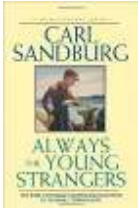


Galesburg Public Library Book Club Kits

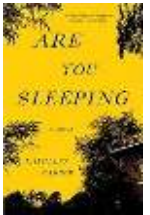
Book club kits contain 5 to 20 copies of a book and a set of discussion questions. One member of a private book club can check out the kit, distribute books to the club members, collect the books after discussion, and return the kit to the library. This is an easy way for a book club to find enough copies of a book for everyone in the club. The kits check out for six weeks.

If you have a book club kit title to suggest, please speak to a Reference librarian.

New kits are added twice a year. New titles are marked below with →*NEW*.



***Always the Young Strangers* by Carl Sandburg.** Sandburg's touching memoir about growing up in Galesburg. Related DVD: *Boyhood on the Prairie* or *A Visit with Carl Sandburg*.

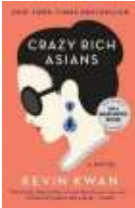


***Are You Sleeping* by Kathleen Barber.** Twisty psychological thriller about a podcast that reopens a murder case—and threatens to unravel the carefully constructed life of the victim's daughter. Author Barber is a Galesburg native. Also an Apple TV+ series called *Truth Be Told*.



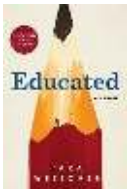
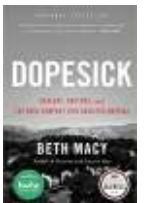
***Becoming* by Michelle Obama.** In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. With honesty and wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private. Related DVD: *Southside With You*.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.** A foster child in Nazi Germany shares her stolen books with her neighbors, her foster parents, and the Jew hidden in their basement. Related DVD: *The Book Thief*.



***Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan.** This over-the-top, modern-day romantic comedy of manners captures a world of unimaginable wealth and consumption. Related DVD: *Crazy Rich Asians*.

***Dopesick* by Beth Macy.** Takes us into the epicenter of a national drama that has unfolded over two decades. The spread of opioid addiction follows a tortuous trajectory that illustrates how this crisis has persisted for so long and become so firmly entrenched. Also a Hulu mini-series.



***Educated* by Tara Westover.** Traces the author's experiences as a child born to survivalists in the Idaho mountains, her family's paranoid stockpiling activities, and her resolve to educate herself well enough to earn acceptance into a prestigious university and the unfamiliar world beyond.

***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer.** Nine-year-old Oskar embarks on a mission to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on 9/11. Related DVD: *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*.





Firefly Lane by Kristin Hannah. Spanning more than three decades and playing out across the ever-changing face of the Pacific Northwest, *Firefly Lane* is the poignant, powerful story of two women and the friendship that becomes the bulkhead of their lives. Also a Netflix series.

Good Omens by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett. A comic novel featuring an angel and a demon who've grown comfortable on earth and try to stop the coming apocalypse. Related DVD: *Good Omens* Amazon mini-series starring David Tennant and Michael Sheen.



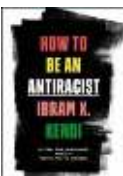
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer. Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. So begins a remarkable tale of Guernsey during the German occupation. Also a Netflix movie.

→*NEW* **The Guncle by Steven Rowley.** A warm and deeply funny novel about a once-famous gay sitcom star whose unexpected family tragedy leaves him with his niece and nephew for the summer. A movie version is in the planning stages.



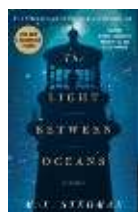
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. Teen Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Related DVD: *The Hate U Give*.

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly. The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space. Related DVD: *Hidden Figures*.



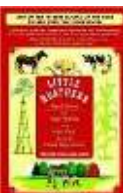
How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi. Combines ethics, history, law, and science with a personal narrative to describe how to move beyond the awareness of racism and contribute to making society just and equitable.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. In a ravaged future North America, teenagers are forced to fight to the death on a televised show. Related DVD: *The Hunger Games* series.



The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman. An Australian lighthouse keeper and his wife find a boat bearing a dead man and a living baby and decide to keep the baby despite the husband's misgivings. Related DVD: *The Light Between Oceans*.

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. A riveting story that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives. Also a Hulu mini-series.

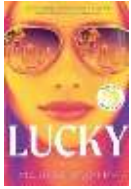


Little Heathens by Mildred Armstrong Kalish. One woman's memories of growing up in Iowa during the Great Depression. Related DVD: *The People in the Pictures: Stories from the Wettach Farm Photos*.

***A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck.** Warm, humorous fiction about two young siblings from Chicago spending summers from 1929-1942 with their unforgettable grandmother in central Illinois. Author Peck grew up in Decatur, Illinois.



***Lucky* by Marissa Stapley.** Lucky Armstrong is a tough grifter who has just pulled off a million-dollar heist with her boyfriend. She's ready to start a brand-new life, with a new identity, when things go sideways. This is a novel about truth, personal redemption, and the complexity of being good. A Reese Witherspoon Book Club Pick, *Lucky* has also been optioned for a TV series.



***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson.** Major Ernest Pettigrew, honor-bound Englishman and widower, falls for Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper in their village.



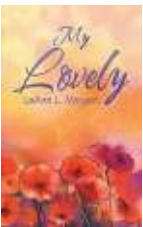
***Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes.** A girl with an ordinary life is hired as the caretaker for a thrill-seeking former executive now paralyzed after an accident. Related DVD: *Me Before You*.



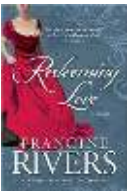
***The Mountain Between Us* by Charles Martin.** Two strangers survive a plane crash and find themselves stranded in remote wilderness in the dead of winter, injured and miles from civilization. Their reliance on each other sparks an immediate connection, which soon evolves into something more. Related DVD: *The Mountain Between Us*.



***My Lovely* by local author LeAnn Morgan.** Poppy Townsend heads south on the Mississippi to find out why her estranged grandfather has summoned her. Poppy meets his boarders, including the handsome and mysterious Jack Stoneking, while searching for answers to the scandalous rumor about her father and to the sudden disappearance of her mother.



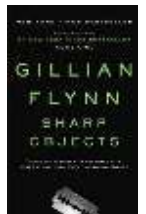
***Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers.** California's gold country, 1850. A time when men sold their souls for a bag of gold and women sold their bodies for a place to sleep. Angel expects nothing from men but betrayal. Sold into prostitution as a child, she survives by keeping her hatred alive. Then she meets Michael, a man who seeks his Father's heart in everything. Related DVD: *Redeeming Love*.



***Rising Strong* by Brené Brown.** Social scientist Brown has ignited a global conversation on courage, vulnerability, shame, and worthiness. Her pioneering work uncovered a profound truth: vulnerability—the willingness to show up and be seen with no guarantee of outcome—is the only path to more love, belonging, creativity, and joy. But living a brave life is not always easy. We are, inevitably, going to stumble and fall. It is the rise from falling that Brown takes as her subject. Related video: Brown's TED Talk at <https://brenebrown.com/videos/ted-talk-the-power-of-vulnerability>.



***Sharp Objects* by Gillian Flynn.** A second-rate reporter for a fourth-rate newspaper returns to her hometown in search of a breakout story about a murderer targeting young girls in gruesome fashion. Related DVD: *Sharp Objects* HBO mini-series.



→*NEW* ***Snake Woman of Little Egypt* by former Knox College professor Robert Hellenga.** In this novel brimming with wit, substance, and emotional depth, a middle-aged anthropology professor contemplating his future becomes romantically involved with a woman released from jail after shooting her husband, the pastor of a snake-handling church.

