continue my inner and outer work to be anti-racist.”

A reader from South Hamilton read *Red Notice* by Bill Browder: “Browder's experience with the Kremlin reads like a thriller/espionage novel but sadly is true. Highly recommend this nonfiction book.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Yellow Crocus* by Laila Ibrahim: “Loved this book! Loved the characters! Can't wait to read the next one in this ‘series.’”

A reader from Waltham read *The Golden Couple* by Greer Hendricks: “Not my usual genre, but still a page turner.”

A reader from Waltham read *Blackouts* by Justin Torres: “Beautifully written and narrated!”

A reader from Sandwich read *On Gold Mountain* by Lisa See: “An interesting look at how the Chinese immigration occurred in America.”

A reader from Plymouth read *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant: “Love it.”

A reader from Sherborn read *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells: “Loved this one - it was a total surprise read for me.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *White Smoke* by Tiffany Jackson: “An intriguing YA read... I heard this described as a mixture of *Haunting of Hill House* and *Get Out*. That definitely was an apt description!”

A reader read *Red Alert* by Peter Bryant: “I first read the book prior to watching a screening of the Stanley Kubrick movie ‘*Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*’ with an academic group that studies nuclear issues principally regarding nuclear weapons. Originally titled ‘*Two Hours to Doom*.’”

A reader from Northampton read *blue nights* by Joan Didion: “Compelling, personal and moving. reflections at the end of life. memories worth the pain of loss? Yes.”

A reader from Malden read *White Hot Hate: A True Story of Domestic Terrorism in America's Heartland* by Lehr, Dick: “Pretty interesting book about the internal danger of terrorism that is highly overlooked.”

A reader from Florence read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: “I choose this book from a display at my library. The fly leaf blurb doesn't really mention what it's actually about. I enjoyed reading it even though it's really not any genre I'm crazy about.”

A reader from Hartland read *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn: “Compelling read.”

A reader from Yarmouthport read *yellowface* by rf kuang: “I love this author - but this book was not my typical genre. Didn't love it, didn't hate it.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *True Blue K-9 unit* by Laura Scott: “2 stories about the work of police dogs. Interesting and informative. Good and quick read.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Weary Blues* by Langston Hughes: “I favorite of mine.. Chosen for Black History Month. Poems about the African American Struggles in the 1920's. I did not remember that I read it before, until the poems seemed very familiar. It was worth the re-read.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Black Girl Call Home* by Jasmine Mans: “Another book of poems, this one about the current struggles of African Americans, currently. Very eye opening and a good contrast to *The Weary Blues*.”

A reader from North Reading read *if he had been with me* by Laura Nowlin: “I love this book it never fails to make me cry.”

A reader from Westminster read *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “I thought this was a captivating story about the lives of twin sisters Olanna and Kainene before, during, and after the Nigerian Civil War in the 1960s. Adichie draws the reader in by building the love stories of Olanna & Odenigbo and Kainene & Richard; the coming of age of Odenigbo’s house boy, Igwa; and the generational conflict between them and their mothers. The unresolved ending left me wanting more, but I get that survivors of war, especially those of a defeated side, have to figure out a way to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives and move on.”

A reader from N DARTMOUTH read *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch: “The story line was disturbing but it was well-written and I enjoyed this book.”

A reader from Wrentham read *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly: “Lilac Girls is a book about WWII and three women with different perspectives on the War. A wealthy American woman who helped the women who had surgeries performed on them at Ravenbruck, the doctor who performed the horrific experimental surgeries and one of the women who was a prisoner who was experimented on. The color lilac is the color and the name of the flowers in the American's garden. Perhaps related to lilacs being an early spring flower and hope and rebirth after winter. Every time I read a book related to concentration camps I learn some new detail that I didn't know before and am always disgusted about the depths of depravity humans went to during that time period. This book also offered a glimpse of people on the other side who were trying to help in the American character. Not sure how much the color lilac played into the narrative, but if not for the color in the title and the contest I may not have read this book and missed out on an excellent read.”

A reader from Woods Hole read *Black Hole Sun* by David Macinnis Gill: “I found this book fascinating, but sometimes it felt repetitive and bland. Although the setting on Mars was intriguing, I struggled to follow the story's background.”

A reader from Scituate read *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson: “An easy and accessible YA memoir about the author's childhood up through college. Probably will have a lot of appeal for young people!”

A reader from Scituate read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “Worth the wait for this one. What an incredible story. Relevant today as it was when it was written. The turn of events finding the letters from Celie's sister surprised me in a good way!”

A reader read *One Green Deed Spawns Another: Tales of Inspiration on the Quest for Sustainability* by David C. Mahood: “An interesting collection of interviews with people from various areas of sustainability in the US.”

A reader read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “The book is about Celie, an African-American teenager growing up in rural Georgia in early 1900s. Told through her letters to God about an abusive father. I enjoyed letters to Ceili from her sister Nettie, a missionary in Africa.”

A reader from STOUGHTON read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: “Loved this book!”

A reader from Hudson read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: “I missed reading this in school and thought it was about time. I found the characters more sympathetic than I had expected. The plot,

though somewhat melodramatic, seemed to be an accurate depiction of life near Boston in the seventeenth century.”

A reader from Seekonk read *red, White, and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “I was not expecting to fall in love so quickly with Alex Claremont-Diaz. Not was I expecting to feel such empathy and despair and pride in Prince Henry. The characters are so intrepid and well-written and the plot could be ripped from today’s headlines (Harry and Meghan?!)”

A reader from Beverly read *The Woman with the Blue Star* by Pam Jenoff: “Hard to put down! The description of life in the sewers made me shudder. I was saddened by some of the reviews on Goodreads that debunked some of the "facts" and questioned the ending. Kept my interest!”

A reader from Belchertown read *The Black House* by Peter May: “A police detective is sent back to his childhood home in the Outer Hebrides to consult on a murder, but it stirs up unresolved memories that have affected him all his life. A very unexpected ending was satisfying.”

A reader from Hanover read *Red, White, and Boom* by Tonya Penrose: “This fun mystery involves 2 cousins, one, Betsy Ross, who likes cooking weird combinations of food and one, Page Wright, whose intuition leads them into mystery solving. Together they operate Honey Bees Shop, a bakery that uses honey in all of its creations. This Shell Isle mystery involves the murder of a popular boat captain, Jake, and also a little teasing romance with Detective Tanner. There are enough suspects to keep you guessing until the end. This is a comfortable summer read which begins with the Fourth of July.”

A reader from Braintree read *The White Lady* by Jacqueline Winspear: ““The White Lady”, features the female protagonist, Elinor “Linni” White (De Witt). In 1947 Elinor lives in a “Grace and Favour” cottage in a village in rural Britain. One day Elinor's quiet life is disrupted when the young couple with a small child who have moved into the village from London are threatened by the husband's brothers, members of a London organized crime family. Elinor decides to interfere, getting in contact with her former SOE colleague who is now a senior detective in Scotland Yard. Elinor’s story is told through three alternating timelines. As Elinor investigates, her life story unfolds, with the narrative switching back and forth between the 1947 present and either Elinor’s youth during WWI in Belgium or her service as a spy in WWII and the tragic events that have left her desperate to find peace in the aftermath. Winspear’s descriptive language, twisting plot and character development will keep you engrossed from beginning to end.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Yellow House* by Emily O'Grady: “I didn't like the book very much. At first I was excited to see what would happen next, but it took a turn I wasn't expecting. I found it to be a little depressing.”

A reader from Salem read *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larsen: “Fantastic!”

A reader from Lowell read *Black Boy (American Hunger)* by Richard Wright: “A moving account of one person's trajectory from a background that seemed almost insurmountable given his race, the place of his birth and the pervasive discrimination of the period, to a better life.”

A reader from North Weymouth read *Bluebird* by Sharon Cameron: “Suspenseful, moving, disturbing, and very well-written.”

A reader from Gill read *Red Harvest* by Dashiell Hammett: “The title color refers to the constant bloodshed triggered by the nameless narrator as he tries to eliminate the corruption from a mining town. You can hear how this book set the voice for the hardboiled detective genre.”

A reader from Boston read *Black Panther* by Tanehisi Coates: “Always fun to read a comic.”

A reader from Wilmington read *Blue Whales (Nature's Children)* by Ruth Bjorklund: “I learned a lot of stuff about blue whales. They are a very interesting animal.”

A reader from Manchester read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “Reread this book and enjoyed it more.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Arrangements In Blue* by Amy Key: “This book was about a woman who had missed opportunities all through life with romance and a possible marriage, an abortion with later not having the courage to have a child on her own later by IVF or a partner, and generally identifies with failure throughout the book. Amy lacks self confidence, self-love, and positivity. She concludes that it is all right to live alone, travel alone, etc. as she somehow has chosen this life. It leaves one with the feeling that she is not convincing. I did not like this book at all.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Red Address Book* by Sofia Lundberg: “Very fun read! Love books that go from past to present. Reading a book from the perspective of a woman in her last years of life was a very different, enriching experience.”

A reader from Uxbridge read *A History of White People* by Nell Irvin Painter: “Everyone should read this book! I am disappointed in Ralph Waldo Emerson and the transcendentalists!”

A reader from Wakefield read *Blue Christmas (Weezie and Bebe Mysteries #3)* by Mary Kay Andrews: “I wasn't really in the mood for a Christmas book, but I was in the mood for a story that took place in Savannah. I'd read the first two books in the series and enjoyed the characters, so this was a good choice for the book with a color in the title category.”

A reader from Whitinsville read *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novak: “A dear friend recommended this book to me! The audiobook is stellar, and it scratches my fantasy itch after a Brandon Sanderson hangover.”

A reader from Stanford read *Blue Zones* by Dan Buettner: “Blue zones are regions in the world where people are claimed to live longer than average. It was interesting to learn about the diets and lifestyles that are credited to these people who live a longer healthier life well into their 90's and beyond. Although much of this information is not new, relating it to those in Blue Zones makes it more current and credible...”

A reader from ALLSTON read *Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture* by Sudhir Hazareesingh: “I have had this book on my reading list since it came out in 2020, and this month's theme was the perfect motivation. As a former history instructor, I taught about Louverture and the Haitian Revolution many times. His mythic status has always been intriguing especially due to his complicated views and actions which this book details wonderfully. I think what it does best is showcase the precise and painstakingly researched history of his reality alongside the sentiment and idealism that has made him a legend.”

A reader from Rockland read *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris: “Two very different girls in the same working environment and their interactions with each other and colleagues.”

A reader from Franklin read *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell: “It was a great reread since I read this when I was younger and didn't remember too much about the details. It was a great story about survival and being resilient and that hope that she would be rescued from an island that had taken so much from her.”

A reader from Plainville read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: “Rachel Harrison is one of my top authors to read, and she did not disappoint in her newest book. Her dialogue is realistic and funny, even when writing in the horror genre.”

A reader from Somerville read *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson: “While I didn't find the architecture bits super interesting, I did enjoy reading about the first world's fair in Chicago as well as one of the deadliest serial killers.”

A reader from Nahant read *Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard: “I really enjoyed this book and am definitely going to read more books by Victoria Aveyard. I think one of my favorite parts about the book was when Mare found her brother. I liked this part a lot because it really shows that anything is possible.”

A reader from Greenfield read *Sacrè Bleu* by Christopher Moore: “A humorous take on 19th century French artists and the power of color.”

A reader from Brooklyn read *Red Speedo* by Lucas Hnath: “It was fun to read a play! I didn't love the ending, which felt very abrupt but overall the themes of sport and PED was worth exploring.”

A reader from West Hartford read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “The work of daily life is endless for Celie as is her bravery. With courage she learns to find love and joy in her life.”

A reader from Somerville read *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess: “For some reason I thought “A Clockwork Orange” was a classic. One of those books others had to read in school that I never got the chance to. After finishing the book, I'm thinking that maybe it was my dad's repeated referencing to the film that led me to believe in its classic status. I cannot imagine a school having students read this, strong literary themes, motifs, and philosophical message be damned. I surprisingly enjoyed the experience of reading “A Clockwork Orange.” I was a little intimidated by the Nadsat, but found it to be more simple that it appears with Burgess's mix of context clues and straight explanations. And I would get into a kind of flow while reading it that made me afraid to stop lest I have a hard time picking up the language again. While wholly perturbed by almost every chapter in Part 1, I'm glad I pushed past it to get to the meat of Burgess's theme and message in the succeeding parts. I really enjoy his use of repetition in the first chapter of each part driving home Alex's free will or lack thereof. I also enjoyed the symmetry Burgess created with Alex's journey in Part 3. And I loved the drama the publisher created by starting the book with Burgess's introduction (which indicates that 1. he hates this is most well-known book and 2. the American publisher refused to publish his last chapter) and ending the book with the declaration that they don't remember it going down like that. It made me laugh at the end of an otherwise depressing/reflective novella. It's true that ending the novel on “I was cured all right” is very dramatic and doesn't necessarily negate the message Burgess sends through the rest of the novel. But the 21st chapter is another work of symmetry that the previous readers were really missing out on. And the last chapter makes Alex more sympathetic to the reader. Who can't relate to the shock of finding yourself grown up all of a sudden? And the realization you should have listened to your parents while simultaneously dreading when your kids won't listen to you? And the inevitability that those mistakes are part of childhood? I've never seen the film. My dad loves it. My mom hates it. Personally, I can't imagine this would make a good movie. The imagery and soundtrack is there, but nothing insulates the viewer from violence like the Nadsat language does for readers. I don't know if I could get through the first part of the film. ALSO, Alex is played by a 33 year old??? That gives the entire story a different vibe. No wonder Kubrick ignored chapter 21 for the film. I'll probably watch it though - just to say I did. It is consistently ranked one of the best movies of all time after all.”

A reader from Weymouth read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “I really had no idea what to expect with this book - I chose it because it had my favorite color in the title - but it was a beautiful story about love, acceptance and doing what's right. The author did a great job describing the main character's thoughts and emotions to show his growth throughout the story.”

A reader from Amherst read *The Red Traitor* by Matthew Owen: “Excellent thriller set at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Second in a series after *Black Sun*. The protagonist is sympathetic, the plot is full of suspense. Highly recommended!”

A reader from Falmouth read *Anne of Green Gables* by LM Montgomery: “A book that I love to reread every few years. A classic from my childhood that continues to be a sweet and charming read.”

A reader from North Easton read *Anne of Green Gables: a Graphic Novel* by Brenna Thummler: “One of my first forays into a graphic novel. Great way to revisit an old favorite classic that has been updated for a new generation. Beautifully illustrated. I enjoyed it.”

A reader from Easton read *The Only Purple House in Town* by Ann Aguirre: “A delightful, cozy story of finding yourself and making a family. Would recommend to fans of *Becky Chambers*.”

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuamg: “Excellent book and very thought provoking!”

A reader from Lowell read *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey: “It was a good read but I wish I listened to it on audio instead of print.”

A reader from Seekonk read *The Red Lotus* by Chris Bohjalian: “Not what I expected from the book jacket synopsis, but an interesting and relevant read in that a book about using a virus as a chemical weapon was published just around the time of the pandemic outbreak.”

A reader from Melrose read *The White Lady* by Jacqueline Winspear: “The White Lady is a British historical mystery by Jacqueline Winspear, also the author of the Maisie Dobbs series of historical mysteries. A compelling story with some interesting twists, the book recognizes the courage of women doing espionage in World Wars I and II as well as showing the costs in their lives. I’m a fan of historical mysteries and found this to be a good, satisfying read.”

A reader from Reading read *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery: “I had never read this classic, thinking it was bound to be sappy, but was happy to find a spirited, Pippi-Longstocking-like protagonist in Anne. (Also read the *Red Cupcake Murder* by Joanne Fluke for fun).”

A reader from Hull read *Black Tide* by KC Jones: “Eerie, unsettling, curious. At first I found it difficult to dive in, but it picks up after a couple of chapters. I lose things constantly-- so that is something that kept nagging at me throughout. "What would I have done?" crossed my mind at least a dozen times.”

A reader from Hopedale read *Acts of Violet* by Margarita Mortimore: “Fun book about family dynamics with some magic! I've never read a book with magician elements, but this was fun! I also liked the different formats with podcast episodes, magazine and newspaper articles!”

A reader from Longmeadow read *Dragonfly in Amber* by Diana Gabaldon: “I love gaining extra insight into the *Outlander* show that I die for! It’s so fun to get immersed in this wild, time travel story.”

A reader from Brookline read *Autoportrait en vert* by Marie NDiaye: “This was an interesting work for an autobiographical sketch. Due to its nature, it was a rather difficult work for my first return to a French book in a few years.”

A reader from West Roxbury read *Red to the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson: “I enjoyed the multiple narrators and seeing the same situation from different perspectives.”

A reader from Brighton read *Blue Nights* by Joan Didion: “It isn't JD (as I've affectionately started calling her) at her sharpest, yet there is a smooth landing at the end, and I'm pleased to continue my Year of Reading Didion.”

A reader from Gloucester read *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn: “I chose this book purely because I couldn't find another with color in the name that appealed to me. I'm glad I found this as I absolutely loved this book.”

A reader from San Leandro read *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson: “I had been considering reading this book after seeing it at my local library so February's prompt led me to finally picking it up. This book is cozy fantasy vibes with a heaping spoonful of quirkiness. This is my first Sanderson book, and although it is a stand-alone novel, I foresee myself picking up another one of his books since I enjoyed *Tress* so much.”

A reader from Haverhill read *Silver Nitrate* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia: “This book started a bit slow, but I ended up loving it. Super creepy and tense, more action than I anticipated, and lots of cool references to classic horror films.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Jasmine Moon Murder* by Laura Childs: “Good, light murder mystery.”

A reader from Arlington read *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant: “I first heard about this book from my mother-in-law and had intended to read it from that time on. I was unfamiliar with the original biblical story of Dinah, the protagonist in the book. The story is a re-telling of Dinah's rape and Jacob's subsequent retribution against the inhabitants of the town where the rape occurred. I found the re-telling fascinating in some places but slow in others. I particularly liked the easy co-existence between the biblical god of Jacob and the multiple gods of multiple peoples across countries. It was also nice to read a biblical story where women feature prominently. I liked the story overall and was sad when it ended.”

A reader from Brookline read *The Red Rose Crew* by Daniel J. Boyne: “Great reading you could call *The Women in the Boat*. Combines sports (rowing), history, and the women's sports movement in this true account of a crew of very strong women who triumphed over male domination of the sport, rigid rules, and discrimination. These brave, determined women withstood rigorous training and the doubts of many, winning bronze in the 1976 Olympics. To this day, they serve as inspiration facing adversity of all kinds. We can do it! Postscript - the US women won gold at the 1984 Olympics after the 1980 boycott.”

A reader from North Andover read *THE INDIGO GIRL* by Natasha Boyd: “A sixteen year old girl is left in charge of 3 Plantations in rural South Carolina in 1739. Her father goes off to pursuit of military ambitions and bleeds the the estates to finance his adventures, even selling off property without her knowledge. Her family and mother, who wants to return to England, undermines and tries to sabotage her plans. Hearing the French will pay well for indigo dye she strikes a deal with a slave who knows exactly how to produce the intricate thousand -year-old process - against the laws of the day - she will teach the slaves to read. Based on historical documents, including Eliza Lucas's letters, it's the story of a teenager producing the largest export out of S Carolina, the foundation of the wealth of several Southern families who still live on today, and the foundation of wealth of the colonies to become economically sustainable

to eventually declare independence. Influencing the course of American History, George Washington served as a pallbearer at her funeral.”

A reader from Foxboro read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “I fell in love with this book and never wanted it to end. It made me laugh and cry, and filled me with joy, all at once. The children will forever hold a special place in my heart (especially Lucy and Talia.) I can't wait for the sequel in September!”

A reader from Framingham read *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas: “Color... rose!”

A reader from Northampton read *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “This was the first book I've read in a long time that's made me truly appreciate good, emotionally resonant, and informational writing. I can't believe how glad I am to be taking part in this challenge and expanding my horizons past re-reading books or continuing series that I already know I enjoy. I probably wouldn't have come across this book without the prompt, and now it's one of my favorites.”

A reader from Foxboro read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “To be honest, this book frustrated me, and I struggled to finish it. A big reason is that June and her tone came across as annoying.”

A reader from Dennisport read *Arrangements in Blue* by Amy Key: “Author uses Joni Mitchell's album "Blue" as the backdrop. She was inspired to find romantic love inspired by this album. She spent many years imagining what her romantic life would be. She discovered that chasing this was preventing her from living her own life. She came to embrace that she is having a good life without a romantic relationship.”

A reader from Worcester read *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Eric Carle: “This one has been a favorite around here this month!”

A reader from Spencer read *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls: “A touching story, with underlying inspiring moral values. A story of anticipation, love, and loss.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: “After Athena's sudden death, June steals the draft of Athena's new novel and publishes it as her own. What follows is a very readable story that deals with the publishing industry, cultural representation, and social media.”

A reader from Mashpee read *Nineteen Claws and a Black Bird* by Agustina Bazterrica: “I should start this with some background information. Agustina Bazterrica is a short story/novelist from South America. This book was translated from Spanish, so there may be a loss of meaning due to the translation. I found this book on a recommended list of South American authors and decided to try it. Nineteen Claws and a Black Bird is a collection of 20 dark, violent, and, at times, disturbing short stories. I enjoyed the length of the stories, and overall, it was a quick read, but I found myself thinking a lot about what I had just read because of the nature of the material and the message in the stories. I enjoyed some of the stories and found some dark humor in the plots, but I am still trying to understand some of the details of the other stories. I recommend this book to anyone who likes this writing and material style.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The house in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “The house in the Cerulean Sea.”

A reader from Chelsea read *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells: “It was a fun read, I suspect the whole series will be. As an autistic person, I tend to have conflicting feelings about a character that seems to fit a lot of the autistic traits. Well conflicted when it's done well, like it is here. Murderbot is awkward, relatable and lovable to me, but it's frustrating that these characters are so popular in fiction but hated in real life. And of course they are only popular when they can easily fall into a white cis male body (this is

not the authors intent I believe, but it's still easy for people to default to that idea). The Brown sisters from Talia Hibbert aren't given nearly as much grace by readers for feeling just as baffled by human emotions. Ultimately I'm still happy so many people like murderbot and ecstatic for people that relate to Murderbot so much. Kevin R Free's narration is also a big part of my enjoyment. On a side note. The bit about data mining had me cry-laughing and cringing, since I listened to this in my Apple phone on audible."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Golden Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand: "I chose this book from the table set up at the library with some selections for the challenge with colors in the titles. The other books looked like mysteries and I wasn't really interested in a mystery. I start reading Golden Girl and guess what, it's a mystery. But it was a good read with moments where I couldn't put it down. It had enough fun facts about Nantucket to keep my interest. I realized I shouldn't be so quick to dismiss mysteries!"

A reader from Stoughton read *Green* by Aalex Gino: "It was ok. A little boring but I liked Green themselves."

A reader from South Hadley read *White Cat, Black Dog* by Kelly Link: "Dreamlike and delicious."

A reader from Reading read *Silve Borne* by Briggs, Patricia: "Satisfying entry in the Mercy Thomspson series."

A reader from Danvers read *Red, White, and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: "I chose this book because it was a romance book, and it's February (duh). It was very cute, and much more sexual than I anticipated. Overall nice pleasant read with more substance than I realized before reading. This was a good relaxing book for the month of February."

A reader from Milton read *red white and royal blue* by kacey mquiston: "I very much enjoyed this book. I had watched the movie and enjoyed and decided to read the book. I thought it was very interesting."

A reader from Newton read *A Study in Scarlet Women* by Sherry Thomas: "This book was a wonderfully refreshing take on Sherlock Holmes with a female detective ready to flex her skills in solving crime. I love a good historical mystery novel, and Sherry Thomas does not disappoint in providing intriguing mysteries and complex characters."

A reader from Northampton read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: "I love an inter generational story and this did not disappoint! At times I wished there were fewer side stories and to focus on some of the more primary characters but I thought it was beautifully woven together!"

A reader from Webster read *Arthur Turns Green* by Marc Brown: "Loved Arthur growing up! Ended up busy this month and didn't read my original pick."

A reader from North Reading read *The Devil in Silver* by Victor LaValle: "This was a great opportunity to read something on my TBR! Victor LaValle is so good at penning a creepy psychological slow burn with just a touch of fantasy, loved this pick!"

A reader from Pepperell read *Black Butterfly* by Robert M. Drake: "I thoroughly enjoyed Black Butterfly, a poetry book filled with a collection of memories. Robert M. Drake spoke truthfully and authentically about life's challenges. I loved both the simplicity and complexity throughout. There were powerful messages about life, love, death, and the beauty of chaos, among other topics. I highly recommend this book!"

A reader from Georgetown read *Anne Tyler* by A Spool of Blue Thread: “It was an interesting book written about the different generations of people that built and lived in a house. How the different generations lived in the house and their thoughts of the house. It was written in a unique order which made it interesting. It was not a book I would have selected to read, so it was nice to have the challenge to find a book with a color in the title.”

A reader from Wrentham read *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch: “A really sad commentary on the child services system.”

A reader from Webster read *Bone White* by Ronald Malfi: “I didn't know this would be a murder mystery when I chose it for its title. My tastes don't run to psychological terror as a rule, but I kept reading it and actually enjoyed it. Edge of your seat thrilling in some parts. Hard to put down in others. I will read more of Malfi's writing.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Violet in Bloom* by Julia Quinn: “Great novella of a beloved character from the Bridgerton family.”

A reader from Springfield read *Monotone Blue* by Nagabe: “I like Nagabe's other work, and this did not disappoint! Was very touching.”

A reader from Haverhill read *Look At This Blue* by Allison Adele Hegde Coke: “I am so happy that I ended up reading this book. I never would have found it if I hadn't been trying to fulfill the monthly challenge of a book with a color in the title. And it took me a little bit of time to really get into it because it being one long poem it was not what I usually read. But I liked the title because I already kind of figured it would be sort of a sad book because of it. But I had no idea how much it would truly resonate with me on so many levels. The author wrote of traumas I have been through, violence, struggle and loss on a personal level. And then she points to all the losses we have created as humans by decimating landscapes, to the point of plant and animal extinction. And that is something close to my own heart as well. She writes of the genocide of indigenous peoples of which my husband is one. And I really liked how she incorporated actual quotes backing up her statements from government officials and general accounts from people who experienced the actual events she cited. She writes of homelessness, something I am myself at this very moment. And it was a very sad and heart heavy read. But the language was so beautiful that sometimes I cried just over the way the words ran through my head. And even though her concentration was California, and I am here in Massachusetts, it still felt so familiar. You can tell by reading this book that the author suffered a lot in her life. But then when I read her bio I was truly amazed by how much she accomplished in her life, how many people she must have changed with her words is simply stunning. To think how motivated and deep of a mind must have created this work leaves me feeling heavy with the obligation to join her in educating the world in regards to all the harm we do to each other. But to do it in a beautiful way, a way that adds light and spark to the dreary corners most people want to avoid. I loved this book. I want to go get my own copy one day because I wanted to underline and circle and note take all throughout, but alas it was a library book and so I'll just have to keep her words in my head for now. Thank you for helping me to find this work.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Collected Regrets of Clover* by Mikki Bramer: “10/10. The Collected Regrets of Clover was a delightful read!”

A reader from Northampton read *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly: “World war 2 historical fiction. Much true to life..tragedy and triumph of 3 amazing women. Also highlights a little known Nazi war crime of Ravensbrück concentration camp.”

A reader from Berkley read *Goldenrod* by Maggie Smith: “Smith's contemporary poetry intertwines traditional themes with modern everyday life, technology, and politics. I particularly enjoyed more of the traditional poetry focused on nature and the beauty of everyday life as opposed to the technology and politics.”

A reader from Milton read *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters: “A book with a color in the title.. "Berry". This book had been recommended by a friend who is an avid reader of all genres and he said it was one of the best novels he's read. It easily flows between past and present, gives fantastic descriptions of the people and places. Definitely recommend.”

A reader from Fairhaven read *Blue Monday* by Nicci French: “Great psychological thriller with a few twists.”

A reader from Boston read *Blackouts* by Justin Torres: “Fascinating, challenging, moving - but I don't suggest reading the ebook! The reproductions of the pages with blackouts (which are, as the title suggests, pretty critical) are too hard to read/appreciate.”

A reader from Harwich read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by Simon Armitage: “The book was very interesting. I never read a story that was poetry. I found it hard to put down.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *the red tent* by anita diamant: “A feminist classic rich in storytelling.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The rose code* by Kate Quinn: “Was such a beautifully written book about 3 women during world War 2 doing legendary code breaking. It's a story about friendship and hope in the long run.”

A reader from South Hadley read *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Ra* by Reni Eddo-Lodge: “Very interesting and engaging narrative on the author's description of fatigue in engaging White people on dialogues on race. Author details the emotional disconnect between Whites and people of color and the effect of structural racism that creates chasms between the two groups.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “This was a very sad and interesting story. I'm glad to have read it, although I think I may need to read it again to understand a little better what happened.”

A reader from Byfield read *Bread and Roses, Too* by Katherine Paterson: “Such a wonderful book about the Bread and Roses strike of 1912 in Lawrence, MA. Read this with my fifth-grade students!”

A reader from Beverly read *The Scarlet Thread* by Francine Rivers: “This book tells the story of two women whose lives are changed by their learning to love God and submit to his will. One travels with her husband on the Oregon trail, the other moves with her husband from Sonoma to Los Angeles, with her ancestress's (the first woman) diary in hand. I really enjoyed this story.”

A reader from Melrose read *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess: “A fascinating tale of a young man who desperately grows weary of his pitiful, thug-filled life. A truly well-written book which should be read in high schools everywhere.”

A reader from Salem read *Girl In Hyacinth Blue* by Susan Vreeland: “This was a really interesting novel told in short-story-esque formatted chapters from the perspectives of several different families who owned the same painting at different points in time, and how it connected and shaped their lives. It delves deeply into Jewish history, the themes of morality and personal accountability, and how art lends meaning and insight to the varied human experience.”

A reader from Shelburne Falls read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: "I found the switching between different characters confusing."

A reader from Derry read *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik: "For color in title."

A reader from Melrose read *Green Island* by Shawna Yang Ryan: "My local library featured this book for the Feb. challenge. I was astounded by how little I knew about the recent history of Taiwan. I'd definitely recommend the book!"

A reader from Groton read *Dear Emile Blue* by Lia Louis: "This was a different genre than the typical thrillers that I read. The main character was reminiscent of Bridget Jones but had a less supportive upbringing. It was a nice easy read."

A reader from Seekonk read *The Purple Swamp Hen and Other Stories* by Penelope Lively: "A great read. Penelope Lively is a new-to-me author, and I look forward to reading more works by her."

A reader from Worcester read *wolf in white van* by John Darnielle: "Diving back into a genre I love. This is the first John Darnielle book I really liked."

A reader from Hamilton read *White Apples* by Jonathan Carroll: "Exploring more from this author, this book did not invoke the same sense of wonder as the Cranveiw trilogy but as always I am glad to have rediscovered Carroll's writing. Let's see, how can I tell you about this book... Well, there is death, or perhaps forgotten death remembered, and then a return from death. Fatherhood, that may save the world, and of course dogs. I love the appearance of dogs in every book Carroll writes. I look forward to the sequel."

A reader from Boston read *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan: "I have no idea why or when I added *Washington Black* to my "to read" list, but it was the only book that had a color in the title. It was a great choice. And found out after I finished the book that the main character Washington was based on Andrew Bogle, who also happens to be the main character in Zadie Smith's *The Fraud* - which I had just finished."

A reader from Bolton read *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga: "Different (and a bit weird) but unique style and story."

A reader from Springfield read *Black Sun* by Rebecca Roanhorse: "Really enjoyed the multiple character perspective. This is the first book I've read with neopronouns it comes across as kind of awkward but I was interested in seeing how it worked in a literary context."

A reader read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: "I appreciate that this challenge is pushing me to read books I might not have otherwise. Despite the acclaim of this book, it was not a favorite of mine. However, there were some beautiful sentences and one that I want to remember is: 'Physical beauty [was] probably the most destructive idea in the history of human thought...[it] originated in envy.'"

A reader from Norwell read *The Blue Fox* by Sjon: "I chose this book because I've never read anything by an Icelandic author before and I wanted to broaden my literary tastes. I didn't feel a significant connection to the characters, probably due to the small amount of time I spent with the book because it's such a short story, however, I was intrigued by the man vs. wild theme and how the wild eventually wins in the end. I felt a deep connection to the blue fox and felt quite sad when she met her demise. Sjon was able to place the reader into the Icelandic landscape and to do this with so few words is sheer poetry. I will definitely be keeping this in my library to revisit in the future!"

A reader from Acton read *Anna Sewell* by Black Beauty: “This book is perhaps below my reading level, but its never too late to read a classic right? Black Beauty is a touching tale about a horse in the 1800s and his experiences being owned by good and bad owners from both higher and lower classes. Sewell thoughtfully describes the treatment of horses and other animals during this time, causing you to empathize with them through the first person account of Black Beauty. Her emotional and engaging storytelling is not only lovely to read, but also educates the reader. She describes why practices such as docking a horses tail or cropping a dog's ears are inhumane and dangerous. She outlines why the fashion of putting a horse in bearing reigns to keep their heads up is actually terrible for the horse. She provides thrilling scenarios which give lessons about negligent ownership or ignorance, showing the reader to always be responsible and diligent for the animals in their lives. Digging deeper, I found out that Black Beauty changed views and started the conversation around humane treatment of animals in late 1800s England. I highly recommend that animal lovers of all ages read this classic and learn its history!”

A reader from Danvers read *The Truth is a Cave in the Black Mountians* by Neill Gaiman: “Just read my first Neil Gaiman book last year, then my book’s February selection was another of his book, so seems fitting to continue with selecting his works if I can. The short one he had collaborated with an artists for some interesting illustrations for accompany the dark story. Love his work!”

A reader from Boston read *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston: “It was a very sweet book. Maybe a bit more raunchy than I had expected, but sweet nonetheless.”

A reader from North Dighton read *Red Sparrow* by Jason Matthews: “This certainly is not a new book but I had never read it before. It was certainly a story that had some unexpected twists. At times I found the book dragging on. 3 stars.”

A reader from New Bedford read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I loved this book! The characters felt so real so and vibrant. Walker’s writing is so captivating and easy to read. I didn't want it to end!”

A reader from hudson read *red mist* by patricia cornwell: “Another terrific Scarpetta novel by Cornwell. Kate Redding's audio is always excellent.”

A reader from Natick read *Beyond the Black Door* by A.M. Strickland: “A high fantasy novel with a main character coming to terms with her asexuality. The fantasy elements were interesting, but my favorite part was the asexual representation. It's rare to find ace rep in the media and this book handled it really well.”

A reader from Charlton read *the witch of black bird pond* by elizabeth george spear: “With the experience of being on a school committee and having had the experience of being yelled at by those that feel dei initiatives are wrong, I was able to see how the people can jump to the assumptions they did on the main character.”

A reader from Derry read *BLACK FIRE* by Robert Graysmith: “An excellent work that reads like historical fiction yet is compelling historic reality. Covers a period of time in which an arsonist six times burned significant portions of San Francisco down and the heroic efforts of the fledgling and often feuding San Francisco volunteer fire department. What makes the hook to the story is the central character of Tom Sawyer, famous name of fictional character, and quite possibly the person Mark Twain aka Samuel Clemens modeled the boy after. Clemens knew Sawyer as a reporter in San Francisco. Using news papers of the time, public records, letters and diaries the story is woven. Fascinating. Breath taking and thrilling account of greed, gile and the workings of a madman's mind. A fabulous read.”

A reader from Boston read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: “This book has a little bit of everything: cool science fiction elements, humor, lots to analyze and take away, high stakes, a dash of romance, and

captivating writing. I loved the premise and I liked how well-developed all (or most of) the characters were. Even though the characters were well developed, some of the female characters felt like they were only in the story to be tools for Darrow's development, and they weren't really their own person. For example, Eo was only there to die to give Darrow the motivation he needs for the rest of the book/series. Mustang was only there to be the love interest. And Antonia was only there to mildly be a thorn in Darrow's side. For Mustang, I wanted to see more of her intelligence because she's placed in House Minerva, but the only example of her intelligence we see is her scheme to become her house's Primus by having someone steal the standard and stealing it back. It bothers me that we don't get to see more of her intelligence because Darrow comes up with lots of elaborate plans, but Mustang doesn't really seem to be a part of coming up with them, and I would have really liked to see her also scheming. For Antonia, I felt like she was barely relevant, and I really wanted her to have a more impactful role. Does she have any other motives (other than winning), how does she scheme, literally any info about her would be nice. There were characters that I did like. Darrow is cunning, which I personally love seeing in characters. I also love Sevro who's a silly goose. And I'm convinced Darrow and Cassius were in love. Overall, I really enjoyed this book, but I would have liked the female characters to be a bit better developed."

A reader from Springfield read *Priory of the Orange Tree* by Samantha Shannon: "This book is honestly amazing in every way. I was left speechless and I'm going to read the prequel as soon as possible."

A reader from Danvers read *The Truth is a Cave in the Black Mountains* by Neill Gaiman: "Just read my first Neil Gaiman book last year, then my book's February selection was another of his book, so seems fitting to continue with selecting his works if I can. The short one he had collaborated with an artists for some interesting illustrations for accompany the dark story. Love his work!"

A reader from Sandwich read *Redwall* by Brian Jacques: "Though a little hard to get used to the dramatic and highly stylized narrator, the personalities of the different small creatures were well realized and very fun to read, and they were what I was most interested in. Also, as I had been told, the food writing was delightful. I was surprised by how vivid some of the violence was, and I'm not sure I'll go on to read the others, but I'm glad to have read it."

A reader from Georgetown read *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey: "Entertaining ramblings."

A reader from Greenfield read *Black Swan Green* by David Mitchell: "An interesting book, though I'm sure I'm not the target demographic for it in a lot of ways. The colloquial language used by the narrator was hard to get into at first, but I could see the charm of the story for its intended audience."

A reader from Bethpage read *a clockwork orange* by anthony burgess: "unique writing style that captivates you into the world of the fascinatingly detailed characters. an insight into morality. i am glad to read at my current age."

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta: "This book was poetry written as a novel. Beautiful prose."

A reader from Rochester read *A Double Death on the Black Isle* by A. D. Scott: "1957, a small newspaper office in the remote Scottish Highlands, and a mix of interesting characters. A good read through the plot twists to discover the truth of the two deaths."

A reader from Gloucester read *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: "This book was not my usual read, but reading out of my comfort zone is always a huge welcome. I cared for the characters and I wanted them to overcome their challenges."

A reader from Northampton read *Blackeyes* by Dennis Potter: “Such a great TV writer (Singing Detective), I had high hopes for this novel. Shifting perspectives, timelines, pretentious prose, it was heavy slogging though I bet it would make a great story filmed....”

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson: “I never would have found this book without the February challenge. I am so grateful I did. My mind has been opened up wide to the Chicago World Fair and all that was going on during that time. What a beautiful glimpse back into such a different era. Learning about the world fair, and the murderer lurking in broad daylight. And then how they tracked him down. I would highly recommend this book!”

A reader from Beverly read *Black Buck* by Mateo Askaripour: “Fast paced and exciting look into the world of sales through the lens of a Black man’s experience. The plot veered toward the absurd in the second half but the sales organization was very accurately portrayed.”

A reader from Salem read *Black House* by Stephen King and Peter Straub: “As sequels go, it does a good job of standing on its own. In other words, I'm not sure that you need to have read the first book in order to appreciate it. I *did* read the first book (The Talisman) when I was in seventh grade, over two decades ago, and I certainly don't remember all the plot points. Because memory, and lack of memory, are major themes in the novel, knowing or remembering what happened in The Talisman doesn't feel very important. Having said that, I am glad that I'd already read The Talisman and King's Dark Tower series. Being familiar with all of those books enriches this one. The ending felt a bit rushed, particularly when we finally enter the titular Black House, but it didn't bother me as much as the conclusion of the Dark Tower. I was ready to be that disappointed, but then I wasn't.”

A reader from Waltham read *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown: “Recommended by my brother. Loving the dystopian sci fi adventure. unique world building and class systems. the action and societal analysis is fascinating.”

A reader from Ludlow read *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by Fannie Flagg: “Enjoyed this book, though took me awhile to get into it. Narrative is back and forth between characters, times, places. At first I found frustrating but then just read without having to locate, and came to enjoy the narrative.”

A reader from SCITUATE read *Scarlet Letter* by Hawthorne: “Great to revisit a book from the past. As expected, Hawthorne touches on issues that are still part of our society. I recently read *Dayswork* by Bachelder (highly recommended) which presents historical information about Melville, Hawthorne, and other writers. Then I read Alice Hoffman's book, *The Invisible Hour*, a fiction work that brings Hawthorne to life. After that, of course, I revisited Hawthorne's grave in Concord. I rounded out my Hawthorne immersion with *The Scarlet Letter*. Seeing that the Feb. directive was to read a book with a color in the title, it was meant to be!”

A reader from Blandford read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “I can't think of anything to say about this book that would not seem hollow or worthy enough to give this book the accolades and importance it deserves. I am glad I read it.”

A reader from Melrose read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “Still one of Morrison's best books!”

A reader from Salem read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: “Despite being an English teacher, and a resident of Salem, I had never read *The Scarlet Letter*. After reading it, I can say I was not missing out on much. The overall themes of shame, community, punishment etc. are still relevant today, but

reading 19th century lit can just be so dreadful. Like, just get to the point, Nate! I'd give this book like a 3/10. 'Easy A' was better!"

A reader from Duxbury read *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman: "I loved this! So well written, compelling, and creepy! I love short stories generally, and this was such a perfect example of why I love them. I'm not sure I could have handled this if it was a full length novel, and I really think short stories force authors to play with language and storytelling in a really interesting way. I'm surprised I had never heard of this before, but I'm so happy I read it!"

A reader from Attleboro read *Anna of Green gables* by L M Montgomery: "I felt this book was a fun carefree book to read. It made me laugh and cry. Very enjoyable."

A reader from Canton read *Yellowface* by RF Kuang: "I saw a review for this book that declared it "hilariously awful and awfully hilarious." It is the perfect description of this book. Juniper Song Hayward is such an unlikeable, unreliable narrator. What a trip following along with her rationalizations, machinations and scheming. This was also great look into the behind the pages of the publishing industry. Fantastic book."

A reader from Boston read *The Red Labyrinth* by Meredith Tate: "This book was recommended by a friend of the author. It was a quick and entertaining read. It was a little too reminiscent of other IPs, and didn't leave enough subtext for the reader to discover. It hit its stride in the third act and had a satisfying ending. Good for YA audiences."

A reader from Woburn read *half of a yellow sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi: "Story of the struggles for independence by Biafra against Nigeria. Too much politics for me. Interesting characters, but unable to keep their stories straight. Names too similar."

A reader from Amesbury read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: "This book was a little hard to get into for me. The many different characters and storylines gave it depth but also made it difficult to follow."

A reader from Worcester read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: "3rd time reading it. Enjoyed it anew."

A reader from Cambridge read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: "The genre shifts in this book was jarring."

A reader from Salem read *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingslover: "I'm counting this because of copper! Loved this book from start to finish. I felt like I was seeing into a world I've never experienced but that has surrounded me in some ways for decades."

A reader from Webster read *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery: "I'm so glad that I chose this for February's challenge because I have not read this one in quite some time. What enchanted me the most was the visuals of nature and Anne's surroundings at Green Gables. Her childlike-wonder even through early adulthood makes her an irresistibly lovable character. I grew up in a New England town that bordered state woods and former farmland and walking through Anne's world in Prince Edward Island reminded me of the magic of my own childhood in the great outdoors. It has made me so excited for the upcoming spring and summer months ahead!"

A reader from Hampden read *Anne of Green Gables: A Graphic Novel* by Mariah Marsden: "An new take on a classic - Fantastic!"

A reader from Hopkinton read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: "I disliked the egocentric, narcissistic main character of this book so much that I almost stopped reading it, but am glad I persevered. Cultural

appropriation, authenticity, literary ownership, cut throat world of publishing and the horrors of social media are all topics worth exploring.”

A reader from Sharon read *Black Water Sister* by Zen Cho: “A book about forcefully moving to a new city and hearing voices which guides the protagonist to relate to her family and discover hidden secrets.”

A reader from Watertown read *Black Brother, Black Brother* by Jewell Parker Rhodes: “YA book. Loved it! Spotlighted how differently black and whites are treated and the resilience of the human spirit.”

A reader from Shutesbury read *Black Beauty; An Autobiography of a horse* by Anna Sewell: “I had never read this as a child and thought it was very ahead of its time, written by a woman and shining a light on social issues such as the mistreatment of animals and the harm to families with an alcoholic father as head of household.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “This is the first work that I read by this author and it’s got me hooked. This piece reads like a memoir and I had to keep remembering to deter my feelings from the author to the main character. This book is such important work, and I would recommend to everyone especially bipoc folks. Loved this so much that I’ll be reading ‘Babel’ next !!”

A reader from Blandford read *The White Lady* by Jacqueline Winspear: “I enjoyed this book. I was interested to learn about WWI in Belgium. I have not read any books that focus on that part of the world during the war. I enjoyed that the quiet heroes were all women, and some just young girls.”

A reader from Milton read *Vision In White* by Nora Roberts: “I chose this book because my daughter’s wedding was coming up in March and I was in a light, wedding centric, book mood! Ms. Roberts is always entertaining and very readable. That said I don’t think I’ll continue on to read the other books that are part of her brides trilogy.”

A reader from Arlington read *Goldenrod* by Maggie Smith: “Great quick poems in a modern style!”

A reader from Amherst read *the color purple* by alice walker: “Amazing story.”

A reader from Florence read *Agnes Gret* by Anne Bronte.

A reader from Turners Falls read *Blue Shoe* by Anne Lamott: “Interesting read exploring various family dynamics.”

A reader from Wakefield read *the color purple* by alice walker: “The book sounds interesting, so I just had to read it.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “Toni Morrison is an amazing writer! It’s difficult to say I liked this book, so deeply heartbreaking and true. I was introduced to the horrors of child neglect and abuse as a babysitter for someone who had foster children. The number of classmates I had that lived in abusive family situations in the small NE town I grew up in still astounds me to this day. My parents are always the first thing I think of when I’m making a list of the things I’m grateful for.”

A reader from Melrose read *The Days of Bluegrass Love* by Edward van de Vendel: “This was OK but not my favorite read of the year so far.”

A reader from Beverly read *Ruby Lost and Found* by Christina Li: “A really good YA book that covers challenging topics like grief and dealing with a loved one with dementia.”

A reader from southborough read *Blue Hour* by Tiffany Clarke Harrison: “Emotional, sad, stark.”

A reader from Atkinson read *The Black Kids* by Christina Hammonds Reed: “I really enjoyed the audiobook version.”

A reader from Beverly read *Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse: “Quick read. Very well done for the topic.”

A reader from Arlington read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: “Really liked it. Not sure I would have chosen it without the challenge. Powerful story about the secrets we keep and why, especially when the currents and culture force the holding of those secrets.”

A reader from Duxbury read *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells: “Been on my TBR pile for years and I'm really glad I finally read it, it was great! I'll be reading the rest in the series at some point.”

A reader from Palmer read *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson: “I'm a little disappointed in this book! I love true crime and was recommended this book a while ago, so I thought it would be the perfect submission for this month. Sadly it felt like two books were mashed poorly into one :(I was hoping it would focus more on the true crime aspects but it was more of a mash up between the World's Fair development story and H. H. Holmes's life and crime. I wish the author had channeled his thorough research into two separate books!”

A reader read *Yellow Bird* by Sierra Crane Murdoch: “Oh.”

A reader from Weymouth read *A Scandal in Scarlet* by Vicki Delaney: “Cozy mystery.”

A reader from Moorestown read *The White Coat Investor's Financial Boot Camp: A 12-Step High-Yield Guide to Bring Your Finances Up to Speed* by James M. Dahle, MD: “I got a bit loose with the prompt using the White in White Coat. On a self-improvement kick, I had been procrastinating on facing finances for the longest time. Using the Mass Reading Challenge to erm move my mass on that was the perfect resolution. A lot of it went over my head on this first pass - turns out I need a personal finance starter book that's even more “for dummies” however it has a lot of excellent points to start with and even more to revisit and do on future passes through the book. Glad and proud I took the jump to just get through it and am motivated to keep going on this journey.”

A reader from Braintree read *Black Cat, White Dog* by Kelly Link: “The dark, unsettling short stories in this collection are loosely based on fairy tales. Looking for a feel-good book? Steer clear! If you want to read stories that sparkle and cut like diamonds (or shards of ice), lingering in your mind long afterwards, this book is for you!”

A reader from Agawam read *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd: “A great piece of history and the determination of women, especially at a time when it was so difficult to be a woman with ambition.”

A reader from Cambridge read *Priory of the Orange Tree* by Samantha Shannon: “I didn't pick the longest possible book for the shortest month on purpose, but it was still very good! A perfect blend of action/adventure, romance, and worldbuilding. It does feel its 25+ hour audiobook length, but I enjoyed being in the world of Priory for every minute of it.”

A reader from Easthampton read *The Color of Magic* by Terry Pratchett: “A fun and adventurous beginning to a beloved series of satirical fantasy.”

A reader from Tyngsboro read *keeper of lost cities - Exile* by Shannon Messenger: “Enjoyed reading Keeper of the lost cities series it's a great fiction book. It has a fun plot with cool powers, full of mystery. Plots were well constructed. Overall great series.”

A reader from Tyngsboro read *Ben Yokoyama and the cookie of endless waiting* by Matthew Swanson: “Great Funny, graphic novel/chapter book. The illustrations in the book are great and really add to the story, and in some places help tell the story. I loved this book. It is so funny and creative. I can’t wait to read entire series.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Yellow Bird* by Sierra Crane Murdoch: “I don’t think I would have found this book without this month’s theme, but it was fascinating!”

A reader from Groton read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “I’ve never related more to a mythical creature than I do to a wyvern.”

A reader from Plymouth read *Yellowface* by R.F.Kuang: “Plagiarism is a killer!”

A reader from Dracut read *How Long 'til Black Future Month?* by N.K. Jemisin: “Checked out a couple short stories.”

A reader from ROSLINDALE read *White cat, black dog: stories* by Kelly Link: “Quite the mixed bag of stories! I especially love the first two, but all the writing is strong. Do grownups need their own fairy tales? Oh yes, we do.”

A reader from WEST BOYLSTON read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: “R.F. Kuang explores who gets to tell which stories from a variety of viewpoints.”

A reader from Dracut read *Yellow Jessamine* by Caitlin Starling: “This wasn’t a favorite read of mine, but I still did enjoy it well enough. If you like dark and gothic stories, then this one is worth checking out!”

A reader from Braintree read *White Fang* by Jack London: “The book is definitely a classic. I really enjoyed the storyline.”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Blackouts* by Justin Torres: “Hard, hard, hard in many ways.”

A reader from Harwich port read *the Color Purple* by Alice Walker: “Loved it. Somehow I never read this book. I was between youth and adulthood when it was published. I wanted to spend time with Celia and Shug. Spend time with Sophie at the bar. That’s the depth and clarity of the characters. You feel like you know them. A true story about people. The tragedy, hopes and triumphs are heard from their lips and experiences. I’m so glad I read it.”

A reader from Charlton read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: “I love this book. The way the author describes the scene and events feels like I am there. A wonderful love story.”

A reader from Gill read *The Black Square* by Tadeusz Dabrowski: “Very good - Haunting and funny by turns...An obscure book, something I wouldn’t have heard of and that I had to special order. Thank you for putting it on your list. Good for the author as well as me.”

A reader from New York read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “‘Misery colored by the greens and blues in my mother’s voice took all of the grief out of the words and left me with a conviction that pain was not only endurable, it was sweet.’ ‘Sunk in the grass of an empty lot on a spring Saturday, I split the stems of milkweed and thought about ants and peach pits and death and where the world went when I closed my eyes.’ This book was so beautifully written and so difficult to read. She talks in the afterword about the effort she put in to take the reader into the psyche of each character - not just the “good” ones - and it shows. The protagonists and antagonists all got full storylines and histories - leaving you to think about the truth of generational trauma and how everything we experience shapes everything we do. We are all

imperfect and trying to raise children, who are perfect because they haven't done anything yet. Maybe it's the children who should be raising us. Such a long review but this book made me think so much about race, and trauma, and what we learn from our parents. Highly recommend.”

A reader from Amesbury read *Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard: “I wanted to like this book. It had an interesting plot, but the main character spent way too much time in her own head. I would have liked to see some more character interaction and character development.”

A reader from Northampton read *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell: “I suppose that a silver lining to our car centric society is that less horses are mistreated on the reg. Be nice to animals!”

A reader from Haverhill read *Black Bubbles* by Kelli Owen: “A collection of short stories focused in the horror genre that makes you re-think the normal and lets the ‘darker side of consciousness’ come out and play.”

A reader from Reading read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: “One of the best books I’ve read in a while! You feel so connected to all the characters. With the sadness, so much happiness too. I like that all loose ends are addressed. Learned so much of a life so different than mine.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *All Systems Red (2017)* by Martha Wells: “The first of the Murderbot Diaries, is a great history that presents how a machine that has developed conscience and gain independence, struggles to decided what to do with it.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Artificial Condition (2018)* by Martha Wells: “Second book of the Murderbot Diaries, it comes to show how the robot is looking for an explanation to a previous episode of its existence.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Rogue Protocol (2018)* by Martha Wells: “In this third book of the series, the robot shows an increase capacity to act independently and in an autonomous way. The personality is hysterical and cynical.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Exit Strategy (2018)* by Martha Wells: “This is the 4th entry. The robot has reunited with the crew that originally set it free (legally) and establishes a new relationship with them. The difference between being forced to serve and decide to do so is staggering.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Network Effect (2020)* by Martha Wells: “The fifth and final of the main stories, it's fascinating to see how the robot deals with the fact that there's a threat in the place that it has decided call ‘home.’”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Fugitive Telemetry (2021)* by Martha Wells: “This is a longer book, a novel style, when old characters reappear and we get to see a more intricate development of the technology, politics and the effect of (failed) intergalactic colonialism.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Rabbits for food* by Binnie Kirshenbaum: “We read this book at one of the book clubs of the Shrewsbury library, and the discussion was passionate and fascinating for a book that, while depressing, it was funny in its narrative. By the time you realize that the first half of the 300+ pages are happening in just one afternoon, before New Years Eve, you are invested in Bunny and her life. It's a book that dives straight into the life of someone with severe depression, how she has been coping with that sensation all her life, and how that has impacted in her relationships and more. I can said that the boom helped me a lot to better understand the experiences of people closer to me that has (still) deals with severe mental issues.”

A reader from New York read *Delilah Green Doesn't Care* by Ashley Herring Blake: "What a fun read! I'm not usually a rom-com girl, but I think now I am! I went on to read the second in the series and am now excited for the third."

A reader from Pawtucket read *Green Mansions* by William Henry Hudson: "Green Mansions popped into mind for the Feb. book with a color in the title. I read it long ago but didn't remember it well. As a product of another time and place, when white Christian men felt superior to everyone else (more so than today, I hope), the novel gave me no pleasure. The narrator Abel's constant attitude of contempt or amusement toward the Guyana natives he lived among never changes toward friendship or a common sense of humanity. All his dealings with others are self-serving, except for the mysterious, beautiful woman he meets in the forest, and she escapes this judgment only because she is more like an angel or someone with magical powers, with a melodious bird-like language from her long-lost people. She moves freely and silently through the forest, and wild animals will not harm her. But she doesn't redeem this Abel at all, who is not a victim of fratricide, as his namesake was by Cain, but a murderer himself, planning and helping to carry out a horrible revenge on the native villagers who kill Rima, thinking her to be an evil spirit. Even the descriptions of the trees, vivid flowers, butterflies and birds (how many have gone extinct since then?) carry that same sense of superiority Abel feels in himself as an educated man with a love for nature and poetry."

A reader from Westford read *Women In White Coats* by Olivia Campbell: "Enjoyed reading about women in the 1800s: inadequate medical care, women who wanted to become medical doctors, and the many obstacles and resistance from the male establishment in allowing women to be doctors."

A reader from Lowell read *the white lady* by jacqueline winspear: "Really compelling story of a female soldier in both world wars."

A reader from Braintree read *The Cherry Robbers* by Sarai Walker: "All but one of the Chapel sisters die after getting married. This is a book with a haunted mother, a surviving lone daughter, a gun manufacturing father, and a feminist undercurrent. Was longer and drawn out than necessary."

A reader from Andover read *Vermilion Drift* by William Kent Krueger: "What is justice? What is healing? What is memory? How do we define ourselves in the presence or absence of all three?"

A reader from Chelmsford read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: "Great book for conversation, but average execution."

A reader from Springfield read *Rose Madder* by Stephen King: "Absolutely loved this read."

A reader from South Pasadena read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: "A heartbreaking work of intense artistry. Alice Walker is a master of reality, and this novel is a stunning work of genius."

A reader from College Park read *The Red Pencil* by Andrea Pinckney: "Touching and at times devastating novel in verse about a 12-year-old Sudanese girl (Amira) whose life is disrupted by war and displacement. Although it is quite sad at times, Amira's story is ultimately hopeful."

A reader from Arlington read *The Red Hotel* by Alan Philips: "Quoting the subtitle: 'Moscow 1941, The Metropol Hotel, and the Untold Story of Stalin's Propaganda War.' A well-researched and well-written account of journalists from US, UK, Australia sent to "cover" the Russian front but essentially confined to the Metropol and fed information (and caviar and vodka) by Soviet. The real focus of the book are a number of Russian women who worked as secretaries and translators to the male journalists. The Metropol provided both security (and food) along with the risk of arrest and imprisonment for 'consorting

with foreigners.' I look forward to follow-up reading of Nadya and Maya (mother and daughter) Ulanovskaya memoir of their family's experience."

A reader from Dorchester read *Black Sheep* by Rachel Harrison: "Absolutely lived up to the hype!!"

A reader from Watertown read *the goldfinch* by donna tartt: "Unnecessarily long. There are so many storylines and characters. There is nothing bad about the book but nothing exceptional either. I think it would be more enjoyable if it was 200 pages less."

A reader from Westminster read *Blue Ridge Billy* by lois lenski: "I really enjoyed Blue Ridge Billy by one of my favorite authors, Lois Lenski. One really learns about that area of the country (the Blue Ridge Mountain area in the Great Smoky Mountains) when it was inhabited "by true mountain folk" during that time period probably in the 1920s or 1930s. They didn't have much money but the people got by nonetheless in that particular region of the country."

A reader from Brewster read *Chain of Gold* by Cassandra Clare: "Set in 1903 (After the previous series TID) 8.5/10 recommend this book (For more mature readers due to minor violence and death in some parts, but is a really good book overall) I recommend reading the previous series as well as the rest of Cassie's books! They're all super good and keep you reading series after series!"

A reader from Greenfield read *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M.Montgomery: "When I told both my mom and wife separately what the theme for February was both told me I had to read this book. Interesting story, not something I would normally choose but glad I did."

A reader from North Brookfield read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: "I had a hard time liking this book. I didn't like any of the characters and had no one to root for. It has important messages about appropriation, but it was hard to pick up and read because I hated everyone in it."