



2023 Reading Challenge

AUGUST

A book in translation

A reader from Weymouth read *The winners* by Fredrick backman: “Engaging trilogy (book 3). Highlighting sport, winning,losing and competing. Excellent character portrayals and story.”

A reader from Beverly read *City of the Beasts* by Isabel Allende: “Love this book & love Isabel Allende! This is like an Indiana Jones for YA, with a kick butt female co-protagonist. My students also got interested in researching Amazonian tribes. Win win!”

A reader from Amherst read *Lie With Me* by Philippe Besson: “A tonal course-correction of Édouard Louis’ ‘The End of Eddy,’ this novel paints a sunnier image of what it is to grow homosexual in small-town France and the regrets that follow well into adulthood. The fact that the unnamed narrator is a bespectacled gay writer in his forties, just like the author, gives the story a dreamlike, kaleidoscopic feel.”

A reader from northampton read *the red address book* by lundberg, sofia: “Book about the past and the future. About lovers, a lot about family. About a mannequin and traveling to Sweden, Paris, England and New York.”

A reader from Centerville read *Momo* by Michael Ende: “All-ages fable that reminds us that what's important isn't saving lots of time or making lots of money. It's spending the time you've been given with loved ones doing what makes your heart sing.”

A reader from WORCESTER read *THE LITTLE PRINCE* by ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY: "THIS SEEMINGLY SIMPLE CHILD FRIENDLY STORY IS SO PROFOUND, TEACHING US WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN LIFE!"

A reader from Irvine CA read *Woman at a 1,000 Degrees* by Hallgrimur Helgason: "An Icelandic woman muses over her 80 year life after booking her own cremation. It's a lot!"

A reader from Melrose read *So Long a Letter* by Mariama Ba: "Translated from the French, this epistolary novel is a reflection on aspects of marriage, motherhood, and feminism, among other topics. The Senegalese narrator describes some of the problems with these topics specific to her culture, the most compelling part of the book."

A reader from Dracut read *Violeta* by Isabel Allende: "I thought the book was just OK. At one point I thought the author was trying to portray a dystopian view of the United States but using a fictional South American country as the cover. A 'what if' scenario if January 6th had succeeded and the US put a dictator/authoritarian government in power."

A reader from SCITUATE read *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang: "This is a book that leaves the reader with serious questions that will take a long time to process. What are the rights to one's own body? What is the place of humans amid other life forms? What was the author trying to say?"

A reader from Dartmouth read *The Housekeeper and the professor* by Toook ogawa: "Totally unique story. Gentle, heartbreaking, and sweet."

A reader from Fall River read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: "I found this book faintly irritating for the most part. It seemed to meander along without much urgency or making much sense, but when the ending finally revealed all, I ended up liking it."

A reader from Amesbury read *A monster calls* by Patrick ness: "It was darkly poetic."

A reader from Wilbraham read *The Lying Life of Adults* by Elena Ferrante: "Took me while to get the cadence of the translation. The book was an enjoyable read and reassured me that the horrors of adolescence transcend cultures."

A reader from Attleboro read *Balzac and the Little Chinese seamstress* by Dai sije: "It was very interesting story about two boys who love to read classic books and what they do to get them."

A reader from Hamilton read *Art of war* by Sun Tzu: "I picked up the book thinking it would help in strategic thinking. Some points were helpful."

A reader from Andover read *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Expery: "I had never read The Little Prince before. I found it to be a gentle but sad book that reminds us to see the wonder in the world like when we were children."

A reader from New Bedford read *Before the coffee gets cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "Translated from Japanese by Geoffrey Trousselot. This book is sweet, powerful & a truly enjoyable read."

A reader from Hadley read *The Ark Sakura* by Kobo Abe: "Loved this book! This is another great example of how intricately Abe can depict the innermost thoughts of bizarrely eccentric outcasts and even make characters out of inanimate objects. Really enjoyed the quirky world building and characterization in this one."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu (Translated by Ken Liu): “Really enjoyed this science fiction book! All of the notes from the translator were also very helpful in explaining important details. Only very technical at the end, but very enjoyable read!”

A reader from Rochester read *A Bookshop in Berlin* by Françoise Frenkel (trans. Stephanie Smee): “Françoise Frenkel opened the first French bookstore in Berlin, La Maison du Livre, in 1921. It became a hub of intellectual activity until finally, in 1939, Frenkel is forced to flee and leave the bookstore behind. First published in 1945, Frenkel's powerful memoir captures the many challenges and kindnesses she encounters before finally escaping to Switzerland. Highly recommended!”

A reader from Beverly read *The Beautiful Summer* by Cesare Pavese: “Italian summer romance.”

A reader from Greenfield read *A elderly lady is up to no good* by Helene Tursten: “A fun glimpse into the world of the activities of a sweet old lady. No one would suspect a thing.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Deaf Utopia* by Nyle DeMarco: “Great insight into being a Deaf member of a Deaf family in a hearing world.”

A reader from Braintree read *Eastbound* by Maylis de Kerangal: “(Translated from the French by Jessica Moore) Novella: gorgeous prose, spellbinding story set on a modern day Trans-Siberian train journey.”

A reader from Billerica read *In The Margins: On the Pleasures of Reading and Writing* by Elena Ferrante: “The third section was especially good. It was titled, Histories I. It reflected a number of times on a section of a poem by Emily Dickinson that I found intriguing. It also was the section that referenced Ferrante's Neopolitan Novels which I have experienced in the past. The further information on these characters was interesting.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Strega* by Johanne Lykke Holm: “I read Strega for my gothic book club, and it was really strange — written like a beautiful, disturbing, nonsensical nightmare that felt disconnected and inaccessible. The upside: a beautiful cover and a length under 200 pages.”

A reader from Baldwinville read *Trick* by Domenico Starnone: “I enjoyed this exploration of creativity and aging.”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende: “Beautifully written and thought provoking - the sacrifices parents make for their children in the most horrific of circumstances is just as relevant today as it was in 1938.”

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Forgotten Girls: a Louise Rick Novel* by Sara Blaedel: “Translated from the Danish by Signe Rod Golly. The language was seamless; good use of up-to-date English expressions. Good police procedural story.”

A reader from Pembroke read *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang: “A strange, sad book. I liked it but it was very bleak.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende: “Beautifully written sweeping epic about two child immigrants whose stories intertwine: a boy who escapes Nazi occupied Vienna in 1938 and a girl who flees the violence in El Salvador in 2019 and falls victim to the family separation policy in Arizona. Translated from Spanish.”

A reader from Randolph read *The Considerate Killer* by Lend Kaaberbol & Agnete Friis: "This book was a good read, the characters were interesting. The pace was a little slow. I'll read the other books in the series."

A reader from Enfield read *Tender is the Flesh* by Agustina Bazterrica: "Deeply disturbing novel! I could easily see this being taught alongside Brave New World and 1984 in terms of dystopian visions of the future. So messed up but oddly compelling at the same time."

A reader from Sunderland read *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George: "This book was translated from German by Simon Pare. It is set in the waterways of France, and tells the story of a man who sells books from a floating bookstore. He has a gift for knowing just what book each person needs. It's a sweet story."

A reader from Medford read *The Guest Cat* by Takashi Hiraide: "The Guest Cat is a quiet reflection on various life issues, including the relationships that humans have with creatures."

A reader from Attleboro read *Things My Son Needs to Know about the World* by Fredrik Backman: "Fredrik Backman can make me laugh or cry at will. His 'love of words' takes me on the human experience like no other author. Rather than being an outside observer of action, I am in the presence of persons with whom I empathize."

A reader from North Reading read *The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss: "This is one of the worst books I have ever read. If you enjoy racism, sexism, and needless animal killing to prove one's manhood, then this is the book for you."

A reader from Spencer read *I Saw a Beautiful Woodpecker* by Michael Skibinski: "This little book reminds us that the children in Germany, were just innocent young children before the war broke out."

A reader from EAST WEYMOUTH read *Golden Calf* by Helene Tursten: "I've read other books in the Inspector Irene Huss series by this author. This one was ok. I really like her character and investigators but this storyline fizzled."

A reader from Amherst read *Death's End* by Cixin Liu: "Very creative, all over the place (and time) and not what i would've expected after the first two in the series."

A reader from Wellesley read *Junji Ito's Cat Diary: Yon & Mu* by Junji Ito: "This book was hilarious! Usually graphic works and I don't get along, but Ito's depictions of cats are spot-on. I couldn't help but love it."

A reader from Amesbury read *Candide* by Voltaire: "I know it's a classic and it's a satire, but I just couldn't really get into it."

A reader from RANDOLPH read *BRITT-MARIE WAS HERE* by FREDRIK BACKMAN: "Translated from the Swedish, this story follows an older woman - with standards- as she navigates a new and unexpected journey of discovery of a wider world, people very different from her who become teachers, friends and she for them. This story is an adventure of one woman who could be any of us. Great read!"

A reader from SANDWICH read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: "I did not love this book. It was a Giant Metaphor for Personal Journey and Growth, but I felt that the metaphor was driving the story, instead of evolving from the story. That detracted from it, in my opinion."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Gigi* by Colette: "A short novel in translation from French, written in the early 1950s about "Gay Paree" of the 1890s. A young girl is being groomed for a life as a mistress to wealthy men, but an affluent family friend falls in love with her and asks for her hand in marriage. The play and the 1958 film of the same name was based on this. It gives a clear glimpse of social class in the 19th century, how limited women's aspirations were, and it reflected societal expectations of the 1950s. I enjoyed reading it but liked the movie musical better."

A reader from Worcester read *1919* by Eve L. Ewing: "I am a historical poet so reading Ewing's book of verse on the 1919 race riots in Chicago showed how much we - Ewing and I have in common. I love of poetry and history. How does one get across history without boring people? Write poetry that tells a story."

A reader from Lunenburg read *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy: "Interesting story about a man who feels he has done everything "right" in his life; went to the "right" school, married the "right" woman, had the "right" job (he had conformed) only to realize on his deathbed: "What if my entire life, my entire conscious life, simply was not the real thing?" It occurred to him that what had seemed inconceivable before: that he had not lived the kind of life he should have: might in fact be true...and with that realization, instead of death there was light."

A reader from Worcester read *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa: "A charming book about love and coming to terms with dying. A best seller in Japan translated by Philip Gabriel. 1st person in the man's voice and 3rd person omniscient in the cat's voice."

A reader from South Pasadena read *Us Against You* by Fredrik Backman: "Backman's writing is a work of pure masterpiece, touching the depth of my soul and forcing me to reimagine what it truly means to be a human."

A reader from Leominster read *A Cross and a Star: Memoirs of a Jewish Girl in Chile* by Marjorie Agosin: "This is a lyrical and at times heart-wrenching memoir of the author's mother's experience growing up as a Jewish girl in Chile around the time of World War II. Full of imagery. Photographs and poetry add to its poignancy."

A reader from Wrentham read *Blood Feast: The Complete Short Stories of Malika Moustadraf* by Malika Moustadraf, translated by Alice Guthrie: "Raw and honest stories. Topics difficult to read. Very well written."

A reader from Wakefield read *The forgotten girls* by Sara blaedel: "Nicely translated, captured your attention from page 1."

A reader from Bolton read *Before the coffee gets cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "A little slow but an interesting premise."

A reader from Blackstone read *Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One* by Raphaëlle Giordano: "Interesting concept but not enough meat to the story. Too much, too fast which made a possibly conceivable plot unrealistic."

A reader from Spencer read *No Longer Human* by Osamu Dazai: "Semi-autobiographical novel in 1930's Japan. Follows the life of Yozo, a man who would be diagnosed and treated for mental illness today, but who was left on the fringe of a society he just didn't understand."

A reader from Brookline read *The house of the sleeping beauties* by Yanusari kawabata: "Some truly bizarre and disquieting tales. Not my cup of tea."

A reader from Abington read *Everything and Nothing* by Jorge Luis Borges: "This book included five short stories and six essays. I was entirely unable to understand the first three short stories but liked the last two and the essays. The essays in particular were wonderful and thought provoking. They'll stay with me for a long time. His essay on his own blindness was beautifully done and was rich with personal and historic information on blindness. The essay entitled *The Wall and the Books* was surprisingly relevant to current political climate and shocked me with the reminder that "nothing is new under the sun"."

A reader from Auburn read *The Essential Plato* by Translated by B. Jowett: "Mental calisthenics. Understanding Socratic process through Plato's recollections. Exercises the noodle by employing deductive reasoning to answer questions about ethics, morality, politics, etc. 'The unexamined life is not worth living ' 1300+ pages."

A reader from Salem read *Forbidden Notebook* by Alba de Cespedes: "I really enjoyed how reflective this book was and how well it weaved the complexities of being raised as a certain idea of a 'woman', and then have to contend with excuses for why you believe that way when other women behave differently. I get why this is a classic in feminist literature!"

A reader from Beverly read *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende: "I loved how Allende told the story of the women protagonists in a family that had so much influence on the history of their country. One of my new favorites."

A reader from Woburn read *The Memory Police* by Yoko Ogawa: "I read the hauntingly beautiful Yoko Ogawa book, "The Memory Police." Gave me vibes of all my other fav dystopian novels like *The Giver* and *Handmaid's*. Loved the novel within a novel aspect and how connected it made you feel to no name characters on a no named island."

A reader from Leominster read *Beartown* by Fredrick Backman: "Loved it! Great characters, story held my attention. I wanted to read it all at once!"

A reader from Pepperell read *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy: "I learned about Russian culture prior to the revolution. It was about 500 pages too long."

A reader from Erving read *Anxious People* by Fredrik Bachman: "Touching and clever. Loved the way the loose ends got tied up at the end."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Vanished Collection* by Pauline Baer de Perignon: "During WWII, Nazi Germany would appropriate art work, jewels, furniture and other valuables from the Jewish families they were exterminating. Pauline Baer de Perignon invites the reader to follow her footsteps as she traces family ties, possessions, and attempts to learn what happened to art work of various masters. History takes on a personal vibe as you follow Pauline's attempts, successes and some disappointments in this search."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman: "Such a Lovely Book! One of my new favorites."

A reader from Dracut read *Testimony of Light: An Extraordinary Message of Life After Death* by Helen Greaves: "Telepathy from the Spirit Realm counts as translation, n'est pas? Helen Greaves account of her friend Frances Banks' time in the afterlife is eye-opening to say the least. I could not put this book down! What a blessing to hear an account of life after death. I wish to read more from Greaves!"

A reader from Northampton read *The Three-Body Problem* by Liu Cixin: "This was written from the Chinese perspective, which helped me more understand the woes and lasting effects of the Cultural Revolution in the late 60s to early 70s. I also really enjoyed how the author tied in specificity and vagueness when it came to the scientific explanations."

A reader from North Dighton read *Slash and Burn* by Claudia Hernandez: "Sparse language and multigenerational ambiguous, unnamed narrators make up this exploration of the traumas of war, both immediate and lasting."

A reader from Hampden read *the little prince* by antoine de saint-exupery: "enlightening story about a little prince who travels to earth. deals with lessons in life and what is of real value."

A reader from Florence read *Salvation of a Saint* by Keigo Higashino: "A really good mystery. I loved the way it was written/translated!"

A reader from Hopedale read *Will and Testament* by Vigdis Hjorth: "Very heavy book about a daughter feeling silenced from her father's rape/incest. The dynamics of family, truth and hurt."

A reader from Plainville read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: "I really liked the book, more than I expected to. The main character is gruff but loveable. I've read 2 other books by this author and do feel he has a unique style."

A reader from Lynnfield read "*Britt-Marie Was Here*" by Fredrik Backman: "My third Backman read, which unfortunately was a let-down in terms of writing, story, and characters. I'm still happy I read it nonetheless."

A reader from Andover read *Signs Preceding the End of the World* by Yuri Herrera: "I loved reading a novel in translation where themes related to language (multilingual identity, code-switching) played a prominent role. The translator's note at the end was great too."

A reader from Worcester read *The Motorcycle Diaries: Notes on a Latin American Journey* by Ernesto Che Guevara: "Fascinating read! Such a formative journey across South America that transformed the life of Che Guevara and contributed to the revolutionary we know today."

A reader from Beverly read *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata: "Vastly different character than one normally reads about and it was refreshing."

A reader from Lincoln read *axious people* by frederick backman: "I read/listened to 3 books by Frederick Backman, this one performed by terrific actor Marin Ireland. In general, I recommend all his books, most of which I've listened to/read. I enjoy Backman's humor and style. Book is translated from Swedish."

A reader from Chicopee read *Forbidden Notebook* by Alba DE Cespedes: "Book full of tension written from the view of diarist Valeria Cosseti who secretly buys a forbidden notebook in post WW II in Rome. She writes her conflicted feelings about her family, her traditions, and her mid life crisis in the hidden notebook-always afraid someone will find it."

A reader from Townsend read *Visitation* by Jenny erpenbek: “Encompassing over one hundred years of German history. Very interesting.”

A reader from Lancaster read *Tender is the flesh* by Agustina Bazterrica: “This one did me in. I handled all the depravity, the gore, and the horror up until the last 4 sentences. I recommend this to everyone I meet but most can’t make it past the second chapter.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Aleph* by Paulo Coelho: “I did not enjoy this book and would not have completed it if it weren’t for the reading challenge. I wanted to get my book in translation finished before leaving for most of August on a vacation. This book is apparently fairly autobiographical and I couldn’t really relate to the author who was trying to resolve something he did in a past life. I guess I don’t appreciate Paola Coelho’s spirituality.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Winners* by Fredrik Backman: “It was a little long and I think there may have been some odd translations of some idioms. But also it was wonderful and devastating.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Pyre* by Murugan: “This tragic story of Kumaresan and Saroja deals with cultural values around caste. Although love should conquer all, beliefs in adhering to societal norms make neighbors and relatives relentlessly torture one of their own and even more so, his bride.”

A reader from Sutton read *kintu* by jennifer makumbi: “Totally new viewpoint of Uganda.”

A reader from Harwich read *Celestial Bodies* by Jokha Alharthi: “Translated by Marilyn Booth. This was a beautifully written book about Oman, translated from Arabic. It captured such a flavor of the culture — amazing work by both author and translator!”

A reader from Rockland read *My First Murder* by Lehtolainen, Leena: “New metro police detective Maria Kallio has her first murder investigation – solve the death of Tommi Peltonen. A Finnish choir, drugs, and jealousy – what more could you ask for? I had to keep reminding myself that – during the late 1990s -- this Finnish officer had no Google, no cell phones...”

A reader from Naples read *The Labyrinth of the Spirits* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón: “The fourth book in The Cemetery of Forgotten Books did not disappoint. The audio version was particularly moving. The Shadow of the Wind found me...I was in a book store looking for a particular book and it was out of stock. The Shadow of the Wind was lying on a table waiting for me to pick it up. My two regrets: I do not read Spanish and Carlos Ruiz Zafón is gone too soon.”

A reader from Sutton read *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren: “Loved it!!”

A reader from Springfield read *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi: “I enjoyed this look at Iran not just from that of someone from Iran but also to see events through a child’s eye. I also love how the book shows a love of country through dangerous times.”

A reader from Marblehead read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: “I thought that this was a fantastic book. It was very well written and the author did a great job presenting the characters via description as well as by how their actions/interactions reflected their personalities and attitudes. Definitely a good read!”

A reader from Rockland read *Abyss* by Pilar Quintana: "This troubled family's story is told by a young girl who is trying to understand her parents, relationships, and the world. The sexual turmoil, emotional and mental breakdowns made this a difficult book to read."

A reader from Boylston read *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo: "I chose the unabridged version of *Les Miserables* and while I enjoy Hugo's writing style, his extensive chapters on the politics and social issues of the day do take the reader a bit longer to parse out the story of Jean Valjean and Cosette. As a classic written in the mid-1800's I find it very insightful particularly in his descriptions of emotions - love, infatuation, anger, trust (and lack of), paternal, egotism and more!"

A reader from Longmeadow read *Beauty Is a Wound* by Eka Kurniawan: "If culture-shock and violent chaos was a book, it would be this one. I read it because it appeared on a list of "best books in translation," but the storyline is actually quite unhinged."

A reader from Belchertown read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrick Backman: "A truly delightful book full of great characters with all their uniqueness."

A reader from Rochester read *Mrs Mohr goes missing* by Maryla szymiczowa: "The book was translated from Polish. So some of the names were a little difficult. It's a mystery with a bored socialite who wants to be a crime solver. Good story that keeps you guessing till the end."

A reader from Leverett read *The Strange Library* by Haruki Murakami: "It was weird and I'm not sure I understood what it was really all about, but it was short."

A reader from Palmer read *Fox and the Hound* by Daniel P. Mannix: "I finally cried at the end of this book. A beautiful tale about nature and survival, and the ultimate danger: humans."

A reader from Basking Ridge read *The Good Son* by You Jeong Jeong: "I did not enjoy this at all."

A reader from Bolton read *The Best of Sholom Aleichem* by Sholom Aleichem: "This is a book full of short stories that are funny, tragic, curious and thought-provoking. He is quite the story-teller."

A reader from Salem read *Concerning My Daughter* by Kim Hye-jin: "Compelling and heartfelt."

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Late Monsieur Gallet* by Georges Simenon: "This second novel in the Inspector Maigret series was originally published in 1931. This new translation by Anthea Bell was published in 2013. I haven't read a Maigret novel in awhile, but this month's reading challenge has started me on a quest to begin reading through this series of clever, enjoyable mysteries."

A reader from Amherst read *The Books of Jacob* by Olga Tokarczuk: "Quite a tome. Luckily, there was a great audio version which helped me get through it."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Dinner* by Herman Koch: "Infuriating but loved it. Would I do the same for my children?"

A reader from WORCESTER read *THE LITTLE PRINCE* by ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY: "IT WAS ENDEARING TO READ A BOOK THAT WAS A SIMPLE STORY FOR CHILDREN, WHICH WAS SO PROFOUND!"

A reader from Thorndike read *Stolen* by Ann-Helén Laestadius: "This book was POWERFUL. I loved it, I learned a lot, and I definitely think this book is one that will resonate for a long time."

A reader from Lowell read *Dogs of Summer* by Andrea Abreu: "If you've ever had a lowkey homoerotic friendship with a girl you'd take a bullet for, this book is for you. Also, you might be a little traumatized from it..."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Postcard* by Anne Berest: "Translated by Tina Kover. WWII historical fiction, but oh so much more. Current day Anna researches her personal family history by having conversations with her mother, reading old documents, and talking with small village survivors who were familiar with her grandparents. Sad and timely but filled with love."

A reader from Beverly read *Black Leviathan* by Bernd Perplies: "I don't read a lot of fantasy books, but I was pleasantly surprised by this story. There were a few plot points that I could see coming, but overall I thought it was creative and daring."

A reader from Hampden read *Bad Girls* by Camila Villada: "The paragraphs were very long which made it tough to follow along. Definitely made it a tougher read. Story itself was interesting and sad to read."

A reader from Middleboro read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: "I really got in to this book about halfway thru. I think there could definitely be a sequel, chronicling the characters' lives in the future."

A reader from Rochester read *In defense of witches* by Mona Chollet: "Heavy, discouraging material, but I am appreciative of knowing the history and subtleties on women's lives."

A reader from Lowell read *Vita Nostra* by Marina & Sergey Dyachenko: "Very dark academia and very creepy and weird, not sure I 100 percent understood everything that was happening but I enjoyed it."

A reader from Belchertown read *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman: "I wanted to branch out on this category but I went with an author I knew well. Loved *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman! I've got my eyes on some Booker winners now though!"

A reader from AMHERST read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: "The characters are unlikeable, and there are too many of them to keep track of in this coming-of-age novel about the friendship of two girls growing up in an impoverished neighborhood in Naples."

A reader from Quincy read *I Have The Right to Destroy Myself* by Young-ha Kim: "Interesting (and strange) characters; even after finishing *I Have The Right to Destroy Myself*, I'm conflicted about how I feel about the protagonist. Overall, it was a quick novel to read through and was interesting and thought-provoking."

A reader from Hudson read *In Paris with You* by CL Beauvais: "A poetry novel, with rhyme...translated, and it still has the subtle rhyme?? My hat is off to the translator for sure!"

A reader from Burlington read *Merry-Go-Round* by Sergio Rossi: "I love the idea of looking at relationships by moving one person around this "merry-go-round" each chapter, but it was messy and a little hard to follow and ultimately pretty boring."

A reader from Salem read *Solaris* by Stanislaw Lem: "This book was translated from the original Polish by Bill Johnston. I enjoyed the book. I found the idea of such a different life form fascinating."

A reader from Haverhill read *Zen: The Art of Simple Living* by Shunmyō Masuno: "This was a short book with lots of good tips to live a more zen life."

A reader from Methuen read *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "This was a great character driven book that has a wonderful moral. It's more magical realism than science themed time travel."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Archer* by Paulo Coelho: "Only Paulo can take the sport of archery and turn it into a life lesson."

A reader from Amherst read *Letters to a young Poet* by Rainer Maria Rilke: "A young man writes to Rilke, an established poet, for advice while he is away from his family attending the same school that Rilke himself had attended. This letter and others are answered by Rilke with empathy, honesty and support."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende: "Isabel Allende took a thoughtful look at a sobering subject, weaving together the stories of two children separated from their families, one in WWII Europe and the other in present-day America. I'm looking forward to reading more of her novels."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Vi mot er- Us against you* by Fredrik Backman: "This was an amazing sequel to Beartown! I loved it!"

A reader from Woburn read *The Chestnut Man* by Søren Sveistrup: "I loved how this kept me guessing and interested for all 500+ pages. Stellar work."

A reader from Whately read *Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One* by Raphaëlle Giordano: "This is a French Bestseller about Paris native Camille. She is on a journey to cure her "Routinitis". This is such a positive story about one woman's journey to find her path to joy. The book includes a pocket dictionary of Routinology Words and Phrases and a Discussion Guide so we can all explore our own path to happiness."

A reader from Braintree read *Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay* by Elena Ferrante: "Third book in the Neapolitan Quartet, *Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay* continues the story narrated by the novel's Elena about her life among the educated class and the ties she still has to the impoverished, crime-ridden neighborhood she grew up in and where she still has family and old friends, including her brilliant but often troubled best friend Lila. Translated from the Italian, these books merge the deeply personal with political, socio-economic, and philosophical theories."

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *Farewell, My Orange* by Iwaki Kei: "Fantastic story of immigrants to Australia. How different and similar their stories are."

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Adventures of Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi: "Very good translation of the original (not Disney) story. Recommended."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Stranger* by Albert Camus: "I know this book came out long ago. It was never addressed, but all I could think of was that he was experiencing some mental health issues that drove him to kill. I read this in high school, but it is different to read as an adult."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Girl by the Bridge* by Arnaldur Indridason: "Good Scandi noir -- very dark."

A reader from Weymouth read *Before Your Memories Fade* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "Before Your Memories Fade was a great reminder of it is all in your perspective."

A reader from Amherst read *The Cat That Saved Books* by Sosuke Natsukawa: "A fantasy genre about books and reading with a talking cat and trips thru four labyrinths. Rintaro Natsuki confronts his own demons as well as people who mistreat books. Not my usual genre."

A reader from Northfield read *Stolen* by Ann-Helen Laestadius: "Set in northern Sweden, the Sami characters struggle within the context of their traditions to honor and preserve a way of life pummeled by both climate and societal change. As with all I consider to be best reads, I anticipated, questioned, learned, wondered, laughed, cried and am prodded to do better. Why are there so many instances of destructive clashes between indigenous and non-indigenous humans? The universality of the story along with the authenticity of the author's Sami roots providing particulars is wondrous."

A reader from Springfield read *Cousins* by Aurora Venturini: "Cousins by Aurora Venturini is a Spanish to English translated book based out of Argentina. The authors witty and dark personality was quite funny. Things seem to always go from bad to worse with her family. It is an interesting and fun read, didn't love it but wasn't disappointed."

A reader from Norwell read *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* by Satoshi Yagisawa: "Translated by Eric Ozawa, this quick read is a sweet story about a young woman who bonds with her uncle, and the charming town he lives in, while she stays with him and works in his bookshop."

A reader from Wakefield read *Whereabouts* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "I really enjoyed this book. It was about every day occurrences and their significance to the main character's overall life. She expressed so many feelings and thoughts that I too have had."

A reader from Northampton read *Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One* by Raphaelle Giordano: "I have a feeling that at one time or another we've all felt overwhelmed, over-worked, under-appreciated - too much to do at work and too much to do at home, wondering how did I get here? What happened to the dreams I had when I was in my 20s? This sweet short novel addresses those feelings in a practical yet fun way - it's a perfect read for any time you are stressed with your daily routine. Thanks to my friend Gail for suggesting it!"

A reader from Weymouth read *The Archer* by Paulo Coelho: "It was a quick read, paralleling archery with living your own life, without fear, and with total devotion to that which you hold close to your heart."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Murmur of Bees* by Sofia Segovia: "Compelling, well-written story of a boy abandoned at birth who has a disfigured face. He is adopted by a local family and throughout his life bees "whisper" to him, warning him of possible dangers he and those he loves may encounter."

A reader from Dracut read *Night* by Ellie wiesel: "A Jewish boy in the holocaust."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Dark Interval* by Rilke: "The letters in this book dealt with death, grief, friendships and mourning. I liked the straight forward acknowledgement of death and the idea that we find ways to move forward and find joy again."

A reader from Northampton read *Meditations on First Philosophy* by Rene Descartes: "I found out I am not a big fan of Descartes, actually."

A reader from Westborough read *Let Me In* by John Ajvinde Lindqvist: "It was a dense read, but only because I felt that every word had been chosen with care."

A reader from Sagamore Beach read *Don Quixote de la Mancha* by Miguel de Cervantes: "Story about a knight errand and his adventures which are fantastical, liked the stories within the novel told by the other characters in the book. The philosophy of what people believe in life was interesting."

A reader from Enfield read *The Winners* by Fredrik Backman: "This book is originally written in Swedish. This is the 3rd in the series. The author's writing makes the tough subject matter more understandable."

A reader from Amherst read *Twelve Nights* by Urs Faes: "A novella by a Swiss author about events surrounding a feud between brothers many years ago, in anticipation of their reunion. The vivid language gives a good sense of the setting, a snowy winter in the Black Forest between Christmas and Epiphany."

A reader from Sandwich read *Death in Brittany* by Jean-Luc Bannalec: "A 91 year old hotelier is found dead in the small town of Pont-Aven. Former Parisian Commissaire Dupin, who had been disciplined and sent to this quiet town, must now solve this murder of a man already dying.. Interesting plot development around a famous painting amidst the Breton culture and beauty. (First published in Germany.)"

A reader from Woods Hole read *Just a Corpse at Twilight* by Janwillem van de Wetering: "Hmm - liked the book overall, but maybe too many subplots for my usual reading style. Mysteries upon mysteries."

A reader from Plymouth read *A Single Rose* by Muriel Barbery: "A Single Rose was a short read but the impact it had on me was huge. It made me wish I could walk through a garden in Japan again."

A reader from Chicopee read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: "This is book one of a series that explores Lila's and Elena's friendship, how it started, and all their childhood escapades."

A reader from Wilmington read *Days at the Morosaki Bookshop* by Satoshi Yagisawa: "I enjoyed reading this as it was about a bookshop that housed very old books. It didn't really have an exciting plot though."

A reader from Rochester read *The Odyssey* by Homer: "I treasured this Robert Fagles modern verse translation for its sheer lyrical mastery. Bernard Knox's introduction intensified the strength of this assessable translation of a timeless human story and an individual test of moral endurance. I turned to Homer's ancient tale after having just read William Kent Kreuger's midwestern coming of age novel, "This Tender Land," itself a kind of homage to The Odyssey, Huckleberry Finn and The Wizard of Oz."

A reader from Hanover read *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk: "This book is weird and kinda predictable."

A reader from Dracut read *The Elephant's Journey* by José Saramago: "I enjoyed reading this book but couldn't get over the non use of capital letters!!"

A reader from Scituate read *The Blind Owl* by Sadegh Hedayat: "Couldn't really get into it. Iranian author and as translated had too many adjectives that didn't add anything in my opinion."

A reader from Beverly read *Meditations* by Marcus Aurelius Translated by Gregory Hays: "I last read Meditations almost fifty years ago when I was a college student. I thought I would try it again now as a retiree. Although Marcus lived almost 2,000 years ago and life, of course, was very different then, some of his ideas still hold up well. His respect for nature is one such idea. He possessed a great affection for the natural world. I wonder what he would think about the current state of our environment. Maybe he

would not be surprised to see what we humans have wrought as he did not always hold our decision making capabilities and consequent behaviors in high regard. He was rather pessimistic. Let's hope we can prove him wrong!"

A reader from Charlton read *The Dinner* by Herman Koch: "Interesting story about protecting one's you love at all costs. Family dynamics and mental illness addressed in this crazy story."

A reader from Northampton read *That We May Live* by Speculative Chinese Fiction anthology: "Some of the stories were fascinating! My favorites featured mysterious tea, mushroom houses, and plant-beasts. The book itself was very lovely and thoughtfully designed."

A reader from Hudson read *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel: "A wonderful example of magical realism that deals with important topics of female autonomy, sensuality, the value and challenges of multigenerational families, and the pressures imposed by societal expectations."

A reader from Norton read *Papers* by Violaine Schwartz: "This is a very powerful book on immigration in France. The author shares several stories from refugees fleeing an oppressive homeland in Africa, the people who have volunteered to help with housing, etc and, finally, the employees behind the desks who process the "papers." It is a short book with compact narrative, but a moving tribute to all involved."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Little Prince: Book 1: The Planet of Wind* by Delphine Dubos: "It was very, very confusing. I liked that it was a graphic novel."

A reader from Somerville read *The Strange Library* by Haruki Murakami: "Wow. What a punch in this short novella. I loved it! If you've read Murakami before you know you are in for a wild ride and this did not disappoint! It's like Alice in Wonderland on steroids. A young boy, a library, a sheepman, and a librarian who eats brains - buckle your seatbelts!"

A reader from West Falmouth read *My brilliant friend : book one : childhood, adolescence* by Ferrante, Elena: "Engaging story and easy reading with interesting insights into small town Italian culture and the mind of an intelligent young girl."

A reader from Chicopee read *King Lear No Fear Shakespeare* by Sparknotes: "A translation of Shakespearean English to modern English about the story of King Lear, and the power struggle between his family."

A reader from Hampden read *The Little Prince* by Saint-Exupery: "Can't believe I had never read it. Excellent and thought provoking."

A reader from Amherst read *Two Old Men and a Baby* by Hendrik Groen: "Very funny novel about Hendrik and Evert, in a time before the earlier books (this is like a prequel to *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Gruen* and *On the Bright Side*), when both men are living independently. Evert accidentally kidnaps a baby from a school Christmas concert, and they can't easily return her. The hapless police, the inept and elderly Hendrik and Evert, the mayor concerned only about her image, the nosy neighbor. It's a very funny story, good writing. Translated by Hester Velmans."

A reader from Melrose read *Earthater* by Dolores Reyes: "Strange and poetic. Earthater is unlike anything I've read before. I plan to never read it again."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Winter in Sokcho* by Elisa Shua Dusapin: “Beautifully written. An ending to think about.”

A reader from Hanson read *The Good Son* by You-Jeong Jeong: “I found the nature of this book a difficult read. It's a dark glimpse into the mind of an individual with mental illness.”

A reader from Fairhaven read *The girl who reads on the métro* by Feret-Fleury, Christine: “This thin book contains some really heavy storytelling! Love, regret, romance, death, forgiveness, family. It's all in there! It's a little magical realism, a little speculative fiction, a lot of great writing!”

A reader from Reading read *Fair Play* by Tove Jansson: “I found this book to be calm and meditative. It presents some interesting ideas that I am still thinking about a week later.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery: “Such a charming and quick read with beautiful art! Le Petit Prince is a French classic that I recommend to all grown-ups that need a little reminder they were children first ;).”

A reader from Hadley read *Daughters of Snow and Cinders* by Nuria Tamarit: “I enjoyed the art style and the premise, but I didn't connect much with the characters or the story.”

A reader from Boston read *The Librarian of Saint-Malo* by Mario Escobar: “It was inspiring to read about the librarians dedication to protecting the books and the library, even at great risk to themselves.”

A reader from Lee read *The Winners* by Frederick Backman: “Translated by Neil Smith. This book was longer than it needed to be but Backman handles difficult topics well and it was beautifully translated.”

A reader from Brockton read *The Morning Star* by Karl Ove Knausgaard: “This book reads like a Stephen King novel but with no real closure. Many characters introduced to not be referred to again. Honestly I finished it only to complete the monthly entry.”

A reader from Dracut read *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Ariwaka with Philip Gabriel: “As a cat lover, I adored this book. I enjoyed the various points of view throughout the story, including the cat.”

A reader from Monson read *The Gift (Poem Collection)* by Hafiz translated by Daniel Ladinsky: “The book is amazing. 333 pages of translated poetry by the great Sufi Master Hafiz who lived in the 1300's. The book celebrates the joy of life and the sublime connection to a Great Spirit, who comes in many Names and Forms. I wish we could visit his hometown of Shiraz in Iran (Persia to Hafiz) but the despair of the world stops us from this experience.”

A reader from Santa Cruz read *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabel Allende: “Loved how she told the story and how she used just the right words to color and bring depth to the scenes. I was immediately drawn in. I also thought the translator did a great job. First of Allende's books for me. I'll look for others.”

A reader from HUDSON read *Mr. Kato Plays Family* by Milena Michiko Flasar: “In the vein of *A Man Called Ove*, this novel delves into the life of a newly retired curmudgeon who is trying to make sense of his life and his relationship with members of his family. When he meets a woman in a cemetery, she offers him an opportunity to try on different personalities as he is hired out to act as a relative or acquaintance for clients in need. This experience helps him to make new connections and to appreciate his own family. It was fun to think about being someone else for a day!”

A reader from Forestdale read *The 100-year-old-man who climbed out the window and disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson: "I would NEVER have picked this book to read if not for the challenge. It was so ridiculously funny, light and I loved the writing style. So good!!"

A reader from Belchertown read *The Traveling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa: "At first I didn't think I could make it through a story told through the view of a cat. As I kept reading the story grew on me. Worth the read."

A reader from middleboro read *the memory police* by yoko ogawa: "fantastic story! losing the world around you one piece at a time. once something is gone the memory of it is also taken away. if everything goes away will she also be forgotten."

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman: "I really enjoyed reading this book! Love Mr Backman's writing style! Human nature at its best/worst all at once! With levity, he touches upon so many societal issues. Really makes you think about how you'd react in situations. I highly recommend this book!"

A reader from Springfield read *The Ancient Magus Bride V1* by Kore Yamazaki: "The Manga was alright, as it uses Celtic and world mythology in a really interesting way. However, a lot of the romantic tropes were not my thing- the power dynamic is off, and the main character is a teenager in a relationship with an ancient creature. That turned me off to the series pretty quick, and I won't likely continue it."

A reader from Wilmington read *In Vitro: on longing and transformation* by Isabel Zapata and Robin Myers: "I enjoyed this short story. It painted a picture of this woman's emotional journey towards motherhood and some of the challenges she faced along the way."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang: "This book was disturbing but still beautiful in the way it touched on some very specific human truths. There was something horrifically honest about the way it portrayed womanhood as well."

A reader from Essex read *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami.: "Simple and beautiful language conveyed complicated thoughts and themes."

A reader from Stoneham read *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes: "ha what can you say about one of the most famous published works of all time? Lived up to its reputation."

A reader from HAMPDEN read *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas: "I thought the story was outstanding. A little too wordy for my taste, but loved it overall!"

A reader from Melrose read *Tender is the Flesh* by Agustina Bazterrica: "Grim but beautifully written vision of the food supply in a near future dystopia. 5/5."

A reader from Braintree read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: "I don't know if it was because of it being translated, but I did not enjoy the writing style and in the end didn't like the book."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Memory Police* by Yoko Ogawa: "The writing is beautiful and this has got such a great premise, but I was left with so many questions about this world—how/why things began disappearing, the foundation of the Memory Police themselves, etc. The narrative is just a little too vague for the type of reader I am."

A reader from Woods Hole read *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang: "The weirdest craziest book I've read, but continued to read. The fact that as a reader you become an observer of the main character, without her hardly saying much. Nightmarish but very nicely written."

A reader from South Hamilton read *North to Paradise* by Ousman Umar, translated by Kevin Gerry Dunn: "This moving account of a young migrant's years-long journey from Africa to Europe, contrasting different cultures and societal expectations, is a must-read for anyone wishing to better understand the lure of a better life."

A reader from Ipswich read *An elderly lady is up to no good : [stories]* by Helene Tursten ; translated by Marlaine Delargy: "A funny collection of short stories about 88 year old Maud who has an interesting way of solving her problems."

A reader from Hartland read *Men without Women* by Haruki Murakami: "Sad, thought provoking and stimulating."

A reader from Braintree read *The city of mist* by Carlos Ruiz zafon: "A collection of disturbing short stories."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende: "It was an interesting read but at times I found it somewhat difficult to follow."

A reader from Weston read *Hicotea a nightlights story* by Lorena Alvarez: "This book was about how this girl goes into the wetland and meets cool animals. Like a frog and a turtle and she finds cool stuff and gets a marble and gives it to the turtle."

A reader from Forestdale read *The Sagas of Ragnar Lodbrok* by Ben Waggoner: "The book went into a lot of other Viking history than I wanted. I really wanted the focus on Ragnar."

A reader from Woburn read *The Postcard* by Anne Berest: "Berest's novel (translated from its original French) is based on her family's amazing and tragic story, beginning with their escape from Russia in 1919 and focusing on their experiences during World War Two. Berest and her mother did an amazing amount of research to shed light on this story. The parts about the Holocaust were particularly hard to read, but I couldn't put this book down."

A reader from Franklin read *The Memory Police* by Yoko Ogawa: "This book was intriguing. It's the kind of book you think about after you finish."

A reader from Beverly read *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata: "What a timely book about what it means to be normal and how you cope with not fitting in but yet ultimately finding your voice and being boldly okay with who you are."

A reader from Amesbury read *New Art of Cookery* by Juan Altamiras: "It was interesting reading a book that was originally written in 1745 and learning about how cooking was done back then."

A reader from Plymouth read *Barbara Isn't Dying: A Novel* by Alina Bronsky: "This is a poignant, funny book about illness in a family and the husband's struggle to deal with it. The character of Walter is so well-written."

A reader from Brookline read *When the Whales Leave* by Yuri Rytkheu: "Loved getting a window into a distant place through this book, and the memory-to-mythical feel of it."

A reader from Berkley read *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery: "It was OK."

A reader from Harrisburg read *The Thief* by Fuminori Nakamura: "This was the second book I attempted for August's prompt but I ended up liking it more than I thought. Very dark noir-esque plot line about a skilled pickpocket getting involved with organized crime."

A reader from Wilmington read *Deviation* by Luce D'eraimo: "It kind of wandered all over the place, so was hard to follow. The long passages about the author's memory repressions were more distracting to the story line than anything."

A reader from Norton read *Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One* by Raphaele Giordano: "Eye opening and life changing, this book really gives you a new perspective on life."

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Diary of Young Girl* by Anne Frank: "Sobering and eye opening book."

A reader from Burlington read *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "This is a charming, touching book. I read it twice because I wanted to revisit it."

A reader from Leominster read *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "I liked the premise of time travel and it's rules (which are repeated endlessly) but I didn't love the execution."

A reader from Hatfield read *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren: "This delighted me all over again."

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafron: "The first half was incredible. Imaginative. Loved how he describes characters as our friends we don't want to leave when we complete a read."

A reader from Mount Washington read *The Patience Stone* by Atiq Rahimi: "A beautiful and disturbing look into the life and thoughts of an Afghan woman as she cares for her comatose husband."

A reader from STOUGHTON read *When I Sing, Mountains Dance* by Irene Sola: "A beautiful, enchanting story."

A reader from BEVERLY read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: "I love Fredrik Backman's storytelling. If anything gets lost in translation, you'd never know."

A reader from Erving read *Anne Frank The Diary of a Young Girl* by Otto Frank: "It appears that the thoughts of Anne as a teenager were pretty much the same as any young girl. It appears that conditions in hiding were stressful to all who had to share those conditions. It's extremely unfortunate that people are forced into living in that way because of war and those who start the wars. It would be amazing to have a world where there were no wars or evil people oppressing others."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The little prince* by Antoine de Saint Exupery: "Really fun and adventurous."

A reader from Topsfield read *The Secret Wisdom of Nature* by Peter Wohlleben: "This book is a respectful and reverent ode to the nature and its cycles (and how humans don't always know or do what's best for the natural world). It's one of those books that changes how I view and engage with the natural world

and opens up my mind to how other species experience survival, balance, and the ever-changing environment.”

A reader from Salem read *The Girls of Riyadh* by Rajaa Alsanea: “I find it so frustrating to read about the restrictions women face just because they’re women. I am so fortunate that I live where I live.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Man's Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl: “Even though this book was first published over 70 years it still is extremely relevant today. Incredibly written.”

A reader from Hampden read *I Will Have Vengeance* by Maurizio DeGiovanni: “Set in Naples in the early 30's, a world famous tenor is murdered - gripping cold grips the city and Commissario Riccardi is investigating. Since childhood Riccardi "sees" dead people but only those who have died a violent death. Makes for a moody atmosphere but a very cleverly plotted mystery.”

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *The girl who takes an eye for an eye* by David Lagercrantz: “This is an exciting book. Salander is a fascinating character who is exceptionally intelligent and uses her skills to fight injustice.”

A reader from Barrington read *The Last Wish* by Andrzej Sapkowski: “Fun way to keep the story alive in between Netflix seasons :-)”

A reader from Gill read *The Stub-Book* by Pedro Antonio de Alarcón: “This is a short story, which I found during my inaugural visit of Mason Library in Great Barrington. It was very cool to have the Spanish story printed on the opposite side of the opened book.”

A reader from Amesbury read *Heaven* by Mieko Kawakami: “I thought this book was very sad yet well written tale of friendship through tragedy.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Dinner* by Herman Koch: “Really enjoyed this book, which was translated from Dutch. The story plays out alongside the courses of a meal at an upscale restaurant, with more and more backstory and drama unfolding from appetizer to dessert. It was the literary equivalent of peeling an onion. Quite dark, as far as storyline goes, but very compelling.”

A reader from Holden read *Forbidden Notebook* by Alba de Céspedes: “Though written in the 1950s, and set in pre-WW II Italy, this novel feels strikingly contemporary. The novel had gone out of print, and was recently reissued. Feminist themes on marriage, parenting, and work will resonate with current readers. Don't let the cheesy title dissuade you.”

A reader from Marblehead read *The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony* by Roberto Calasso: “This is a book I can pick up at any time and lose myself. The writing is brilliant and poetic.”

A reader from Woburn read *The Dark Forest* by Cixin Liu: “Dense, boring, and interesting, sometimes interchangeably, sometimes simultaneously. A satisfying second half and conclusion after an immensely boring first half.”

A reader from Middleboro read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: “I love the way Backman writes characters. You see their imperfections, their quirks, and their lovable personalities. This book may have featured hockey but you can relate to the story if you're part of a team or community.”

A reader from Holden read *Zlata's Diary* by Zlata Filipović translated by Christina Pribichevich-Zorić: "Zlata Filipović was an eleven year old girl living in Sarajevo when she began writing in a journal in September of 1991. What began as entries dedicated to normal pre-teen life quickly devolved into descriptions of war and survival. Often likened to *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Zlata's Diary* is sometimes mundane, sometimes humorous, sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes perplexing, but always amazing to read. Her storytelling brings the war to the readers fingertips in all its pain and tragedy."

A reader from Waltham read *Slash Them All* by Antoine Maillard, translated by Jenna Allen: "Interesting but I'm not quite sure what it all was trying to say in the end. I would recommend those interested in the burgeoning-serial-killer theme try *My Friend Dahmer* by Derf Backderf, which covers similar ground in a more effective way."

A reader from South Hadley read *Run Away With Me Girl, vol. 1* by Battan: "Super emotionally engaging yuri series with a unique art style."

A reader from Danvers read *The Postcard* by Anne Berest: "Fabulous historical fiction read!"

A reader from Falmouth read *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk: "What a quirky and fascinating read!"

A reader from Acton read *Dogs of Summer* by Andrea Abreu: "Abreu writes the big, overjoying, 'live forever' feelings of being a girl and having a best friend effortlessly infused with the confusing, overwhelming, sometimes dangerous, feelings of having a crush on another girl. 'Exquisite yearning.'"

A reader from Conroe read *The Illiad* by Homer- Translated by Caroline Alexander: "I really enjoyed this book! I'm definitely going to be reading *The Odyssey* now."

A reader from Hamilton read *The Golden Cage* by Camilla Lackberg: "Gripping. Enjoyed the alternating story from current to early days in the main characters' lives."

A reader from Buckland read *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk: "This is a very powerful story that melds political intrigue, philosophy and romance. It is skillfully translated from the Turkish by Maureen Freely."

A reader from Sandwich read *Fresh water for flowers* by Valerie Perrin: "It was entertaining."

A reader from Elbridge read *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* by Satoshi Yagisawa: "A young woman is treated shabbily and dumped by her boyfriend. She goes into a state of depression, and the thing that eventually pulls her out is going to live at her Uncle's bookshop. In the second part of the book, she then goes on to help her Uncle and his estranged wife come to accord. Just a nice little book."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Shubeik Lubeik* by Deena Mohamed: "This graphic novel is beautifully drawn and such a great story. It was translated by the author/illustrator herself."

A reader from Worcester read *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "A quick, quirky read!"

A reader from Stoneham read *Tomb of sand* by Geetanjali Shree, translated by Daisy Rockwell: "This book was the International Booker Prize Winner for 2022. It's a unique and colorful story about an 80 year old woman, her family and the lives affected by the partition of India and Pakistan, and so much more."

A reader from Hampden read *Library at the Edge of the World* by Felicity Hayes-McCoy: "I loved this book! The characters are amazing!"

A reader from Attleboro read *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata: "It was a quick read. I found it a bit boring in some parts."

A reader from Sandwich read *the Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: "An inspiring story motivating the reader to find their own personal legacy."

A reader from Atkinson read *The Dinner* by Herman Koch: "Originally published in Dutch, a suspenseful mystery about a family dinner in which a secret is slowly revealed."

A reader from Worcester read *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa: "A poignant story of a man and his beloved cat who loves him. Translated from Japanese."

A reader from Shutesbury read *Whale* by Cheon Myeong-kwan: "I believe the story is well written. I love how the author writes the story. There are segments in the books that are a bit violent for me, however, the book/ story held me so well, I was able to get through those parts."

A reader from Lowell read *The Thief* by Fuminori Nakamura: "I couldn't put it down. A short read is written in a noir style about the demise of a Tokyo pick-pocket whose past finally catches up with him."

A reader from Amherst read *The Iliad* by Homer: "Translation by Robert Fagles. I listened to the audiobook performed by Sir Derek Jacobi. Timeless: so much sorrow, so much death—all because of the whims and tantrums of the immensely powerful."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Honeymoon* by Patrick Modiano: "A tad depressing. I would not recommend it. Origin country is France."

A reader from Somerville read *Violeta* by Isabel Allende: "Not a plot-driven novel at all, but an entire life story told from the point of view of a 100-year-old woman. I liked it as insight into what it was like to live in (what I think is supposed to be) Chile during the 20th century, but I did have to push myself to finish. I'm glad I finally tried one of Isabel Allende's books, but I won't rush to read another."

A reader from Lunenburg read *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: "A beautiful observation on relationships and human emotions."

A reader from Reading read *No Edges* by Lusajo Mwaikenda Israel, et. al.: "No Edges is the first collection of Swahili fiction translated into English. With stories ranging from magical phenomena to Afrofuturistic dystopia to social humiliation, this collection is an eclectic celebration of East African writers. Beautiful, emotional, weird, reflective, powerful! BONUS: Coolest cover ever!"

A reader from Northampton read *The Memory Police* by Yoko Ogawa: "I really loved this fantastical, beautiful story about memory, souls and disappearance."

A reader from Paxton read *Dead-End Memories* by Banana Yoshimoto: "Each story was an intimate look inside the main character's life, and it felt like you were there beside them."

A reader from Essex read *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk: "Such quirky characters! I would love to see this made into a film because the setting itself is such an important character."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Hole* by Hiroko Oyamada: "This book feels like a liminal space; Oyamada really put in the work to create a sense of existential dread that bubbles up so subtly you don't realize how disturbing the story is until it's nearly over."

A reader from Beverly read *The Half-Finished Heaven* by Tomas Tranströmer/trans Robert Bly: "These poems are different from what I am accustomed - is it language? cultural? Quiet but thought-provoking. I need to spend time and sit with them a whilethey are almost disturbing or jarring in some way. From a deep and thoughtful intelligence, I think."

A reader from Worcester read *Go, Went, Gone* by Jenny Erpenbeck, transl.from the German by Susan Bernofsky: "Powerful interweaving of an unexpected meeting of stories and events."

A reader from Reading read *A Year with Rilke: daily readings from the best of Rainer Maria Rilke* by Rainer Maria Rilke: "This book provided daily writings from Rilke's poems and letters."

A reader from Montague read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: "Listened to the book on Audible which made it somewhat more palatable. Overall disappointed in it. Cliched and moralistic about its subject."

A reader from Boston read *Heretics* by Leonardo Padura: "Translated from Spanish by the excellent Anna Kushner. Padura is one of the most famous living Cuban authors, but I'd never heard of him until my book group selected this book!"

A reader from Melrose read *Weasels in the Attic* by Hiroko Oyamada, David Boyd (Translation): "A fascinating book that delves into the inner lives of a few friends. I enjoyed reading a Japanese book that captured the strange beauty of contemporary Japanese culture."

A reader from Worcester read *Surrender* by Bono: "Not in translation but Bono is Irish and it's an amazing audiobook. Highly recommend it!"

A reader from Fitchburg read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: "I have read many books by Backman and this is by far my favorite. It is the first book in a trilogy. All three are wonderful!"

A reader from Weymouth read *Surviving the Forest* by Adiva Geffen: "Translated from the original Hebrew, it tells the story of survival during WW2 of a young Polish woman and her family. It always amazes me that people overcame such horrible circumstances and survived."

A reader from Amherst read *The Baron in the Trees* by Italo Calvino: "Unique tale of a boy who climbs into the trees in 18th century Italy and never comes down for the rest of his life. The first Calvino book I've read and it was enjoyable and thoughtful."

A reader from Providence read *A Midsummer's Equation* by Keigo Higashino: "Keigo Higashino knows how to spin a tale that keeps the reader guessing until the very end. I'm a big fan."

A reader from Dracut read *the UNSEEN* by Roy Jacobsen translated by Don Bartlett and Don Shaw: "Originally written in Norwegian, this story depicts the resiliency of isolated island life of 3 generations. The Unseen is the first of a 4 book series called the Barroy Chronicles."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Vanished Collection: Stolen Masterpieces, Family Secrets and One Woman's Quest for the Truth* by Pauline Baer de Perignon: "A true story based on appropriation of Jewish families' collections by the Nazis during WWII. Her determination to track, hunt down and determine

what happened to her own family's collections is riveting and is a roller coaster ride of emotions. Sad, wonderful, disappointing, the whole gamut of emotions to its conclusion. Not sharing the ending - read it for yourself."

A reader from South Hadley read *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion* by Yukio Mishima: "To resent the object of one's desires can lead to tragic outcomes."

A reader from Scituate read *Three Strong Women* by Marie NDiaye, John Fletcher (translator): "I almost never stop reading a book, but I just couldn't get into this one. The content just didn't interest me, nor did any of the characters. I abandoned this book about 30% in."

A reader from Sutton read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrick Backman: "It speaks to community and "found" family. I am reminded of a quote from Richard Bach's book, *Illusions*: "Rarely do members of one family grow up under the same roof.""

A reader from Beverly read *Shubeik Lubeik* by Deena Mohamed: "Exploring a world where genie wishes has become a commodity sets up three intertwined stories in this Egyptian graphic novel. The illustration sets the tone wonderfully. The stories are compelling and at times heartbreaking. Highly recommend."

A reader from Melrose read *The Anomaly* by Hevré ale Tellier: "Interesting thought experiment on the choices we make and how we might see ourselves from another perspective."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* by Patrick Suskind: "I really did not like this book. I have a hard time enjoying a book when all of the characters are unlikable. There was not a single likable character in the book."

A reader from Braintree read *Among the Hedges* by Sara Mesa: "An interesting read between two unlikely friends."

A reader from Wellfleet read *My Poems Won't Change the World* by Patrizia Cavalli: "A wonderful and even amazing group of poems, provocative if brief. Stringently lyrical!"

A reader from Florence read *Night Rounds* by Helene Tursten: "I have been loving all things Helene Tursten. Her books are translated from Swedish. This book has been waiting for August so I could read it!! Inspector Irene Huss Investigation is a great character and the plot is complex and interesting."

A reader from Belchertown read *Rupture* by Ragnar Jonasson: "Another in the mystery series with police officer Are Thor in an isolated town in northern Iceland. I enjoy the characters, the dramatic scenery, and the well plotted stories."

A reader from Franklin read *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson: "Humorous story, which begins pretty much as the title implies, but as the adventure unfolds, you learn a lot about the old man's background, which is alternately funny and impressive. Makes one wonder about the history of those who have lived long lives."

A reader from Falmouth read *Britt-Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman: "As with the two other books I've read by this author, it took me a while to get hooked, but I did eventually. His protagonists tend to be oddballs, and the reader ends up caring about them as the book progresses."

A reader from Beverly read *A Man Called Ove* by Frederik Backman: "Very depressing, yet heartwarming. I've read several of his books."

A reader from East Longmeadow read *If On A Winter's Night A Traveler* by Italo Calvino: "Genius! Such a fun idea for how a story might be told."

A reader from Townsend read *There's No Such Thing as an Easy Job* by Kikuko Tsumura: "Really interesting and eye opening to what woman go through everyday."

A reader from Yorba Linda read *Dogs Don't Make it to the South Pole* by Hans-Olav Thyvold: "Interestingly dark tale about death, adventure, history and life - all told from a dog's perspective."

A reader from Worcester read *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson: "I enjoy this mystery set in Sweden about a reporter and investigator trying to solve a 40 year old murder. First in a series and movies were made based on the books. I did like the Swedish movie better than our English version though."

A reader from Somerville read *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang: "It was weird but thought provoking. Didn't fully understand, but definitely worth a read."

A reader from Seekonk read *French Rhapsody* by Antoine Laurain: "French Rhapsody is about a man who had once been part of a band who receives a letter from a recording company 33 years late about a meeting to discuss recording their music. The book relates what each of the band members has been doing in the last 33 years and how the search by the man to find his bandmates affects their present lives."

A reader from Middleboro read *Us against you* by Fredrik Backman: "This book is the sequel to *Beartown* and makes you feel a wide range of emotions throughout. Backman is an excellent writer and storyteller."

A reader from Beverly read *Les Liaisons Dangereuses aka Dangerous Liaisons* by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos: "I found myself reading the first half the book as an eBook and the second half as an audiobook. Because the story is written in the form of letters between a half dozen characters, the audiobook version helped keep track of the current letter writer and infused personality into a text that some modern readers may not easily ascertain from straight reading."

A reader from Newton read *The Factory* by Hiroko Oyamada: "An interesting parable about capitalism and your identity being caught up in your work."

A reader from Palmer read *Romantic Killer v.4* by Wataru Momose: "*I'm re-submitting my entry for this month because I had thought my previous entry was a book in translation--it was not.* This volume marks the end of the series, and had some darker moments than usual. But I thought the themes explored helped to develop the characters, and I really appreciated the ambiguous ending, as it allows for more readers to not be upset with "The Choice.""

A reader from Woods hole read *The elegance of the hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery: "Charming and engaging."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Legacy* by Yrsa Siguroardottir: "My new series to binge!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Divine Comedy 2: Purgatory* by Dante: "This book was translated from the Italian (and some Latin) by Dorothy Sayers. This is one of those classics I'd always said I would get around to reading sometime, and August's challenge was the perfect opportunity. I enjoyed the book, though to really study it would require being in a class with a good teacher for me--so much symbolism and historical and mythological knowledge required! Sayers does an admiral job of filling in a lot of this, but there is so much to digest."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer: "Took me back to high school but I loved it!"

A reader from Amherst read *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami: "I think Murakami is a beautiful writer and that was true for this book. I am not sure what his point was - maybe the impermanence of life. It was both very Japanese and very Western with many cultural references. Norwegian Wood is a book that I will think about for a long time."

A reader from Worcester read *The Good Son* by You-Jeong Jeong: "I was disappointed in it because the series of events were implausible."

A reader from Lowell read *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel: "Translated from Spanish, a beautiful fever dream of the magic of emotions!"

A reader from Erving read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: "Though it's a novel, it is more of a lesson in believing in oneself and following one's dreams."

A reader from Lowell read *Like water for chocolate* by Laura Esquivel: "A fever dream about love, trauma, and magic."

A reader from Plymouth read *Some Prefer Nettles* by Junichiro Tanizaki: "A striking novel about a failing marriage, making compromises, and preference for traditional vs. modern aesthetics and behaviors, all set in Japan and themed around traditional puppet shows."

A reader from Uxbridge read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: "Loved this book, was a very emotional book, but worth the tears."

A reader from Brewster read *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-EXUPIERY: "This is a fable about a pilot who crashes in the desert and befriends a young boy from another planet."

A reader from MARSTONS MILLS read *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window & Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson: "Hilarious! Loved the plot, characters and turn of events."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink: "It is a book about abuse from the first person perspective of the victim. It was not clear even at the end of the book if the author realized this."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery: "A nice reminder about retaining our childlike outlook on life and appreciating our important relationships."

A reader from Palmer read *Three* by Valerie Perrin: "This book follows the lives of three friends--Nina, Etienne and Adrien--from when they first meet in school in France into their adulthood."

A reader from SANDWICH read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: "I know this is supposed to be a "classic" but I didn't really enjoy it. I thought the whole "personal journey" was too metaphor driven, instead of the reader having the chance to decipher the metaphor."

A reader from Braintree read *The Three- Body Problem* by Cixin Liu: "This was a fascinating book combining what we know about physics and imagining what it might be like for a civilization that developed in a tri- star system and if they needed to leave for a new home while looking at what it's like for people in earth to live through traumatic historical events like the Cultural Revolution in China."

A reader from Ludlow read *Auntie Poldi and the Vineyards of Etna* by Mario Giordano: "My 2nd "Auntie Poldi" and I love her just as much as the 1st one. Poldi is an irrepressible Italian woman who has returned to her roots in Sicily after living in Germany. She's an ageless, funny character who solves mysteries--involving mysterious deaths. Highly recommend especially if you know or are related to any old-time Italian folks. (That's my married name; I am a Ford, parents native Newfoundlanders) Enjoy!!!"

A reader from South Dennis read *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman: "Funnier than I thought it would be. Summed up all of the people you run into during your lifetime."

A reader from Wrentham read *In Other words* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "Charming and compelling."

A reader from Salem read *Jawbone* by Monica Ojeda: "Interesting story combining women, youth, and symbolism. Sometimes difficult to understand but a great read."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Vita Nostra* by Maryna and Serhiy Dyachenko: "Originally published in Russian. Felt like *The Magicians* meets *A Deadly Education*. Bizarre and beautiful - I'll definitely be reading the sequel!"

A reader from HANSON read *Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One* by Raphaelle Giordano: "I never had heard the phrase 'routinologist' but now it's a new one in my vocab. Cute story, love anything set in France - and it does get you thinking about how to keep things exciting in life."

A reader from Westford read *Eartheater* by Dolores Reyes: "I liked the rhythm of the book. Although the book was short and I found it difficult to see the full arc of the story."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende: "A beloved text from a long admired author. The Trueba family saga is gripping. I'm looking forward to acquiring sufficient skill in Spanish to read this book in its original language."

A reader from Craryville read *Mrs Mohr Goes Missing* by Maryla Szymiczko: "My grandfather lived in Krakow during this time period so I was very invested in the setting and news of the time. This was an engrossing read, quirky and well written. I can't wait for more translations!"

A reader from Northampton read *The Dangers of Smoking in Bed* by Mariana Enriquez (translated by Megan McDowell): "Great short story collection. Particularly the last one, "Back When We Talked to the Dead" will be haunting me for a while."

A reader from Bolton read *The Three Body Problem* by Cixin Liu: "An amazingly expansive and original plot."

A reader from Melbourne read *The Rabbit Factor* by Antti Tuomainen: "The Rabbit Factor shows that humor and quirky personalities are universal. Translated from Finnish into English."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky: "A story of war, people, society, intolerance.....I kept reading even when I was emotionally exhausted."

A reader from North Weymouth read *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery: "Such an unusual little story. Deep meaning. Delightful illustrations. I enjoyed it."

A reader from Winthrop read *Barbara Isn't Dying* by Alina Bronsky: "I loved this book - a beautiful quiet character study about the hidden emotional lives we all live."

A reader from Melrose read *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George: "Quirky, a little slow, some unexpected twists. Very sensual - the writing appeals to all the senses and brings the settings and characters to life."

A reader from Lowell read *Jujutsu Kaisen Vol. 0* by Gege Akutami: "The prequel to the widely loved Jujutsu Kaisen was fun and the exact right amount of intrigue, action, and suspense. I love a good manga and I'm excited to read the rest!"

A reader from Braintree read *The Adventures of Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi: "It's very different from the Disney adaptation."

A reader from Needham read *Snowdrift* by Helen Tursten: "I enjoyed the Swedish names and background. It has a convoluted plot. By the time the reader approaches the solution to the mystery most of the characters are clearly uninvolved or dead. So, the author brings in some last minute reinforcements. Still, it was engaging, and I might read a few more Detective Embla Nystrom mysteries."

A reader from Hampden read *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: "A story of the Buendia family over seven generations. I enjoyed the book. Also selected as part of the 2018 Great American read."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *The Sunset Years of Agnes Sharp* by Leonie Swann: "I got an ARC of this book from a local bookseller and was excited to read it in advance! Unfortunately, the plot and twists and turns all felt too unbelievable to enjoy. I thought this would be a lot more about how the elders worked together to outsmart the police and it has some of that, sure, but it's also a lot more about Agnes and her past and trying to keep her thoughts and her reality straight that took away, for me, from the camaraderie and group hijinks I was expecting."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Three Body Problem* by Liu Cixin: "A science fiction novel for people who like science more than fiction. Not my cup of tea."

A reader from Salem read *Siddhartha* by Herman's Hesse: "This was an interesting read. Not something I would normally pick, definitely out of my comfort zone. Glad to have finally read it after all these years."

A reader from Springfield read *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa: "Translated by Philip Gabriel. Terrifically moving story about a cat and his owner on a journey, narrated by Nana the cat. A beautiful story of friendship and lively descriptions of the countryside in Japan."

A reader from Northfield read *The Strange Library* by Haruki Murakami: "The Strange Library was indeed strange. A young boy goes to the library to return books and get new ones. He is directed to a room in the basement and then winds up in a cell. Many strange experiences and characters. Fairy tale? Symbolism? Nightmare? This book was very Stephen Kingish..."

A reader from Seekonk read *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: "Classic Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Witty and amazing."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery: "This novel, translated from its original French text, is a touching tale told in the first person by two narrators - a 54-year-old concierge and 12-year-old resident of the building. Both are unhappy and find joy through befriending a new resident to the building. It is a beautifully written story, reminding us to seize the joy in life and others."

A reader from Plainville read *Breasts and Eggs* by Mieko Kawakami: "This book was trying to do a lot, and I'm not sure it did any of it well."

A reader from Plymouth read *The Emissary* by Yoko Tawada: "Japan closes its borders again as the world falls victim to a mysterious illness. The citizens are left to wonder what life will be like."

A reader from Sandwich read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: "Interesting look into post war Italy and growing up in that environment."

A reader from Worcester read *The Sound of Things Falling* by Juan Gabriel Vasquez: "A very interesting story and captivating writing made me want to read more from this author. A book challenge read and glad I found it! Highly recommend."

A reader from Somerville read *Strange Weather in Tokyo* by Hiromi Kawakami. trans., Allison Markin Powell: "This was a beautiful, spare (but also funny) translation of the short novel. I was particularly interested in the words the translator chose to leave in transliterated Japanese rather than change to English; I enjoyed looking these words up and thinking about how you'd tackle that issue of leaving some words (mostly nouns) in the original language."

A reader from Lowell read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrick Backman: "I loved this book. I recently had a coworker's wife pass away and this book really helped me process it all."

A reader from SUTTON read *The Forbidden Notebook* by Alba de Céspedes: "Despite being over 70 years old, there were aspects of this book that still rings true to me as a mom in my 40s. It's fascinating to see how much has changed for women over the decades, but how many of our thoughts are still the same."

A reader from Greenfield read *Convenience store woman* by Sayaka Murata: "I have worked in the convenience store industry for the better part of 30 years - I identified with heroine from the first sentence of the story. The novel shows how society views someone who does not achieve the norm accurately."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Bear Town* by Fredrik Backman: "This book had me feeling so many things and got me thinking deeply about some very heavy topics."

A reader from South Hadley read *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister, J. Alison James (translator): "This was my favorite book in my childhood! Rereading it as an adult, I can see why a lot of people don't like it, but I still very much have a soft spot in my heart for it."

A reader from Plainville read *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman: "This book is translated from Swedish to English. Fredrik Backman is one of my favorite authors. I had started *Anxious People* two times before but I never could get into it. This reading challenge got me to pick this book up again and read it in its entirety. It was a great book and had me on the edge of my seat. I love how Fredrik Backman's books are always so funny as well."

A reader from Dennis Port read *The Employees* by Olga Ravn: "The book was translated from Danish. I actually found the font to be maybe 2 pts too small to be pleasant to read, though I liked the smaller format of the book itself. Unfortunately, I didn't like the story as much as I thought I would. I think I need to read it a second time."

A reader from Enfield read *Strange Tales from Japan: 99 chilling stories of yokai, ghosts, demons, and the supernatural* by Keikisuke Nishimoto: "These stories were so interesting and fun to read. It also taught me a lot about Japan's culture and supernatural representation. I really loved this collection!"

A reader from SWANSEA read *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon: "A book can change a life. 1945 - Daniel, 10 years old, finds a mysterious book, *The Shadow of the Wind*, in the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. He begins a quest to discover more about the author. This quest opens the door to a story of "murder, madness, and doomed love" that molds the path of Daniel's life."

A reader from Beverly read *Seamstress of Sardinia* by Bianca Pitzorno: "I enjoyed this book. The character development was on point - I really cared about the characters and what happened to them."

A reader from Los Alamos read *people from my neighborhood* by Hiromi Kawakami trans by Ted Goossen: "These 36 very short pieces capture bits and pieces of people in a Japanese community. While I see some different traditions, I also see connections between my neighborhood and Hiromi's."

A reader from Malden read *The Resting Place* by Camilla Sten, Alexandra Fleming (Translator): "A really spooky novel about a woman's decisions and how it affected later generations."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: "Beartown chronicles an amateur hockey team and the residents of a small remote town in Sweden. The characters are both complex and sympathetic. The book is uplifting in showing the importance of human relationships and the basic goodness of human beings."

A reader from Rochester read *The Incredible Events in Women's Cell Number 3* by Kira Yarmysh: "Translated from the Russian. During a 10 day detention in a Russian prison cell, 8 women come to reveal their lives and thoughts as well as the absurdity of the Russian legal system."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Wonders* by Elena Medel: "It took me longer than I'd like to admit to figure out how the two main characters intersected. It was an interesting look at feminism in Spain through Franco/post Franco and the modern day."

A reader from Salem read *Before The Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "I really enjoyed this sweet and fantastical story. I loved the meaning behind it!"

A reader from East Sandwich read *Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak: "A wee bit more complicated than the movie!"

A reader from Merhuen read *The Door-to-Door Bookstore* by Carsten Henn: "This was an engaging story that looks at how a love of books and the determination of a perspicacious nine-year-old can unite a group of lonely people, including the elderly bookseller in the title. Bibliophiles will appreciate all the literary references woven into this delightful novel."

A reader from Springfield read *Night* by Elie wiesel: "I like the book a lot. The details of the book an the story line behind it is what I loved most about it."

A reader from Harwich read *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation* by Seamus Heaney: "Beowulf, an epic medieval poem written in Old English circa 900 CE, is the story of the eponymous hero who slew both Grendel and his mother, thus saving the people of Denmark from slaughter and sorrow. Many translations of this saga exist; Beowulf: A New Verse Translation by Irish poet Seamus Heaney is masterful!"

A reader from SCITUATE read *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery: "This French book was published simultaneously in French and translated into English. This was originally written for children but appreciated by adults as it explains how innocent children observe the world versus an adult viewpoint. Perhaps I would have liked it better if I was a child."

A reader from Wilmington read *A Man Called Ove* by Frederick Backman: "Could just picture the grumpy old man with a heart of gold."

A reader from Lowell read *The Old Woman With The Knife* by Gu Byeong- Mo: "This is a good book. A central theme is ageism and how elders are regarded and treated in society. Another theme is revenge and how it consumes a person."

A reader from Paxton read *Beartown* by Fredrick Backman: "Great read!"

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Post Office Girl* by Stefan Zweig: "Story is set in Austria just after WWI. Story is author's spin on Cinderella story and hope and despair experienced by a young woman during that time. Was a bit of a slow start for character development in beginning of the story. Not sure if was in part due being translated from German to English. However, later part of book I was not able to put it down. I was a bit disappointed with the ending as felt it finished abruptly without knowing what became of the main character and her male friend. I did learn that this work was found after author had died, which could very well be reason for story's ending. Overall though I am glad to have chosen and read this book for this months challenge as it was definitely a change from genres I usually read."

A reader from Beverly read *The Cheffe* by Marie NDIAYE: "I would describe this book as literary fiction. It was about a young man obsessed with an older woman. I did have some difficulty with the fact that there weren't any chapters."

A reader from West Simsbury read *Blindness* by Jose Saramago: "The premise of the book was compelling: a city hit by an epidemic of "white blindness." The savagery that ensues as man's worst appetites and weaknesses are portrayed made it so I had to put it down after reading halfway. The rambling style made the reading slow going for me. It says that it portrays man's "ultimately exhilarating spirit," but I will not see that revealed."

A reader from Reading read *The Memory Police* by Yoko Ogawa: "As soon as I finished I immediately looked for online discussions and thoughts on this novel. So much to process and interpret."

A reader from Reading read *THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO* by Stieg Larsson: "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo was written in Swedish and was translated to English. Its a wonderful murder mystery. The main characters are Mikael Blomkvist a journalist, and Lisbeth Salander who is a brilliant hacker who helps him."

A reader from Guyton read *Audition* by Ryu Murakami, (Translator: Ralph McCarthy): "It was really slow with not a very good pay off."

A reader from Cambridge read *The Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux* by St. Thérèse of Lisieux: ""Employez les richesses qui rendent injustes à vous faire des amis qui vous reçoivent dans les tabernacles éternels" > "Use the riches that make men unjust to find yourselves friends who may receive you into everlasting dwellings" (Luke 16:9). This is a very pious autobiography from a 20th century French saint, which I read while traveling in France for the first time, visiting churches and cathedrals, attempting to speak the language, and immersing myself as best I could."

A reader from Melrose read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: "Originally in Swedish I enjoyed :)"

A reader from Northampton read *Cain* by José Saramago: "(Originally written in Portuguese) Brilliant, thought-provoking and funny retelling of the Hebrew Bible through the perspective of Cain. Would recommend to fans of Good Omens by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett!"

A reader from Sandwich read *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Frederik Backman: "This was a charming Swedish tale of magic and adult hardship told from the perspective of a very precocious and mature 7-year-old. I devoured it!"

A reader from WILBRAHAM read *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery: "The Little Prince is one of the most translated books in the world, after The Holy Bible."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank: "Fascinating but incredibly sad reading about her hopes and dreams. And knowing how it would end."

A reader from Beverly read *How I Survived a Chinese "Reeducation" Camp: A Uyghur Woman's Story* by Gulbahar Haitiwaji , Rozenn Morgat , Edward Gauvin (Translator): "A rare firsthand account of China's systemic eradication and "reeducation" of Uyghurs. Shines a light on a human rights issue that China has done its best to bury...it was both enlightening and infuriating to read."

A reader from Beverly read *Celestial Bodies* by Jokha Alharthi: "Interesting story that challenges you to reflect on family, duty and marriage."

A reader from West barnstable read *My brilliant friend* by Elena Ferrante: "Not what I expected based on numerous reviews praising the depiction of female friendship. The relationship seemed toxic to me & I found it tough to take. With friends like that..."

A reader from Wakefield read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: "So good! I cried at the end. I loved that he found this contentedness at the end of the story."

A reader from Weymouth read *Ms. Ice sandwich* by Mieko Kawakami: "Sweet story showcasing how youth learn to deal with social situations and loops with saying goodbye."

A reader from Barnstable read *The Patchinko Parlour* by Elisa Shua Dusapin: "Sparse. Not my favorite read, but no regrets. Once again I appreciate this reading challenge as I often choose books I would normally pass over."

A reader from Stanford read *The Little Prince* by Antoinette Saint-Exupéry: "Although presented in the style of a children's book, there are in depth observations about life, adults and human nature. The author addresses themes of loneliness, friendship, love and loss. I chose it because it is the second most translated book in the world. Although not my usual reading choice, I did enjoy the diversion."

A reader from Palmer read *The easy life in Kamusari* by Shion Miura: "A city boy is sent to a small town to learn forestry and learns to appreciate the laid back approach to life that the people there have. Despite calling it the "easy life" I came away with the idea that they worked pretty hard, and enjoyed all the details about forestry."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Governesses* by Anne Sarre: "I didn't care for this story. I found the characters to be self absorbed and the story didn't really have a trajectory."

A reader from Boston read *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* by Satoshi Yagisawa: "I didn't love it...! This seemed to be a very one-dimensional female protagonist as written by a man, but I'm also aware that Japanese gender roles can be quite different so that likely colored my opinion of the book as well."

A reader from Boston read *One hundred years of solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: "This book stretched me and I enjoyed the magical realism elements."

A reader from Amherst read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: "It was a simple story, but 'simple' not in a derogatory fashion, but rather to say, it did not include anything that wasn't necessary. Every feature was important to the story as a whole."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint Exupéry: "I had a hard time getting invested in the characters of this book. I realize that there is a deep meaning to be understood in the writing of this book but I couldn't really put the meaning together. My takeaway is: adults lose their magic and interest in every day life. Life should be seen through the eyes of a child."

A reader from Andover read *The Cook of the Halcyon* by Andrea Camilleri: "As usual a wonderfully detailed Sicilian murder mystery with Montalbano as a more active protagonist in this story. One of the better ones with less sexism and more cerebral input."

A reader from Franklin read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: "This book was so interesting! I loved the intense and dynamic friendship between the two girls. What an interesting case study of 1950's Naples too!"

A reader from Amherst read *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo: "Remarkably reminiscent. always loved the musical and movie versions, but had never read the book before."

A reader from Stoneham read *Three Bags Full* by Leonie Swann: "Published in German, translated by Anthea Bell. I reread this book because when thinking about a book in translation I remembered this one and wanted to read it again."

A reader from SPRINGFIELD read *As it is in Heaven: a collection of prayers for all ages* by Eric Puybaret: “A beautifully illustrated collection of simple prayers. Most of the prayers will be recognized by any Christian Catholic. My favorite was the Prayer for Peace which is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. This would be great for our current world state. I would recommend for new baby gift or for any sacramental celebration as well as for anyone who believes in a higher power not on earth.”

A reader from East Falmouth read *Wind, Sand and Stars* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: “I enjoyed reading a book written for adults that was written by an author who is most widely known for his children’s story- *The Little Prince*. This book provides a captivating picture of early aviation over dangerous places.”

A reader from Hamilton read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: “Very interesting and taught me a decent amount about Italian culture. Will definitely check out the next book in the series!”

A reader from Weymouth read *Heaven* by Minkowski Kawakami: “Heaven is a multi-layered novel. The theme of bullying is witnessed throughout the book. However, emotions and friendship surface and bind Eyes and Kojima together. They bond through shared experiences and letters.”

A reader from Boxford read *The Book of Mother* by Violaine Huisman: “Great story about a Mom before she was a Mom and the regrets that come with making life decisions.”

A reader from Bolton read *A Nearly Normal Family* by M.T. Edvardsson: “Translated from Sweden. The book was a bit of a mystery / who-done-it told from the perspectives of the Father, Daughter (accused of murder), and the Mother. Each sharing what they know, and providing background leading up to the trial. There were no shocking revelations (which I love) - it was OK.”

A reader from Weymouth read *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert: “Usually I greatly sympathize with female protagonists who lived within the far greater confines of earlier times; this novel primarily takes place in the 1840s. However, as the story progressed and Emma Bovary sinks deeper into profligacy I just couldn’t bear her behavior. And it wasn’t just Emma — a number of characters were less than likable!”

A reader from Dracut read *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: “I loved it just as much as I did back when I read it in High School.”

A reader from Turners Falls read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: “It was interesting to read this book after already seeing the movie. A few different tales, but I still much prefer reading before watching.”

A reader from Saugus read *Almond* by Sohn Won-Pyung: “I like the plot of this book and how it was written.”

A reader from Scituate read *The Governesses* by Anne Serre: “Strange... highly sexualized and parts uncomfortable to read.”

A reader from Franklin read *The Employees* by Olga Ravn: “I did not enjoy this. The concept was interesting with a future on a craft that has left earth. There are humans and humanoids and the book is comprised of reports made by these employees to an interview panel. It was very confusing as to who each person was and what the story was. I found myself rereading pages to try to understand.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Bat* by Jo Nesbo (Translated by Don Bartlett): “Good mystery/whodunit, the first book in the Harry Hole series. Highly recommend this and the rest of the series to anyone who enjoys crime fiction.”

A reader from KINGSTON read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: “I’ve enjoyed several of the author’s novels so it was an easy choice to select Beartown for a novel that has been translated. As a parent of two former high school girls hockey players, Beartown sucked me in.”

A reader from Reading read *The Door* by Magda Szabo: “The characters! Intricately crafted, quirky, intriguing, with complex relationships that keep the pages turning. What a delight to read. I would never have discovered this gem were it not for this challenge!”

A reader from Salem read *Fever Dream* by Samanta Schweblin (Trans. Megan McDowell): “This was an extremely unique novel that I almost never would have picked up outside of this challenge. It is told through two perspectives, one of a young boy and one of a dying woman, and together they try to figure out the series of events that led them each to their current state before time runs out. It is a commentary on the environmental and agricultural crises taking place in Argentina, and reads like a book of poetry with many scenes taking place out of chronological order and in a sometimes nonsensical manner, and becomes a puzzle, a true fever dream, that the reader must also attempt to put together before the story’s end. I really enjoyed it and am curious to read the original translation as well as watch the movie made based on its premise to see how authentically the story was retold.”

A reader from Quincy read *The Memory Police* by Yoko Ogawa: “This book was boring. Definitely not the Orwellian dystopian novel it was touted to be.”

A reader from Beverly read *Death in Venice* by Thomas Mann: “This book was translated from its original German. I thought the story was interesting and the prose was beautiful but it was not necessarily an enjoyable read. For me, too little dialogue and too much cerebral description.”

A reader from Barnstable read *Two Sherpas* by Sebastian Martinez Daniell: “Wonderful translation by Jennifer Croft. Sebastian Daniell’s prose is magical in a highly intelligent looks at imperialism and colonialism through the eyes of 2 divergent Sherpas. Highly recommend.”

A reader from Merrimac read *Sixty Years in Winter* by Aimee De Jongh: “Sixty-year-old Josy decides to throw caution to the wind and leave her old life behind to find a new adventure. Who hasn’t wanted to jump in your car and go wherever life takes you and just see what happens?!”

A reader from Worcester read *Harry Potter y la Piedra Filosofal* by J.K. Rowling: “While I don’t support J.K. Rowling in the slightest, I got this book as a gift about six years ago in an effort to try and practice my Spanish. This month’s prompt probably intended for us to read a book translated into English, but I chose to read one from it instead. It was definitely a challenge -- my Spanish is a little rusty -- but I had a great time!”

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Postcard* by Anne Berest: “Translated by Tina Kover. Nearly true story of authors grandmother and her struggles during war torn Russia and France. Told from the perspective of adult granddaughter.”

A reader from Amesbury read *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman: “Funny, but also keep a box of tissues nearby.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *A Man Called Ove* by Frederik Backman: "This was such an emotional book. I laughed and cried a lot."

A reader from Scituate read *El Alquimista: Una Fabula para seguir tus sueños* by Paulo Coelho: "Came across this book and thought it would be fun to read as it was a book in translation, enjoyable to read in Spanish and I had heard of this book for quite awhile. Has some nice life messages."

A reader from Three Rivers read *The girl with the dragon tattoo* by Steig Larsson: "Originally bought the book when it was all the rage and couldn't get into it. It has slow parts, but intriguing. Glad this challenge made me go back and try again."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank: "First time reading this famous diary. As I read each entry the inevitable fate of Anne Frank and her family were always on my mind."

A reader from Lowell read *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: "A complicated story with many characters of similar names, it was quite hard to follow at times. My first experience with magical realism, it was certainly an interesting read."

A reader from Marblehead read *Convenience store woman* by Sayaka Murata: "Interesting book about a Japanese woman who works in a convenience store, an outcast, made to feel that she fits in by working at the convenience store."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Elephant's Journey* by José Saramago: "An absolutely delightful, almost fairytale like fictional telling of the true story of an elephant from India, who was gifted by the king of Portugal to the archduke of Austria in the 1500's. Translated from the Portuguese."

A reader from Conway read *Love In the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Maequez: "A story of a long love affair carried on from afar, culminating after fifty plus years. Lots of moving parts. Not my favorite read."

A reader from Lunenburg read *And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer* by Fredrick Backman: "Heart wrenching and beautiful. A thoughtful picture of memory loss."

A reader from Weston read *The little* by Antoine de saint/exupery: "This book was intriguing. I learned a lot from this book it introduced lots of new perspectives on things. I thought that this was made very well. I enjoyed it."

A reader from East Falmouth read *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa: "Interesting story, I love Math so it was a gift from my son."

A reader from Franklin read *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky; Translator Michael R. Katz: "'The Brothers Karamazov' is my favorite novel and his was re-read number 3 for me; I've heard you should read it every 10 years or so and see what new things you get out of it at different stages in life. This time, the novel's context is overshadowed by current events: Russia's horrific invasion of Ukraine, the product of centuries of colonization and oppression of Ukraine by the Russian empire. Reading Dostoyevksy has always been an exercise in reconciling his sometimes problematic, nationalistic beliefs with his more positive themes of unity, or of the focus in 'Brothers K' on loving everyone equally, without judgment. The novel's characters mirror the complexity of humans. My favorite brother will always be

Alyosha, for the candid representation of his struggles with both faith and mental health, as well as his (often-underrated) strength. He aligns himself with the downtrodden and his answer, though perhaps imperfect, to encountering suffering is to be with people in their pain and accept humanity fully in all of its imperfection.”

A reader from READING read *The Dinner* by Herman Koch: “There was not a single character I liked in this book. The layout of the story based on a dinner was very interesting. There were many times an event was mentioned, but we had to wait to find out about it. I liked that.”

A reader from Hampden read *Cold for the Bastards of Pizzofalcone* by Maurizio De Giovanni: “A complex and intriguing murder mystery to be solved by a misfit, but effective, team of cops in the worst police precinct in the worst part of Naples. This is the third in the "bastards" series which features Inspector Lojacono. The book is full of fascinating characters including the City and its cold weather. Makes one to read the whole series. Excellent translation by Antony Shugaar.”

A reader from Plymouth read *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka: “I’ve been meaning to read this book for years. This finally gave me the push I needed to do it.”

A reader from Oakham read *A Swim in the Pond in the Rain* by George Saunders: “Although the book is in English, the heart of it is 7 translated stories by the Russian masters (Chekhov, Turgenev, Tolstoy, and Gogol). The subtitle is ‘In which four Russians give a master class on writing, reading, and life.’ The analysis and exercises that follow each story are drawn from the course Saunders teaches at Syracuse University. It was hard work, but it really helped me dive deeper to understand how the form of the short story works. The main lesson for this reader: Slow down!”

A reader from Salem read *Story of the Eye* by Georges Bataille: “The Story of The Eye was translated from French (L'histoire de l'œil) written by written by Georges Bataille. I was interested in reading this book as Georges Bataille was recommended to me by someone with similar interests in reading as Georges Bataille is a notable French philosopher. This book was very unique and completely original. The book subject matter was quite graphic and explicit, however it was still very interesting, and completely unlike anything I have ever read before. It mainly is about a young couple and their experiences with one another, somewhat of a reflection of a person's past experiences. I do not know who I might recommend this book to however it is certainly an interesting book about exploration that I am happy I got the chance to read.”

A reader from Hudson read *The Charterhouse of Parma* by Stendhal: “Translated from the French, the book tells of the adventures of a young man, Fabrizio del Dongo, in early 19th century Parma. I found the parts of the story involving politics and the court in Parma somewhat confusing, but the several love stories and Fabrizio's heroic actions were compelling.”

A reader from East Taunton read *The Story of a Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her How To Fly* by Luis Sepúlveda: “I really enjoyed this book because it teaches people it’s important to keep your promises and accept others who are different.”

A reader from Hampden read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: “I really enjoyed this book. He was a very interesting man who realized life was worth living.”

A reader from Georgetown read *The Stranger* by Albert Camus: “I enjoyed.”

A reader from Danvers read *Vita Nostra* by Marina & Sergey Dyachenko: "Hard to categorize - I think it could be partly "dark academia." It was strange but intriguing the entire time. I would have a hard to explaining WHY I would recommend this to others, other than you should just read it for yourself. Definitely just don't go into expecting all the normal tropes of an American fiction novel."

A reader from Melrose read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: "It is the 1st book of a quartet. I look forward to reading the next books. The story tells of two girls who are childhood friends and how their lives change and impact each other. It tells of all the friends who grew up together in their neighborhood. It reminded me of all the friends I had growing up. This book brought back lots of memories. I really enjoyed this story."

A reader from Sandwich read *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata: "It was definitely a thought provoking book. It showed the daily repetition of a convenience store worker in relation to the real world. It was interesting."

A reader from ATTLEBORO read *The Last Days of Terranova* by Manuel Rivas: "This book had a few sentences with deep meaning that made me think. Those, though, were the exception, not the rule, in this novel that made me feel lost from the very beginning - two stars."

A reader from West Whately read *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: "A classic which merits a re-reading. The last time I read this book I was in college. It was delightful to dive into it again."

A reader from Niantic read *In Life* by Eugene Savitzkaya: "Glorification of every day life in a poetic way."

A reader from Fall River read *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang: "Translated from Korean, this book tells a creepy and artistic tale."

A reader from Auburn read *Night Train to Lisbon* by Pascal Mercier: "I loved this philosophical novel. There were many surprises and much humanity in this book originally written in German. It was filled with mystery, loyalty, life changing curiosity, betrayal, lost opportunity and brave taking of bright chances. Well worth the read!"

A reader from Sutton read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: "A reminder that you never know what people are going through behind closed doors and even the smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference."

A reader from East Taunton read *Paradiso La Divina Commedia #3* by Dante Alighieri: "I liked Paradiso more than Purgatorio, but not as much Inferno. Nonetheless, the final book of the Divine Comedy is well worth your time."

A reader from South Easton read *Real World* by Natsuo Kirino: "A angsty thriller centered on a group of teens in Tokyo after one of them commits murder. Recommended for fans of noir or gritty thrillers from authors like Megan Abbott or Gillian Flynn."

A reader from Haverhill read *The Doomsday Conspiracy* by Sidney Sheldon: "This one wasn't for me. Science Fiction, Thriller, Crime, Romance..."

A reader from Scituate read *The Life of Elves* by Muriel Barbery: "A fantasy that seems true to life. I wish I could read French to read her novel as written."

A reader from Gill read *My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman: "It was very good and interesting."

A reader from Boston/ Yarmouth read *And Every Morning The Way Home Gets Longer and Longer* by Fredrick Backman: "A sweet and sad story about an elderly man's thoughts, memories and interactions with his son and grandson as he begins to experience dementia."

A reader from Westminster read *Children In the Holocaust and WW II : Their Secret Diaries* by Laurel Holliday: "Although this book was often depressing and sad to think of what these poor children experienced during their young lives turned upside down through the horrors of the Nazi regime it brings to light a very important lesson . We simply must do all we can so this never ever happens again!"

A reader from Springfield read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: "A lot of great quotes!"

A reader from Lowell read *Migratory Birds* by Mariana Oliver: "This is a beautiful, lyrical, musical collection."

A reader from Centerville read *A system so magnificent it is blinding* by Amanda Svensson: "Great family saga, nicely written, I loved the language and expressions. I think it was a good translation from Swedish language."

A reader from Chester read *The Hangman's Daughter* by Oliver Potzsch: "Interesting look into the mind of people in the 1500s. Good historical fiction book."

A reader from Beverly read *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "Refreshing and thought provoking."

A reader from Beverly Hills read *Almost a childhood: growing up among the nazis* by Hans-Georg Behr: "Even though the boy spent much of his time with his privileged liberal grandparents throughout the war, it made me really glad that I didn't live through it."

A reader from Reading read *Baltasar & Blimunda* by José Saramago: "Magical realism in the time of the Inquisition in Portugal. The lovers are sympathetic, the monarchy and church are awful. I'm not a fan of single sentences that go on for 2 pages and eventually figured out I could skim the great long lists such as of who was in this and that procession and what they were carrying. It's dense but I have to admit it's interesting."

A reader from Beverly read *Our Share of Night* by Mariana Enriquez: "I enjoyed it."

A reader from Lowell read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: "This is the first of the Neapolitan Quartet novels, originally written in Italian. It has been on my to read list for a long time so I was glad to finally read it. I did enjoy it! It is a highly detailed look at a female friendship."

A reader from Hanover read *Many French Poets* by Editor Stanley Appelbaum: "This was a delightful book to read. It had the full French text on one page and the English translation on the facing page. This was a pleasant read. It was fun to test my French and try translating myself!"

A reader from Amesbury read *1Q84* by Haruki Murakami: "This doorstep of a novel was well worth the time it took to read it! Both grounded in the everyday and imbued with mystery, once I got into it I was absorbed."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Even If Everything Ends* by Jens Liljestrand: “The novel, which takes place in Sweden in the not-too-distant future, tells a climate crisis story through the interconnected perspectives of four not-so-likable yet very human characters dealing with a summer of terrifying wildfires. The novel's focus is not as much on the climate crisis itself as it is on how the characters respond to it and what they do to each other as they try to survive in a world that is literally burning down around them. This was an absorbing and sobering read that was hard to put down - highly recommended. (Originally published in Swedish.)”

A reader from Leominster read *A man called ove* by Fredrik Backman: “Well written, funny, and heart warming.”

A reader from Beverly read *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende: “Beautiful historical fiction set during the Spanish civil war with themes of power, injustice, family secrets, and belonging. Equally heartbreaking and hopeful.”

A reader from Sutton read *The familia grande* by Camille Kouchner: “A little harder to read and get into.”

A reader from Gill read *Forty Stories* by Anton Chekhov, translated by Robert Payne: “The setting of late 1800s Russia was interesting. I was surprised by the attitude of disdain that the author seemed to have toward many of the characters.”

A reader from Reading read *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* by Satoshi Yagasawa: “Nice story. I think the beauty of the writing was lost in translation, as the translated words felt a little simplistic and clunky.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One* by Raphaëlle Giordano: “French novel about a woman whose mission to cure her "routine-itis" leads her to lasting joy. A cute novel about making your own changes to break a stuck life.”

A reader from Melrose read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: “I very much enjoyed this book by a popular Italian author whose identity is unknown. I can't wait to read the next of the Neapolitan novels.”

A reader from Northfield read *Girl* by Camille Laurens: “This book was just amazing. it really shows how patriarchal the world was and unfortunately still is. it really wowed me”

A reader from Northampton read *Punishment of a Hunter* by Yulia Yakovleva: “Great procedural set in 1930's Leningrad during Stalin's purges. The author really brings the time to life.”

A reader from Shelburne Falls read *Brida* by Paulo Coelho: “I liked the writing style of ancient spirituality set in the 80s. However, as I don't believe in witch or other mystical traditions, the spirituality only went so far in my opinion.”

A reader from Cambridge read *Survival in Auschwitz* by Primo Levi: “Originally written in Italian under the title *If this is a Man*, 1947. Tells of Levi's ten months in Auschwitz—a true and harrowing testament of unbelievable cruelty and miraculous survival.”

A reader from Salem read *Vita Nostra* by Maryna and Sergey Dyachenko: “A Dark Academia style book, we follow Sasha as she is put through a brutal regime of study to unlock her true potential as a Specialist. I really enjoyed the vibe of the university and the lessons but it got very difficult to understand what is the mission of the University. It is an analogy to rote learning and inflexible teaching practices

and it talks of the metaphysical and panpsychism, but it really went over my head and i didn't enjoy the ending.”

A reader from Bourne read *Bear Town* by Fredrik Backman: “It was incredible! I loved A Man Called Ove and I loved this book. It was sad and passionate and so interesting. I felt that it was real and not contrived.”

A reader from Braintree read *The Postcard* by Anne Berest: “Loved this piece of historical fiction . Telling the story of suppressed memories of family from one generation and the discovery and search for these family memories in the next generation. Wonderfully written.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* by Victor Hugo: “The author spends a lot of time describing architecture which was not interesting to me. The dialogue between characters was interesting on the other hand.”

A reader from Salem read *The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World* by Laura Imai Messina: “It was a very sweet reflection on life, loss, and moving through grief.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Kitchen* by Banana Yoshimoto: “A story about loss and loneliness. You get a sense of fragility of life - but the author writes that humans have resilience to overcome tragedy. Interesting read.”

A reader from Agawam read *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi (Translated by Geoffrey Trousselot): “This book reminded me of the Japanese TV series called Midnight Diner. Both revolve around an establishment with regulars who all gather and have their stories to share, both sad and joyful.”

A reader from dedham read *The Flea Tamer* by Max Jimenez: “Fascinating, small book with a big message translated from Costa Rica. It explores connections between humans and nature! Interesting read!”

A reader from Beverly read *The little prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: “It was good! I am just not really that into fantasy for littler kids.”

A reader from Melrose read *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy: “This book is a masterpiece; also, I was thinking about death after seeing the Barbie movie.”

A reader from middleboro read *The Painted Bird* by Jerzy Kosinski: “Disturbing to read as the hate, abuse and negativity the young boy encounters as he went from village to village remind me think of the state of country and the world today. We report and study history but we don’t seem to learn how to treat each other. Translated from Polish. Book was at one time banned in poland.”

A reader from Swansea read *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery: “This prompt (read a book in translation) certainly got me out of my reading comfort zone. "The Little Prince" has been on my bookshelf for almost a decade, so it was high time to read it. I found it insightful, unique and thought-provoking.”

A reader from wilmington read *Zuleikha* by Guzel Yakhina: “Grim, somewhat disturbing. Set in pre-WWII, early Bolshevik Russia.”

A reader from Dracut read *At The End of the Matinee* by Keiichiro Hirano, Translator Juliet Winters Carpenter: "A really lovely book with musings on music, memory, morality, parenthood and love. Tinges of Atonement and Before Sunset."

A reader from Arlington read *All the Lovers in the Night* by Mieko Kawakami: "I enjoyed reading about a young proofreader in Tokyo. The pace of the book was slow but drew me in."

A reader from northampton read *violeta* by isabel allende: "I was excited to read a new-to-me book by Allende, my favorite author when I was 14 or so. Violeta tells the story of her long life in the form of a letter to her grandson. While it lacked the magical realism present in some of Allende's other novels, I was probably due for a reminder of some South American history- though it was hard to read at many points throughout the story. Pretty heartbreaking."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Violeta* by Isabel allende: "I loved this book. I have read all of Isabel Allende's book until now."

A reader from Marriottsville read *The Red-Haired Woman* by Orhan Pamuk: "Fascinating novel which follows a young man that takes place in Istanbul. It tells the story of his becoming a man, and how his life is affected by the Oedipus fable and how he sees so many similarities as he goes through life. He is troubled by the question of whether he was responsible for the death of his mentor and that is resolved at the end of the story. Beautifully written and a thought provoking novel."

A reader from Worcester read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho: "A bit slow, but builds to a satisfying, feel-good ending."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Alchemiist* by Paulo Coelho: "so beautifully written; lots to reflect on. It makes me want to re-read it another time."

A reader from Springfield read *Winter in Sokcho* by Elisa Shua Dusapin: "Interesting read about Korean culture from the eyes of a young girl who can see the beauty in the starkness of winter in South Korea."

A reader from Northampton read *In Defense of Witches: The Legacy of the Witch Hunts and Why Women are still on trial* by Mona Chollet: "This was quite different than what I thought it would be but still was a searing feminist argument for women's autonomy and independence."