



2023 Reading Challenge

APRIL

A collection of poetry

A reader from Wakefield read *Don't Call Us Dead* by Danez Smith: "Overall I just don't know how to interpret poetry. There were some moving parts and visuals from the words at times, but big picture it is hard for me to synthesize all of these."

A reader from Beverly read *She's Magic & Midnight Lace* by Ann Marie Eleazer: "This was a fun book of short poems that were easy to understand. Not much deep thought was needed-like a little vacation."

A reader from Amherst read *The Wild Iris* by Louise Glück: "A thematically coherent collection of musings about humankind and a superior power, be it God or Mother Nature. An exploration on the figure of the Garden, be it of Eden or other with a distinct, commanding voice."

A reader from WORCESTER read *WHY I WAKE EARLY* by MARY OLIVER: "I WOULDN'T CHOOSE A BOOK OF POETRY ON MY OWN, BUT I DID ENJOY THIS COLLECTION OF POEMS. IT GAVE ME THE FEELING OF BEING UP EARLY WHEN IT IS SO QUIET TO ENJOY NATURE AND BE WITH MY OWN THOUGHTS. IT WAS A DELIGHT!"

A reader from Beverly read *Maya Angelou: Poems* by Maya Angelou: "I was glad for this topic, as I struggle with poetry! I have always had a few favorites by Maya and was happy to find them plus a few new ones in this edition. I was really struck by a line in "We Saw Belong Our Seeming." It is "deafened and unwilling, we aided in the killing" and I hope it is never true of me, as I strive to be antiracist."

A reader from Northampton read *Collected poems* by Zaturenska marya: "Historical and good and bad time in 1944 and others only book at forbes by her lots of different words used."

A reader from Concord read *A Good Cry: what we learn from tears and laughter* by Nikki Giovanni: "Quick read; disliked as not a poetry fan."

A reader from Springfield read *Howl and Other Poems* by Ginsberg: "The title poem is the seminal poem of the mid-twentieth century and of my generation. The issues raised are still as relevant today as when the poem was written."

A reader from Fall River read *From Snow to Snow* by Robert Frost: "I've always been a fan of Robert Frost. I was already familiar with two of the poems in this collection, and I wanted to read the rest. I liked how the volume literally goes "from snow to snow," beginning with a January poem and ending with a December poem. My favorite: September, "The Cow in Apple Time," featuring a bovine who has no problem jumping a wall to feast on fallen apples!"

A reader from Attleboro read *Woman without Shame* by Sandra Cisneros: "The author talks about memory and self awareness. I thought some of her poems were a little too Gracie for my liking."

A reader from Dracut read *Christina Rossetti Passion & Devotion* by K. E. Sullivan: "Not bad. I don't usually read poetry but I liked this one. I also liked the drawings that accompanied the poems."

A reader from Rochester read *The way the wind bends things* by Robert Barboza: "Enjoyable."

A reader from Peabody read *Ordinary Hazards* by Nikki Grimes: "I really liked this memoir. Nikki wrote about her pain and happiness as she grew up. It is a common and sad story. She has exceptional talent."

A reader from Brewster read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: "Enjoyed reading this book of poetry by Mary Oliver as she writes about her observations of nature."

A reader from Groveland read *The Hill we climb* by Amanda Gorham: "Still powerful years after the inauguration."

A reader from Amherst read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "Collection of Mary Oliver's poems over her long career. Great reflections on the natural world. Very thought-provoking."

A reader from Salem read *I hope this helps* by Nakeia Homer: "A soul touching collection of poetry that builds you up and validates your space in life. Brought tears to my eyes with the beauty written on life and its challenges. This book has my heart."

A reader from South Hadley read *American Primitive* by Mary Oliver: "Mary Oliver captures emotions and nature in such profound ways they stay with me long after I finish reading her poems."

A reader from Palmer read *Battle Dress* by Karen Skolfield: "Very interesting book of poetry searching for meaning in combat."

A reader from Attleboro read *Pillow Thoughts* by Courtney Peppernell: "I liked how the author seemed to be talking to themselves, the reader, and a loved one all at once. I also enjoyed how each verse varied in its presentation."

A reader from Lowell read *milk & honey* by Rupi Kaur: "Kaur's raw vulnerability about love, trauma, and healing was impactful and relatable on so many levels! Her focus on the objectification of women and messages we receive about sex as young girls was spot on."

A reader from Sunderland read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: "Leave it to Billy Collins to take on the challenge of filling a book with short-form poems. Each one is a gem!"

A reader from Brookline read *A Mayan astronomer in Hell's Kitchen* by Martin Espada: "The experience of Puerto-Ricans in New York in the 1990s."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *And Yet* by Kate Baer: "This was a lovely collection of poetry, much like her first two books. I especially loved the poems on motherhood—absolutely relatable."

A reader from Blackstone read *milk and honey* by Rupi Kaur: "A raw and vulnerable collection of prose and poetry about the human condition. Every person can find something to resonate with in this book."

A reader from Hadley read *If Not, Winter* by Sappho; translator: Anne Carson: "Anne Carson's translation is superb, and unlike other heavy-handed Sappho translations that force fragments into full poems, Carson captures the "drama" of the fragmentary nature of the source material. I enjoyed this so much that I went on to read Carson's Autobiography of Red and also Red Doc. Highly recommend all these works."

A reader from Middleboro read *Ordinary Days* by Obed Ladiny: "I'm not a huge fan of poetry so this was a chore for me to get through. Most of the poems were just words put together that didn't make any sense to me at all."

A reader from Braintree read *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur: "Insightful and reflective."

A reader from South Dennis read *The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem* by Amanda Gorman: "Hearing this at president Biden's inauguration was breathtaking- reading it myself was amazing!"

A reader from Wakefield read *Floaters* by Espada: "Not a favorite but it's good for me to branch out. I never read poetry."

A reader from Worcester read *The Rain in Portugal* by Billy Collins: "Loved every poem in this collection - concise, beautiful, and thought-provoking."

A reader from Belchertown read *Feed the Beast* by Pdraig O' Tuama: "O' Tuama is the host of the podcast Poetry Unbound, which I am a big fan of, so I was excited to read his new book of poetry. It was a bit of a letdown, though there were poems that were powerful."

A reader from Beverly read *100 best loved poems* by Philip Smith: "The book was good."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Waste Land and other Poems* by T. S. Eliot: "Not a real poetry person so it was nice to read this classic collection."

A reader from North Reading read *Black Girl, Call Home* by Jasmine Mans: “They were poems in here that I enjoyed very much and others I did not connect to as deeply. It was a very fast read though, since many of the poems were only a few words long on an entire page.”

A reader from Braintree read *Whale Day: And Other Poems* by Billy Collins: “As one who has never considered herself a fan of poetry, I was delighted to find this slender volume of free-verse poems by a former US Poet Laureate (2001-2003). Some pieces are humorous, some melancholy. They all struck me as relatable.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: “This was an interesting way to reflect on the pandemic. I'm not a huge fan of poetry but it was a memorable way to look at that time period and understand what we went through.”

A reader from Scituate read *I Could Chew on This* by Francesco Marciuliano: “After sampling several recent collections, I decided that I was not ready for post-covid poetry. These poems made me laugh and be glad I'm a cat person.”

A reader from Marshfield read *When my body was a clenched fist* by Enzo Simon Surin: “This was so excellent. The prose was lyrical and powerful.”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Lost in the Gaeltacht* by Caroline Lynch: “In English but with the voice of The Irish.”

A reader from Attleboro read *We Inherit What the Fires Left* by William Evans: “It was interesting. I found it hard to follow a little bit, but I did enjoy some of the poems.”

A reader from Braintree read *I Wish My Father* by Leslea Newman: “A lovely tribute to the author's father and a sad, truthful chronicle of aging with Alzheimer's.”

A reader from Beverly, MA read *Obit* by Victoria Chang: “For Victoria Chang her grief after her mother's death manifested as poetic obituaries for things and ideas like language and the future.”

A reader from Wilbraham read *Chicago Poems* by Carl Sandburg: “Carl Sandburg was an American poet of the early- to mid-20th century. This collection describes the hard life of workers and the poor in the large, industrial metropolis of Chicago. His characters include ditch diggers, working girls, subway riders, skyscrapers and fog. But my favorite was a poem entitled “Happiness.”

A reader from Hanover read *Adulthood* by Hanna, Gabbie: “I am not a poetry reader, so when I do read it I tend to gravitate toward plain English, and comedy. So, this was a perfect fit of both. Short, easily digestible (almost Meme-like) poems – my favorite being: I donated blood today. Feels good to finally be somebody's type.”

A reader from danvers read *Shout* by Laurie Halse Anderson: “It was a sad tragic memoir. I see her talent and appreciate how she put together the events of her life. It was moving.”

A reader from Hampden read *The sun and her flowers* by Rupi Kaur: “It was a quick read. Definitely relatable.”

A reader from Framingham read *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* by Ocean Vuong: "Truly one of the most beautiful books of poetry I have ever read. I read a fair amount of poetry, and Vuong's words breathe. Audre Lorde once said that the right words will come alive. I think Vuong wrote the right words."

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: "I enjoyed the small poem's ability to condense a feeling or event into a few short sentences and still capture the emotion of the idea."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Selected Poems of Claude McKay* by Claude McKay: "Early negro poet, strongly emotional and this book covers emotions such as life, death, love as well as regional geography such as New Hampshire poems."

A reader from Agawam read *Evidence* by Mary Oliver: "I remember reading some of Mary Oliver's poems in high school and really appreciating them. What I like most about her poems is her appreciation of nature and animals, which is evident in this collection."

A reader from Wakefield read *Memoir of millennial motherhood* by Azalea Faye: "I appreciated the author's expressions of the peaks and valleys of motherhood and the joy and frustration in it. But poetry isn't for me."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *You Better Be Lightning* by Andrea Gibson: "This entire collection was absolutely gripping, honest, vulnerable, moving, and sublime. It had an outstanding title source reveal moment, I went through many tissues while reading, and I can only imagine how incredible an experience it would be to hear the author perform their poems live."

A reader from Billerica read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Haunting. Her use of words was powerful. Will reread."

A reader from AMHERST read *Honey and Salt* by Carl Sandburg: "Delightful collection of easy-to-read, yet powerful poetry by one of America's leading 20th century poets."

A reader from Peabody read *New England Anthology of Robert Frost's Poems* by Louis Untermeyer: "Robert Frost's poetry speak to me about Humanity. His poetry is very personal when he speaks of people and places."

A reader from Attleboro read *Mirror Mirror* by Marilyn Singer: "The author wrote this collection of poems in a style called "reverso." Each poem is printed to be read top to bottom, then also flipped so you also read the poem from the bottom up, resulting in a second viewpoint. Very clever and fun book."

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *Horoscopes for the Dead* by Billy Collins: "Easy to read and understand, poetry from everyday thoughts and encounters. I connected with so many of these poems on a personal level. I will definitely read more Billy Collins books!"

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *On the Loose* by Judith Askew: "I chose this book of poems because it was written by a local (Cape Cod) author. What a pleasant treat! Not afraid to take on controversial topics as well as issues from day-to-day living, Judith Askew's poetry hit home with me. I was thrilled to see another book of her poems on the shelf when I returned this one to the library!"

A reader from Stoneham read *Dust of Kings* by John J. O'Neill: "Mister O'Neill's verse has the playfulness and simplicity that is reminiscent of Frost. Also, the themes are of a similar range - from observations of local life to musings on the seasons, all of which are relatable to the New England reader."

A reader from Bolton read *Call us what we carry* by Amanda Gorman: "A wonderful book of poetry from a very impressive author."

A reader from Salem read *Ariel* by Sylvia Plath: "A true classic."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Poetry Comics: an animated anthology* by Dave Morice: "Interesting take on both comics and poetry."

A reader from Saugus read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "I typically don't read poetry but this collection of poems by Amanda Gorman were fantastic."

A reader from Dracut read *Battle Dress* by Karen Skolfield: "I'm not a fan of poetry at all, so I really was just hoping to "get through" this book. I found, to my surprise, that it was thought provoking, well written and I actually enjoyed reading it."

A reader from Lowell read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: "I have never been a fan of poetry, I avoid it at all costs. I picked this book because she was a local author. I really didn't enjoy it, but I can see why she has won awards for her writing."

A reader from Burlington read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: "The collection simple and emotional. Filled with lovely imagery and thought provoking commentary, I found personal meaning in each of Oliver's poems."

A reader from Columbus read *Noir Erasure Poetry Anthology* by Melanie Villines, editor: "I love noir crime fiction. I think Raymond Chandler is brilliant. These were fun. Many were very good. Some were fantastic. All in all a readable anthology. I read a few out loud to my cat."

A reader from HAMPDEN read *Staying Alive* by Neil Astley: "I'm never been a big fan of poetry, but this anthology exposed me to some works that I found meaningful."

A reader from Beverly read *Post Colonial Love Poem* by Natalie Diaz: "Beautiful and filled with emotion."

A reader from Middleboro read *Every Thing On It* by Shel Silverstein: "I had never read this collection of poems, but it brought me back to my childhood when I first read poems by Shel Silverstein. The pictures helped to add to the meaning behind the poems."

A reader from Hanover read *Call Us What We Carry: Poems* by Amanda Gorman: "Very relevant and inspiring!"

A reader from Chicopee read *Poems from the Women's Movement* by Honor Moore: "This book of poems covers the right to vote, equality in pay, women can do any job, and so much more! I especially liked a poem about Harriet Tubman. "Harriet Tubman who carried a revolver, who had a scar from a rock thrown by a slave master and who had a ransom on her head of thousands of dollars and who was never caught, and had no use for the law when the law was wrong, who defied the law."

A reader from Amesbury read *Shout* by Laurie Halse Anderson: "It was definitely interesting. I've never read a memoir that was done in poetry."

A reader from Plainville read *Edgar Allan Poe Complete Poems* by Edgar Allan Poe: "This is one of my two favorites. I've owned this book since my teen years. I recently lost the cover jacket when we moved. It was great to see it in the challenge because I could share the more popular "The Raven" with my oldest

who is brooding these days. It has many that I like. My other favorite book I could not locate since we moved. I have had it since my own teen years and I hope it wasn't donated by mistake. That one would be Percy Bysshe Shelley."

A reader from Worcester read *The Locksmith Journeys Into the Afterlife* by C. I. Marshall: "A play on realism with a dry wit. Well-crafted poems with an abundance of humor."

A reader from Worcester read *The Locksmiths Journey into the Afterlife* by C.I. Marshall: "I love these poems. Quirky as the title suggests. A delight to read. Poems in which John Fahey, Kurt Vonnegut, Glenn Gould and a host of other characters show up. I wouldn't be surprised if the Lone Ranger was hiding in her closet."

A reader from Spencer read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: "Lots of thought provoking poems."

A reader from Beverly read *If They Come For Us* by Fatimah Asghar: "Great compilation of poetry, moving content."

A reader from Wilmington read *Selected Poems of Robert Frost* by Robert Frost: "Gotta be honest....I'm not a huge poetry fan. Thought this might be a good place to start since it's fairly well-loved stuff. Unfortunately, still not a fan."

A reader from Northampton read *Guillotine* by Eduardo c corral: "Striking imagery and thoughtful flow of language."

A reader from Beverly read *Given Sugar, Given Salt* by Jane Hirshfield: "I did not not like this book. I like poetry but the poems were too scattered and didn't flow well."

A reader from Beverly read *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein: "My favorite poem in this book is "No Difference", which is about when we turn off the lights, everyone is the same."

A reader from Salem read *The People Look Like Flowers At Last: New Poems* by Charles Bukowski: "Charles Bukowski is my favorite author, and has been since I read his first book many many years ago. I find his poetry and this specific book of poetry very unique and emotive. With many different poems I find myself having to try to decipher the emotions or energy of what the author intended for me to feel, it takes imagination. With this book of poetry over others by the author, I get this feeling when I am reading the poems that I can almost embody the author, like I understand so completely the feeling he is experiencing or the meaning of the poem. I also love how introspective this collection was. It was like a very modern/minimalistic/rough-around-the-edges piece of existentialism."

A reader from Amesbury read *Sometimes you get so alone* by Charles bukowski: "I liked it a lot."

A reader from Sagamore Beach read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: "The most challenging month as I do not read poetry. Went to my local bookstore for a recommendation. Some of the poems resonated most I had no clue."

A reader from hampden read *the raven and other poems* by edgar allan poe: "I read the Raven and skimmed over some of the other poems. the Raven is a very dark poem. the illustrations were by gustave dore, which were fantastic and really set the mood of the poem."

A reader from Clinton read *I Hope This Finds You Well* by Kate Baer: "I've been a fan of Kate Baer since reading her first book of poems, *What Kind of Woman*, but this one really takes the cake. It astounded me the way she found poetry in the everyday - the way she can craft someone else's words to create an entirely different meaning. Simply amazing."

A reader from Hartland read *Favorite Poems of Emily Dickinson* by Emily Dickinson: "Worth reading and rereading."

A reader from Dracut read *the princess saves herself in this one* by Amanda Lovelace: "A harrowing but ultimately uplifting collection of poems. TW self harm, emotional abuse, eating disorder, cancer, suicide."

A reader from Monson read *Colors Passing Through Us* by Marge Piercy: "The poetry is lovely and touches the reader in so many ways. "Winter Promises" made me believe there could be wonderful gardens, at least in our dreams; "Gifts that keep on giving" is about second hand useless gifts. mostly re-gifts and makes the reader wonder about what archaeologist would find when humankind is vanished;"In the department store" reminds me of the day I walked through the cosmetic aisle waiting to be accosted, but I managed to escape." There is a poem for everyone here, poems of many colors like the colors that stain us human."

A reader from Lowell read *What kind of woman* by Kate baer: "Very personal and relatable."

A reader from Greenfield read *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* by Lesléa Newman: "Wonderful and horrible. Matthew Shepard's murder from every angle. The book brings back the horror of the crime 25 years ago and makes me want to find out more about and be grateful for the supportive organizations that have come into being since his death."

A reader from Lowell read *I Touch the Earth, the Earth Touches Me* by Hugh Prather: "It had some good poems I enjoyed, I thought it was underwhelming overall."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Look at This Blue* by Allison Adelle Hedge Coke: "A love letter to the planet and all people on it; a cry for help, a plea to humanity to be more human, kinder, show more compassion to all creatures especially humans, to be more aware of our impacts emotionally and environmentally. Haunting, beautiful, tragically sad."

A reader from Sunderland read *Floater: Poems* by Martín Espada: "I was lucky enough to meet Martín Espada at my community college back in 2018, where he was visiting to do a reading of his collection *Alabanza*. He was great and I loved his work, so when I saw this collection on the Mass Book Awards list I just knew I had to check it out, and it was as amazing as his work always is!"

A reader from Beverly read *Place* by Jorie Graham: "Place is a beautiful collection of poems about the world and our place in it. Jorie Graham asks us to contemplate how humans have used the earth's natural resources in the past. She wonders if, and she hopes that, we are capable of restoring our planet's health. Let's keep working towards that goal!"

A reader from Sutton read *For teenage girls with wild ambitions and trembling hearts* by Clementine Von Radics: "I haven't ever really been a fan of poetry ever since high school when we had to analyze poems for AP Lit and I didn't understand them at all. My public library picked out some option for the April challenge and there were actually multiple ones that seemed interesting to me that I might go back and read now that I have finished this one! I absolutely loved this poem as it was a puzzle to try to figure out

what girls she was referencing and it was very empowering to read about these young and powerful women.”

A reader from Wakefield read *The Dream Keeper and other poems* by Langston Hughes: “Langston Hughes first published *The Dream Keeper* with 59 poems in 1932. This edition features 7 additional poems and illustrations by Brian Pinkney. Hughes' voice is still relevant today. "I, too, sing America.”

A reader from North Dighton read *A Snake in Her Mouth: Poems 1974-96* by nila northSun: “northSun is an indigenous American poet whose verse is readable and starkly realist. My students also love her work!”

A reader from Paxton read *How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope* by James Crews: “This collection of poetry helped to center and ground me, quieting my mind and allowing me to appreciate the little things that often go overlooked.”

A reader from Reading read *Whale Day and Other Poems* by Billy Collins: “Really happy to have been spurred to read Billy Collins. It's accessible- for readers who don't often read poetry. Such interesting topics for the poems, too. Throughout I was thinking hmm, I could think more about this. A delight.”

A reader from Reading read *Blue Iris: Poems and Essays* by Mary Oliver: “Glad to have been nudged to read poetry. I'd always meant to read Mary Oliver. Accessible and different, nature-oriented. Enjoyed it.”

A reader from Brookline read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: “A very creative book of poetry with use of visuals, and an intense view of a young person's experience of the societal change wrought by COVID.”

A reader from Taunton read *The Road Not Taken: An Introduction to Robert Frost*. by Louis Untermeyer: “The characters of which Robert Frost writes about reminds me of some of the older people that my grandparents knew or told me stories about. They had that Yankee spirit which you could not understand unless you lived through a few New England winters.”

A reader from Berkley read *When I Grow Up I Want to be a List of Further Possibilities* by Chen Chen: “I don't think that I would have read a book of poetry unless prompted like this. The poems were amusing and interesting. I enjoyed the book.”

A reader from Florence read *In the Clearing* by Robert Frost: “While reading this book, I remembered why I dislike poetry so much!”

A reader from Northfield read *a thousand mornings* by mary oliver: “I found the poems to be slightly blah, not to interesting. however there was one poem that i loved Green, Green is my sisters house.”

A reader from Braintree read *Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver: “A great quick read on the relationship any dog lover has with all of their dogs throughout their lifetime.”

A reader from Springfield read *When We Make It* by Elisabet Velazquez: “When We Make It by Elisabet Velazquez. I related to so many sections of the book and the Pride of being Puerto Rican! Loved, loved, loved it!!”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Here All Night* by Jill McDonough: “Not my favorite but I can understand how others may enjoy it.”

A reader from Belchertown read *The sun and her flowers* by Rupi kaur: "I would never choose to read a collection of poetry without this challenge and I LOVED it!! Some beautiful verses that will stick with me for a long long time."

A reader from Middleboro read *The sun and her flowers* by Rupi Kaur: "A collection of short poems about love, loss, trauma, femininity, and family dynamics. I enjoyed the poems although I found it hard to connect with many of the topics."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Best Loved Poems of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis* by Caroline Kennedy: "Although I am not usually a reader of poetry, this was an enjoyable selection. The introduction to each section by Caroline offered a glimpse of her deep connection with her mother and a beautiful family tradition. The pictures were lovely too."

A reader from Hadley read *The collected poetry of Nikki Giovanni, 1968-1998* by Nikki Giovanni: "I enjoyed seeing how her poetry changed over the years and the the range of topics she addressed and explored."

A reader from Beverly Hills read *The Best American Poetry 2005* by Paul Muldoon, Editor: "I'm not a big fan of poetry, but I did find some in this collection that I found interesting, that spoke to me. At the end of the book is a blurb about each of the poets, some dealing with the content of the published poem. I found that helpful in understanding some of the poems."

A reader from Paxton read *you don't have to be everything* by edited by Diana Whitney: ""Poems for girls becoming themselves" - this was a deep, thoughtful, and delightful collection of poetry."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Pillow thoughts* by Courtney Peppernell: "I never read poetry. So this challenge made me read poetry for the first time."

A reader from Amherst read *100 Best Loved Poems* by Edited by Philip Smith: "Did not enjoy it. I am not a poetry lover but thought this is the one to read."

A reader from Hingham read *In My Night School; poems of beauty, darkness and dreams* by Mark Halperin: "Lovely, approachable, and thoughtful poems."

A reader from Hudson read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Beautiful and timely; poetry is not my favorite because I like to get engrossed but I'm glad to have read it."

A reader from Belchertown read *A Spicing of Birds: poems by Emily Dickinson* selected by Jo Miles Schuman and Joanna Bailey Hodgman: "A great introduction to Dickinson's work with an emphasis on birds. The accompanying artwork, artists of the eighteenth and nineteenth century, is breathtaking and completes each poem with a bird's eye view of the subject. A good read into the soul of Miss Dickinson and her pet creatures, birds."

A reader from middleboro read *in the silence of me* by thomas w sypek: "the poetry here is heartbreaking. it said to me--when I was there I was not alone, and I know now things get better. I hope the author knows things get better."

A reader from Brookline read *And yet* by Kate baer: "Love her poems and this collection did not disappoint."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Collected Works of Phillis Wheatley* by Phillis Wheatley: "I was surprised by how much Roman and Greek Mythology was used in Phillis Wheatley's poetry."

A reader from Melrose read *Nightshade* by Andrea Cohen: "I enjoyed reading Andrea Cohen's poetry in celebration of National Poetry month."

A reader from Melrose read *180 more* by Ed. Billy Collins: "I admit I find poetry very difficult to read and understand. I did like a handful or two of the poems in this anthology, but most: quite a slog!"

A reader from Palmer read *Make Me Rain* by Nikki Giovanni: "Most of the poetry is short free verse and has no punctuation at all, making the reader slow down to figure out how to read the poem and where the natural stops are. The poems are generally accessible, and address racism, love, and everyday life in this very personal collection."

A reader from Woburn read *Book of Hours* by Rainer Maria Rilke: "I chose this, because it contains a poem, well a stanza, that has gotten me through some amazingly difficult times. I was a little disappointed in the first book, but completely blown away by the two latter books."

A reader from Worcester read *Time is a Mother* by Ocean Vuong: "Moving and thought-provoking."

A reader from SCITUATE read *Light for the World To See* by Kwame Alexander: "Poetry flowing as rap, No teaching us to think carefully about race and hope. Alexander is a fantastic author of a variety of books and is inspirational in what he conveys."

A reader from Leominster read *Zeppo's First Wife: New and Selected Poems* by Gail Mazur: "Poetry always makes me slow down and read carefully. These poems span a range of years, experiences and emotions. I find her writing filled with striking images and quiet moments of both sorrow and beauty."

A reader from Dartmouth read *Call us what we carry* by Amanda Gorman: "So inspiring, moving, beautiful and clear."

A reader from Wilmington read *Swimming Lessons: Poems* by Lili Reinhart: "I enjoyed reading this book! Mostly included short and easy poems, several about heartbreak, but later poems talked about coming to terms with various emotions and feelings of loneliness."

A reader from Centerville read *Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver: "This was the first time I had read anything by Mary Oliver. Her poems are deceptively simple. They are about the dogs but also so much more. I really enjoyed this collection."

A reader from Greenfield read *Lesbian Poetry: an Anthology* by multiple (edited by Elly Bulkin and Joan Larkin): "It wasn't quite what I expected; I'd been under the impression (for no real reason) that Lesbian Poetry meant poetry specifically about lesbians and not just poetry (of any topic) written by a lesbian. I enjoyed many of the poems, though others were hard to read because of their subject matter."

A reader from Charlton read *The Rose that Grew From Concrete* by Tupac Shakur: "I really liked the choice of words Tupac selected, he definitely had a talent when it came to writing and it really came through while reading."

A reader from Chelmsford read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: "I received this collection as a Christmas gift but waited until April to read it to meet this month's challenge. I love Collins and in this collection he

has written small poems. He states in the afterward, "Just as I might trust an abstract painter more if he or she could draw a credible chicken, I have faith in poets who can go short." As with any Collins collection there are poems featuring the whole range of emotions. My favorite:

Code of the West

Say what you want

about me,

but leave the horse

I rode in on out of it.

Brilliant."

A reader from Hampden read *A Brighter Garden* by Emily Dickinson: "A Brighter Garden was a pleasure to read. I always enjoy Tasha Tudor's pictures."

A reader from Three Rivers read *Where the sidewalk ends* by Shel silverstein: "I wanted to introduce poems to my 5 year old and remembered the fun of Shel Silverstein. It was fun to revisit the quarry hilarious poems with my son."

A reader from Rochester read *Blue horses* by Mary oliver: "I don't normally read poetry so Mary Oliver's blue horses was a pleasant surprise. I did enjoy it very much. My favorite was watering the stones. Can definitely recommend this book."

A reader from Lowell read *Teaching my mother how to give birth* by Warsan Shire: "It's going to give you feelings. It's deep. It doesn't hold back."

A reader from Hampden read *I wish my father* by Leslea Newman: "The author wrote about her father in his later years until he passed away. Brought memories of my own father who passed away at 55, along with my new great nephew whose middle name is Francis after my father."

A reader from Malden read *Bikeman* by Thomas F Flynn: "An amazing epic poem about one man's journey at 9/11. Powerful and lyrical."

A reader from Somerville read *Time is a Mother* by Ocean Vuong: "I don't often find poetry that I like, but I thought this whole book was great. I won't pretend to understand what he was talking about in every poem, but I love his use of imagery and the way he puts words together."

A reader from SUTTON read *American Melancholy* by Joyce Carol Oates: "As with the novels and short stories I've read by Joyce Carol Oates, I found this collection of poetry to be fairly dark and thought provoking. While I appreciate her style, her subject matter tends to be something I don't choose to consume frequently."

A reader from Los Alamos read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: "I love all of Billy Collins' works, and this collection of SHORT poems is especially fun. My favorites are 3:00AM and Yamaha. Perfect starter book for someone who doesn't think they could possibly like poetry!"

A reader from Swansea read *Love Poems (for married people)* by John Kenney: "This book was funny, real and true. Also made me a little sad, though."

A reader from IrvineCA read *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* by Fred Rogers: "Not just happiness and friendship, Mr. Rogers speaks of sadness, fear, loneliness, and loss. It's a beautiful collection!"

A reader from Hamilton read *All Along You Were Blooming* by Morgan Harper Nichols: "An important source of positive thought and hopeful verse. A book to return to over and over again."

A reader from Lunenburg read *An American Sunrise* by Joy Harjo: "An American Sunrise was a journey, a "trail of tears" and a welcome home; felt rather than read, experienced, not read about. It was a historical song."

A reader from Hudson read *You Come Too* by Robert Frost: "This book of verse contained some of my favorite Frost poems – "Fire and Ice" and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." I enjoyed the double meaning of some of the lines presented within the poems. Many of the entries illustrated the connection that Frost had to the work that farming demanded as well as the changes that man forces on nature as he reaps from the earth."

A reader from Medford read *Every Thing On It* by Shel Silverstein: "Easy read and poetry that is very well put together, not to mention entertaining. The book kept my interest!"

A reader from South Pasadena read *The Sun Will Rise, And So Will We* by Jennae Cecelia: "This book was one of the 5 books that I have ever given 5 stars to, which I feel speaks volumes. Jennae's writing touched a part of me that I didn't know existed and pulled on every heartstring. I can't imagine that I will ever forget this collection."

A reader from Leverett read *The Trouble with Poetry and other poems* by Billy Collins: "I enjoyed reading one or two or three poems every night. I'm not much of a poetry fan and I don't know much about poetry, but I appreciate the humor and observations of life contained in these poems."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Self Love Poetry: For thinkers and feelers* by Melody Godfred: "This book of poetry was intriguing in the way it had a second half to each poem, one for those that are right brain thinkers and one for those that are left brain thinkers. I loved the self care aspect as well."

A reader from Salem read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "There are not enough words to describe this thoughtful, lyrical, deeply personal collection of poetry. Amanda Gorman gives voice to events and emotions that many of us have lived through and experienced and does it with conviction, grace and dare I say hope. "Language is an ark....an art....an articulate artifact....a life craft....a life raft....." This book is a treasure. More Amanda please."

A reader from Melrose read *Climate* by Whitney Hanson: "This is her second book of hers that I've read and it quickly became a favorite. Her poems have a beautifully written message that always make me feel both heard and supported. For sure a perfect example of creating art with words."

A reader from Marriottsville read *brown girl dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson: "FABULOUS! Gorgeously written. I couldn't put it down, read it all in one sitting. A captivating beautifully moving memoir in poetic form."

A reader from Hopedale read *home body* by Rupi Kaur: “Typically not into poetry so this was a tough month for me, but I enjoyed this author and will now look into more of their writing!”

A reader from Belchertown read *Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver: “It was very sweet. It spoke of all the wonderful things about dogs. It wasn’t sad, don’t hesitate to read.”

A reader from Hudson read *You Come Too* by Robert Frost: “This book of verse contained some of my favorite Frost poems – “Fire and Ice” and “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”. I enjoyed the double meaning of some of the lines presented within the poems. Many of the entries illustrated the connection that Frost had to the work that farming demanded as well as the changes that man forces on nature as he reaps from the earth.”

A reader from Boston read *Selected poems* by Gwendolyn Brooks: “I don’t like reading poetry, it was hard to follow.”

A reader from Basking ridge read *Where The Side Walk Ends* by Shel Silverstein: “Always enjoyable and a true classic.”

A reader from Providence read *Nobe’s Kitchen* by Quintin Prout: “Thought provoking collection.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *The One Thing You'd Save* by Linda Sue Park: “As a teacher, reading *The One Thing You'd Save* had me thinking about my own students and what they hold special in their hearts.”

A reader from Dracut read *Milk and honey* by Rupi Kaur: “Poetry just isn't my favorite type of writing to read. This book went through four themes of love and healing.”

A reader from Rochester read *Above Ground* by Clint Smith: “An excellent collection where each poem shines and together forms an artful whole exploring the wonders and joys of parenthood and the sorrows and uncertainties of life and the world in which we live.”

A reader from Hanson read *Faithful and Virtuous Nigh* by Louise Gluck: “In this collection of poems, the reader can read several sentences repeatedly for the simple elegance and visual images that are created within several lines; referencing everyday events and emotions.”

A reader from Salem read *milk and honey* by Rupi Kaur: “I found some really nice passages within this poetry collection. I also liked the flow and how there was a bit of a storyline to follow.”

A reader from Stoneham read *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur: “Poetry hasn't been at the forefront of my literary journey, but it was nice to sample it in this beautiful collection!”

A reader from Bolton read *Blackbird Singing* by Paul McCartney: “This is a delightful book full of both poems and song lyrics, which to me are really their own kind of poetry. You will sing along in your head, or out loud, as you read those! "Sometimes his poems are light as feathers. They can tickle or fly or delight the eye. Sometimes he writes four lines as heavy as a double-decker bus, or the heart itself.”

A reader from Enfield read *War of the Foxes* by Richard Siken: “Gorgeous book of poetry. Forever in awe of Siken's way with words. He has the kind of writing that makes me want to write - and has inspired much of my own work. "Self Portrait Against Red Wallpaper" is a particular favorite.”

A reader from Medford read *The Trouble with Poetry* by Billy Collins: "Billy Collins makes the most interesting observations about regular life and often brings a smile to my face. I just love The Lanyard!"

A reader from Shelburne Falls read *The Last Lay of the Minstrel* by Paul Ward: "This 40-page collection hit the spot like good appetizers: tasty enough to savor each bite, but simple and small enough to not get overwhelmed."

A reader from Reading read *And Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou: "I have wanted to get into poetry for a while now, so took this as an opportunity to read from one of the best poets. There is an innate rhythm to all of Maya Angelou's poems that makes them a very dynamic read."

A reader from Dracut read *The Road not Taken and other poems of Robert Frost* by David Orr: "New England classic. This is a collection of Frost's early and familiar work."

A reader from Holden read *Scriptorium* by Melissa Range: "This collection of poetry melded theology, Old English, and Southern sensibility into a thought provoking bundle of ideas. Poetry forces me to think differently, and this collection did its job."

A reader from Scituate read *Obit* by Victoria Chang: "For a non-poetry reader this was a bareable read. Unique approach to dealing with loss."

A reader from Thorndike read *A Fortune for Your Disaster* by Hanif Abdurraqib: "Hanif is one of my all time favorite writers, the way he sees and writes about the world is thoughtful and enchanting. Some of the lines in these poems took my breath away, I needed to pause and read them over again and let them settle in. Simply amazing."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Selected Poems of Donald Hall* by Donald Hall: "I submitted this entry under March so once again I am resubmitting it! This is the first poetry book I have read in many years. Some poems I understood some I did not. I would rather read his stories."

A reader from Wilmington read *A Road Not Taken and Other Poems* by Robert Frost: "I'm not a fan of poetry so I chose this local author. the poems were okay."

A reader from Lunenburg read *Talking to the Wild* by Becky Hemsley: "This is a beautiful collection of poems that really speaks to the emotion of the human condition.."

A reader from Forestdale read *Spoon River Anthology* by Edgar Lee Masters: "The inner working of the people living in a small town. I first read this many years ago in high school, and was happy to revisit it and find I loved it just as much now as then."

A reader from Beverly read *Wonderland* by Matthew Dickman: "I appreciated how his poetry was accessible and the topics relatable."

A reader from Attleboro read *Felicity* by Mary Oliver: "Sweet love poems."

A reader from Rockland read *The Essential Gwendolyn Brooks* by Gwendolyn Brooks: "I was introduced to Gwendolyn Brooks's poetry through a Cohasset Library zoom session. The thrum of her precise word choice and images resonate long after the book is closed."

A reader from Randolph read *I hope this finds you well* by Kate Baer: "I found the poetry in this book thoughtful and creative - in content and format, as the author calls, erasure poetry. The author takes

words directed towards her, in many cases, critical, even hurtful words and by careful extraction - or erasure of the vitriol, creates a new thought of grace and kindness. Masterful.”

A reader from STONEHAM read *The Princess Saves Herself in This One* by Amanda Lovelace: “As poetry, this was terrible. I respect the feminist sentiment and I’m sure this was deeply personal for the author, but a line break after every word doesn’t make something poetry.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *North Of Boston, Poems of Robert Frost* by Robert Frost: “A beloved author, writing about hard working people, the New England countryside. My favorites were Generations of Men, and the Mending Wall.”

A reader from Malden read *Woman Without Shame* by Cisneros, Sandra: “I enjoyed Sandra Cisneros's poems and her perspective as an "older" woman.”

A reader from Springfield read *100 Poems* by Seamus Heaney: “In preparation for a trip to Ireland next month, I chose this collection of poems from an Irish poet. Lively, lyrical with the lilt of an Irish brogue in the works of each poem.”

A reader from East Sandwich read *The Spirit Level* by Seamus Heaney: “As Seamus Heaney often said: Whatever you say, say nothing! Enjoyable...nice that President Biden read and quotes Heaney and Yeats!”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Edna St. Vincent Millay selected poems* by J. D. McClatchy: “Poetry is not typically on my reading list. I asked some friends for recommendation and this author sounded interesting. Poetry (at least from this poet) is not light reading. I really had to concentrate to get anything out of the verses. I did enjoy her rich language and the feelings she invoked, even though most of them were about death. I guess I have a better appreciation of poetry having read this book.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Blood Snow* by dg nanouk okpik: “It was an interesting foray into poetry for me; every ounce of dg nanouk okpik's heart is present in her distinct style. A very heartbreaking love letter to the planet and indigenous ways of life.”

A reader from Reading read *Time is a Mother* by Ocean Vuong: “I don't usually read poetry, but this collection was absolutely beautiful, emotional, and painfully gut-wrenching. I never knew I could cry reading a list of Amazon purchases. An absolute must-read for anyone seeking to feel less alone in the face of grief.”

A reader from Wakefield read *milk and honey* by Rupi Kaur: “I thought it was alright. I enjoyed her “the sun and her flowers,” which I read last year, better. There were a few poems that really spoke to me but, even though I enjoyed the others, I didn’t connect with them as much.”

A reader from Pittsfield read *Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver: “I'm not the biggest fan of poetry, but this book was a collection of pleasant poems, most of which put a smile on my face.”

A reader from Leominster read *Hard Times Require Furious Dancing* by Alice Walker: “Some poems were universal in their emotion and one’s ability to connect with them while others felt too personal.”

A reader from Stoneham read *North* by Seamus Heaney: “Ireland as seen through the idea of the North.”

A reader from Beverly read *Poukahangatus* by Tayi Tibble: “These were very modern poems spanning from native Maori culture to mythology to 21st century issues of hair, popular books and TV, fashion, relationships, politics, science, and more!”

A reader from Amherst read *Black Girl, Call Home* by Jasmine Mans: “The finest Kitchen Table poetry: powerful and profound with everyday immediacy. Superb audiobook, read by the author.”

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Kwansabas and other poems* by Steven Thredford: “This was a challenge for me because am not at all familiar with any poetry. I really enjoyed the sentiments and respect communicated in these poems meant to help celebrate kwanza.”

A reader from Dracut read *1919* by Eve L. Ewing: “1919 is a collection of poems that tie into the State of Illinois' report about the race riots in Chicago in 1919. I'm not much of a poetry person, but the style of connecting the poetry to the telling of a historical event kept me interested throughout.”

A reader from Kingston read *If They Come For Us* by Fatimah Asghar: “Fatimah shares powerful and painful poems of being an orphan and an immigrant. Themes include violence, family, and coming of age. I learned about the India/Pakistan partition.”

A reader from Wakefield read *Above Ground* by Clint Smith: “I don't usually read poetry. I loved this book. It was a beautiful mix of relatable parenting moments interspersed with deeper passages on loss and our place in this world and the injustices of it. Five stars, would recommend.”

A reader from Northampton read *Battle Dress* by Karen Skolfield: “Battle Dress poems are often sparse but filled with images that stretch across history - a history where sadly, war is always there or just waiting in the wings. Karen's poems give us a view of female soldiers, a “band of sisters,” not just like a “band of brothers,” but more open and questioning. The more I read, the more I thought, and the more I thought the more I wondered, “how does anyone serve in the military and then have a “typical life”?”

A reader from Harwich read *The Poetry of Impermanence, Mindfulness, and Joy* by John Brehm, editor: “A great collection with a wide variety of poets included, focusing on meditation topics.”

A reader from New Bedford read *The Bees Are Waiting* by Karina Borowicz: “I am not a fan of poetry but did enjoy some of her poems. She was born in New Bedford so I could relate somewhat to the poems about New Bedford.”

A reader from Haverhill read *And Yet: Poems* by Kate Baer: “Real, raw, approachable, and at time tragic and mundane.”

A reader from Turners Falls read *Hear a Poet, There a Poet* by Leslea Newman, editor: “It was interesting to read submissions by poets from my local area. I'm not usually a poetry reader, so this was a good “challenge” month for me, thank you!”

A reader from Beverly read *The woman I kept to myself* by Julia Alvarez: “I enjoyed reading the poems and seeing how they created a shape of her life.”

A reader from Leominster read *Unraveling* by Brandon leake: “I liked it much more than I thought. The poems were short but powerful.”

A reader from Lee read *Home Body* by Rupi Kaur: "This was a very quick read. I prefer Kaur's longer poems compared to her 2-4 line poems that can come off like platitudes."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Poetry for young people Emily Dickinson* by Editor Frances Schoonmaker Bolin: "This is a nicely illustrated collection of Emily Dickinson's poetry. My favorite is 'I'll tell you how the sun rose.'"

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Sixty Poems* by Charles Simic: "The poems were of a dark and moody nature and poetry is not my favorite type of book."

A reader from Belchertown read *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein: "I read this delightful book with my children when they were young and thoroughly enjoyed revisiting it. I love his inventiveness and this book really introduces children (and adults) into the joy of words, poetry and playing with ideas."

A reader from Plymouth read *Time Is A Mother* by Ocean Vuong: "Vuong is an important voice, and I feel like my world is bigger after reading this book. The verse about the axe handle recognizing the tree is haunting."

A reader from Monson read *Fierce Fairytales* by Nikita Gill: "I enjoyed the first half of this collection, while the second half felt a little out of place. The core theme is carried throughout the collection, but I caution other readers to piecemeal the poems. I sped read through a bulk majority, and some poems started to blend into others in a way that no longer felt new or inspired. I'm not a strong poetry consumer, so take my thoughts with a grain of salt. Thinking back over the collection, the two prose poems on Hook and Wendy are probably my favorite."

A reader from Falmouth read *through the magnolia : a haiku diary from March & April 2020* by Jon Hare: "A lovely and poignant haiku collection."

A reader from Beverly read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: "While I prefer Billy Collins' earlier volumes of poetry, this collection of short poems was a nice reprieve from the chaos of life."

A reader from Westminster read *A Visit to William Blake's Inn: Homes for Innocent and Experienced Travelers* by Nancy Willard: "I read the 1982 Newbury Medal and Caldecott Winner. Even though it was a winner, I didn't really care for its somewhat Lewis Carroll flavor."

A reader from Naples read *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson: "I read *Under the Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan, a story of RLS and his wife Fannie. This led me to read many of RLS's poems, including *Home is the sailor home from the sea* and of, course, the Children's verses, many of the poems I learned as a child and could recite from memory."

A reader from Melrose read *The Best of the Best American Poetry 25th Anniversary Edition* by Robert Pinsky (Guest Editor); David Lehman (Series Editor): "Out of the massive amount of poetry, I loved reading the poems by Bob Hicok, Robert Pinsky, Paul Muldoon, and A. E. Stallings. If you get the chance to read these poets, do so!"

A reader from Beverly read *Call us what we carry* by Amanda Gorman: "This book is raw and thought provoking. It doesn't shy away from the messy."

A reader from Chicopee read *Wildly into the Dark* by Tyler Knott Gregson: "If only someone wrote poems like this for me.... Book is visually interesting which helps if you're not used to reading poetry."

A reader from Wakefield read *Gitanjali* by Rabindranath Tagore: "I read 25 poems and deliberately stopped after. I picked this book because it was gifted to me and I've had it for a while. It may be my lack of poetry appreciation but I felt disconnected from the poems I read and felt no reason to continue, at least now. The ones I read were beautiful, but they were/felt religious and not something I could relate to."

A reader from Oakham read *Howl and Other Poems* by Allen Ginsberg: "What a long strange trip! I read lots of background (including essays and the author's annotations), watched James Franco portray Ginsberg in a film, and listened to recordings of the poems. The passionate cry against conformity still rings loud and true, a half-century later."

A reader from Wakefield read *My Wicked, Wicked Ways* by Sandra Cisneros: "I am not a big fan of poetry, and this book didn't turn me into one, but there were one or two poems that made me pause."

A reader from ANDOVER read *Poetry for Kids Emily Dickinson* by Emily Dickinson Ed by Susan Snively PhE: "I really enjoyed this book. There are lovely artwork illustrations of the poems and at the end there is interpretation of the poems which helps with context and understanding."

A reader from Hamilton read *Twenty love poems and a song of despair* by Pablo Neruda: "I enjoyed most of the poems, poetry isn't my favorite thing to read so I was glad to be prompted."

A reader from Leominster read *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur: "Heartbreaking poetry collection, with themes of rape, sexual assault, recovery, hope and growth."

A reader from Rochester read *Still I rise* by Maya angelu: "Maya is firm, but not angry or bitter."

A reader from Conway read *Sonnets From the Portuguese and Other Poems* by Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "Sadly this did nothing to alter my dislike of poetry. Much of it made no sense to me despite rereading and looking up unknown words."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver: "This is a heartwarming collection of poems (and one essay) inspired by Ms. Oliver's love for her canine family members, and were especially appreciated by this particular dog lover!"

A reader from Somerville read *Floaters: Poems* by Martin Espada: "Well written and thought provoking poems."

A reader from Harwich read *A Raising Moon on Domestic Violence* by Elizabeth Blade: "This was very interesting reading. I am not a fan of poetry, however, this book kept me engaged and sometime enraged as to what is done to women."

A reader from Plymouth read *Every Thing On It* by Shel Silverstein: "Shel Silverstein always reminds me not to take life too seriously, that there is joy in the simple and silly."

A reader from Fairhaven read *The Hungry Ear: poems of food and drink* by Young, Kevin (editor): "Roy Blount Jr wrote a number of poems about BBQ and bacon. Who would have imaged that is poetic material? The poems were funny, profound, and beautiful and showcased the artisticness of everyday things."

A reader from Centerville read *Why I Wake up Early* by Mary Oliver: "The title what attracted me first; then the name of the author "Mary Oliver, embracing the horizon. As I read, reread, started to memorize the poems...Waking Up Early and joining in Mary's delight of the mist on the grass or the flight of a small bird gave my days a new peaceness."

A reader from Wakefield read *Picnic, Lightning* by Billy Collins: "I struggle with poetry but it was good to read something out of my comfort zone."

A reader from Reading read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "An inventive, lyrical poetry collection that explores identity and language. The poems thoughtfully grapple with challenging ideas and ultimately offer healing."

A reader from Salem read *I Hope This Finds You Well* by Kate Baer: "I'm not really a poetry person but I really enjoyed this collection of poems. I love that she took notes, comments, and questions from her readers and fans and turned their words into poems. They were all socially and culturally relevant and great reads."

A reader from Hampden read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: "I read through the collection several times. Each subsequent reading added to my "getting" of the poems and appreciation of the poet's talent. I especially enjoyed the poems featuring birds and animals."

A reader from Attleboro read *Inheritance a visual poem* by Elizabeth Acevedo: "I know three girls who didn't always embrace their curls during their teen/tween years. A combination of societal impressions, peer impressions & learning who they were individually. Although I don't agree with the poem fully, there are parts that resonate."

A reader from Ludlow read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "A collection of her poems over many years. Could see her style evolve. Wonderful variety and of course beautiful. Recommend!"

A reader from Braintree read *Legacy Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance* by Nikki Grimes: "In this beautifully illustrated book, Grimes selected wonderful poems from the Harlem Renaissance then creates a 'Golden Shovel' poem which uses the words from one line and creates a poem with each word as the last word in a line."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Poems After Midnight* by Knopf (various authors): "I liked the theme of poets feeling most prolific in the middle of the night. Reading the poems late at night helped me to relate to the mood of these poems by various poets, some of which were new to me."

A reader from Charlton read *How to Fly* by Barbara Kingsolver: "Not a genre I usually read but I did enjoy it."

A reader from Hudson read *The Moon is Always Female* by Marge Piercy: "Marge Piercy's spirit of activism is strong in this collection of poems centered around women's striving for acceptance, connection, and safety in a world with strong beliefs about what is "proper" for how and whom you should love."

A reader from Beverly read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: "Poems about every day life written by a well known poet."

A reader from Westford read *I love you, call me back* by Sabrina Benaim: "It was interesting but it didn't feel like poetry, it just felt like a short story."

A reader from Auburn read *reduced to joy* by Mark Nepo: "He's fantastic! His poetry is simultaneously dazzling and devastating when he's talking to a beauty who broke his heart decades ago - or - in another poem when he's addressing a dead lover whom he is desperate to evoke lasting images of the face, the voice."

A reader from Woburn read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Her work is absolutely stunning and so thought-provoking."

A reader from LOWELL read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Gorman uses a variety of poetic methods to discuss the resiliency of the collective through a global pandemic. She also combines a historical record of the black experience from the slave trade to the present, taking care to recognize the inequities of African-Americans through the lens of poetry. In her poignancy she revisits the black soldier of WWI, The Spanish flu, as well as the Great Migration."

A reader from Chicopee read *Wound is the Origin of Wonder* by Maya C. Popa: "A short collectin of poems that explore love and loss, grief and letting go, searching for meaning. I found myself re-reading the poems every couple of days and letting them settle within."

A reader from Attleboro read *Forget Me Not* by Ellie Terry: "Written in verse. Middle school girl's struggle with Tourette Syndrome, making friends, and finding confidence in herself."

A reader from Attleboro read *Blue Horses* by Mary Oliver: "Mary's poetry is very down-to-earth about everyday life, especially nature. I love how easy it is to understand and be able to relate to her each poem."

A reader from Methuen read *Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson* by Fall River Press: "The cover of this book is so beautiful and it has a great collection of some of Emily's poems."

A reader from Middleboro read *The sun and her flowers* by Rupi Kaur: "A collection of poems about love, heartbreak, and culture. I enjoyed reading the poems but did not connect to the content very much."

A reader from Dighton read *Something Permanent* by Cynthia Rylant: "Poetry is definitely not my favorite, but I love that this book had photos to go with each one."

A reader from Burlington read *When the Dark Spoke to Me* by Christabelle Marburn: "Not a fan of this one.."

A reader from Worcester read *Blue Horses* by Mary Oliver: "It was such a joy to make the time and space for an entire collection of poetry rather than just a poem or two here and there. The images of nature are so moving that I was inspired to spend time walking through the woods with my dog."

A reader from Plainville read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "This book is amazing! I haven't read a book of poems since high school but her words are powerful. She has what I think is a unique style but it's lyrical and evoked so much emotion from me as a reader. I'd highly recommend this book to everyone!"

A reader from Hamilton read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: "A slim volume rich in imagery of nature all around us."

A reader from Plainville read *101 Great American Poems* by Various Authors: "I have found while reading this book that poetry is not my most favorite. I however, respect any of the authors in this book. I hope in the future to read more poetry."

A reader from Dennis Port read *I Love You Is Back* by Derrick C. Brown: "I've never read this poet and some of it was so easy, like a conversation or a journal entry or someone's visible thoughts. Descriptive, humorous and vivid."

A reader from Sandwich read *I hope this finds you well* by Kate Baer: "I liked how she could take a negative comment and turn it into more positive one. It offered some great advice through the written word."

A reader from Duxbury read *The Complete Poems of Sappho* by Sappho, Willis Barnstone: "So little is known about this legendary figure of the past. Her poems and fragments are few, but they made a big impact. I had been meaning to dive into her work and April was a great opportunity to do that!"

A reader from Auburn read *The Selected Poems of Rumi* by Rumi: "Timeless Ruminations of love."

A reader from Sandwich read *Meditations in an Emergency* by Frank O'Hara: "I don't normally gravitate toward poetry books, but I loved "Lunch Poems" by O'Hara because of the humanity it portrayed in just a few words. I was hoping this would do the same, and some poems did, but it felt a little jumbled and far too ambiguous throughout."

A reader from Uxbridge read *Water I Won't Touch* by Kaylee Rae Candrilli: "Poems were moving and the subjects of transgender and father's addictions mixed in with environmental issues."

A reader from Norton read *The World's Wife* by Carol Ann Duffy: "My favorite poem was Mrs. Darwin - such an interestingly new perspective on the lives the women of the world's most famous men."

A reader from Topsfield read *Life on Mars* by Tracy K. Smith: "Accessible, yet deep; Profound and humbling. It's easy to see why this won the Pulitzer."

A reader from Belchertown read *A Spicing of Birds* by Emily Dickinson; a compilation: "If a bird lover/watcher, then this delightful compilation of Emily Dickinson's bird poems will make you chirp with delight. To complete the book, illustrations of 18th and 19th Century artists were used and make great companions to Ms. Dickinson's work. Highly recommend the book."

A reader from Melrose read *Alive At The End Of The World* by Saeed Jones: "A poignant collection about loss and injustice with a sprinkling of humor. 5/5."

A reader from Paxton read *The Raven and other poems* by Edgar Allen Poe: "Love Edgar Allen Poe from when I was in middle - was fun to revisit his work."

A reader from Weymouth read *Skating on Bones* by J Lorraine Brown: "I enjoyed reading Brown's poems very much. In fact, I read two more of her publications as well: Little Houses and Dancing in the Crystal Palace. She was originally from North Quincy and now resides in Mashpee."

A reader from Forestdale read *The trouble with poetry- and other poems* by Billy Collins: "I don't love poetry but I did love that this challenge takes me out of my comfort zone."

A reader from Boston read *How to Fly (in Ten Thousand Easy Lessons)* by Barbara Kingsolver: "I was planning to read a different collection, but happened to see that this one has sequence of poems about Italy, where I am traveling next month. By the end, I had copied out three poems (none of them from the Italy sequence!) to save or send to friends."

A reader from Cambridge read *The World Keeps Ending, and the World Goes On* by Franny Choi: "Choi provides a raw and personal look at the idea of apocalypse, ranging from generational trauma to firsthand experience with death and the COVID-19 pandemic all in beautiful verses."

A reader from Salem read *The World Keeps Ending, and the World Goes On* by Franny Choi: "A very striking and well written poetry collection that is in direct conversation with the COVID pandemic, as well as about tragedy occurring over and over again, and the dread that accumulates as we keep seeing tragedy after tragedy happen. I definitely recommend this book!"

A reader from Colora read *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin* by Terrance Hayes: "This collection of sonnets was really beautiful and depicted Hayes' black experience in a really different and comprehensive way."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Collected Nonsense and Light Verse* by G. K. Chesterton: "Cute. Not easy to read all through."

A reader from Bolton read *Paddle Whispers* by Douglas Wood: "My wife and I have taken several canoe trips, and loved being transported back to some of our favorite memories."

A reader from Lynnfield read *I hope this finds you well* by Kate Baer: "I loved this book! So powerful the way she turned strong negative or positive fan mail into beautiful and though provoking poetry."

A reader from Hampden read *the twelve gifts from the garden* by Charlene Costanzo: "Quotes from various people which allow you to walk in the shoes of the author and try to see what was seen to inspire the words. Calming way to start the day."

A reader from Sutton read *The sun and her flowers* by Rupi Kaur: "Beautiful short poems in thematic format."

A reader from Scituate read *Inheritance: A visual poem* by Elizabeth Acevedo: "Visually stunning this book masterfully uses poetry to capture the role hair plays not only in the poet's Afro-Dominican lineage, but in how others decide upon what are acceptable cultural norms surrounding hair."

A reader from Hampden read *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman: "This was a beautiful book read at the inauguration."

A reader from Bourne read *Almost Grown* by Jack DeWitt: "I have met the author and have read 2 of his novels so when I saw this book at the library, I thought that it would be interesting to read. The book is almost a love story to automobiles and growing up in the 50's and early 60's. It was very readable and interesting."

A reader from Sandwich read *What kind of women* by Kate Baer: "Great book of poetry."

A reader from Northampton read *100 Poems* by Seamus Heaney: "The beauty of Ireland really shines through Heaney's poetry. His love and passion for the land and every day life is felt through his words."

A reader from Dracut read *Poems by Sappho* by Sappho: "I was unsure of the influence of Sappho's work upon first look without reading -- how could such short poems be so timeless? As I read, I realized how sweet and sincere these words meant to me. I took a few out and taped them into my journal."

A reader from Amherst read *The Carrying* by Ada Limon: "Ada Limon is the present poet laureate of the US. I enjoyed her honesty, her insight and her unique voice."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Poems of Emily Dickinson* by Emily Dickinson: "Beautiful and yet simple poetry."

A reader from Reading read *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency* by Chen Chen: "A very unique style of poetry- I can't really compare this to anyone else. Provides a comprehensive social, emotional, intellectual view of growing up as a gay Asian American."

A reader from Hatfield read *Celtic Poets* by Various: "I rarely read poetry but enjoyed this as a change of pace."

A reader from New Bedford read *The Best Poems of Jane Kenyon* by Jane Kenyon: "This collection is wonderful. I was moved by her poetry and even more so, by the fact that she passed away at such a young age."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Started out with beautiful imagery and use of words, deteriorated into bitterness and finally ended beautifully with "The Hill We Climb."

A reader from South Deerfield read *Jesus Merch: A Catalog in Poems* by Megan McDermott: "Megan is actually a personal friend of mine, and one of the priests at the Episcopal Church I attend in Amherst, MA. Her poems are witty, lacing probing questions and religious experience with themes of longing, heartache, and random paraphernalia found on the world wide web. Would recommend!"

A reader from Worcester read *Slack Tongue City* by Mackenzie Berry: "This is a special book to me as the author is the daughter of one of my dearest friends. Mackenzie is a talented young poet with degrees from the University of Wisconsin, the University of London, and an MFA from Cornell. This collection is her interpretation of her home state, Kentucky, and city, Louisville. Thought provoking and honest."

A reader from Northampton read *Words With Wings* by Nikki Grimes: "The story of a young girl experiencing changes in her family and life told through poetry. The story is relatable and encourages the reader to dream."

A reader from Hopkinton read *American Primitive* by Mary Oliver: "Wonderful poems, especially those of Provincetown. I would have appreciated them more though, if I had taken my time instead of reading it all in one sitting."

A reader from Peabody read *Floaters* by Martin Espada: "It was interesting."

A reader from Salem read *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman: "Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* is as refreshing in 2023 as it was when published more than a century ago. He reminds us to experience joy as fully as we experience sadness; to take ourselves seriously; and to relax into the rhythms of the universe."

A reader from Belchertown read *Winter Recipes from the Collective* by Louise Gluck: "It was a struggle for me to get through this book even though it was only 42 pages. I'm used to reading fiction and enjoy a story line. If this had one, I couldn't follow it. That's poetry though."

A reader from Attleboro read *Above Ground* by Clint Smith: "I loved Smith's take on contemporary parenthood and caregiving."

A reader from Boston read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "Love reading her poems."

A reader from Spencer read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: "Thought provoking, short and sweet poems."

A reader from Reading read *I'll Fly Away* by Rudy Francisco: "In his second collection of poetry, Rudy Francisco creates language for things there are no words for. Subjects spanning from mass shootings, social media, and racism to fatherhood, love, and depression, Francisco's work is both personal and relatable. I love that this collection consists of poems I read 3-4 times, poems I read slowly and paused for reflection, poems I devoured, poems where a single line broke my heart or left me in awe. Definitely recommend!"

A reader from Melrose read *The Princess Saves Herself in this One* by Amanda Lovelace: "A lot can be told in few words."

A reader from Boxford read *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur: "I really enjoyed reading this book. I have read other works by this author and really enjoyed this one as well!"

A reader from Salem read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "I loved how she addresses current issues and how she structures her poems."

A reader from West Simsbury read *This Afterlife* by A.E. Stallings: "Wonderful depth and breadth of subject matter: from Scissors to lost things, Olives to Barnacles, and all things of Greek Mythology. Something for everyone as she weaves beautiful images of moments in life at first seemingly simple, but that resonate and hold."

A reader from Wrentham read *The Wild Iris* by Louise Gluck: "Beautiful imagery set among unsettling emotions."

A reader from Amherst read *The World Keeps Ending, and the World Goes On* by Franny Choi: "Thought provoking poems about environmental degradation, the Asian experience in America and social justice."

A reader from East Longmeadow read *I'm Just No Good At Rhyming* by Chris Harris: "Hilarious--Shel Silverstein for a new generation. Well worth reading at any age."

A reader from Salem read *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur: "This book of poetry was beautiful and inspiring."

A reader from Seekonk read *A Poem Traveled Down My Arms* by Alice Walker: "I'm not usually a reader of poetry, but I enjoyed this book. Many of the poems really touched me."

A reader from Framingham read *Look At This Blue* by Allison Hedge Coke: "This is a different style of poetry than I'm used to - more science-y and less narrative. There were parts I really enjoyed, and other parts were less intelligible, but the experience overall was good!"

A reader from Reading read *Baby Teeth: A Novel in Verse* by Meg Grehan: "A lesbian, vampire-human love story told in beautiful verse that includes all the emotions of true love with the added thirst for blood."

A reader from Beverly read *Hard Times Require Furious Dancing* by Alice Walker: "Uplifting, emotional, relatable poetry."

A reader from LYNNFIELD read *The Trouble with Poetry and Other Poems* by Billy Collins: "Thought provoking poetry written in a unique, modern style."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Where The Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein: "It's amazing how some of these have stuck so clear in my memory from childhood, but it was a lot of fun to read them all for the first time as an adult!"

A reader from Stoneham read *The Captain's Verses/Los versos del Capitan* by Pablo Neruda, Donald D. Walsh, translator: "Neruda's poetry is beautiful. My favorite one so far is Your Laughter. I read them in Spanish to myself so that I can hear them as he wrote them and even though I need the English translations they are still amazing and lovely."

A reader from Stoneham read *Eating Salad Drunk* by Gabe Henry: "A funny compilation of haikus by multiple authors. My favorite by Stewart Francis is My therapist thinks that I'm obsessed with vengeance. We'll see about that!"

A reader from Beverly read *Wet Cement* by Bob Raczka: "I thought the poems were very clever and they made my students excited to write poems!"

A reader from Rochester read *50 Poems to Open Your World* by Pádraig Ó Tuama: "Pádraig Ó Tuama's anthology of 50 wide-ranging poems from mainly living poets, paired with his appealing unhurried reflections, is a richly rewarding conversation celebrating the art of being alive."

A reader from Northfield read *Natural Sustenance* by Nick Fleck: "Poetry is not my usual genre but I picked this book because the author and his wife are my neighbors. It was interesting to read about places I know and get more perspectives on nature and wildlife. And I am committed to this challenge!"

A reader from Hanson read *Joy: Poems of love, life and fate* by Mike Bond: "I haven't read a book on poetry since college but I enjoyed the pace of reading poetry as like a cleanse in between novels. I'll definitely try to add more poetry to my reading list going forward! Thanks."

A reader from Franklin read *From One Mom to a Mother* by Jessica Urlichs: "Incredibly relatable. So much truth and filled with love and compassion."

A reader from Braintree read *Poems for Little Ears* by Kate Cox Goddard: "A Christmas present from my Great Aunt in the year 1965. I sat down on my couch wrapped in a blanket and enjoyed every minute of rereading this children's book of poetry."

A reader from Merrimac read *Baby Teeth: A Novel in Verse* by Meg Grehan: "A lesbian, vampire-human love story eloquently detailing the journey to finding true love while trying to subdue one's desire for blood."

A reader from Waltham read *Wade in the Water* by Tracy K Smith: "Honestly, I finished this a couple of weeks ago and can't remember much more specific than that I enjoyed it."

A reader from Guyton read *The sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur: "I liked it more than I thought I would. It was relatable and a nice break from what I normally read."

A reader from Wenham read *Booked* by Kwame Alexander: "Very easy to read and a nice story."

A reader from Lunenburg read *How to love the world of poems of gratitude and hope* by James Crews: "Struggled thru book. Never was a big fan of poetry and still not a big fan of poetry."

A reader from MARSTONS MILLS read *The Sleep That Changed Everything* by Lee Ann Brown: "Not a fan, but then again it's really tough to convey the thought process behind poetry."

A reader from Weymouth read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "I found her poetry full of beautiful imagery. it was very soothing and relaxing to read and I often read several poems before bed as a meditation."

A reader from Erving read *Wisdom from a Shaker Garden* by Kathleen Mahoney: "This was a collection of poetry and other useful information such as recipes, plants, and spiritual insight. I've read it over several times as it's only 86 pages and informational."

A reader from Attleboro read *Construction People* by various: "Great introduction to poetry for kids that like construction."

A reader from Buckland read *From May Sarton's Well* by May Sarton: "Poetry is not my favorite but I did enjoy reading Sarton's work."

A reader from Randolph read *Upon Departure* by John Roedel: "These works are intense, intimate and touch me. Poetry that I can understand. Glad I selected this book."

A reader from Cambridge read *Time is a Mother* by Ocean Vuong: "How do you survive the grief of a mother's death? These poems are raw and powerful and deeply personal."

A reader from Sandwich read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "Mary Oliver is attuned to Nature and her descriptions show how much she loves to be expressing what she feels."

A reader from Amherst read *Collected poems of Emily dickinson* by Emily dickinson: "A wonderful and thoughtful, but slow, read."

A reader from Beverly read *Goldenrod* by Maggie Smith: "Maggie Smith is a brilliant poet. Her words cut right to the heart of the matter, and turn horrible things into a beautiful work of art."

A reader from Danvers read *Hey god hey John* by John roedel: "Makes you think in different ways with each poem."

A reader from Yorba Linda read *For the Good of the Earth and Sun* by Georgia Heard: "Extraordinary lessons, strategies and poems I've used in teaching poetry to second and third graders!"

A reader from Andover read *Vintage Hughes* by Langston Hughes: "Hughes' poetry is still so fresh and relevant. It feels as if he just wrote these poems in response to issues affecting us today."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: "I'm still not a big poetry person, but I typically like Mary Oliver's work and it is National Poetry Month, after all. My favorite two poems in this collection were: HURRICANE & GREEN, GREEN IS MY SISTER'S HOUSE."

A reader from Beverly read *The Poetry of Robert Frost* edited by Edward Connery Lathem: "I was familiar with a few of Frost's poems, but had never read them all before. I enjoyed his distinctive voice and his dry humor. Next, I think I want to read a biography of him--made me curious to know more of his life."

A reader from West Bridgewater read *Sailing Alone Around the Room* by Billy Collins: "Collins is an amazing poet; his poems seem simple but can be complex with surprises."

A reader from Melrose read *Honeybee* by Trista Mateer: "I don't often read poetry and I was pleasantly surprised. The poems collectively told a story of falling in love, a breakup, and moving on. There were a few poems that really moved me."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "I remember when Mary Oliver died. I should have read this much, much sooner."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Here All Night* by Jill McDonough: "Didn't love the collection. Not enough range."

A reader from Sandwich read *Kyrie* by Ellen Bryant Voigt: "Voigt's spare poems managed to convey the terror and despair of the combined war and pandemic."

A reader from Plainville read *I Hope This Finds You Well* by Kate Baer: "Beautiful to see the poetry and the immediate inspiration paralleled on the pages."

A reader from Montague read *The World's Wife* by Carol Ann Duffy: "Amusing feminist take on spouses of famous men both real and mythological. Well done and clever."

A reader from Boston read *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diiie* by Maya Angelou: "Deeply personal poems of her life experiences."

A reader from Barnstable read *A Brilliant Loss* by Eloise Klein Healy: "Amazing memoir, in poems, about the author's experience of temporary aphasia. Beautifully expressed."

A reader from Yarmouth read *The Selected Poetry of Robinson Jeffers* by Robinson Jeffers: "Powerful, profound, unforgettable, one-of-a-kind, provocative images and themes of nature's dominance over mankind. Not for the weak-at-heart."

A reader from Reading read *Thirst* by Mary Oliver: "One of my Dad's favorite poets. He was a poet himself and so can see his inspiration in her poetry."

A reader from Holden read *Shakespeare's Sonnets: the Complete Illustrated Poems* by William Shakespeare: "The plays and poems of William Shakespeare was what ultimately led me to my lifelong study of Tudor history, so I knew I'd love revisiting his collection of sonnets. 116 has always been my favorite! The art contained in this volume is beautiful and was a wonderful addition to the written word. I thoroughly enjoyed my pick for this month's challenge!"

A reader from Wilmington read *New Hampshire (collection)* by Robert Frost: "like most people i encountered frost in high school by reading "the road not taken". as an adult, i have read think pieces on how frost was kind of a jokester and the road taken was more about it doesn't matter which road you took, you got there at the end, it was not about the power of choosing a less traveled road. this poem is not in this collection, but i was just giving some background on when i first encountered frost. when i finished new hampshire, it really crystalizes for me how most people mis-interpreted the road not taken. his insightful poems are incredibly funny and without experiencing it vicariously through reviews/criticisms of frost's poetry now i understood it first hand the trials and tribulations of just being alive in new hampshire and the deep white winters that covers our northern regions. the astute and often quirky and wise takes on the the nature, the land, the peoples of new hampshire is still very much current in spite of the work being written more than 100yrs ago. while much as has changed, the context has not. what an amazing piece of work this collection of poetry is."

A reader from East Falmouth read *The Hill we climb* by Amanda Gorman: "Very motivating poem."

A reader from Weymouth read *World of Hard Use* by Faye George: "I thoroughly enjoyed reading poems about the ordinary men/women workers who exist in our lives. Some poems highlighted the dreams, hopes, and aspirations of these employed and unemployed workers."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Winter Recipes from the Collective* by Louise Gluck: "This lovely book made me think about the sorrows of old age, losing family and lovers. The author uses images of small events to express her experiences with facing loss and death."

A reader from Hanover read *The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson* by Rachel Wetzsteon: "I enjoyed reading her poetry, particularly the section on nature. It was very eloquent, simple and rhyming. It was a relaxing book to pick up. I further did research on her life and found it interesting. Good read!"

A reader from BRAINTREE read *Emily Dickinson Collected Poems* by Emily Dickinson: "I have not read poetry since high school and it was a nice change in what I normally read."

A reader from Sandwich read *Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver* by Mary Oliver: "Beautiful poems that helped me stop and look at the natural world around me."

A reader from Salem read *Some of the Light: New and Selected Poems* by Tim Z. Hernandez: "I was excited to try a collection of poetry as this month's theme but I found poetry as a genre is not for me - tried two collections. I love a moving poem I can connect to but for me, I have trouble reading as collections as the book seems disjointed and I can't connect with a majority of the poems."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "So interesting to read an entire book of poetry about the current times we are living. Really thoughtful and varied approaches to every poem."

A reader from Westborough read *The Very Stuff* by Stephen Beal: "Poems describing the colors of embroidery floss!"

A reader from Hanover read *Why I Wake Early* by Mary Oliver: "I love nature and always enjoy seeing the sun rise and hearing every one waking in up. Including plants, animals, people, Town and cities. This book was very relatable."

A reader from Shrewsbury, MA 01545, USA read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "The book is a collection of her poetry through the years of 1963 thru 2015. I love her poetry because it's conversational and it also reminds me of my favorite aunt who wrote poetry in a similar fashion. My very favorite is "I Worried" from the 2010 collection. It depicts life in general and me more specifically !!"

A reader from Woburn read *Playlist for the Apocalypse* by Rita Dove: "I'm not a big poetry fan, but considering that this was a decent collection. I especially enjoyed the chapter of poems inspired by specific days in history, and the one about the 1990s."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Carrying* by Ada Limon: "I had not listened to an audiobook of poetry before. I liked it! The author's topics and vignettes were relatable and/or thought-provoking. This was a quick but meaningful read."

A reader from South yarmouth read *All Sins Forgiven poems for my parents* by Charles Coe: "Good memories about the authors parents."

A reader from Fall River read *From Snow to Snow* by Robert Frost: "I enjoyed this collection of Robert Frost poems. Some are old favorites but some were new to me. Favorite: the October poem about the cow jumping the fence to help herself to fallen apples!"

A reader from Worcester read *Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver: "I don't typically read poetry. Poetry, I think, is best read aloud, and my husband read this slim volume to me aloud the other night. Touching, funny, poignant all the emotions!"

A reader from Sunderland read *ten poems to set you free* by Roger Housden: "This is an approach to poetry I've never seen before and I love it."

A reader from Northampton read *Night Sky With Exit Wounds* by Ocean Vuong: "This book was so absolutely wonderful! It was transcendent in all the best ways."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *What Do We Know* by Mary Oliver: "Mary Oliver has the gift of words. Her poems tell stories about the beauty of nature and the world!"

A reader from Andover read *Wind in a Box* by Terrance Hayes: "I loved the variety of forms and structures that Hayes played with in this collection. It felt modern and inventive."

A reader from Essex read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Amanda Gorman writes beautifully and I especially love "The Hill We Climb". I have never really read poetry other than what I had to read for school but I identified with some of the pandemic poems and it made me appreciate poetry and the very careful use of words more."

A reader from Scituate read *The Sonnets of William Shakespeare* by William Shakespeare: "Iambic Pentameter. Lyrical, descriptive, invoking deep feelings."

A reader from Salem read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "This is a pandemic book that riffs on things we can carry: diseases, people, emotional burdens, history. Timely and thoughtful."

A reader from Lunenburg read *Everyday I Pray for Love* by Yahoo Kusama: "Visually beautiful collection of poems that stir the heart. A favorite!"

A reader from Burlington read *Blue Iris* by Mary Oliver: "Poetry is challenging for me, but this was a lovely read for the springtime."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Things I Have to Tell You* by Betsy Frinco: "Very talented young woman with lots to share through poetry. Enjoyed the book very much."

A reader from Conroe read *Kinky* by Denise Duhamel: "I liked how Barbie was viewed through to many lenses and involved other popular toys/dolls."

A reader from Amherst read *Being Here* by Martha Himmelman Nelson: "This small collection is such a treasure. Martha's poems are funny, heart-breaking, sweet, sincere, and very, very touching."

A reader from Hudson read *Brown girl dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson: "Brown Girl Dreaming is a verse novel. It discusses the author's childhood as an African American growing up in the 1960s in South Carolina and New York."

A reader from Attleboro read *How to Fly (in ten thousand easy lessons)* by Barbara Kingsolver: "I enjoyed a few poems out of this collection. How to shear a sheep was a fun one. I wanted to like this but I just don't like poetry. :("

A reader from Stoneham read *North* by Seamus Heaney: "I love Seamus Heaney and his very Irish poetry."

A reader from Braintree read *Poems to Live Your Life By* by Chris Riddell: "This small yet impactful book includes well-known poems that are accompanied by sketches drawn by Chris Riddell. The poems, which largely skew toward those written by white and male authors, are organized by topic, e.g., youth, family, love, etc. Personal favorites include "I Am Very Bothered" by Simon Armitage, "Eden Rock" by Charles Causely, and "Witch Work" by Neil Gaiman."

A reader from Greenfield read *Walk through Paradise Backwards* by Trish Crapo: "Some beautiful poems, esp about parenting."

A reader from New York read *How to Communicate* by John Lee Clark: "This was my first time reading a collection of poetry and this was a lovely introduction. I also learned about protactile poetry and other forms of accessible poetry!"

A reader from Salem read *Prize Wheel* by Colleen Michaels: "Love love love!"

A reader from Wilmington read *A Road Less Traveled and Other Poems by Robert Frost* by Robert Frost: "I'm not a fan of poetry so I picked an author that I remembered from my school days, and locally. While I did like A Road Less Traveled, the other poems in the book were not the least bit interesting to me."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Tao te Ching* by D.R. Streeter: "A Zen Poet's View of The Tao te Ching is a thought-provoking collection of poetry. Many of the pieces I had to read more than once to fully appreciate their meaning."

A reader from Marblehead read *Judas Goat* by Gabrielle Bates: "A moving collection that doesn't fool around; brilliant imagery and craft!"

A reader from Laconia read *& Company* by Moira Linehan: "Ms Linehan's fictionalized search for her maternal grandmother, a Parisian Seamstress during La Belle Epoque, imagines her grandmother's world against the backdrop of art works by Mary Cassatt and Berthe Morisot."

A reader from Weymouth read *The House of Belonging* by David Whyte: "Evocative book of poetry. The poet says it best, "I have my freedom today because nothing really happened."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Some things I still can't tell you* by Misha Collins: "I don't usually read poetry, but I enjoyed this book. I did find it to be quite sad, with a few uplifting poems. Beautiful thoughts."

A reader from Andover read *An natural history of unnatural things* by Zachary Logan: "His poetry is as beautiful as his art. I saw the exhibition at the PEM. He also did a reading there."

A reader from Danvers read *Door of no return* by Kwame Alexander: "A work of historical fiction with lyrical writing and epic story telling."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver: "Wonderful book if you have one, or just love dogs. I read one a day each morning. Picture of my dogs, not the book."

A reader from Melrose read *Selected Poems* by ROBERT FROST: "I ENJOYED READING ABOUT SIMPLE, ORDINARY THINGS IN NATURE AND OTHERWISE, THAT WE JUST TAKE FOR GRANTED."

A reader from Northampton read *The Birds Persist to Sing* by Lauren Medina: "Moving collection of poetry on suffering, heartbreak, and the struggle to maintain hope in the face of it."

A reader from Hampden read *I wish my father* by Leslea Newman: "I enjoyed the book and brought back memories of my father who only lived to age 55 years old. Would recommend to read."

A reader from Franklin read *Oh The Places You'll Go and more* by Dr. Seuss: "I've never been a big fan of poetry, although I enjoyed "The Raven" and "Casey at the Bat" and a collection of humorous poems whose name I've forgotten. But I have a little grandson who I read to frequently, and many of his books are poetic. There are others besides Dr. Seuss, of course, and they're fun for little ones....and I read them a lot."

A reader from Winthrop read *The Peace of Wild Things* by Wendell Berry: "Wonderful collection for springtime! Beautiful reflections on nature and living meaningfully in the world."

A reader from Boxford read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "This book was amazing. Mary's poetry is so beautiful and thought provoking and yes, at times very sad. I brought this book with me to jury duty and it made the time fly by because each poem was so wonderful. Highly recommend to everyone who enjoys poetry."

A reader from Wilmington read *Copper Yearning* by Kimberly Blaeser: "Poetry is not a favorite genre of mine and this collection did not change my mind on that at all. While the poems did make me think particularly when it mentioned historical events, the lack of details in the poetry made me not invested in what the poems were trying to express. If you like poetry collections that speak about historical events and of a Native American perspective, then this collection might be worth the read."

A reader from Braintree read *The Tradition* by Jericho Brown: “Beautiful language, and powerful themes. After I read the poems, I downloaded an audiobook and listened to the author read them. The poet’s cadence brought the meaning of the poems out clearly.”

A reader from Stow read *Obit* by Victoria Chang: “Beautiful way to express how grief hits the living when a family member dies.”

A reader from Erving read *Suddenly Sixty* by Judith Viorst: “It was funny and honest.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *In Someone’s Shadow* by Rod McKuen: “The author knows how to express feelings that so many of us feel but can’t express.”

A reader from Northfield read *Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World* by Padraig O Tuama: “Curated with such love and attention, with such respect for the great diversity of poets and their topics. I left every selection having a greater appreciation for poetry’s potentials than before.”

A reader from Westwood read *Six American Poets, an anthology* by Edited by Joel Conarroe: “I found the book in a little free library and enjoyed reading the chosen poems by Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Wallace Stephens, William Carlos Williams, Robert Frost, and Langston Hughes! A commentary was given about each poem, which I found helpful and interesting!”

A reader from Gill read *Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening* by Robert Frost: “Delightful! Love the illustrations by Susan Jeffers!”

A reader from Amherst read *The Carrying* by Ada Limon: “I enjoyed this collection of poetry and I read some of them out loud. That increased my enjoyment.”

A reader from Chicopee read *Poe: Stories and Poems: A Graphic Novel Adaptation* by Gareth Hinds: “A brief taste of Poe’s unique poems that combines his sense of Gothic literature and visual imagery to make readers feel like they are in the center of his works.”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *North* by Seamus Heaney: “Beautiful pain.”

A reader from READING read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: “This was my first introduction to Mary Oliver. Her focus on the outdoors in simple yet thoughtful writings appealed to me. I enjoy nature very much. Poetry is not appealing to me, but written in this way I could enjoy it.”

A reader from Cambridge read *Eb & Flow* by Baptist: “I opted to read a novel in verse.”

A reader from Norwell read *New and Selected Poems, vol I and II* by Mary Oliver: “Poetry is not something I usually read so I asked my daughter for her favorite poetry collection. These two volumes by Mary Oliver are full of beautiful imagery; my two favorite phrases are “the snails on the pink sleds of their bodies” and “the wasp sits on the porch of her paper castle.” Really lovely.”

A reader from Easthampton read *Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light: Fifty Poems for Fifty Years* by Joy Harjo: “This book is a treasure. The poems are beautiful, contemplative, and brave, while the notes on each poem feel like being in a master class with this great and wise artist.”

A reader from FRANKLIN read *Outside the Box* by Karma Wilson: “I read this with my daughter. Fun poems that are similar in style to Shel Silverstein.”

A reader from Franklin read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "I've always enjoyed Mary Oliver's nature-centered poetry. Her poems that celebrate the early morning are especially resonant for me."

A reader from Sutton read *National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry* by Edited by J. Patrick Lewis: "Lovely, lovely, lovely. Words can't do the book justice because the pictures are too good."

A reader from Weymouth read *So Far So Good, Final Poems 2014-2018* by Ursula K Le Guin: "I was touched that the author died a week after she sent her revised manuscript for copy editing in January, 2018. As she wrote these poems in her eighties, Ms. Le Guin knew she was at the end of her life and these poems reflect this and her life's journey. Although I knew that Ms. Le Guin was an author I had never read any of her work. This collection of poems is a lovely introduction."

A reader from Reading read *Song of Myself* by Walt Whitman: "The book SONGS OF MYSELF by Walt Whitman made interesting reading The book is a collection of 52 poems. The poem I liked the most was the one that began: "I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self-contain'd. I stand and look at them long and long. They do not sweat and whine about their condition. They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins. They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God."

A reader from Dracut read *I Would Leave Me If I Could* by Halsey: "I really enjoyed this collection of poetry by Halsey."

A reader from Springfield read *In the Palm of Your Hand: The Poet's Portable Workshop* by Steve Kowitz: "This is a poetry craft book that includes a large number of poems inside in order to provide examples of the different craft elements discussed: figure and image, playing with meter, narrative flow, etc. I'm not normally a fan of poetry but this book was extremely accessible and included such a wide range of poetry types that it made me appreciate poetry more and think harder about how I could write more poetically in my prose fiction writing."

A reader from Sandwich read *Consolations* by David Whyte: "This book provides keen insight in to every day words like hope, anger, beauty. It is an inspiring and though provoking read."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Meadowlands* by Louise Gluck: "I loved Gluck's *The Wild Iris*, so I'm now making my way through the rest of her catalog."

A reader from Belchertown read *Resort and other poems* by Patricia Hampl: "I'm not a fan of poetry and this did not change my mind. Not the fault of the author, but I just didn't get it."

A reader from Salem read *I Would Leave Me If I Could* by Halsey: "A deeply moving collection that is raw and honest and fresh."

A reader from Erving read *Milk and honey* by Rupi kaur: "It is was dark. It is all about our darkest moments."

A reader from Methuen read *Write! Write! Write!* by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater: "A great way for students to see themselves as writers as they learn to brainstorm and communicate their ideas using the poems in this collection to inspire them."

A reader from Belchertown read *100 Poems* by Seamus Heaney: "I started studying Seamus Heaney poetry in college and fell in love. There's so much depth to each and every one of his poems, and it took

me the entire month to read each poem slow enough to understand it. I will be coming back to this collection over and over throughout my life.”

A reader from Haverhill read *Maya Angelou: The Complete Poetry* by Maya Angelou: “Maya Angelou is a fantastic poet. There are so many amazing poems I would have loved to hear her read them as I feel the power written on the pages behind her words and can only imagine how enraptured I’d be hearing them spoken aloud.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *I Explain a Few Things* by Pablo Neruda: “A great collection of Pablo Neruda’s poems, touching on his entire career. This was my first time reading Neruda and I felt this collection was a great introduction to his work, style, and voice. Highly recommended.”

A reader from Whately read *The Raven and Other Poems* by Edgar Allan Poe: “I have always been fascinated by Edgar Allan Poe’s creative writing. He expressed complex ideas and his poems were unique for their haunting musical quality. He also loved puzzles. Two poems I read contained a hidden name when you combined the first letter in the first line, the second letter in the second line, and so on. He continues to influence world literature.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Under the Sea* by Kenneth Griffen: “Refreshing poems. They all brought up images and memories for me. Very positive and uplifting words.”

A reader from Enfield read *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo: “The imagery of this book was incredible. I felt like I was inside the mind of Xiomara.”

A reader from Braintree read *A Good Cry: What We Learn from Tears and Laughter* by Nikki Giovanni: “A collection of poems with some short prose pieces, *A Good Cry* by Nikki Giovanni gives a personal glimpse into the joys and sorrows of the poet’s life, including remembrances of her good friend Maya Angelou and others whose lives helped shape her own.”

A reader from Sandwich read *The Classic Hundred Poems* by William Harmon Editor: “This book is a 2nd edition compendium of 100 all time favorite poems. There are some changes from 1st edition as peoples’ tastes change. Contains brief bio of each poet plus helpful hints re each poem. Consists of many familiar poems along with newer ones to enjoy and ponder.”

A reader from Seekonk read *Sonnets From the Portuguese* by Elizabeth Barrett Browning: “I’m not a great lover of poetry. I would rather read prose, but it was interesting to read other poems by Elizabeth Barrett Browning.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: “I loved it - I am not really a poetry reader. It was short enough to read in a sitting and enjoyable enough to read again and again in the future.”

A reader from Worcester read *Frost* by Robert Frost: “Robert Frost is one of my favorite poets. I enjoy his narratives about the beauty of New England.”

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *Field Guide to the Haunted Forest* by Jarod K. Anderson: “This gorgeous book by the creator of the Cryptonaturalist podcast connects the science of nature with the nature of emotion. Every poem is thought-provoking and evocative.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Sonnets From Suburbia: More Candles Than Cake* by Penny Peyser: “A funny look at aging through sonnets.”

A reader from est Barnstable read *How To Fly (In Ten Thousand Easy Lessons)* by Barbara Kingsolver: “Not in the habit of reading much poetry, much less a collection, I chose this volume because it was thin and I am familiar with author. Love it so much, I'm reading it again. Favorite chapter-Pellegrinaggio.”

A reader from SANDWICH read *Call Us What we Carry* by Amanda Gorman: “Thoughtful, powerful, poignant.”

A reader from North Bethesda read *If They Come for Us* by Fatimah Asghar: “This was a short (100 pages) but impactful collection. I recently read Fatimah Asghar's recently published novel *When We Were Sisters*, about Pakistani Muslim orphans. Fatimah was an orphan herself and that pain and themes are seen in these poems. Additionally, a very exciting for me surprise, was that a lot of poems delved into Partition and the horrible ramifications that continue to this day of that event. I loved this collection.”

A reader from Kingston read *And Yet* by Kate Baer: “My first collection of poetry read voluntarily! Kate Baer definitely speaks to me as a woman and as a mother. I will be reading her debut collection next.”

A reader from LENOX read *Allow Me, New and Selected Poems* by Irene Willis: “I felt like I was moving through time with her from childhood through adult years. Many of my own childhood memories sprang forth—the Hootchie Kootchie. I can certainly empathize with her sense of time moving faster and faster through the years. Her humor has you chuckling and her raw, honest emotions touch your heart and sensibilities. Her defiance of Nana's strict rules her father's dismissal of women writers had me routing, “You go, girl!” I found myself turning to the dictionary more than once to discover new words—bumbershoot, aubade, momento mori... Irene has given me a newly discovered love of poetry and its elegant way of expressing one's feelings and memories through the clever use of language and imagery.”

A reader from Melrose read *A Confederacy of Dumptys: Portraits of American Scoundrels in Verse* by John Lithgow: “A light and entertaining book of verse presenting some of our famous and infamous political characters with a great deal of humor!”

A reader from Danvers read *Inheritance* by Elizabeth Acevedo: “Beautiful and poignant words and message; emotional and full of history and relevance; so many wonderful, thought-provoking ideas and visuals.”

A reader from Florence read *Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World* by Pádraig Ó Tuama: “This is an amazing opportunity to read poets from around the world. Ó Tuama provides interesting introductions and insightful commentaries. Highly recommend this book!”

A reader from STONEHAM read *ARIEL* by SYLVIA PLATH: “I loved “The Bell Jar” when I read it many years ago. However, this book of poetry left me scratching my head. I really did not get it!”

A reader from Whitinsville read *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur: “This book was not as I expected. The poems were so descriptive using so little words. The scenes were sometimes painful and sometimes heartwarming. They really lead you on the journey of many relationships - both unhealthy and healthy. There were a few lines in there that will stick with me forever.”

A reader from Santa Cruz read *Mexican Poetry, An Anthology* by Octavio Paz, compiled it: “I've loved and have studied Mexican art, literature and culture for many years. This book has wonderful poems from

many of my favorite poets such as Juana Ines de La Cruz. The book has a very brief history of each of the thirty five poets. I highly recommend this book.”

A reader from Wilmington read *Toasting Marshmallows* by Kristine O'Connell George: “I liked how they had two different voices on one poem.”

A reader from Norton read *Poetry Unbound 50 Poems to Open Your World* by Padraig O Tuama: “I enjoyed reading many of the 50 contemporary poems(written by an international cast of poets) and uncovering the message(s) within. Do they apply to my life or not - a personal and abbreviated form of storytelling.”

A reader from Boston read *Punks: New and Selected Poems* by John Keene: “Poetry is not really a genre I tend to go for, so I exclusively sought out a collection of LGBTQ+ poems, and stumbled upon this one, written by a Black gay man. He used his experiences to craft stories and images -- especially of being gay in the 70s, 80s, etc. There were also poems that were written about visits and experiences in Boston and Ptown. One that stood out to me was "Lakeview Sojourn" where he says "I chill listening to rappers stretching melodies preaching brotherhood, sisterhood, family, strong pleas for freedom, unity---but do they of US, of ME?" That was powerful.”

A reader from Forestdale read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: “I am not a poet, and I have a hard time following it. But Mary’s poetry was nice to read. Which for not the Mass Book Challenge I would have never experienced Mary’s work.”

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Jimmy Stewart and his poems* by Jimmy Stewart: “When I saw this book it intrigued me as Jimmy Stewart is one of my favorite actors. It did not disappoint and was quick read. I really enjoyed his introduction for each poem and learning about his travels and family life. The poems were humourous, vivid and charming.”

A reader from Franklin read *How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Love* by James Crews: “I admit that I was intimidated by the poetry part of the challenge. But this selection is accessible and wonderful! What an uplifting selection of poems by a variety of poets. This is definitely a "stop and smell the roses" type of collection and I truly enjoyed it! A breath of fresh and hopeful air!”

A reader from Worcester read *Love Poems* by Emily Dickinson: “I am not a fan of poetry but my mom enjoyed it so I read it in her memory.”

A reader from Uxbridge read *You Get so Alone At Times That It Just Makes Sense* by Charles Bukowski: “I stumbled on Bukowski reading part of Ham on Rye and I found the honesty and irreverence to be so human. I was in the bookstore (Tidepool in Worcester) where we have this book group and I saw this Bukowski book of poetry. He reflects on the "seamier and steamier" side of life in a brutally honest, thud kind of painful way. His writing may be rough and not for everyone. He's refreshing!”

A reader from Boston read *The Desiderata of Hope* by Max Ehrmann: “A timeless, calming, reassuring collection of poems that inspires courage and hopefulness through life’s challenges. I especially enjoyed this month’s selection as I would not ordinarily choose to read poetry.”

A reader from West Falmouth read *Blue Iris* by Mary Oliver: “I love Mary Oliver's poetry and her deep connection to the natural world. Full of flower beauty, reflections and wisdom.”

A reader from Salem read *Pushkin* by Pushkin: "Good book! Amazing poetry! Amazing reading feeling!"

A reader from Quincy read *Selected Poems* by E. E. Cummings: "Contains two of my favorites from high school. Cummings is always an interesting read of style and concept."

A reader from Salem read *Violet bent backwards over the grass* by Lana del rey: "Reading a collection of poetry is outside of my comfort zone. Im glad I did it for this challenge and find that I still don't like poetry."

A reader from Norwell read *The Hurting Kind* by Ada Limon: "What a stunning volume, the poems were both sad and inspiring. Limon touched on a variety of subjects but her focus on the natural world is what really spoke to me."

A reader from Harwich read *The Woman I Kept to Myself* by Julia Alvarez: "Enjoyed this collection of 75 heartfelt and insightful reflections on her life from childhood to maturity. Most especially: "I am almost home. Deep in my self, a light has been left on - as if somebody, knowing I'd return, has set the table, kept my supper warm."

A reader from S Yarmouth read *West Wind* by Mary Oliver: "Beautiful. Lovely, nature-centric poems."

A reader from Melrose read *A Shropshire Lad* by A.E. Housman: "Ok, I picked this collection because it's short. I'm enjoying it though."

A reader from Beverly read *Selected Poems* by Robert Frost: "I knew a few of Robert Frost's poems - The Road Not Taken and The Mending Wall. I encountered some new poems of his in a novel that my 4th grade class was reading and became reacquainted with how much I enjoyed his poetry. I borrowed a this book from my friend which I had given her many years ago after we attended An Evening with Robert Frost event."

A reader from Hampden read *Food* by Ogden Nash: "Reading Ogden Nash's Food is a good time. He wrote of juicy fruits, creamy sauces and meat in its prime / Of chocolates and puddings and pies so sublime / Of fishes and spices and maybe some thyme / Makes one believe he could make anything rhyme."

A reader from Beverly read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Incredible! Amanda Gorman is such a talent. Every word is chosen with intention and delivered with passion. I loved listening to hear recite the poems and the visual elements in the physical book."

A reader from Worcester read *Some Things I Still Can't Tell You* by Misha Collins: "I'm not typically a huge poetry guy, but I'd been meaning to read this collection for a while. It was very sweet and conversational while still having a few gut punches mixed in; I had a great time with it."

A reader from Stanford read *A Small Porch* by Wendell Berry: "I was not looking forward to April's selection of a poetry book. While there were some rather interesting poems, I am still not a fan of reading poetry."

A reader from Harwich read *Where horizons go* by Rhina Espaillat: "The poems in this collection are very easy to get inside off. You don't need special knowledge of the poets intent. There is great mastery of rhyme and meter."

A reader from Somerville read *Are You an Echo: The Lost Poetry of Misuzu Kaneko* by David Jacobson, Sally Ito, and Michiko Tsuboi: "This is a special book that I want to share with everyone I know. Beautiful poetry by a Japanese poet I knew nothing about combined with a gentle telling of the poet's story and sweet illustrations. It is obvious to the reader that this book was made with love."

A reader from Swansea read *Where I Live: Poems about My Home, My Street, and My Town* by selected by Paul B. Janeczko: "This collection of 34 poems celebrates the places where we live: our homes, our streets, our towns as the title indicates. Features poems by X. J. Kennedy, Janet Wong, Gary Soto, Myra Cohn Livingston, Naomi Shahib Nye, Nikki Grimes, Lois Lenski, Nikki Giovanni, Aileen Fisher, and Langston Hughes, among others, beautifully illustrated by Hyewon Yum."

A reader from Fitchburg read *A Working Girl Can't Win : And Other Poems* by Deborah Garrison: "I was drawn to this book by its title. Able to read it in one sitting and found some of the poems to be amusing and witty."

A reader from Erving read *One Thing You'd Save* by Linda Sue Park: "This was an endearing and lovely poetic telling of a schoolteacher asking her students to think about the one thing they would save in a fire if they knew their families and pets were safe."

A reader from Beverly read *Falling Up* by Shel Silverstein: "The book was all right and I can see how it would appeal to children; however, some of the rhymes seemed forced. Prefer Jack Prelutsky's poetry for children instead (such as *Something Big Has Been Here*)."

A reader from Brockton read *Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver: "This was a nice collection of poems in honor of our furry, four-legged companions."

A reader from Milford read *Bright Dead Things* by Ada Limón: "The feeling of being one person and secretly liking it. the getting through the ways you can and noticing it's kind of beautiful. of realizing who you are and wanting to shake parts of that. of taking the breath and moving on anyways."

A reader from Melbourne read *the moment of wonder* by Richard Lewis: "A book of Japanese poetry. Dusty and used on a shelf. Perfect for April book challenge."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Bees Are Waiting* by Karina Borowicz: "I randomly choose a book off the library shelf and read during my lunch breaks. Poems to slow down and think about."

A reader from Spencer read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "A favorite line: By Goodbye, we truly mean: Let us be able to say hello again."

A reader from Northampton read *Witch Wife* by Kiki Petrosino: "I thought her perception of herself and her body image really relatable. Her poems felt very feminist and easy to connect to as a female reader."

A reader from Weston read *Forgive me, I meant to do it* by Carson Levine: "I learned that all poems do not need to rhyme. Also this author made poems funny."

A reader from Salem read *The Seven Ages* by Louise Glück: "Poetry as a way of traveling through a life, from youth to mishaps in love to the wisdom (or humility) of age."

A reader from Weston read *Out of Wonder Poems Celebrating Poets* by Kwame Alexander, Chris Colderley, and Marjory Wentworth: "I learned about new poets. Every poet has a different style of writing poems. Personally, I thought it was boring."

A reader from Rockland read *Runny Babbit Returns* by Shel Silverstein: "I strongly dislike poetry so to get this month completed I read a children's book. I understand the concept of the way this book is written, but I'd much rather have read it with the letters in the correct places."

A reader from Hudson read *Collected Poems* by Rupert Brooke: "The poems are primarily about love and death, and the death of love, and seemingly the love of death. I think the poet's youth and exuberance come through most clearly when he was writing about the importance of places, objects, and, especially, nature."

A reader from Middleboro read *The Poets Delay* by Thoreau: "Poetry not my bailiwick however I really enjoyed the poems and artwork. Made me slow down, calm down and think. What a wonderful world we have around us and we don't take time to enjoy it."

A reader from Melrose read *The woman I kept to myself* by Julia Alvarez: "It felt more like a poetic story. I felt drawn in with her imagery."

A reader from Lowell read *Black Butterfly* by Robert M. Drake: "It was a quick read, but poetry just isn't my thing!"

A reader from STOUGHTON read *Here and somewhere else: stories and poems* by Grace Paley and Robert Nichols by Grace Paley and Robert Nichols: "Not my favorite book but I enjoyed the second half of the book more."

A reader from Scituate read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: "Mother Nature's daily events are offered with a new peaceful perspective and insight. This delightful book changed my previous aversion to poetry forever! Everyone is encouraged to read this book!"

A reader from Middleboro read *Wedding Readings and Poems* by Various: "I am getting married in July and used this prompt to read this book and did find a few gems we might use!"

A reader from Lowell read *Good Bones* by Maggie Smith: "This is a beautiful collection of poetry in which Smith wrestles with motherhood and raising children in a world that she finds both beauty and horror in. I would definitely recommend it."

A reader from Halifax read *Sand and Foam* by Kahlil Gilbran: "I am not a regular reader of poetry, but I tried with this. The book was a quick read & enjoyable."

A reader from Lowell read *Depression & Other Magic Tricks* by Sabrina Benaim: "Good collection."

A reader from Erving read *where the sidewalk ends* by Shel Silverstein: "I have loved these books since childhood! The metaphoric humor of daily things, he surely makes you think. These are funny, for child or adult, you could think of them as dreams or things you just laugh about when they happen to you and he adds a little twist to them. So creative yet simple. I would read these whenever, to whomever (I actually just read them to a colleague at work and we laughed about them, reminiscing). Absolutely great book!"

A reader from Scituate read *the fall, the rise* by MAIA: “Found on Instagram. Usually poetry isn't my thing but these short poems speak to me.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Holocaust Poetry* by Multiple authors: “I enjoyed how this book really made me think about the damage the Holocaust did to so many peoples.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Scorpion's Question Mark* by JD Debris: “The concise language grips the heart. A revelation of authenticity in emotion - touch, feel, taste and smell. The lyrical verse compels the reader to keep turning the page.”

A reader from Dracut read *Looking for the Gulf Motel* by Richard Blanco: “I don't read a lot of poetry but I enjoyed this book and the images it evoked.”

A reader from Woods Hole read *The Best Loved Poems of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis* by Multiple Authors: “This is a beautiful collection that presented the collector, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, as a very well read person. I was rewarded with many poems I have loved as well as many introduced to me for the first time.”

A reader from Elkins read *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman: “I can appreciate the aesthetic quality of many of the verses, but honestly I didn't get it. This was probably not the best book for me to start with reading poetry.”

A reader from Swansea read *Home Bodyt* by Rupi Kaur: “Very different than what I'm used to reading. Thanks for "challenging" me to think outside the box!”

A reader from Attleboro read *And Yet* by Kate Baer: “Kate Baer's poems speak of motherhood, love, and loss I really enjoyed this collection about life in the present time.”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *the sun and her flowers* by rupi kaur: “I LOVED milk and honey, kaur's first book of poetry, so was excited to see this available at my library. It is exquisite poetry. I also read *And Yet*, poems by Kate Baer, and they were great - although a little young for me (about new parenthood, etc., and my children are adults...) but lovely work.”

A reader from Amherst read *Fatal Interview* by Edna St. Vincent Millay: “This is not one of my favorite books of poetry by St. Vincent Millay, but I had not read this one so I gave it a try. Full of imagery of lost love and death, love unrecognized or not returned. There are several beautiful poems in this book— “Night is my sister, and how deep in love” and “When we are old and these rejoicing veins” for example. They spoke to me.”

A reader from Kingston read *And Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou: “Maya Angelou's strength and resilience are heard in every poem. I particularly liked Phenomenal Woman, Woman Work, and Still I Rise. They speak to a black woman's struggle and triumph.”

A reader from Rochester read *American Primitive* by Mary Oliver: “I enjoyed this quiet, simple but deep collection. It was a good reintroduction to poetry for a nature lover like me who has been reading nothing but prose since college days.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Crush* by Richard Siken: “This was emotional and panicky and obsessive.”

A reader from Centerville read *Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World* by Pádraig Ó Tuama: “I think this book was absolutely fantastic. In addition to this challenge we used it for our book club. The way that the author is able to break down intricate poems and talk to us and allow us to learn through reading is why this has been one of my all-time favorite reads this year and possibly ever.”

A reader from Melrose read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: “Oliver’s poems are so spiritual and make me see the dignity and transcendence in the simplest little bird or flower.”

A reader from Scituate read *Antologia Oficial de Poesia Latinoamericana* by Multiple poetas: “Loved reading this poetry collection which I bought in an used bookstore because of this reading challenge. Enjoy reading the Spanish poems in their original language. Have been reading other poetry collections as well.”

A reader from Amesbury read *The Poetry of TS Eliot* by TS Eliot: “I’ve meant to read at least “The Wasteland” and “The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock” for ages and am happy I finally did.”

A reader from Jordan read *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson: “It’s a novel in verse as much as it is a collection of poetry, so I hope it still counts. :) These poems grabbed me from the start and their elegance and story were compelling. I read it in one sitting and could not put it down!”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Living Nations, Living Words* by Joy Harjo: “Wonderful compilation.”

A reader from Salem read *To make monsters out of girls* by Amanda Lovelace: “I like the format of the cohesive story being told through poems. I didn’t love the poems themselves though.”

A reader from Attleboro read *{Risking Everything} 110 Poems of Love and Revelation* by Roger Housden (editor): “This is a great collection of poems that introduced me to many poets I had never heard of. My favorite was Parkinson’s Disease by Galway Kinnell.”

A reader from Holbrook read *To Bless the Space Between Us* by John O’Donohue: “A book of blessings for all matters of life. I absolutely loved this book and will be purchasing it for my collection!”

A reader from Plymouth read *Brown Skin and the Brave New World* by Terry E. Carter: “I had the privilege of hearing Terry E. Carter read several of his poems during Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s MLK Celebration in January. He is the current poet laureate of Medford and his poems are timely and powerful. This publication featured poems from his previous collections as well as new poems. I highly recommend it!”

A reader from Centerville read *Blue Horses* by Mary Oliver: “Mary Oliver never disappoints. Her poems make you slow down and enjoy the world around you. This was a beautiful collection.”

A reader from Cambridge read *One Crimson Thread* by Michael O’Siadhail: “Straightforward, touching poetry – 150 sonnets written for his late wife Bríd who suffered from Parkinson’s: how he suffers with her, how he takes care of her, how he calls her, what she means to him, what her final years gave them. Narrative, chronological – one sonnet more or less flows into the next. Very impressive technical accomplishment. A totally unobscure style. A good read if you need a reminder of what else poetry can do.”

A reader from Sutton read *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran: “I enjoyed reading my dad’s 1948 edition copy of these timeless prose poems.”

A reader from Somerville read *Maya Angelou The Complete Poetry* by Maya Angelou: "Emotional."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *A Rare and Rich Land* by Fleur Robertson: "This was a collection of Irish poetry illustrated by Irish paintings. In addition to poems by well-known poets like Seamus Heaney and W.B. Yeats, lesser known poets were well-represented. The poems and paintings together created a sense of place."

A reader from East Taunton read *Solitude* by Carmela Ciuraru: "This book was really dull. I found one poem, *Daffodils* by Walt Whitman, that I could connect with. Nonetheless, I appreciated reading a different genre!"

A reader from Lowell read *Complete Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe* by Edgar Allan Poe: "This was a re-read of Poe's works (originally read years ago in high school). The part I enjoyed most was at the beginning, reading about his life. Lots of sadness, which is reflected in his works."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Love Her Wild* by Atticus: "Quick read, some poems were great and some were just ok."

A reader from Melrose read *How to Write a Poem* by K Alexander: "I just liked the creative details along w the words."

A reader from Burlington read *When the world didn't end* by Caroline Kaufman: "This was not the book I set out to read, but I'm so glad I did. Caroline lays bare the emotions we all feel to some extent, and the hope she instills through the pain is beautiful. I truly hope this young woman, who was studying at Harvard, has gone on to a wonderful life."

A reader from Plymouth read *Wild Meat* by Carolyn Beard Whitlow: "Evocative imagery and varied spaces made for an engaging experience."

A reader from Wrentham read *Why I Wake Early* by Mary Oliver: "A collection of lovely poems about nature."

A reader from Woods hole read *West wind* by Mary Oliver: "Brings the reader face to face with nature."

A reader from wilmington read *The Road Not Taken and Other Poems* by Robert Frost: "I'm not a fan of poetry, but I enjoyed reading Robert Frost as he was local to this area when this was written."

A reader from Dartmouth read *Odder* by Katherine Applegate: "Written in free verse, it a story of a sea otter and its experiences based on those in Monterey Bay. The free verse style lends itself to the antics of the otter."

A reader from 85 Hemlock drive read *And to Each Season* by Rod McKuen: "50 years ago, I read every Rod McKuen book I could get my hands on. Now, all these years later, I struggled getting through just one. Over time, my tastes have changed..."

A reader from Melrose read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "I especially enjoyed Amanda's alliteration and her amazing use of language. Her thoughts and poems about the pandemic were very poignant- The jobs never coming back, the mothers' primal screams, our children's minds shuttered from school, the funerals without families, weddings in waiting, the births in isolation, let no one once again have to begin, love, end, alone."

A reader from barnstable read *Devotions* by Mary Oliver: "Love love love Mary Oliver. The simplicity and depth of her poetry is astonishing. The poems are so relatable and really allow you to think."

A reader from BEVERLY read *Vile Verses* by Roald Dahl: "Taken out of context from the stories from which they belong, many of these poems are indeed vile. Dahl had an unusual sense of humor, I guess."

A reader from Scituate read *No Matter the Wreckage* by Sarah Kay: "My first poetry book. Reading poetry wasn't as hard as I thought it be. I will read more poetry."

A reader from Elbridge read *Like a Beggar* by Ellen Bass: "I never took a course on poetry, and find many poets to be out of my reach. These poems are wonderful: accessible, and evocative, and so very satisfying."

A reader from South Weymouth read *The New Year of Yellow* by Matthew Lippman: "I did not particularly enjoy it. I do like poetry but found that I could not relate to this author's voice."

A reader from Northampton read *Musical Tables* by Billy Collins: "Some of the poems were quite lovely or funny, but I don't think I prefer these bite-size poems over his usual work."

A reader from Quincy read *Dialogues with Rising Tides* by Kelli Russell Agodon: "Poetry is not a genre I seek out, so this month's challenge was a struggle for me to get through, but I'm glad I did."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur: "I read Milk and Honey a few years ago and lived this collection just as much. It is beautiful and sad and ferocious. The poems about her mom made me cry!"

A reader from Seekonk read *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein: "It was mainly light hearted, funny and silly. And it felt like a trip back to childhood!"

A reader from NIANTIC read *Mother Love* by Rita Dove: "Beautifully written, of many places I have travelled to and will be again soon, was surprised by that."

A reader from Lowell read *A Light In The Attic* by Shel Silverstein: "I loved this collection! Although its primary audience is children, I found many of the lessons in the poems applicable to adults as well."

A reader from Amherst read *New Poems* by Rainer Maria Rilke: "These poems, translated by Edward Snow, show Rilke's connection to the mystical and the classical traditions. His poems transport you to Paris and the deep culture of art and nature. You can get lost in the imagery."

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *I Wish My Father* by Leslea Newman: "Powerful poems about her father's demise. Growing older is painful and she did a great job of expressing the experience of the children trying to support parents."

A reader from East Taunton read *Runny Babbit Returns* by Shel Silverstein: "I loved this book, the humor along with the made up language kept the book fun to read."

A reader from Fall River read *I Would Leave Me If I Could.* by Halsey: "Poetry is not my favorite, but I enjoyed going through these unique poems that were written by a musical artist that I listen to!"

A reader from Belchertown read *Poetry to Make You Smile* by Jane O. Wayne: "A fun book of short poems that will put a smile on your face."

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *The poetry of Pablo Neruda* by Ilan Stavans: "This is a big collection which I will use at varying intervals. This collection includes 600 poems and shows the wide range of topics covered by this poet in his life time."

A reader from Somerville read *Night Sky With Exit Wounds* by Ocean Vuong: "It took me a little bit to get into this — I never really sit and read poetry — but I did end up enjoying it, even if I'll probably never go back to it. Vuong is often quoted on tumblr & the like without much context but reading the poems one after another, reference each other, and together develop a visual language and motifs hits so hard!!!"

A reader from Somerville read *I Wish My Father* by Lesléa Newman: "I read this all in one sitting. I loved the bareness of language, and found myself paying a lot of attention to the absent, deceased mother figure, who is always referred to in the past tense."

A reader from Beverly read *The Best Loved Poems of the American People* by Hazel Felleman: "Easy to read (although long) to collection. So many dog ears on these pages!!"

A reader from Amherst read *Brown Sugar* by Colt Pierce: "A great collection of poetry written by a college friend."

A reader from Danvers read *Clarity & Connection* by Yung Pueblo: "Love his style! Concise, yet beautifully written and makes me introspective."

A reader from Beverly read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Amazingly accurate poems of the feelings surrounding the pandemic and the aftermath."

A reader from Wilmington read *All Dogs are Good* by Courtney Peppernell: "Wonderful book for animal lovers."

A reader from Great Barrington read *Flowers on the Moon* by Billy Chapata: "I love modern poetry books as they are more of a collection of poetics thoughts rather than overly wordy metaphors. I loved this book, and felt a connection on every page to feelings I've had in my life. Beautiful."

A reader from Abington read *View with a Grain of Sand: Selected Poems* by Wislawa Szymborska: "Lovely. Such different perspectives. Fascinating too to see the subject matter over the course of her lifetime. Loved the title poem and Nothing Twice, as well as many others."

A reader from Wilmington read *Stratton Pond and Other Verses* by Philip B. Buzzell: "I enjoyed this book that was written 50 years ago by a member of a family that was very active in civic affairs in my town in the 20th century. Most of the poems are simple, but many have reference to local people and events, which makes it especially entertaining for local people familiar with the topics he is depicting."

A reader from Lowell read *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur: "This is probably the third time I've picked up this book, and each time I find a piece of myself in the poems."

A reader from Belchertown read *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps: "Middle grade novel in verse about a young girl's struggle with bullies- including her mom."

A reader from Craryville read *Wiersze* by Helena Skalska-Potaczek: "This is a small collection of poems published by my mother in Polish. I am not very fluent, but persevered and am proud to have

understood them all. She is gone now, but I never felt so close to her as when reading these poems. Many tears were shed, and I only wish she were here so I could tell her which ones are my favorites.”

A reader from Springfield read *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur: “This was a collection of poems in which the author openly shares her most emotional moments and experiences of love, a breakup, and finally healing. Many of the poems are raw but powerful, cutting to the chase of the common experience. A quick, must-read especially if you're "in it". Quick & relatable read.”

A reader from Boston read *1919: Poems* by Eve Ewing: “History through poetry. This is a beautiful book.”

A reader from Weymouth read *the sun and her flowers* by rupi kapur: “Some of the poetry was quite shocking and some really made you think. But I found i much prefer to read a story that flows instead of small snippets of mostly independent thoughts.”

A reader from Hampden read *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman: “I loved it! Amanda is a very inspirational young poet and incredible young person.”

A reader from Melrose read *Poetry for Young People Robert Frost* by Gary D Schmidt: “Frost's poems are descriptive. I always see a picture in my mind while reading his work. I loved sharing his poems with my grandchildren. I liked the way the poems were divided into seasons.”

A reader from Beverly read *Prize Wheel* by Colleen Michaels: “Very enjoyable local poetry.”

A reader from Whately read *Dearly New Poems* by Margaret Atwood: “I'd not read any of Margaret Atwoods poems so this was a delight. Her ability to capture truths and the essence of things is as spot in on this format as it is in her novels. What a treat. I especially loved the poem Blackberries and how she weaves together the generations and some gems of truth.”

A reader from Springfield read *The Complete Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe* by Not applicable: “The Complete Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe- This anthology contains Poe's beautifully written poems, such as The Raven and The Bells.”

A reader from Buzzards Bay read *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge: “Excellent unabridged edition with wood cut engravings by Gustave Dore. This is my first time reading the poem. I now know why it has stood out all this time.”

A reader from East Taunton read *Howl and Other Poems* by Allen Ginsberg: “I read this back in college. It was nice to revisit.”

A reader from Braintree read *American Melancholy:Poems* by Joyce Carol Oates: “I think I picked the wrong poetry book for this month - I did not like it. Poems were too long and in a format similar to short stories.”

A reader from Essex read *The Peace of Wild Things* by Wendell Berry: “Some beautiful poems about nature.”

A reader from Plymouth read *How Far You Have Come* by Morgan Harper Nichols: “I loved the artwork mixed with the poetry.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Treasury of American Poetry* by Nancy Sullivan: “Comprehensive collection difficult to summarize in a sentence or two.”

A reader from Braintree read *Life on Mars* by Tracy K. Smith: "A thought provoking collection of poetry from a poet laureate of the USA."

A reader from Springfield read *Please Don't Go Before I Get Better* by Madisen Kuhn: "This collection of poetry goes through how breaking up with someone in your life can create an absence and the strive for acceptance and mental wellness. In this mix of short poems and longer pieces it flows through how one person can become so important that when they're gone it can be hard to remember who one is without them."

A reader from Springfield read *Pop Sonnets* by Erik Didriksen: "Hysterical, for any lover of both Shakespeare and pop songs. All your favorite hits turned into clever sonnets in the style of the bard."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Lord of Everywhere* by John Hodgen: "Although poetry isn't a genre I usually choose, I've read and enjoyed other books by Massachusetts author John Hodgen. *The Lord of Everywhere* did not disappoint!"

A reader from Danvers read *If They Come For Us* by Fatimah Asghar: "Beautifully written with some creative risks that I think proved successful. This is one of the best pieces of writing I have read on the Partition of India."

A reader from Seekonk read *How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope* by Various- edited by James Crews: "Wow. So many of these poems caught in my throat. Beautifully rich and tangible."

A reader from Marblehead read *Don't call us Dead* by Danez Smith: "Haunting, heartbreaking, beautifully written."

A reader from BEVERLY read *Ein Reim Reine* by Jürgen Naumann: "This is a collection of short poems which are quite fun!"

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Wilderness* by Jim Morrison: "This book was a more difficult read than I expected. As you might expect from listening to the music of The Doors, there was a lot going on in Jim Morrison's mind, much of it very dark."

A reader from Wilmington read *The collected poetry of Dorothy Parker* by Dorothy Parker: "It was much better than expected. I don't prefer to read poetry as a rule, and I had a great appreciation for how snark filled her works are, especially as her active years were in the 1920's-30's."

A reader from Reading read *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein: "I was originally planning on reading something a bit more high-brow, but after ending up with COVID this month, I needed something more comforting. An additional benefit was that my 9-year-old saw it, read it, and loved it just as much as I did when I was her age."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman: "Revisiting Amanda Gorman's poetry is so special and beautiful!"

A reader from Billerica read *Why I Wake Early* by Mary Oliver: "I really enjoyed reading this book by Mary Oliver. I had never read her before, so I'm glad I got this opportunity to read this book. It was a great book filled with beautiful poems."

A reader from Attleboro read *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur: "This reading of Rupi Kaur's famous book of poetry is actually my second one through the text, and this time through I found that, while there were some profound parts and some parts that focused on necessary topics, a fair amount of what she wrote otherwise seemed inappropriate."

A reader from Amesbury read *The Princess Saves Herself in This One* by Amanda Lovelace: "Not my cup of coffee."

A reader from Chester read *Favorite Poems of Emily Dickinson* by Emily Dickinson: "Very strong imagery."

A reader from Worcester read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Thoughtful and moving first collection! I especially enjoyed her visual poems and clever alliteration."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Haiku* by Stephen Addiss: "Don't really enjoy poetry so this month was a stretch for me."

A reader from South Easton read *Stones: Poems* by Kevin Young: "Sparse and moving poems on loss and the generational impacts of family."

A reader from Haverhill read *Where the sidewalk ends* by Shel Silverstein: "Classic, fun poetry for all ages."

A reader from Erving read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Amanda is a young poet who, I believe, is still experimenting with styles of poetry. Many of the poems in this collection remind me of e.e. cummings' style. She often shapes the verse into something related to the poem. Amanda wrote many of these poems during and about the COVID pandemic; this theme is prevalent throughout the anthology."

A reader from Salem read *Dear Ghosts*, by Tess Gallagher: "This was an incredible collection of poetry that touched on a balanced variety of topics such as death and life, grief and joy, war and hate, illness and love, and dreams and memory. Gallagher's writing is intense and chock full of strong imagery and unique experiences, and I loved how she was able to say so much about her life with her husband and her experiences with grief and healing through so many other symbolic means."

A reader from Hanson read *Floaters: Poems* by Martin Espada: "Interesting poems of the immigrant experience."

A reader from Beverly read *The Carrying* by Ada Limon: "I read the book slowly taking each one in so that I could enjoy them all on their own. But because they are related, the book holds them all together asking us to think about nature, birth, death and yearning. I was very moved by this book and look forward to more of her poems."

A reader from Amherst read *Hawkweed* by Paul Goodman: "Found this old book in a little free library. Published in 1967, some of this collection was a real slice of life of the era. Other poems were timeless."

A reader from Florence read *Sister Tongue* by Farnaz Fatemi: "I loved this intimate, beautiful collection of poems with lyric prose braided throughout. It is a book of sisters and self, translation and language, Farsi and English, California and Iran, place and travel, identity and culture, displacement and belonging, and so much more."

A reader from Enfield read *Killer Verse: Poems of Murder and Mayhem (Everyman's Library Pocket Poets Series)* by Harold Schechter: "This mad eme like poetry a little bit more!"

A reader from Randolph read *I Wrote You A Poem (I wrote you every poem)* by Kristina Mahr: "A book full of pain, and also with insight and glimmers of hope found after the pain."

A reader from Milford read *She walks in beauty* by Caroline Kennedy (ed.): "I didn't love all of the poems included, but I appreciated the variety."

A reader from Lowell read *Milkweed Smithereens* by Bernadette Mayer: "This collection of poetry contains many different styles of poetry. The pandemic is a recurring theme throughout. Considering how good the reviews were, I was hoping to enjoy it more than I did. I also picked up Clint Smith's new collection for this month, but didn't finish it before the month's end."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Zen popcorn* by Max Redfire: "Some fun some deep thought provoking pieces.. enjoyed "inside/finding the In instead of the side" the most."

A reader from Forestdale read *Still Water* by Art Garfunkel: "Beautiful prose. I love his poetry and this is a wonderful piece."

A reader from Melrose read *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein: "Brought me back to my childhood! I remembered so many more of these than I realized!"

A reader from Malden read *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps: "Verse really isn't my thing, but this was a community read and it was fine."

A reader from Beverly read *To Make Monsters Out of Girls* by Amanda Lovelace: "I found some of the poems to be an accurate representation of emotional abuse. The other half of the poems felt cliché and fantastical."

A reader from Lancaster read *Bone Palace Ballet* by Charles Bukowski: "Bukowski is one of my favorite authors. Whether his poetry or novels, his cynicism is oddly refreshing and his sarcasm is sometimes what you need at the end of a long day. BPB is a wonderful collection of odd bits of interaction from a literary genius."

A reader from Northampton read *Residues* by R. S. Thomas: "Brief, evocative, melancholy poems on themes like religion, WWII, and marriage, assembled after the poet's death."

A reader from Lowell read *Renunciations* by Donika Kelley: "This was an emotional book, full of beautiful poetry about some terrible times in the authors life. I am always amazed at the ability of poets to make such ugly parts of their lives so lovely."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *One Hundred and One Famous Poems* by Roy Cook: "Nice compilation of poems."

A reader from South Hadley read *Time Is A Mother* by Ocean Vuong: "Beautiful and heart-rending, the expression of grief leaves you touched in every feeling and sensation."

A reader from Northampton read *Signs and Wonders* by Grace Dellis: "Beautiful imagery that resonated deeply with me. Will be revisiting this a lot."

A reader from Stoneham read *Dark Sparkler* by Amber Tamblyn: "These poems about the sad fates of many actresses is hard to read all at once, so having a month to read them was good."

A reader from Reading read *Goldenrod* by Maggie Smith: "I related to so many of the themes of Smith's poems: fear, love, natural observations, motherhood, longing for a better world."

A reader from Amesbury read *A Boy's Will* by Robert Frost: "The details provided wonderful imagery that created a visual in my mind."

A reader from Lynnfield read *I'm too young to be Seventy* by Judith Viorst: "Love her humor. Read 4 other of the books--Hard to be Hip, Over 30, How did I get to be 40.....50....60. All just delightful, human experiences. Laughed hard."

A reader from Teaticket read *And Still Rise A Book of Poems* by Maya Angelou: "I'll admit I haven't favored poetry, and likely don't appreciate it fully. Some of the poems in this book "spoke to me" though and it felt like they should be put into song."

A reader from Revere read *Floaters* by Martin Espada: "A powerful collection of poetry. I very much enjoyed it."

A reader from Hopedale read *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein: "Such a pleasure to read and I loved the pictures! A couple of favorites were Listen to the Mustn'ts, and especially Open-Close and the advice, "...wouldn't it be a bit more wise to close your mouth - and open your eyes."

A reader from CHICOPEE read *Homebody* by Rupi Kaur: "I liked how the writing style was so non traditional; every poem was in lower case and untitled. They were so brave, direct, bold, easy to understand, and so relatable. I also enjoyed the illustrations by the author as well. Her writings about subjects such as feminism, poor self image, and other struggles made me feel less alone in my own problems."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Blue Horses* by Mary Oliver: "Love Mary Oliver's poems."

A reader from Lynnfield read *"A Light in the Attic"* by Shel Silverstein: "Shel Silverstein's poems were always a favorite of mine as a kid because I wasn't and still am not the biggest fan of poetry, so I liked ones that were goofy and did not have to always make sense. There are some good gems in here, ones that are funny and ones that surprisingly make you think."

A reader from Pepperell read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Her reflections on the pandemic are heart wrenching."

A reader from Beverly read *New-found-land* by Carol Hobbs: "A beautiful collection of poems filled with longing and loss from a Canadian poet living in Massachusetts."

A reader from Salem read *Frank O'Hara Collected Poems* by Frank O'Hara: "Enjoyable, fun to see a modernist perspective from a 1950s vantage point."

A reader from Hopkinton read *What Kind of Woman* by Kate Baer: "This books audience is for woman younger than myself. Unbeknownst to me my daughter has read her poetry and loves it. That makes sense."

A reader from Beverly read *After That* by Kathleen Aguero: “Thoughtful and delightful! Meditations on a mother's dementia and a grown-up Nancy Drew, both of which have been a part of my life....”

A reader from Gill read *The Father* by Sharon Olds: “This was my first time rereading this collection since the death of my own father from cancer, seeing how my reactions to the poems had changed. I appreciate how viscerally Olds shows us the human body in the breadth of its experiences, how she is not repulsed even by the physicality of death.”

A reader from Melrose read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: “Poems are not really my thing, but I appreciate this challenge challenging me to read poetry! There are a few very impactful poems in book, others hard for me to appreciate.”

A reader from Medway read *Honey, I Love and other love poems* by Eloise Greenfield: “I love the combination of poetry and illustration.”

A reader from Beverly read *Heartsongs* by Mattie Stepanek: “I love every poem in the book and Mattie’s story was so sad that it made all of the poems so much more meaningful. They talked about how he was grateful for life and that gave me a brand new perspective.”

A reader from Salem read *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein: “It's a fun, simple book. It's easy to read and every poem was surprisingly funny and cute. I really liked the illustrations.”

A reader from Erving read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: “interesting to see the way that the poems are written out, not straight sentences and prose. Adds a different meaning to the words.”

A reader from Taunton read *Listen to the Warm* by Rod McKuen: “This is a favorite reread from the ‘60’s, but the messages are still relevant...love, reaching out, including everyone.”

A reader from Hadley read *Felicity* by Mary Oliver: “Oliver's poems are wonderful to ponder as one walks the New England landscape.”

A reader from Boston read *Emily Dickinson Selected Poems* by Emily Dickinson: “109 of Emily Dickinson’s poems. A few of them I remembered from my elementary school days. Interesting to note that she wrote over 1700 poems but only a handful were published in her life.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *Echoes of memory* by John O'Donoghue: “I thought the imagery was obscure. I've read other Irish poets, most often Seamus Heaney. I enjoy his poetry for the rich imagery. I thought O'Donoghue got lost in his language and I could not see what he was writing.”

A reader from Amherst read *Whale Day* by Billy Collins: “This is a delightful collection of poems that gives a new perspective to look at the minutiae of life. Collins takes everyday observations and makes them a bit more magical.”

A reader from Southborough read *The Poems of Nakahara Chuuya* by Nakahara Chuuya: “I'm not a big fan of poems, but the way Nakahara writes is fantastic, and I liked a lot of the poems I read!”

A reader from Arlington read *Good Bones* by Maggie Smith: “I don’t usually read poetry but I felt like these poems were accessible and fun to read.”

A reader from Bourne read *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge: “Loved this uniquely spun tale of the folklore of life at sea.”

A reader from Northampton read *Acts of Light* by Emily Dickinson: "I wanted to see if Emily Dickinson lived up to her local hype, unfortunately, I think I just wasn't a huge fan. I'm still a Walt Whitman girlie."

A reader from Northborough read *Goethes schönste Gedichte* by Jochen Schmidt: "It's a nice collection of poems written by JW Goethe. I am not that much into poems but I liked the idea to give it another try."

A reader from Springfield read *Grocery Shopping with my Mother* by Kevin Powell: "Free form poetry which is not my favorite, but interesting none the less. Very insightful into the cultural influences on the writers life."

A reader from Worcester read *Dear Suzanne* by Eve Rifkah: "A lovely book of verse intertwining the lives of the Impressionist painter and model with the authors life a hundred years later."

A reader from Plymouth read *salt.* by Nayyirah Waheed: "I read this book in one night because I loved it just that much. Incredible poetry."

A reader from Attleboro read *Ariel* by Sylvia Plath: "Death death death death. Everywhere! Why so much death?!?!"

A reader from Wellesley read *Open My Lips: Prayers and Poems* by Rachel Barenblat: "Poetry generally isn't my thing, so I might have enjoyed more of this book if it were. That said, there were several poems that I loved and I'm considering whether I want to purchase a copy of this book."

A reader from Franklin read *Wild Is The Wind* by Carl Phillips: "This is a group of poems that was both easy to read, but also needing to be re-read several times to appreciate."

A reader from Needham read *Poems After Midnight* by Garrison, Deborah, editor: "It is a nice little collection including a few known authors and others not so. There are a couple of gems that I will likely read again."

A reader from Weymouth read *Sailing Alone Around the Room* by Billy Collins: "Entertaining and thoughtful poems."

A reader from Wilmington read *Finding My Elegy* by Ursula K Le Guin: "I guess I'm not much of a poetry reader, it seemed odd to read a whole book of it. But it was sometimes oddly satisfying."

A reader from Boston read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "I enjoyed it! I liked the experiments with form and the beautiful language."

A reader from Northborough read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Well written and resonated well with COVID."

A reader from Brookline read *A Mayan Astronomer in Hell's Kitchen* by Martin Espada: "A poetic exploration of the lives of Puerto Rican immigrants in New York in the 1980s."

A reader from Bolton read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "This is a beautiful collection of poetry. Amanda Gorman is a treasure."

A reader from Franklin read *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* by Ross Gay: "While I admire the author's positive outlook and "at-oneness" with nature, I had a hard time reading some of these poems. I realized

that I'm better suited to shorter, succinct poems. After I read this I read Charles Simic's "Scribbled in the Dark, which is more my cup 'o tea."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *A Lion's Hunger* by Ann Turner: "The book of poems is very bittersweet. It is a diary version of the first love of a young adult girl. In the end, the couple breaks up but she is again able to find the beauty in the world after a couple of months."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Plume* by Kathleen Flenniken: "The author of this poetry collection grew up in Richland WA, "next door" to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, which was one of the Manhattan Project sites during WWII and remained active during the Cold War. I lived in Richland for 2 years during the 1980s, and I was amazed by my emotional reaction to the powerful picture of Hanford painted by this collection. Absolutely stunning!"

A reader from Salem read *Poems to See By* by Julian Peters: "I love that the author/illustrator uses a different art style for each poem and that they provide a text only version of them after you read the comic. You're reading the poem twice; once with illustrations and once without. The second time you read it, you gain a new perspective."

A reader from Lowell read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "It was a beautiful collection of poems. It really brought me back to the pandemic. She captured the depth of what it is to experience such a monumental experience."

A reader from Sandwich read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: "Beautifully moving."

A reader from Salem read *Changing with the Tide* by Shelby Leigh: "I tried a few poetry collections for this challenge but struggled to get into it. These poems by Leigh were good, but I prefer reading poems individually."

A reader from East Sandwich read *No Matter the Wreckage* by Sarah Kay: "Incredible collection of poems, especially for young women to read. Loved the way it was organized with the small illustrations throughout."

A reader from Belchertown read *Artemis Made Me Do It* by Trista Mateer: "I love how Mateer blends art and poetry in this series, but I preferred her first collection about Aphrodite."

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *Inward* by Yung Pueblo: "I thought..eww, Poetry?? This was a neat, easy jaunt through a soft and profound self-discovery. Thanks for having me read poetry!"

A reader from Bourne read *Alexa, What is There to Know About Love* by Brian Bilston: "I don't typically read much poetry but this was a treat. The poems are all about love. All kinds of love. I enjoyed it."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *101 Best-Loved Poems* by Roy J. Cook: "A compilation purchased for one poem, one of remembrance of a loved one."