

# Book Remarks

November 2013-April 2014 • Sioux City Public Library • Visit [www.siouxcitylibrary.org](http://www.siouxcitylibrary.org) for the latest news

## Teen Titles for Everyone

Why do adults read fiction published for the teen market? Who doesn't like a good coming-of-age story, or romance... adventure... fantasy... tearjerker... all of which are represented in contemporary teen fiction? It's exciting, gets to the point sooner, and is often shorter than an "adult" novel.

"Pop culture, courage in the face of great odds, abuse, cruelty, young love, and many other topics, are simply and honestly dealt with in teen books," says Jeanette Bobeen, Children and Family Services Manager at the Library. "With exciting plots and plenty of action, these titles quickly get to the heart of the matter, and give young protagonists interesting ways to solve their problems and cope with their surroundings.

Recent studies show that over half of the teen fiction purchased is by readers over the age of 18. Adults aren't just purchasing for their children. When asked about the intended recipient, they report that 78% of the time they are purchasing books for their own reading. While cross-over series like Harry Potter, Twilight and Hunger Games may have introduced adults to the teen market, other teen stories about journeys, trials, quests, falls from grace, rebirths, conflict and internal struggle have kept them there.

"The teen market is where the action is," says Bobeen. "If you haven't yet experienced teen fiction, now is the time to check it out."

### Recommended Teen Fiction

**Trapped** by Michael Northrop. Seven students, trapped at high school during a blizzard, cope with no heat, water or electricity. As the days and snow mount up, the realization that no help is coming forces a devastating decision. (Adventure, Survival)

**Beauty Queens** by Libba Bray. They expected to frolic on the beach for a photo shoot, but a crash landing leaves 13 survivors stranded with little food and water, and practically no eyeliner. What will they do when the sexy pirates show up? (Romance, Survival)

**The Fault in Our Stars** by John Green. The appearance of gorgeous Augustus Waters at Cancer Kid Support Group gives Hazel something to think about besides her terminal condition. (Love and loss)

**Code Name Verity** by Elizabeth Wein. October 11, 1943. A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Upon arrest, "Verity" faces a grisly execution. Will trading secrets be enough to save her life? (Historical fiction)

(Titles continue on next page)



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Betsy Thompson  
Library Director

**Creating opportunities for a lifetime of learning.** That's what appears at the top of the Sioux City Public Library's new strategic plan and that's exactly what public libraries do.

In the stacks or online, the Library connects you with the information you need and the stories you seek. We vigorously support reading at every age and life stage. We value your trust. We value equal access to library services, diversity in the Library's collection of materials, and quality service provided by expert, skilled staff who are engaged in our community and are responsive to changing needs. And we serve you one-on-one at a time convenient to you. Discover the opportunities that await—come in today!

### My Library Story

"My library card ... and I'm not kidding ... is my favorite possession. And the moment I learned I could check out as many



books as I want (there was a limit in the old days) ... like winning the lottery, only better."

—Diane

## Teen Fiction continued...

**Divergent** by Veronica Roth. In a future Chicago, all 16-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives...but how to survive the choices they have made? (Science Fiction, Dystopia, Futuristic)


**Evermore** by Alyson Noel. For failing to suppress her unwanted talents, 16-year-old Ever is branded a freak at her new high school. Only Damen Auguste can silence the noise and random energy in her head. First book in *The Immortals* series. (Fantasy)

**The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak. "Death" relates the story of Liesel, a young girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents sustain her family and neighbors in World War II Germany. (Historical fiction)

**Catherine, Called Birdy** by Karen Cushman. Catherine, the 13-year-old daughter of an English country knight, records the events of her life, her longing for adventure beyond the usual role of women, and her effort to avoid being married off. (Historical fiction)

**Life as We Knew It** by Susan Beth Pfeffer. 16-year-old Miranda recounts her family's struggles to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing world-wide catastrophic weather changes. Life as they knew it is gone forever. (Realistic, Contemporary fiction, Survival)


**Seraphina: A Novel** by Rachel Hartman. Mistrust between humans and dragons in the kingdom of Goredd ramps up while Seraphina struggles to protect her own secret, one so terrible its discovery could mean her very life. (Fantasy)

**Wonder** by R. J. Palacio. Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled and babied by his parents to entering 5th grade at a private middle school, enduring the taunts and fears of classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another kid. (Self-worth, Cruelty) 

## Library Tech Talks

Confused about downloading eBooks? Want to know how to get the most out of the Library's other online resources? Library Tech Talks, providing demos and one-on-one assistance, are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at The Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library—free parking after 6 p.m.



Why wait? You may also call 255-2933 x 221 to schedule a consultation at a time convenient to you. 

## Friends & Foundation Fundraising

Be a Friend of the Library. In November, the Friends of the Sioux City Public Library and the Sioux City Public Library Foundation launch their annual *Campaign for Library Excellence*. Gifts and donations to the Foundation Endowment ensure that the Library, a vital public resource, continues to grow and keep pace with 21st-Century learning. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the *Campaign for Library Excellence* so that the Foundation and Friends can continue to enhance library services for this community.

Enhancing Library excellence today...

Endowing Library excellence for tomorrow

Support the 2013 campaign for Library excellence  
Give to the Sioux City Public Library Foundation



Mail your donation to:

Sioux City Public Library Foundation  
529 Pierce Street  
Sioux City, IA 51101


Gifts of any amount designate the donor as a Friend of the Library and are deeply appreciated

## Community Reading

Community reading initiatives, which connect people to literature through reading and discussion, have exploded in popularity in recent years. Siouxland readers have several from which to choose.

Established in 2003, the **All Iowa Reads** program, one of the first projects of the Iowa Center for the Book, invites communities across the state to come together to read and talk about a single book in the same year. Libraries and book clubs are encouraged to host discussions. The One Book South Dakota and One Book One Nebraska initiatives are similar in scope and purpose. For Iowans, the 2014 selection is *Little Wolves* by Thomas Maltman.

Now in its 9th season, **One Book One Siouxland** continues to share ideas and build community through the experience of reading and discussing the same book and viewing a film adaptation of the story. This local endeavor launches its 2014 season in March with *Orphan Train: A Novel* by Christina Baker Kline. Sponsors for One Book One Siouxland include the Sioux City Public Library (Iowa), the South Sioux City Public Library (Nebraska) and the North Sioux City Community Library (South Dakota), along with The Institute for Lifelong Learning, Western Iowa Tech Community College, and Morningside College.

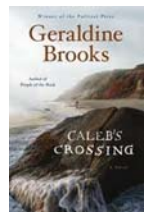
Plan to participate in these various initiatives: attend a public library discussion, consider the titles for your book group, or read them with your friends. 

# Recommended Reading

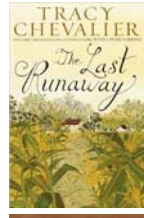
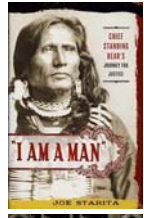
Welcome to a reader advisor page featuring new or popular titles. For a **complete list of new titles** visit [www.siouxcitylibrary.org](http://www.siouxcitylibrary.org) and click the All About Books tab. Use the dropdown menu under *Our Newest Titles* for a list of items by category. Visit the Kids and Teens pages to find the newest additions for these reading levels. Questions? Call us at 255-2933 x 221.

## Read-alikes

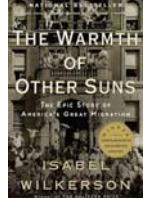
In **Caleb's Crossing**, by Geraldine Brooks, a Puritan colonist yearns for an education that is closed to her because of her gender. At 12 she forges a secret friendship with an island native that draws each into the alien world of the other. This work of historical fiction is based on the young man from Martha's Vineyard who became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College in 1665.



A secondary theme, the struggle to retain tribal lands, comes to the forefront in **I Am A Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice** by Joe Starita (970.00497 Sta). In **The Last Runaway** by Tracy Chevalier (New Fiction Che), another young woman struggles to find her identity in a tightly-knit religious society—this time among Quakers in 1850 Ohio.



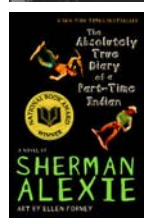
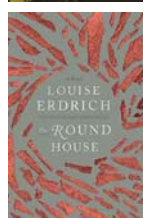
If you liked **The Warmth of Other Suns**, by Isabel Wilkerson, (304.873 Wil) try **Standing at the Scratch Line**, a fictional, yet brutally honest, depiction of the Black experience during the first half of the 1900s, by the son of Dr. Maya Angelou, Guy Johnson.



Have you read the classic gothic tale, **Rebecca**, by Daphne Du Maurier? Check out the DVD based on the novel, or sample a modern day story, **The Thirteenth Tale** by Diane Setterfield.



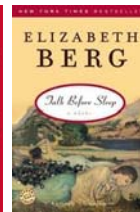
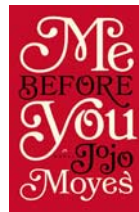
If you enjoyed **The Round House: A Novel** by Louise Erdrich, try **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** by Sherman Alexie (Teen Ale). Based on personal experience, the author presents contemporary adolescence through a Native American boy attempting to break away from life on the "rez."



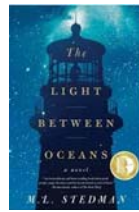
Remember **Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel** by Jamie Ford? **Beautiful Ruins: A Novel** by Jess Walter (New Fiction Wal) contains another "almost" love affair that survives ensuing decades.



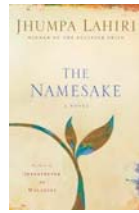
Jamie Ford's new release, **Songs of Willow Frost**, is similar to **Daughter of Fortune** by Isabel Allende. Both novels offer moving accounts of marginalized women, struggling to survive—be it 1930s Seattle or 1840s California.



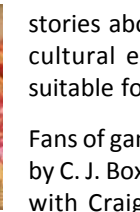
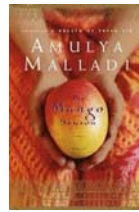
If you liked **Me Before You** by Jojo Moyes (New Fiction Moy), try **Talk Before Sleep: A Novel** by Elizabeth Berg. Both confront the issue of mortality head-on, without sentimentality.



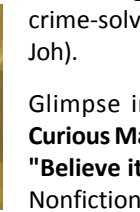
If you enjoyed **The Light Between Oceans** by M. L. Stedman (New Fiction Ste), try **The Orchardist: A Novel** by Amanda Coplin. Both offer vividly rendered landscapes where attempts to provide aid lead to unimaginable consequences.



**Namesake** by Jhumpa Lahiri and **Girl in Translation** by Jean Kwok are character-driven novels that deal with cultural assimilation in New York City. Add **The Mango Season** by Amulya Malladi, and you have three



stories about individual desire versus parental and cultural expectations. All three adult books are suitable for teens.



Fans of game warden Joe Pickett, the mystery series by C. J. Box, can linger in the mountains of Wyoming with Craig Johnson's Sheriff Walt Longmire. The crime-solving begins with **The Cold Dish** (Mystery Joh).



Glimpse into the lives of rich eccentrics with **A Curious Man: The Strange and Brilliant Life of Robert "Believe it or not" Ripley** by Neal Thompson. (New Nonfiction 921 Riple, R Tho) or **Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune** by Bill Dedman (New Nonfiction 328.73092 Ded). One life is a fairy tale come true; the other, a fairy tale in reverse.

# Book Remarks

Sioux City Public Library

529 Pierce Street • Sioux City, IA 51101-1203

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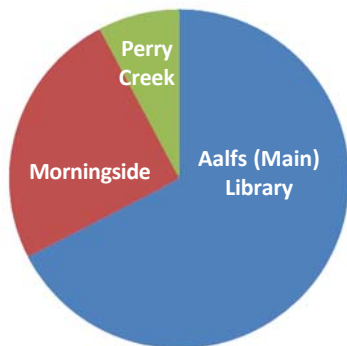
## MISSION

The Sioux City Public Library connects people and ideas to empower and enrich our community.

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## From the Annual Report



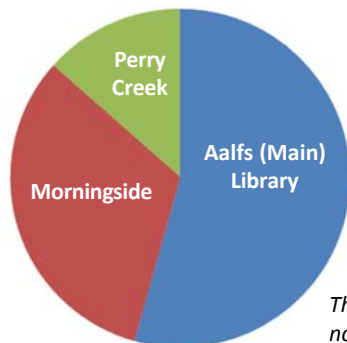
### Gate Count by Building

Total gate count: 349,938

**AalFs (Main) Library** 235,857 (67%)

**Morningside Branch** 86,916 (25%)

**Perry Creek Branch** 27,165 (8%)



### Checkouts by Building

Total checkouts: 481,954

**AalFs (Main) Library** 261,894 (54%)

**Morningside Branch** 155,147 (32%)

**Perry Creek Branch** 64,913 (14%)

*The 2012-2013 Library Annual Report is now online at [www.siouxcitylibrary.org](http://www.siouxcitylibrary.org)*

## Family Storytime

Want to help your child build a foundation for reading, develop social skills, and think creatively? Come to **Family Storytime** on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, for children not yet in school and their parent or grandparent. The mix of stories, songs and fun is a great way for children to explore the Library and the world.

**Perry Creek Branch Library:** Tuesdays 11:15–11:45am  
2912 Hamilton Blvd. (Lower B, Plaza Professional Ctr)

**Morningside Branch Library:** Wednesdays 10:30–11am  
4005 Morningside Ave. (Both are offered year-round.)

Whether celebrating not-so-scary-monsters in October, or Dr. Seuss's birthday in March, **First Saturday Family Storytime** brings parents and their children up through 5th grade together to celebrate the love of reading and the joy of discovery.

**The Wilbur AalFs (Main) Library:**

First Saturdays (times vary)  
November 2, December 7,  
January 4, February 1, March 1,  
April 5, May 3 • 529 Pierce St.

Call 255-2933 x 231 for details. 