



A reader from Wakefield read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "So good! It has an important messages about acceptance, perseverance, and resilience. I wasn't sure what to expect and I was delightfully engrossed in Oto's life and story and only wish there was more about Lori's new life in NYC."

A reader from Fall River read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I chose this book because I knew Ruth Ozeki (then Ruth Lounsbury) when I was in college. I really, really wanted to like this book, and I did like certain parts of it. But it was much too long and, I think, would have benefited from having entire chapters (such as Annabelle's visit to the spa) and episodes/dialogue savagely edited down. I found all the main characters rather more annoying than appealing, and the ending came off as way too pat in how it resolved some rather hopeless situations all of a sudden."

A reader from WORCESTER read *THE YELLOW BIRD SINGS* by JENNIFER ROSNER: "THIS BOOK WAS BOTH SORROWFUL AND BEAUTIFUL. IT WAS SORROWFUL TO READ ABOUT THE EVILNESS AND HORROR OF WAR AND IT WAS BEAUTIFUL TO READ ABOUT THE COMPASSION AND KINDNESS OF A MOTHER'S LOVE AND COMPASSION OF STRANGERS IN THESE TERRIFYING CIRCUMSTANCES."

A reader from Amherst read *Everything I never told you: A novel* by Celeste Ng: "A heartbreaking tale of the unsurmountable burden parents put on children. A gorgeous and devastating story of how everything left unspoken can create a ripple effect of nuclear proportions."

A reader from Leominster read *Alice Bliss* by Laura Harrington: "Admittedly, I didn't think I would like the book from the plot description but the characters were so wonderfully developed. I was moved by the longing and loss."

A reader from Rochester read *Nantucket penny* by Steven. Axelrod: "Large colorful cast of characters both year round, summer help and non resident who don't always get along . You will have to pay attention to solve this one. Enjoyed this book."

A reader from Beverly read *Incantation* by Alice Hoffman: "I love Alice Hoffman & loved this book! This history just isn't taught in the US & it's so fantastic to have this window into one character living it. Always share excerpts with my students."

A reader from Indian Orchard read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "This book was beautifully written but extremely sad."

A reader from South Hadley read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "I thoroughly enjoyed the task of reviewing Mass Award winning books over the last two decades. Having read the more recent winners, I selected the 2002 winner. Even though some of the references are a bit dated, the vast majority hold up over time. Deprivations are forever part of us - even as we all deal with them differently over time."

A reader from Franklin read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Insight into the Vietnamese experiences was illuminating."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "A very interesting story about the abolitionist fight and the fight for Women's right to vote. The struggles of the main character must be familiar to many women, even a century later. While we can be very grateful for their work the fight goes on today all over the world."

A reader from Braintree read *Love Like That* by Emma Duffy-Comparone: "The nine short stories in this volume are not sweet romances, despite what the book's title might suggest. They are stories of relationships which may be messy, awkward, complex. The prose in this absorbing collection is sometimes witty and amusing, sometimes raw and disturbing."

A reader from Wakefield read *Everything I never told you* by Celeste Ng: "Devastating portrayal of what a loving family does with the best of intentions. Winner of the 2015 Mass Book Award; Ng's first novel. Devastatingly good."

A reader from Plainville read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "Loved this book. What a thought provoking story. Made me think about how I live in the world. It definitely impressed upon me that we need to appreciate the earth and all it provides for us."

A reader from Beverly read *Massacre on the Merrimack* by Jay Atkinson: "Massacre on the Merrimack was very well researched and written. Unfortunately it is a tale with no heroes. The British, the French, the Native Americans, and the colonists all behaved quite poorly. Each group used its power for its own ends only. That is not the way to run a society. Perhaps this tale can be a lesson to us in our present day."

A reader from Salem read *The book of form and emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Imaginative and engrossing. Thoroughly enjoyed."

A reader from Dracut read *The First Drawing* by Mordicai Gerstein: "An interesting story hypothesizing how the first drawing might have been invented 30,000 years ago by a young boy as a way of communicating with his family."

A reader from Sunderland read *Alice Bliss* by Laura Harrington: "This 2012 Mass Award Book is about the experience of a family, particularly the 15-year-old daughter, whose father is deployed to Iraq. It is well written, and will certainly hit close to home for any reader who has had a loved one sent to war."

A reader from Tewksbury read *What a Body Can Do?* by Sara Hendren: "Interesting case studies, but I'm unsure of the overarching point the author was trying to get across."

A reader from Methuen read *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk: "This was pretty dark and intense for a children's book. Triggers: bullying, physical assault, death."

A reader from Salem read *Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "Scary and page turning read from the perspective of a child. Enjoyed the local setting and references, great quick read."

A reader from Attleboro read *Committed: Dispatches from a Psychiatrist in Training* by Adam Stern, MD: "The narrative was nearly all "tell", with very little "show". I could not feel much for the persons or imagine the situations in the book. In the case of an anorexic girl, I wanted to "see" what the disease had done to her body, and "feel" what her appearance had done to the author. The only description was "her skin hung from her bones" and "her heart was beating too slowly.""

A reader from Fitchburg read *Project X* by Jim shephard: "Such a dark book with themes/events that now sadly take place across our nation. Definitely not a book I'd choose to read and now need a fluffy read to get my head out of that dark place."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Saint X* by Alexis Schaitkin: "Saint X explores class, race, privilege, sexuality, obsession, friendship, and family through the death of an 18-year-old girl at an exclusive, fictional 1990s Caribbean resort. A compelling and lushly set slow burn, the story moves back and forth in time and includes many major and minor characters' testimonies as it attempts to solve the tragic mystery at its core."

A reader from Georgetown read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "I really enjoyed this book."

A reader from Attleboro read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "The time is New York after the Civil War and Libertie is trying to find her place in the world separate from her physician mother. The first part of the novel takes place in New York; the second part in Haiti. I found the first part to be the stronger part - both the writing and the character development."

A reader from SWANSEA read *Head full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "It was a good read! It was a different topic than I'm used to reading, so it was refreshing. It kept my interest throughout."

A reader from Hadley read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "This short book is a cautionary tale in the form of a modern-day fable that takes place in the not-so-distant future. I enjoyed the the minimalist approach, but I can't help but wish certain aspects were a little more fleshed out."

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Travels With George In Search of Washington and His Legacy* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "Interesting way to learn about George Washington's travels to learn about the people and the country compared to the same areas in present day. I enjoyed reading about the interaction Philbrick and his dog had as they traveled the same route."

A reader from Dracut read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "Not what I'd usually pick, a topic about video gaming. I enjoyed it however."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "This book draws you in immediately and makes you care about every character. Beautifully written from start to finish."

A reader from Worcester read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "The best book I've read in ages. A young boy hears voices from inanimate objects. He has a book that is telling his story. They speak to each other."

A reader from Chicopee read *Floaters* by Martin Espada: "These poems bring the issues to light for the non-Hispanic reader. Sad. Stark. Moving. The title poem just hurts as it is based on a migrant man and his daughter found face down in the Rio Grande as they tried to escape to Texas. I read the book twice before passing it along."

A reader from Dracut read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "What a great story! Mr. Krivak writes eloquently and is so descriptive it puts the reader right inside the story. I look forward to reading more."

A reader from Blackstone read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillion: "One of the best books I have ever read. Filled with clean writing, rich characters, and deeply emotion."

A reader from Santa Cruz read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "I adored this book."

A reader from AMHERST read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Although the characters Benny and Annabelle are sympathetic, the novel has far too many plot twists and extraneous characters. And the alternate narrator ("The Book") is often dogmatic, which does not help move the story along."

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *The Body Papers* by Grace Talusan: "Brilliant. Difficult to read, but more than rewards the effort. Read it in one sitting, literally could not put it down."

A reader from Braintree read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: "Sad and eye opening about both losing a mother and about being Indian American and not feeling like you fully fit in anywhere."

A reader from Leominster read *Say I'm Dead: A family Memoir of Race, Secrets, and Love* by E. Dolores Johnson: "This was a moving memoir of a family dealing with years of separation and a beautiful coming together again. It dealt with racism and pain, but also love and healing. I loved it."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosener: "Some parts were difficult to read due to the circumstances they had to endure. But it was also inspiring to watch how the human

spirit's will to survive when motivated by hope and love can overcome even the worst situation. It was very well written and hard to put down.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Tremors* by Cammy Thomas: “Almost every poem in this collection resonated with me, especially the ones about trauma and silence. A few of the poems about COVID fell short, but I think that's only because the topic feels overdone to me at this point.”

A reader from Beverly read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: “Lovely window into the life of a teenager of immigrant parents trying to navigate two worlds. It then explores what it is like to lose a parent to cancer in a way that is realistic but not completely depressing.”

A reader from Amherst read *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick: “A lot of history we didn't learn in school. The pilgrims were not what I thought. Sad but the economic and racial issues and the tragedy that ensued rings as true in our present times.”

A reader from Lunenburg read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: “Good book. Took the death of the favorite child to finally bring the family together.”

A reader from Clinton read *Be A Tree!* by Maria Gianferrari: “I loved this book - I chose it because I'm a preschool teacher, and am always looking for new read alouds for my class. I also adored the illustrations, which I thought were captivating.”

A reader from Dighton read *The boy in the field* by Margot Livesey: “I didn't love it. Lots of characters and lots of things going on. By the time it all made sense the book ended.”

A reader from Essex read *Alice Bliss* by Laura Harrington: “Loved the character of Alice. She is strong, determined and yet still so vulnerable. Heartbreaking loss at such a tough age.”

A reader from Hudson read *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin: “Told in the style of a Chinese folktale, this story about a girl and a dragon cleverly weaves together characters and morals to produce a tale that is engaging, heartwarming, and hopeful.”

A reader from Ludlow read *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* by Tiya Miles: “As someone who plies a needle (quilting, knitting, embroidery), I know family keepsakes can help in genealogy searches. Needlework was a means of acquiring keepsakes and much effort went into the pieces. ATSC is a tour de force of Ms. Miles' efforts in tracking an embroidered sack (bag) and I followed along as step by step she tracked the generations, the importance of the stitched verse, and finally the bag itself. Included were bits of historical information as to life on a plantation for a person of color - free or not. I especially like the documentation of information -- Ms. Miles has enabled amateur sleuths to take up this search or begin one of their own. I have recommended this book to fellow quilters and embroiderers and I know going forward we will ply our needles even more diligently.”

A reader from Thorndike read *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez* by Adrianna Cuevas: “This is a fun middle grade book about a young boy who can talk to animals. When he moves in with his abuela while his father is deployed, he discovers an unusual magical creature harming pets in the area and must use his powers to save the day.”

A reader from Amherst read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "Loved this work of historical fiction and Lucy Stone, a Massachusetts Abolitionist and Women's Rights Advocate. Lots of interesting history that took seed in my own area of the state."

A reader from Amesbury read *The Body Papers* by Grace Talusan: "While the author told interesting stories about her life, the narrative seemed to jump around and it was a little hard to follow."

A reader from Hanover read *Revere Elegy* by Merullo, Roland: "Roland Merullo grew up in Revere, and this is a love letter to the exploration of growth as a person. His travels through Russia, Italy and Micronesia had major impact in his viewpoint on life and faith."

A reader from Melrose read *White Rose* by Kip Wilson: "An emotional read, with an interesting poetry format. Not a book I would have normally picked up, but I'm glad I did."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "Heartbreaking story with a thread of hope tangled in. Beautifully written depiction of a horrible and senseless time in Poland. My heart aches for the characters as both a mother and daughter."

A reader from Hanson read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Such a sad but provocative story. When the twist was revealed it broke my heart that Lydia never got the chance to change things with her family."

A reader from Bolton read *Everything I never told you* by Celeste Ng: "A very compelling story about the complexities of family along with racial inequity."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A Sherbrooke: "This is a fictionalized version of a memoir of the 19th century feminist, Lucy Stone. I loved reading this book! It provides a look at the way of life more than 150 years ago and it traces the origin of the women's rights movement and the dilemmas women faced (and still do) regarding family/work balance. Lucy Stone was far ahead of her time and her ideas and speeches became the foundation for future ideas about suffrage and equal rights."

A reader from Medford read *News from Heaven* by Jennifer Haigh: "Jennifer Haigh writes beautifully about poignant human events and captures personalities and situations deftly. Each story is brought to a satisfying conclusion. Some of the characters reappear, and I confess that I sometimes couldn't remember their earlier story when their name came up again."

A reader from Chicopee read *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk: "I could not put this book down! It covered bullying, homelessness, the toll war takes on a young man, and even how lies can have terrible consequences. And though the book is set in the past, we face all these issues today!"

A reader from Wilmington read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I don't typically read new books, I stick to the classics. So it was a pleasant surprise to read about how one author re-traced George Washington's trips up and down most of the original 13 colonies and I gotta say. His references to Steinbeck's travels with Charley actually inspired me to re-read (I can't remember) it and it was incredible to see the parallels with both (traveler+dog). Anyway, I think I knew it innately or through history courses I sort of remembered. But books like this one continue to solidify for me that AMERICAN HISTORY cannot exist without discussions about SLAVERY it just isn't possible. The two subjects are so

deeply intertwined. even though i have been a tourist and visited newport mansions... i had no idea it was built upon the backs of slave travery. SHOCKING... but then again... not so shocking... maybe more disgust. thanks again for the challenging reads about american history.”

A reader from Lowell read *This Is Not a Love Song* by Brendan Mathews: “An enjoyable collection of short stories ranging from more typical litfic fare to more maximalist and experimental in structure. My favorites were "Look at Everything," about a soon-to-be-divorced amateur photographer and accidental arsonist and "My Last Attempt to Explain to You What Happened with the Lion Tamer," a perfect Saundersesque blend of humor and pathos about a love triangle at the circus. Short stories are my favorite, so I'm so glad that this challenge pointed me towards this text.”

A reader from Braintree read *Something Wild* by Hanna Halperin: “A great read that shows the complexities of each character as it relates it to family dynamics and how we each change in relation to one another. This book does not shy away from the sadness of domestic violence and how it truly effects each family member too.”

A reader from Leverett read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: “This book reveals so much about family dynamics, the Asian-American experience, and how parents' lives affect their children in ways they are all unaware of. Ng's writing is masterful.”

A reader from Hudson read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: “The most real and eye-opening book about enslavement that I have ever read, but it was also simultaneously hopeful. This picture is fittingly of the book on top of the lap blanket of my grandmother, whom I lost 5 months ago at the age of 95.”

A reader from Seekonk read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: “It was a tough story about what happens when parents put too much attention on one child to fulfill their dreams while ignoring their other children.”

A reader from Middleboro read *Mayflower Voyage, Community, War* by Nathaniel Philbrick: “Good overview of the history of New England in the 17th century. I feel like I learned a lot.”

A reader from Saugus read *Everything I never told You* by Celeste Ng: “I thought this book was beautifully written. You feel as though you are going through this traumatic event with the family while reading.”

A reader from Braintree read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: “Wonderful historical fiction chronicling the abolitionist movement and woman's right movement. Provides insight into woman's strength and the relevance it sheds on today's struggles.”

A reader from Peabody read *Phase Six* by Jim Shepard: “I really had a hard time reading this book because of having gone through the Covid pandemic. I don't know what I was thinking when I selected this book. Too much science and not enough about the characters. the glimpses that I got of the specific people were interesting but left me wanting more.”

A reader from Beverly read *Season of Open Water* by Dawn Clifton Tripp: “It was a good read, the time period and subject I found really interesting. A little bit disappointed with the ending but over all I enjoyed it.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "A very interesting read about the rapid effect of human moment on the slower changing powers of evolution. This pairs well with a documentary I recently watched about animals who are adapted well for rapid changes in environment vs those who are not and what the animal diversity might look like in the future."

A reader from Hampden read *White Rose* by Kip Wilson: "The format was a surprise, but I found it very effective and enjoyable to read. It was a moving account of courage and determination."

A reader from Springfield read *Fat Chance, Charlie Vega* by Crystal Maldonado: "A wonderful coming of age story which addresses body image, self-esteem, family issues, and cultural issues. I used to work with this author."

A reader from Waltham read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "There is so much going on here! For the first time since my English-major college days, I'm feeling the itch to reread, reread, reread and maybe write an essay. Complex, heartbreaking, bittersweet, lovely."

A reader from Paxton read *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* by Jennifer De Leon: "Interesting read about a METCO student starting at a new school and dealing with racism."

A reader from Wilmington read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "This is probably the best book I've ever read!! I'm so glad I entered this challenge so that I was introduced to it!"

A reader from Attleboro read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "Philbrick retraces Washington's journey as a new president through all 13 former colonies. A great read to learn more about our nation's history. A must read!"

A reader from Forestdale read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "Childhood friends torn apart by crimes and secrets. Very good story."

A reader from Centerville read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "A moving story of a family that has lost a daughter. It explores family dynamics, race, and how parents' dreams and ambitions can affect their children."

A reader from Billerica read *On Earth, We are Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Gorgeously written. Almost lyrical. The sentence that will stay with me for many days is, "Sometimes being offered tenderness feels like the very proof that you've been ruined." The poem in part two about Trevor is haunting."

A reader from Rochester read *The brief wondrous life of oscar wao* by Junot diazq: "Did not enjoy this book way to many footnotes ( as in full pages) also Spanish and Santo domingos slang with no translation. Would not recommend unless you can speak or read Spanish."

A reader from Kingston read *Love Like That* by Emma Duffy-Comparone: "The stories in Love Like That were captivating; I found myself wanting to know more about what was going to happen. It was if each chapter was an introduction and there was so much more to know."

A reader from North Reading read *The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin: "I almost don't know what to feel about this book. This is a story of a child grieving, but some of the things that she does are so outrageous that it was hard to feel as much empathy as I normally would for a character who'd experienced such loss."

A reader from Medford read *Picturing a Nation* by Martin W.Sandler: "Moving display of Amazing pictures that documented the Great Depression, supported and funded by the US government. It served it's purpose to the American people showing the Depression in picture versus them reading words about it!"

A reader from Dracut read *Alice Bliss* by Laura Harrington: "Good book! Real and relatable to so many!"

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "A quiet story about survival, friendship and loyalty. It started off a bit slow, but once I got into the pace I enjoyed the descriptions of the environment and her experiences."

A reader from Rockland read *Winter Recipes from the Collective* by Louise Gluck: "Small, poignant moments of life and death by one of my favorite poets."

A reader from Providence read *The Technologists* by Matthew Pearl: "It was a very exciting read!"

A reader from Northampton read *Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "Great book. The story and characters drew me in."

A reader from Beverly read *Red, white and whole* by Rajani Laroocca: "Sad and beautiful story of being caught in two worlds. Enjoyed reading and discussing this book with my sister."

A reader from Middleboro read *News from heaven* by Jennifer Haigh: "I loved all the interconnected stories of the families from Bakerton. They were sweet and short, but contained all information needed to get to know and love the families."

A reader from northfield read *head full of ghosts* by paul tremblay: "This book was a fantastic psychological thriller. the twists and turns were phenomenal, while still written almost as though it could have been a young adult book, not quite, a little to mature, but close. i enjoyed it and will be looking for books by this author."

A reader from Medford read *White Hot Hate* by Dick Lehr: "This is my second book meeting the March Criteria. I was floored at the amount of Hate that existed towards such innocent individuals. I am better for reading the book. Peace ☹️ to everyone!"

A reader from Wellesley read *Mapping the Bones* by Jane Yolen: "There were times when I didn't want to put this book down. It was engrossing. It also had a period where it became a journey story, and my sheer dislike of journey stories spoiled that part for me. It didn't hit me emotionally the way I feel like it could have."

A reader from Weymouth read *News From Heaven* by Jennifer Haigh: "I enjoyed the interconnected short stories; Bakerton and it's residents are made real and believable by the author. I definitely want to read more books by Jennifer Haigh."

A reader from Belchertown read *Sea Room* by Norman G. Gautreau: "Any who has lived by or spent time on the ocean especially in Maine will enjoy this book, the ocean descriptions are really accurate. It is also a well written story of generations living and surviving together."

A reader from Leeds read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: "A beautifully written middle grade novel that also appeals to adults, especially Gen X. A story about living between two worlds, love, and loss."

A reader from Amherst read *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt: "Local girl, Delsie, weathers a stormy summer on the Cape. A bighearted story about non-traditional family and true friendship. Excellent for all readers from 10 to us silver haired folks."

A reader from Leominster read *Alice Bliss* by Laura Harrington: "I cannot say that I enjoyed the book based on its content but I was moved by the tragedy and trauma experienced by the Bliss family."

A reader from Boylston read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "Prior to reading this book I had not heard of a Haggadah and its importance in the Jewish faith. I enjoyed the way the author pulled in the history of this particular illuminated Haggadah through the people who helped in its creation."

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *Red white and whole* by Rajani Larocca: "A beautiful story about love and loss and the desire to fit in."

A reader from Sagamore Beach read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Interesting story about books and what they are to each of us. Well written, moves along quickly keeping you engaged. Main thought What is real?"

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Under a white sky* by Elizabeth kolbert: "This book is about the control of the nature. It mentions climaterio change also. I enjoyed this book and learn a lot."

A reader from Belchertown read *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk: "Very deep. Very thoughtful. You could spend a lot of time combing through the book and finding all of the connections artfully crafted by the author."

A reader from Brookline read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "It was refreshing to read a novel set in near post-human time that was unapologetically not post-apocalyptic, and simple didn't offer an explanation. I wanted more but thought the ending was lovely."

A reader from Plainville read *Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I really enjoyed this book! I am familiar with this author but had never heard of this book. Not being too familiar with George Washington it was wonderful to read about his travels through the United States at the time."

A reader from Springfield read *Last Night At The Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "Loved the mix of queer coming of age love story and history. Really hated that the story had to traumatize the main characters- but I guess that's historically accurate."

A reader from Melrose read *Hold Me Down* by Clea Simon: "I wanted to like this, especially with an ageing rock-chick narrator who is back in Boston, but it was so slow-paced. This was in odd juxtaposition to the rock theme."

A reader from Framingham read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "I don't usually read graphic novels, so I particularly appreciated this format of combining words and pictures, and I think the messages of self-acceptance and community even when you feel alone are very important. As a Catholic queer person who was also a Scout, I recognized a lot of the references in this book - they felt very based in real-life."

A reader from Dracut read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "This book leaves a lot of unanswered questions, but maybe that was the point. Either way, it was beautifully told."

A reader from Fitchburg read *News from Heaven* by Jennifer Haigh: "This book was an interesting collection of short stories centered around Bakerton, PA. I liked hearing about the lives of the residents of this small town."

A reader from Woburn read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "I honestly thought this book was pretty much a masterpiece. Well done!"

A reader from East Falmouth read *Rosemary - The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson: "A found this book compelling, could not put it down. A sad but interesting and important story of a life."

A reader from Reading read *News from Heaven* by Jennifer Haigh: "This book gives life to a group of people trying to cope in a depressed town in western Pennsylvania, a place previously booming in the height of the coal mining industry We hear about the plight of these people in the news, but these related stories allow us to share their experiences."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I thought this book was fine. I usually connect with books with more absurd plotlines but I felt like this was ok."

A reader from West Simsbury read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Once I started I was hooked by Benny Oh's story as narrated by the book itself; ingenious as every person has a story. Raw yet lovingly rendered reality of the struggles and insecurities faced which stem from the tenuous world in which we live. (Not part of my thoughts, but an explanation: snow globes play a big part in the book and I forgot I had one...and most of the book was read with my dog on my lap)"

A reader from Hanson read *Blue Hours* by Daphne Kalotay: "This book covered all emotions of love and loss with friends, love triangles, spouses and family. The reader will feel the intense journey through the landscape of Afghanistan while searching for a missing friend."

A reader from Northfield read *Revere Beach Elegy* by Roland Merullo: "I was a little disappointed with the book. I am the same age as the author and grew up in Dorchester. I was expecting more about Revere and "the good old" days. But I am glad that I finished it as part of the challenge. I look forward to more "new" books to read."

A reader from STONEHAM read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "I really didn't enjoy this book - the depiction of gaming in particular seemed like it came from somebody who had no experience with MMORPGs but had only heard bad things about them, and the teaching storyline felt trite."

A reader from East Sandwich read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "An interesting spin on Vietnam."

A reader from Reading read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "This book covers a lot of heavy subjects, but I liked that it had an overall lighter, hopeful tone. I appreciated how the book asked the question "what is real?" and makes you wonder a lot about what is actually real in the book itself."

A reader from Greenfield read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: "Excellent! Brought out the humanity of individual enslaved women and highlighted the few ways they could express their desires and frustrations. Helped me to understand that slavery was destructive to all involved in it which was basically all people in the South and many in the North. Results of this destructive behavior remain today."

A reader from Amesbury read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "I was intrigued to see how the author could pull off a reasonably upbeat end to this story while maintaining the historical realism she cultivated throughout. I also particularly enjoyed the setting in San Francisco's Chinatown, which felt very vividly realized."

A reader from Boston read *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg* by D B Johnson: "Love the illustrations - and love to read this to my many nieces & nephews. It has been a favorite since it was first published back in 2000. The other "Henry" books are great too! Builds a Cabin, Works & Henry's Night."

A reader from Plymouth read *A Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "I didn't expect this book to be as creepy as it is. Definitely a "sleep with lights on after reading" kind of book."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin: "This was a pretty easy read and I didn't want to put it down! I liked how the author added in the main characters memories from the past so you got more background."

A reader from Melrose read *Nightshade* by Andrea Cohen: "Another great collection of poems that hit hard upon the soul!"

A reader from Danville read *Something Wild* by Hanna Harperin: "It was a deep look into how spousal abuse can impact a family; but I thought the book could have been MUCH BETTER. There weren't any redeeming characters. Every female character felt hollow with no substance or redeeming qualities. I wanted to give each of them a good shake. The ending just drops off with no true resolution or hope. I also felt the author added information that had truly nothing to do with the story to advance it (learning how to use a tampon; Dan...). I felt it lacked focus."

A reader from Reading read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "A very easy read and a vastly different conclusion to humanity than I'm accustomed to in storytelling these days. Some good philosophical lessons in the story."

A reader from Bolton read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "Greenidge has a really beautiful way of writing and this book highlights the relatable complexities of all types of relationships."

A reader from Wakefield read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "This started off as a 5 star read for me, especially in part one - gorgeous and evocative prose. However by part three, the stream of consciousness narrative took over more which I definitely struggled to connect with. Still, a very interesting read about an immigrant experience and everything that goes along with it with a lot of vignettes that will stay with me for a while to come (especially the one about the word 'sorry' at the nail salon)."

A reader from Marblehead read *Misery Islands* by January Gill O'Neil: "A collection of poems that explores family, divorce, friendships, and love. Winner of the 2015 Mass Book Award."

A reader from Reading read *FLOATERS* by Martin Espada: "I was utterly taken by the voice in this book. I feel like I almost know Martin Espada after reading *FLOATERS*. He is so alive in the stories he tells."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Travels With George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I enjoyed the book so very much that my husband and I plan to follow some of Washington's travels on our own road trip."

A reader from Spencer read *Zero Local Next Stop: Kindness* by Ethan Murrow & Vita Murrow: "This wordless picture book is beautiful. The message is kindness."

A reader from SCITUATE read *How To Make A Slave* by Jerald Walker: "This book is unlike any other that I've read on racial topics. Walker opens the reader's window to a sudden gust of wind which demands a fresh look at the impact of the racial divide."

A reader from Stoneham read *A Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "Astonishingly good and captivating horror. I love this genre so this was a treat."

A reader from Fairhaven read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "I loved this book! The mother/daughter relationship was so complex and complicated. The descriptions of Haiti were both beautiful and sad. This would be a fantastic pick for any book discussion group!"

A reader from North Dighton read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz: "I liked the multiple perspectives and time periods Diaz depicts throughout the book; it allows for the development of multiple round, sympathetic characters."

A reader from Greenfield read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "I didn't know anything about this book going in, but it turned out to be a story that hit extremely close to home for me personally. Devoured the whole graphic novel in an afternoon and finished teary-eyed."

A reader from Worcester read *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* by Tiya Miles: "I greatly appreciated the way the author used a single material object as a means for better understanding the stories of African American families during the antebellum and Reconstruction eras of US history. The book was extraordinarily well-written."

A reader from North Chelmsford read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "This book made me feel so much love for our world and all the people in it. There is so much grief, but it is so beautiful, and grief is the price we pay for love."

A reader from Beverly read *Travels With George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I loved the updated thoughts on current political environment and on travel! Really kept the perspective of a new nation but in today's lens."

A reader from Salem read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: "Historical fiction is my favorite, especially when it is based on real people. I am so grateful to women like Lucy Stone for their contributions to the rights I now have."

A reader from HAMPDEN read *all that she carried* by tiya miles: "I thought the book was excellently written. Unfortunately, Ms. Miles felt the need to infuse her politics and I don't care for that no matter which party you align yourself with."

A reader from Weymouth read *American Passage The History of Ellis Island* by Vincent J. Cannato: "Such detail! Brought to life the reality of the era. Of special interest to me as my paternal grandparents passed through Ellis Island in the early teens. Unfortunately, attitudes towards immigrants/immigration haven't changed much. There is still much to learn."

A reader from Auburn read *Bear* by Kravik: "Captivating mythological fable with beautifully crafted prose evoking touches of Conrad Richter and Wendell Berry. Could not put it down."

A reader from WILBRAHAM read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "The author, together with his wife and dog, followed the route that President George Washington took when he toured the brand-new country of the United States of America. I liked discovering new facts about our first president and the comparison with the author's trip 229 years later."

A reader from Wilmington read *Travels with George In Search of Washington and His Legacy* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "Enjoyed the comparison from today's travel with that of the 1770s."

A reader from Conroe read *Bubbles...up!* by Jacqueline Davies: "I loved the rhyming pattern and the illustrations were perfect for the narrative."

A reader from Burlington read *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "A thoughtful discussion of current diverse attempts to repair the damage inflicted to our planet by humans, this book offers the reader no panacea to the grim realities of climate change and environmental damage caused by centuries of human hubris. Instead, I was left pondering Kolbert's questions of whether science can repair the damage done to the Earth, if these interventions will come too late, and if some of them should be attempted at all."

A reader from Elbridge read *The Smash-Up* by Ali Benjamin: "I expected this book to be a typical tale of a family gone bust. The author led me through this expectation, through to the feeling that I might not finish the book, and then, like a landslide, through to depression, and anger, and then hope. These characters resonated with me, particularly Ethan. The author was able to make me really feel what the characters were thinking and feeling; they came to life for me."

A reader from Amherst read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "A dystopian novel about the last two people on Earth, it was educational in all the detail about survival, and it had wonderful descriptive writing about the natural world. I found it to be a very sad story, and of course, I had to suspend belief to accept the

bear talking with her and the puma pulling her from under the icy cold water, but...ok. Overall, a good novel, worth reading.”

A reader from Swansea read *Dream Street* by Tricia Elam Walker: “Celebrate the special people who live on Dream Street like Jusef, Mr. Sidney, Ms Sarah, Ms Barbara the librarian, and cousins Tari and Ede, Dream Street where anything is possible. The award-winning illustrator, Ekua Holmes, offers magnificent collage illustrations of this special neighborhood.”

A reader from Marshfield read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: “I like the idea of books as sentient beings. This novel was beautifully written with memorable characters.”

A reader from RANDOLPH read *News From Heaven* by Jennifer Haigh: “This is a very well written collection of short stories set in a former coal mining town in western Pennsylvania. Each story is eloquently descriptive of time place and character navigating life in a small town or affected by the heavy weight of family, history and tough economic times. After trying several other previous honorees, this book truly deserved the award!”

A reader from Boston read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: “The first half of the book was quite slow for me (minus the first chapter) and didn’t really pick up until the second half - which I really enjoyed. We got to learn more of what was going inside Lydia’s head - and deeper look at the family dynamics and their individual struggles. I didn’t find the ending predictable, but I also didn’t find it overly satisfying. It was good, not wow-ing.”

A reader from Erving read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: “Interesting concept with the gaming subplot.”

A reader from Auburn read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: “Her writing is beautiful even in the ill-fated story. A page turner! No one told anyone else what their true feelings were! It was so sad to see the family bullied. It was worse still that the children, especially Lydia, had to change the whole trajectory of her life to keep her mother from running away again. I think it was not suicide. I believe that Lydia was ready to put aside her fear and try to get back to shore on her own. She looked forward to dropping all the pretense and beginning anew when she accidentally drowned.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: “I loved this book & had a hard time putting it down. A good ending where all the characters & separate stories come together.”

A reader from Weymouth read *American Passage The History of Ellis Island* by Vincent J. Cannato: “Very accurate description of Ellis Island during its heyday. Of special interest to me as my paternal grandparents came through in the early teens from southern Italy. Unfortunately some of the prejudices towards immigrants remain today. We have much to learn.”

A reader from New Bedford read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: “Great read, fast paced and really eye opening as far as discussing prejudice in a small town.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Everything I never told you* by Celeste Ng: “This book was very engaging. Although it had predictable party it was an entertaining read!”

A reader from Swampscott read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "So enormously sad but also hopeful at the end. Love NG's work."

A reader from Scituate read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "It's a book about how different people deal with pain, loss, confusion, loneliness & how you can climb out of it. People caring for people is what's truly important- not all the stuff we get bogged down by."

A reader from Westborough read *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson: "New perspective that so many of the current programs for disabled people stem from Rosemary being a member of a family that was able to implement those programs."

A reader from Conway read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "Reminded me of a combination of "Sophie's Choice" and "Defiance ", (Daniel Craig movie), which was the only other time I had heard about the camps in the woods. Horrible events but a much happier ending than Sophie's."

A reader from Amherst read *Under a White Sky: The nature of the future* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "A riveting look at how humans are attempting to deal with the environmental collapse we have instigated. Deep discussions into invasive species in Lake Michigan, the levee system around New Orleans, and other challenging "fixes" show how hard it is to correct these calamities."

A reader from Burlington read *A Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "Paul Tremblay is fantastic at horror, and this book has some real cringe-inducing scenes (in a good way!)."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I started this with high expectations; I loved the premise and was initially drawn into the emotions of Benny and Annabelle's stories. Initially, I found Ozeki's prose and the format she chose for this engaging, but as I neared the halfway point I started to skim; what once kept me wanting more felt repetitive."

A reader from Cotuit read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "Mr. Philbrick tells us a down to earth account of George Washington's beliefs and daily life. I wish we had politicians like him now."

A reader from Salem read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "I really liked this book! It was a very honest and loving portrayal of a girl who simply wants to be allowed to live as she is. Some of the content is very heavy, but there is a lot of hope in this book!"

A reader from Monson read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "I did not enjoy the content, especially the graphic sex descriptions and would not recommend this novel to friends. One part I particularly liked was "All this time I told myself we were born from war--but I was wrong, Ma. We were born from beauty.""

A reader from Belchertown read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I enjoyed this unusual book in which Benny is able to hear objects talking to him after the tragic death of his father. Many interesting character."

A reader from South Dennis read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "WOW - I have never read anything like this. I am glad I did and I am sorry that anyone young person had suffer like Aiden did."

A reader from Fitchburg read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "It was poetic, thought provoking, raw, it is a book you will not forget. Thank you to this reading challenge because I searched for a Mass Book Awards nominee...and to the Fitchburg Public Library for showcasing Mass Awards selections...I never would have had opportunity to read this wonderful book without the challenge. This book and this author were superb."

A reader from Belchertown read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A Sherbrooke: "An interesting retelling of the life of Lucy Stone, the book stayed near enough to the historical characters and added an emotional backdrop that was well done."

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz: "I found much of this book very difficult to read due to its graphic nature, but I did learn a lot about Dominican Republic's history and culture."

A reader from Bolton read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: "This is a wonderful book, expertly telling the story of an African-American heirloom. The author does an incredible job of tying together historical details and creating stories where verifiable history does not exist."

A reader from Sandwich read *Libertie* by Greenidge: "Moving mother-daughter story and an interesting perspective on Black experience during Reconstruction."

A reader from Gill read *Phase Six* by Jim Shepard: "I enjoyed the structure of the book. The connection and disconnection between characters was moving. I will keep an eye out for other books by this author."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Separation Anxiety* by Laura Zigman: "I really did not like this book. I felt the characters were ridiculous and self absorbed."

A reader from Beverly read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "I enjoyed the fable style of this book, and it is going to float through my mind quite a lot I think."

A reader from Hopedale read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "A major twist and left me feeling quite sorry for some of the characters at the end. Always fun to read books that have landmarks you are familiar with or have heard of."

A reader from Boston read *I Wish My Father* by Leslea Newman: "This was a sweet but sad narrative poetry book about a father, daughter relationship. The father has Alzheimer's disease and he is able to recall many events of his past. Very lovely read."

A reader from Reading read *A Kiss from Maddalena* by Christopher Castellani: "I feel like I was in this small village in Italy. Really enjoyed this gem of a book."

A reader from Belchertown read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Pappilon: "I wanted to love this one, but I just didn't. I loved the Nigerian folklore but the characters and the struggle felt too forced."

A reader from Pepperell read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "Another enjoyable book set in Massachusetts! The book was well-written, descriptive and featured characters who were all coming of age in their own way."

A reader from Rochester read *Because* by Mo Willems & Amber Ren: "Loved it! I love Mo Willems and was surprised to see that I had not heard of this one previously. Glad this challenge brought it to my attention, and I look forward to seeing what else Amber Ren, the illustrator, does in the future!"

A reader from Malden read *Tremors* by Cammy Thomas: "Cammy's writing brings out a lot of strong emotions."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Lesson* by Cadwell Turnbull: "Very Good. Has the feel of an old 60's - 70's SF story with updated themes. Reads very easy."

A reader from Scituate read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Glad to have read something I might not have otherwise. Found a connection to a dear person that passed."

A reader from Florence read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "I thought this was a very sad but compelling novel. I felt sorry for all of the characters. Well worth reading."

A reader from Holden read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "The Bear is a succinct, moving story of human interconnectedness with the natural world. It is beautiful, sad, and touching all at once. It's also a perfect read as spring slowly emerges in New England."

A reader from New York read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "I absolutely loved this book! While the book itself deals with incredibly hard topics the story is beautifully told and full of hope. Otolorin is one of my favorite narrators I've ever read and the author captures their voice perfectly."

A reader from Melrose read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "This book reminded me of how crucial our relationship with nature is to our survival. In this age of global warming, we should not ignore any aspect of change that is occurring. I loved the relationship between the child and her father as well as the bear and the puma. They were all trying to teach and care for her. Loved this book!"

A reader from Basking Ridge read *wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk: "This was just ok. I dont need another reminder of how horrible humans are"

A reader from Wakefield read *Monogamy* by Sue Miller: "I chose this book because I am a recent widow and lately am drawn to books about other widows. I found it relatable and comforting, without being too sad. Just a book about the quiet grief Annie goes through, and how it changes over time but her love for her husband is always there. I'd like to read more by this author."

A reader from Hampden read *Because* by Mo Willems: "Very inspirational book for children. Wonderful illustrations."

A reader from Amherst read *Alice Bliss: A Novel* by Laura Harrington: "emotional and vulnerable, deserving of many awards."

A reader from Andover read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I enjoyed the concept of the book, how it was a riff on *Travels with Charlie*. I liked hearing about their dog and how it was a bit of a biography not only of the author and his wife, but of George Washington too and how the author's life intersects with Washington's."

A reader from Greenfield read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "beautiful and heartbreaking is this book. I will be digesting it for a long time."

A reader from Methuen read *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt: "A great book to share with upper middle grade students via a read aloud or book club that deals with finding where you fit within your community -- be it friends or family -- and recognizing your individual strengths."

A reader from Westminster read *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson: "After reading this book which I enjoyed a lot you may have second thoughts about the beloved Kennedy family but please save a spot in your heart for Rosemary Kennedy and her younger sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Thank you Eunice for working so strongly to advocate for those with special needs."

A reader from Worcester read *Love Like That* by Emma Duffy-Comparone: "As a hopeless romantic I found most of these stories slightly disturbing and not "wickedly funny" at all."

A reader from Lompoc read *A Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "Although it was in the horror section it was mostly just heartbreaking. I felt for little, confused, hurt Merry and her confusing adult life equally and want more information but also acknowledge the book has given the right amount of information."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "Interesting historical fiction about a woman important in the fight for women's rights and as an abolitionist - her name may have been lost in comparison to others but it was important to learn of her fight and why."

A reader from Wrentham read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "Such a quiet and lovely tale! I can see why this won the Fiction Award for the 21st Annual Massachusetts Book Awards!"

A reader from Fitchburg read *Mapping The Bones* by Jane Yolen: "This is a moving, thought -provoking and well-written story that follows a brother and sister as they navigate the Holocaust together. It is the sort of book that when you finish reading it , you are still thinking about it."

A reader from Paxton read *Is Rape a Crime* by Michelle Bowdler: "The title asks a shocking question, but the author's story and work on this issue shows that the way rape is treated and viewed by society makes this a very valid question. It is maddening, heartbreaking, and makes we want to be a part of the solution."

A reader from Lee read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: "This is a beautifully written middle grade novel in verse about identity, family, loss and hope."

A reader from Melrose read *Picturing a Nation* by Martin W. Sandler: "The photographs tell the story of the grit and stamina and determination of Americans during the Great Depression."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *Something Wild* by Hanna Halperin: "I did not like this book at all. The characters felt stilted and like bad actors; the plot read as a handful of disjointed short stories about the characters; there was graphic physical abuse as plot, while the actual character development was merely hand waved at throughout. I'm honestly at a loss for how this book was nominated for an award."

A reader from MARBLEHEAD read *The Smash up* by Ali Benjamin: "Good book, very relatable for the time we live in."

A reader from ATTLEBORO read *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "There was a whole section of this book (around 30 pages) that I don't believe I morally agree with, so I had to skip it. That fact aside, I consider myself relatively well-versed on climate change, yet this book more than any other scared me into an understanding of what exactly humans have done and might have to consider doing in order to leave something behind for our great-grandchildren."

A reader from Somerville read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: "Heartbreaking but I loved it."

A reader from Melrose read *Big Giant Floating Head* by Christopher Boucher: "I have no idea what I just read, but I really enjoyed it. Experimental fiction playing with language in interesting ways is used to tell the story of the protagonist's life with humor and feeling."

A reader from Stoneham read *Seven Golden Rings: A Tale of Music and Math* by Rajani LaRocca Illustrated by Archana Sreenivasan: "This beautiful, and educational 2021 Massachusetts Book Award Honor picture book is such a fun way to learn about math and binary numbers. The colors are stunning and the story is laid out so that even a math-phobe like me finally got it!"

A reader from Cambridge read *Now It's Dark* by Peter Gizzi: "Honors Poetry title in the 21st Annual Massachusetts Book Awards (2020). I liked the second section best, Marigold & Cable, apparently commissioned by a musician of ambient music, Alex Cobb, for the liner notes to his album by the same name. Nice to see the arts intersect!"

A reader from Harwich read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "This is an informative, timely, personal, and lively account, by our local and much revered historian, of his own travels through 13 states, retracing the routes taken by Washington in the early days of his presidency: 1789-1791."

A reader from Cambridge read *Now It's Dark* by Peter Gizzi: "Honors Poetry title in the 21st Annual Massachusetts Book Awards (2020). I liked the second section best, Marigold & Cable: short lines, each page begins where the previous page ends. It was apparently commissioned by a musician, Alex Cobb, for the liner notes to his LP of the same name. Nice to see the arts intersect in that way!"

A reader from Weymouth read *Motherkind* by Jayne Anne Phillips: "Intense examination of mothers and daughters influences and relationships."

A reader from Lowell read *The Summoning* by J.P. Smith: "I really enjoyed the flow of this book (short chapters, simple narration), and it kept my interest throughout. In my opinion, the ending was frustrating and some loose ends remained, but an entertaining read overall."

A reader from Northampton read *Phase Six* by Jim Shepard: "I enjoyed the very technical aspects of the book, but would have like more character development through their journeys."

A reader from WEST BARNSTABLE read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz: "I enjoyed learning about the culture and history of the Dominican Republic as well as the Dominican-American experience."

A reader from Spencer read *Zero Local: Next Stop: Kindness* by Ethan Murrow and Vita Murrow: "This almost wordless book is extremely moving and shows how small things make a difference. 5-stars."

A reader from Merrimac read *Committed : dispatches from a psychiatrist in training* by Adam Stern, MD: "A funny and genuine memoir about a psychiatric residency at Harvard Medical School and the trials and tribulations that accompany this life-altering experience. We need more doctors like Dr. Adam Stern!!"

A reader from Andover read *The book of form and emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "On one hand sad but on the other hand, escapism in books is so recognizable"

A reader from Sandwich read *Rationality* by Steven Pinker: "An interesting book, however it wasn't what I was expecting. I think the title was a little misleading."

A reader from BEVERLY read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Very creative, heartwarming."

A reader from Sandwich read *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk: "Wolf Hollow was both sad and inspiring. Even though it's considered a children's book, I was captivated by it."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Poet's Dog* by Patricia MacLachlan: "It is like two separate stories. One that is happening in the moment and one that has already happened."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Season of Open Water* by Dawn Clifton Tripp: "I enjoy historical fiction, and was fascinated by all of the many aspects of this time (& rum running in general) I was unfamiliar with. I enjoyed reading it."

A reader from Amherst read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Moving, visceral, ephemeral depiction of generational trauma and love, loss, survival, and coming of age."

A reader from South Hadley read *Don't Hug Doug (He Doesn't Like It)* by Carrie Finison, Daniel Wiseman (ill.): "This was really cute! I like how it emphasizes that everyone is different and that the only way you can know if someone is okay with a hug is by asking them -- consent is so important."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "I enjoyed the writing style of this book. The story had my attention right from the beginning but was interesting who mom took care of her daughter even when she wasn't with her."

A reader from Beverly read *Hold Me Down* by Clea Simon: "A powerful book and one that I couldn't put down until I finished. Moving back and forth from the present to the past allowed the hints to be dropped without giving everything away."

A reader from Scituate read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "Wonderfully descriptive novel of a future time. Created detailed images as story progressed. Depicted life, death, trials, successes, in a futuristic world that invites the reader to think."

A reader from Melbourne read *World and Town* by Gish Jen: "Intelligent, sensitive book showing the integration of different cultures in individuals, relationships, and a town. The book is layered and can be

enjoyed as a "story about some people in one town" or enjoyed as a treatise on the blending of cultures in the modern world."

A reader from Lowell read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "Great historical fiction account of a woman I honestly knew very little about. Lucy Stone was an important contributor to both the Abolitionist and Women's Suffrage movements. The book also went into great detail regarding the split with other prominent members of the movement (Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton) over the competing ideas of the two movements. Stone was the original working woman who had to grapple with all of the issues that women face regarding the choices they make in their professional/personal lives. A perfect choice for Women's History Month!"

A reader from Salem read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "I'm sorry to say that I was underwhelmed by this book. The main character, Hanna Heath, is shallow and I found myself not caring that much about what happened to her. The best parts were the flashes back in time, speculating on the haggadah's history, especially the thread with Lola. Unfortunately though even these sections proved tedious as they were too disparate to weave together in a cohesive manner. By the end I lost site of what the haggadah was and why it was important."

A reader from Belchertown read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "I thought *Flamer* took a while to get going, but the ending really touched me. This is a book all teens should read."

A reader from Palmer read *Bunny* by Mona Awad: "What the bunny did I read? A fever dream trip of a story. And I weirdly enjoyed it."

A reader from Beverly read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Loved this book. I have read other books by Ng but this is her first one and a very solid one."

A reader from BERKLEY read *Incantation* by Alice Hoffman: "It is a beautiful, powerful, terrible and heartbreaking story. It is a young adult book but was still a great read for an adult."

A reader from Norton read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "This was an emotionally difficult book to read due to the painful family dynamics portrayed by the author. Much of what goes on in the book takes place in the minds of the family members - their fears, perceptions, expectations."

A reader from Hartland read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "Fascinating, enjoyable read."

A reader from Worcester read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Slow, but compelling; hit home in a personal way. Creative structure."

A reader from Sandwich read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrook: "A combination of George Washington's travels and experiences coupled with Philbrook's. Not enough of George."

A reader from Falmouth read *Windows* by Julia Denos: "A wonderful picture book, with gentle language and beautiful pictures. A lovely example of the mirrors, windows and sliding glass doors."

A reader from Somerville read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Poetic and beautiful."

A reader from Worcester read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "Unfortunately, I wasn't terribly fond of this book. It was extremely blunt and up-front with a lot of its content, and the narration was somewhat bland and overly expository. The conclusion felt a bit too easy, too, especially given how desperate the protagonist is right before everything magically becomes alright again."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "I am still working through this one. It has potential for sure but seems slow to get started."

A reader from Stow read *Separation Anxiety* by Laura Zigman: "Resonated with me due to the fact I am in a similar situation - grown kids, stress - and finding comfort in the strangest of places."

A reader from Sandwich read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "It was so refreshing to read this historical fiction piece. I loved the writing, the main character and the way she grappled with her intersecting identities as a queer Asian American woman in a constricting society."

A reader from Southborough read *The Summoning* by J. P. Smith: "This wasn't a favorite book of mine because I had a hard time following the story, but I'm glad I was forced to read a book I wouldn't normally read!"

A reader from Wenham read *Everything I never told you* by Celeste Ng: "Suspenseful, good read."

A reader from Worcester read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "Took the opportunity to read a graphic novel. Amazing how much emotion came through in a book with so few words. I was impressed."

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *The yellow bird sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "Beautiful Holocaust story about survival and the love between mother and daughter."

A reader from Jordan read *Names for Light: A Family History* by Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint: "This book was a brilliantly written tale of a family, the family's effect on the author, and the family's relationship with a tattered country. It gave me great insight into what my Burmese foster children's family must love and hate about their country of origin and it's culture."

A reader from Weymouth read *Libertee* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "Inspired by the life of Dr. Susan Smith McKinney-Steward who was the 3rd African American woman to earn a medical degree in this country. Libertie's mother is a doctor and expects Libertie to follow in her footsteps in Brooklyn during and after the Civil War. At college Libertie becomes interested in music and performing, then hastily marries a man from Haiti and moves there with him. Things with his family are not what he led her to believe."

A reader from Methuen read *Joshua* by Joseph: "Excellent book to learn to love Jesus in a fictional term."

A reader from Naples read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "Immersive, insightful, and exceptionally inspiring! Leaving A highly compelling fictional account of the life of Lucy Stone, an orator, abolitionist and suffragist. I don't remember ever hearing of her before. I must have missed that day at school! Lucy's well-known contemporaries in the suffrage movement, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton are featured in the book."

A reader from Turners Falls read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Eh, it was pretty predictable, and I felt like Ng wasn't sure which character she wanted us to have a real emotional connection with."

A reader from Millbury read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "This is not a typical book for me but I absolutely loved it. I found Ozeki's writing witty, clever and very engaging overall. 5 stars!"

A reader from Irvine read *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life* by Megan Marshall: "I had no idea who Margaret Fuller was before I read the biography. She was definitely a feminist. It was interesting to read about all the writers she was friends with. I was sorry that she had a bizarre death."

A reader from Burlington read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "It is wonderful to see historical (1950s here) queer joy written for teens."

A reader from Plymouth read *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson: "The book was very well researched and sympathetic to Rosemary's challenges."

A reader from Lowell read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "It read like poetry. Very touching story."

A reader from SUTTON read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "This reading challenge led me to this book that I likely otherwise would not have picked up. I enjoyed the story of the girl and her father...and the bear. It was a beautiful tale of survival, heartbreak, and nature."

A reader from Norton read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "This would be a good read-a-like for *Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Tomorrow*."

A reader from Dracut read *The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin: "I enjoyed this book - very touching and lots of interesting information about jellyfish too."

A reader from East Longmeadow read *THE COLOSSUS OF ROADS* by Christina Uss: "Quirky, funny story of a boy who has a talent no one else understands--solving traffic puzzles."

A reader from Forestdale read *Echo Mountain* by Lauren Wolk: "Great book about a family living off the land after the Great Depression. Reminded me to be thankful for what I have. This family lost everything but learned so much about each other and how strong they each were rebuilding their life's together."

A reader from North Reading read *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "This was a well researched and compelling read. I liked how Kolbert used extinct species to tell the how and why of the previous extinction events."

A reader from Andover read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "This was a murder mystery and a "buddy" novel that had many twists and turns. I have to watch the movie now to see if it did the book justice!"

A reader from sandwich read *The Chalk Artist* by Alegra Goodman: "Blah. It took so long to get going. I would not recommend this."

A reader from Hatfield read *On Earth We are Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Interesting."

A reader from Beverly read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "Loved the perspective, character building and look at freedom in many senses."

A reader from Holbrook read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Kathrine A Sherbrooke: "I really enjoyed this historical fictional work about the abolitionist and suffragette Lucy Stone. This was a great book and so worth reading. I highly recommend it!"

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Technologists* by Matthew Pearl: "Thrilling book, but can be dry at some points."

A reader from Nantucket read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: "A scholarly testimony to the history and denigration of slavery, as viewed through the lens of women and artifacts."

A reader from Dedham read *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "Very readable story of the Pilgrims and their interactions with the Indigenous peoples."

A reader from Uxbridge read *Margaret Fuller* by Megan Marshall: "This wasn't exactly an honoree as it won, but I've always wanted to know about about Margaret Fuller so I jumped on the opportunity to read about her. Learning about the Transcendentalists, how incredibly brilliant she was and about the ways she interacted with that community. How hard it must have been to be such a brilliant woman in such a time!"

A reader from Somerville read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "Such a great novel about self-discovery and feeling torn between what feels like two different lives."

A reader from Irvine read *The Next Great Paulie Fink* by Ali Benjamin: "Great choice for a fifth or sixth grade read aloud book."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Tremors* by Cammy Thomas: "It was beautiful."

A reader from Boston read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "This is a haunting, poignant story of the hidden dynamics and inner turmoil which is revealed throughout the chaos of a family tragedy. It is authentic and well written."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "I learned quite a bit from the book about the perils confronting Earth, as well as some technological approaches that are being explored to combat these challenges. The book leaves you with a range of emotions, both frightening and hopeful."

A reader from Plainville read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "Happy to read stories of American history centered in these places and periods. Love an imperfect lead character."

A reader from Plainville read *The Time Keeper* by Mitch Albom: "The Time Keeper really hit home for me with recent medical crises. We are all embodiments of Father Time at intervals in our lives, both obsessed with the minutes and hours until we ultimately ruled by them until we learn to let go."

A reader from Amherst read *The book of form and emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I loved this book. It's a story about how a mother and her son deal with the sudden and tragic loss of a husband and father. The story is written from the perspective of the book."

A reader from Harwich read *T4avels with George* by Nathaniel Pilbrick: "I enjoy his two journeys trying to follow Washington's route to New England, then down south to the Carolinas. Obviously an extremely difficult task given the two hundred plus years of change in this country."

A reader from Beverly read *Committed: Dispatches from a Psychiatrist in Training* by Adam Stern, Md.: "I found this book very moving. I have many family members who have and continue to struggle with mental health issues, from a maternal great grandfather's suicide to a paternal aunt with bipolar disorder. They both had electroshock therapy, lots of medications, and no talk therapy. Seeing my dad try to help my aunt was a life shaping experience for me and reading this book was similar. It gave a bird's eye view into what it is like for those whose life's work it is to help others. It made me feel very grateful that such people as Dr. Stern exist!"

A reader from Dracut read *Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen* by Kate McGovern: "A funny and touching story about an eleven year old girl struggling with dyslexia and her identity after being held back. I laughed and cried."

A reader from Weymouth read *Rosemary - The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson: "The book relates the effects that a lobotomy had on Rosemary Kennedy and how her life was changed by this botched surgery. It also highlights the feeling of that time about mental illness and the lack of understanding the techniques and strategies that could have helped make individuals more productive citizens instead of hiding them away to avoid embarrassment."

A reader from Plainville read *The Time Keeper* by Mitch Albom: "The Time Keeper hit close to home with recent health crises. Father Time's plight of being obsessed with counting the seconds, minutes, etc ultimately becomes his prison as it does with all of us until we learn to let go."

A reader from Beverly read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: "Emotional. Heart wrenching. Loved how it was written in prose. It made it that much more beautiful."

A reader from Weymouth read *Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter* by Kerri K. Greenidge: "It was jampacked with facts and information. It was dense, but there was lots of new information for me pertaining to Boston history."

A reader from Sunderland read *Is Rape a Crime? A Memoir, an Investigation, and a Manifesto* by Michelle Bowdler: "It was a real eye opener. I'm glad I read it, although it was really disturbing. It made me angry-- not necessarily a bad thing."

A reader from Brookline read *The unmade world* by Steve Yarbrough: "I liked the character development and the exploration of grief. But unfortunately didn't overall love this book."

A reader from leominster read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "An interesting story involving a Chinese American family, encountering the prejudices and hurdles they encounter in 1970 Ohio."

A reader from Holden read *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson: "Larson's tells the tragic but heartfelt story of the oldest daughter of the Kennedy political dynasty, Rosemary Kennedy. Born when Joe Jr was three years old and "Jack" was 16 months old, Rosemary was born with developmental disabilities likely caused by a lack of oxygen at birth. I was drawn in to this unique story from the get and was touched, amazed, and ultimately saddened by the life she led. A great read!"

A reader from BEVERLY read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "This book was beautiful and engrossing. Very worthy of the book award."

A reader from Lunenburg read *Saved* by Benjamin Hall: "Very informative book about what news reporters go through to get the story."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "Good, not great."

A reader from Hudson read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "This book brings us close to nature as a father and daughter, the last human inhabitants on Earth, experience what it is to live off the land. This fable makes use of the bear as a means to show the reader the coming of age lessons that deal with loss, love and family. A hear-warming story!!!"

A reader from Wrentham read *MArgaret Fuller: A New American Life* by Megan Marshall: "Impressive in scope and detail. A significant biography of a accomplished woman."

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *A Rev evolution of color* by Jane Kamensky: "Fascinating historical perspective."

A reader from Salem read *A man called Otto* by Tom Hanks: "A nice book about strange man that sometimes is rude. This book is for everyone."

A reader from Beverly read *Head Full of Ghostd* by Paul Tremblay: "JUST STARTED..."

A reader from Northampton read *Red, White and Whole* by Rajani Laroocca: "A book in verse! Heartbreaking."

A reader from Lancaster read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozecki: "I love the originality of the story, and the pure ness of Benny and his perception of the world. As someone with family members suffering from mental illness, Ozecki portrays Benny's mother's descent into hoarding so perfectly. I felt a real connection with Benny and his sense of loss. I've recommended this book to many!"

A reader from Hopkinton read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Really enjoyed the storytelling - past and present - and the sense of confusion, urgency, and emotion from the author and connection to his mother."

A reader from Beverly read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "This book is so good! I was absolutely engaged every minute of this book. I loved learning about this woman from American history. The author was able to write the story in a way that kept you wanting to know more and what happened with little surprises along the way."

A reader from Amherst read *The Summoning* by J.P. Smith: "This book was not my favorite. But it was short enough that I didn't mind pushing through to the end, and I'm glad that I read a book by a Massachusetts author that I wouldn't have otherwise."

A reader from Sandwich read *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk: "Captivating novel depicting the consequences of bullies, war redemption and grace."

A reader from Boston read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine E. Sherbrooke: "Best historical fiction book I've ever read! Beautifully written!"

A reader from Plymouth read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "I loved this book! It was delivered at 2pm and I was finished before I went to bed that night! Highly recommend!"

A reader from Wilmington read *Travels With George* by Nathaniel Pholbrick: "Very interesting how little times have chnged."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Fabrications: New and Selected Sto* by Pamela Painter: "An insightful master storyteller with a gift for examining relationships and motivations. I was not familiar with her work, and loved this book!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I enjoyed this book."

A reader from Acton read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "What a beautiful, heartbreaking, deeply poignant read. Ocean Vuong is an artist with his words, seamlessly weaving poetry into his prose. I love the freedom within an autobiographical fiction. STUNNING."

A reader from Melrose read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Family issues dealing with different backgrounds. I thought it was sad for the daughter."

A reader from Milton read *Committed: Dispatches from a Psychiatrist in Training* by Adam Stern: "I enjoyed it and found it somewhat heartening, since I'm a therapist and very few prescribers seem to care about their patients the way that he did. I hope more physicians will open up about their experiences as providers, like Dr. Stern."

A reader from Hampden read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "Interesting to see how a family can be so connected and disconnected with someone who presents differently within their own."

A reader from Worcester read *Whale Port* by Mark and Gerald Foster: "Amazing illustrations and interesting facts. I picture this as Old New Bedford."

A reader from Lunenburg read *How to make a slave* by Jerald Walker: "Short book with an important perspective. Engaging writing."

A reader from Sutton read *Under A White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "Informative look at how humans have affected the climate/earth either intentionally or unintentionally."

A reader from Oakham read *These Truths: A History of the United States (2019 award)* by Jill Lepore: "An amazing trip: from Columbus's first landing in 1492, to the 2016 election of Donald Trump, Lepore asks if America has lived up to its constitutional goals. I especially like her assertion that "history" is not a subject--it's a method."

A reader from Buckland read *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar: "The novel is based on the true story of Johanna Bonger, Vincent Van Gogh's sister-in-law. This was a Ma book honoree in 2015. The story was very interesting and well written."

A reader from Buckland read *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar: "The novel is based on the true story of Johanna Bonger, Vincent Van Gogh's sister-in-law. This was a Ma book honoree in 2015. The story was very interesting and well written."

A reader from Palmer read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "This novel gives an extraordinary view into the life of an African American community in Brooklyn during Reconstruction."

A reader from Wakefield read *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* by Tiya Miles: "The author did a great job of weaving one family's history along with the country's history of slavery."

A reader from Sandwich read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Catherine Sherbrook: "A Fabulous historical novel-I learned so much about the Brave Abolitionist women- especially Lucy Stone! They gave up so much and suffered so much for Black people! I loved it!"

A reader from Buckland read *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar: "A novel based on the true story of Johanna Bonger, Vincent Van Gogh's sister-in-law. This was an interesting historical novel about a strong woman who almost single handedly ensured that Van Gogh's work was recognized as masterpieces and preserved for future generations. It was an interesting well written book about strong women in the past and present who persevered in spite of the assumptions made by society in the past and the present."

A reader from Worcester read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: "I wasn't sure exactly what the book was about when I picked it up, but found it to be a very powerful and tragic story. It made me consider the institution of slavery in ways that I'd never thought about before."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Separation Anxiety* by Laura Zigman: "Gave me excruciating secondhand embarrassment - I could barely get through it! Sweet, hopeful ending though."

A reader from Salem read *A Kiss from Maddalena* by Christopher Castellani: "A beautiful, emotionally resonant novel about one Italian-American family that manages to be universal."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The bear* by Andrew Krivak: "Beautiful prose, relationship between father and daughter passing on life lessons."

A reader from Beverly read *The Technologists* by Matthew Pearl: "This was an imaginative, well plotted historical novel based on the foundation story of MIT with suspenseful twists and a mystery at its core. I went in not knowing much about it, and am glad I held on for a fun read!"

A reader from Sutton read *The book of form and emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Outstanding, classic, wonderful."

A reader from Worcester read *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz: "I loved this book and was sad to say farewell to the characters. Junot Diaz writes about the American-Dominican experience with humor, a brutally clear history of the DR and generational trauma, but also deep generational love and family connection. Grab a Spanglish dictionary, it's such a part of the book! This is a new all-time favorite."

A reader from Amherst read *Picturing a Nation* by Martin W. Sandler: "A wonderful collection of Depression-era photographs from the Farm Security Administration. The history of the project and information about the photographers was really interesting. It's also great to know that the entire collection is available digitally through the Library of Congress!"

A reader from Scituate read *Last night at the telegraph club* by Malinda Lo: "A story about growing up Asian and queer during the red scare. The dichotomy between the white and Asian characters addresses privilege in a striking way."

A reader from Worcester read *Leaving Coys Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "This book was based on the life of Lucy Stone. She was born in a town near where I live and was a fascinating woman, a feminist and an abolitionist. I would encourage people to read this book and learn about the women that endured numerous hardships to speak about equality for all."

A reader from Erving read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "This is a story of love, determination and hope, as a Jewish mother and young daughter attempt to escape the Nazis, pre-WWII."

A reader from Reading read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "A beautiful debut novel about life, love, and family. Highly recommend!"

A reader from Montague read *All that She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack* by Tiya Miles: "Fascinating history, a story of loss and resilience during slavery. Well deserved award!"

A reader from Gill read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: "This child of the '80s enjoyed the pop culture references, a blast back to middle and high school."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: "I don't usually read historical fiction, so this was a nice change of pace for me. I enjoyed learning about Lucy Stone and imagining this was her world and experience."

A reader from Braintree read *Dream Street* by Tricia Elam Walker: "Dream Street, the 2022 Picture Book/Early Reader Mass Book Award winner is an introduction to the residents - young and old - of Dream Street and their goals, aspirations and life lessons. The illustrations, which are collages, consist of bright, saturated colors, and are comprised of newspapers, comics, wallpaper and more. Each page has its own look but have the common thread of color scheme and technique. The author & illustrator feature themselves within the pages, and it's easy to see that their Dream Street, located in a Roxbury neighborhood, was a place where "their dreams [were] nourished and cared for, just like Dessa Rae's flowers."

A reader from Hanover read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "As an Asian American woman, I really feel connected to this book. While I was reading, I thought of my mixed race son. I liked this book more than *Our Missing Hearts*."

A reader from Shrewsbury, MA 01545, USA read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "Heart wrenching but beautifully written story of a mother and daughter and how music and the imaginary

tales that the mother weaves for them helps them to survive the terrible experience of hiding out in war time.”

A reader from Hampden read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: “Moving account of the struggle for the rights of women.”

A reader from Worcester read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: “A talented writer crafted a great novel that I was happy to escape into every night.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: “Very slow moving. I like learning about historical figures who are lesser known but this was a bit too plodding for me.”

A reader from Belchertown read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: “Tour de force recounting of an embroidered sack which leads to a genealogy search of family as well as the meaning of the sack that carried items for a woman's daughter. Recounts in detail the evils of slavery, the meaning of love and family, and the hope that sustains.”

A reader from Dracut read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: “A short, but interesting read. I enjoyed the interaction and mutual respect between human and nature.”

A reader from Rochester read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: “This compelling read about a little known abolitionist and woman's rights advocate, Lucy Stone, is a timeless story about a life long quest for personal and professional fulfillment within stubborn social constraints. This beautifully written story, relevant as ever, brings to life a remarkable American heroine.”

A reader from Danvers read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: “I thought this book gave an interesting perspective of reconstruction era Brooklyn and Haiti as well as insight into women practicing medicine.”

A reader from Beverly read *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks: “A wonderful story about a horse and his trainer who happened to be a young slave that worked his way with the horse to freedom.”

A reader from Danvers read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: “Such an amazing graphic novel! It was sad, funny, and hopeful all at once.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: “The author, his wife and dog retraced George Washington's journey as a new President through all 13 colonies as he got to know the people and the new nation. A mix of colonial history combined with a contemporary look at our country today.”

A reader from Cohasset read *Mercury* by Margot Livesey: “Interesting read, unfolded slowly but intriguingly through the accounts of two protagonists.”

A reader from Lowell read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: “It Was Very Interesting!”

A reader from Chicopee read *Inheritors* by Asako Serizawa: “A powerful collection of stories about WWII that are thought-provoking and enlightening.”

A reader from Brockton read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "This book showed the power of keeping secrets and how giving them up may bring you peace."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Project X* by Jim Shepard: "The book does a good job of capturing the mind-set of a teenager struggling to fit in or have some success. In that process, we see the descent into a mindset where a mass shooting seems like a good idea. I thought the ending, where the friend goes through with the shooting and the main character does not, was to some extent the easy way out."

A reader from Erving read *Last Night at the telegraph club* by Malindo Lo: "Very enjoyable!"

A reader from Gill read *Shouting At The Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt: "I enjoyed reading this book and found it to be refreshing and uplifting."

A reader from Boxford read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Great plot and writing, very intriguing story."

A reader from Gt. Barrington read *The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz: "Honestly, this was a struggle to read. The story is told in a train of thought perspective, and full of cultural references I wasn't familiar with and had to look up. The view into the Dominican family culture was interesting though at times a struggle to get through with the negativity that is rampant in the pages."

A reader from Falmouth read *Mercury: A Novel* by Margot Livesey: "The writing was good, but I found Viv's obsession (to the detriment of everyone she cared for) to be hard to believe."

A reader from Holden read *Red, White and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: "I enjoyed this story about a girl who struggles to find her identity while simultaneously trying to navigate middle school and the death of her mother."

A reader from Norton read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "I could not put this book down! As a full time working mother of two and wife I could relate to Lucy's struggles to balance everything while still maintaining a sense of self."

A reader from Somerville read *The Playwright's House* by Daniel Suarez: "The descriptions of life in Cuba, and of life under the Castros, make you feel like you've been there and lived it. I especially love the way Suarez lifts his beautiful realism up into poetry: "A fraction of sunlight had perforated the clouds...making the wet surface of the street iridescent, like a mirage.""

A reader from Easthampton read *Floaters* by Martin Espada: "Lovely and fierce political poetry."

A reader from Scituate read *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Dughter* by Kate Clifford Larson: "Very in depth depiction of a Kennedy family member of whom I had not read about previously. Especially emotional read as parent of a super wonderful son who participates in many Special Olympics."

A reader from Lynnfield read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "I found this at a book sale and was (to be honest) very drawn in by the beautiful cover! I love stories that weave in various viewpoints throughout time, and this book did that exactly."

A reader from Sutton read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "Not my favorite."

A reader from Melrose read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Loved it! Found it fresh, magical, unexpected. It drew me in emotionally and intellectually, and gave words to my lifelong love affair with books."

A reader from Lowell read *Something Wild: A Novel* by Hanna Halperin: "This was a devastatingly beautiful book. The characters felt real and I related to them - particularly with Nessa and her issues with her body image. The whole book felt familiar as awful as parts of it were. It was real and raw with emotion and that has always been the type of book I've enjoyed even though parts of it broke my heart. I devoured this book whole and couldn't put it down. A love story of two sisters learning to survive and love each other after a rough childhood and devastating loss. Read this book, but prepare for it to break your heart."

A reader from Attleboro read *Be a Tree!* by Maria Gianferrari: "Beautifully written & illustrated."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ozeki, Ruth: "Great concept, great story, a loooooong read!"

A reader from East Bridgewater read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "This was great, a fast-moving and exciting novel. Being from the Boston area, it was amazing to read about the setting and language. I realized about halfway through that I'd read this book back when it came out, but I reread it because it was just so good!"

A reader from Oakton read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "Very well written and informative about a little known part of history."

A reader from Attleboro read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "I liked the change in character narration, and the flipped perspectives as the book progressed."

A reader from Amherst read *Monogamy* by Sue miller: "I appreciated the complexity of characters in the book and it caused me to reflect on the nature of relationships. I found the second half of the book less engaging."

A reader from West Falmouth read *All That She Carried* by Tina Miles: "Very, very interesting history of slavery, black pride and that entire Era in our USA history"

A reader from Los Alamos read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I loved "traveling" with both George and the Philbricks. I learned so much history and geography in a most enjoyable way."

A reader from Hampden read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "A good story about George Washington's travels when he became President. It also talks about Mount Vernon where he leaved. It brought back memories of a trip I took my niece on to both Washington DC and Mount Vernon."

A reader from Winthrop read *The Bear* by Krivak, Andrew: "Great father/daughter story about how to live in the world in partnership with nature and generations past."

A reader from Florence read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I loved the story and the characters. It did feel like there were times when the storyline was embellished unnecessarily and could have made the book shorter but still very impactful."

A reader from Danvers read *Rationality: What it is, Why it seems scarce, why it matters* by Steven Pinker: "Interesting, somewhat repetitive. My favorite takeaway was learning about the availability heuristic, that people often don't use all the information out there, but rather use information that is frequent, recent, or absurd/extreme, sensational) such that we often make decision using information based on media presentations, for example."

A reader from Taunton read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I have always enjoyed Nathaniel Philbrick's books and this one also does not disappoint. The idea of actually following President Washington's tours of both the northern and southern states makes you wish that you were on the road with the author. I will recommend this book to anyone who loves American History as much as I do."

A reader from Melrose read *Revere Beach Elegy* by Roland Merullo: "A very interesting biography of a man with deep roots in his community who also has significant exposure to the world beyond!"

A reader from Sutton read *Leaving Coys Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "Interesting view of history."

A reader from Hadley read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "I usually read graphic memoirs, and this was reminiscent of one, but also had a more fantastical quality aided by extended dream/daydream sequences in the narrator's mind."

A reader from Yarmouth read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "Disconnected structure, sophomore "romance" unnecessary to the plot, forgettable writing style, essentially boring. Can't believe this author won a Pulitzer Prize!"

A reader from STOUGHTON read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Not as interesting as I thought it would be. A sad story of a family's loss."

A reader from Salem read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "For the month of March, I wanted to chose a book out of the realm of something I would chose on my own accord, a book whose subject and characters were different than what I can easily relate to. Last Night at the Telegraph club is a story about a young Chinese-American girl named Lily set in the 1950s when the main character is in high school. Lily is questioning her sexuality while dealing with cultural identity issues and fear as this was a tumultuous time in America. The most interesting part of the book for me was that I imagined a lot of what Lily was going through to be somewhat new issues or something I did not imagine kids in my high school class were struggling with in the early-mid 2000s. But the book taking place in the 1950s, it shed a very interesting light on the complexities of what young adults can and are going through, regardless of class, age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ect. I found it fascinating that I could relate to the main character so much in a circumstance where she is a different cultural background and sexual orientation than me, and the book focuses so much on these things almost mainly on these things, and yet what the reader walks away with is simply how we are all so different and yet, at the end, all just uniquely human, which makes us the same."

A reader from Belchertown read *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life* by Megan Marshall: "Deeply researched and intricately written biographical work of the influential life of friend and confidant of the

19th century Transcendentalists. Many may know Emerson, Thoreau and others; less may know of Fuller and this work shines brightly on her.”

A reader from CENTERVILLE read *All that She Carried* by Tiya Miles: “I am always interested by stories of the passing down from generations of women to their next generations. This true story is so meaningful to read, right now; I found the writing flowing beautifully, and I was fascinated by all the illustrations.”

A reader from Greenfield read *Empathy diaries* by Sherry turkle: “Memoir of her involvement with computers and the relationship with empathy.”

A reader from Rochester read *Travels with george* by Fillbrook: “I enjoyed reading about places I have been and a few new ones. George had rough travels, but he accomplished his goals.”

A reader from New Bedford read *Floating* by Laura Martin: “Young boys at summer camp, who all have unique characteristics, experience self-discovery & true friendship. A great book for middle school aged children as well as adults.”

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *The book f Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozek: “Very inventive approach using a talking book. This is first ime I have read anything by this author. Interesting perspective on material possessions. Enjoyed the book.”

A reader from Woods hole read *A big moon cake for little star* by Grace lin: “Brings the magic of moon phases to the young reader.”

A reader from Salem read *Small World* by Laura Zigman: “Great read exploring a family shaped by one child’s cerebral palsy, and then reshaped when that child dies, and finally reshaped many years later when the remaining siblings, two sisters, move in together.”

A reader from Middleboro read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: “First GB book I ever read and it's still my favorite. Wonderful, compelling historical fiction about something I knew nothing about. Great jumping off point for reading nonfiction about the Haggadah.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: “I really did not care for this book, it was very hard to finish for me. I found that it was too narrative about things that did not push the story along. I didn’t think it do a job showing magical realism but just portrayed a very frustrating story about a boy who was dealing with mental illness. His mother too was dealing with own issues and they had an extremely dysfunctional relationship.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *A Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: “It was interesting. The twist at the end really surprised me!”

A reader from Lowell read *Everything I never told you* by Celeste Ng: “Heartbreaking insightful and overall really good.”

A reader from Kingston read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: “Really enjoyed this book. It keeps you in suspense till the very end!”

A reader from Middleboro read *Leaving Coys Hill* by Katherine A Sherbrooke: "A fictional take on the life of Lucy Stone, a brave woman who spoke up for abolition and universal suffrage. This was a captivating read where I learned a lot about the time period."

A reader from Lowell read *An ordinary wonder* by Buki Papillon: "It was so heart wrenching and beautiful! I really enjoyed this book and it was nice to read about a culture I don't know a lot about."

A reader from Woburn read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Beautifully, artistically written. And devastating."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Everyone on the Moon is Essential Personnel* by Julian K. Jarboe: "The most fun I've had reading in a while. Such a weird, surreal, magical, political, queer, wonderful collection of a stories."

A reader from Carver read *On Earth we are Briefly Gorgeous* by Vuong: "I struggled a bit with the poetic nature, and went back and forth between physical book and audiobook. It reminded me how much I take for granted and how much privilege I have compared to the characters in the text, arriving to America as outsiders and feeling 'less than'."

A reader from Greenfield read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "Both the awkwardness and sweetness of Lily's becoming aware of being gay are beautifully written."

A reader from Middleborough read *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng: "I could not stop reading. Such a compelling story."

A reader from Plainville read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "I really enjoyed this book and learned a lot more about the women's suffrage movement. Historical fiction is one of my favorite genres, which was one of the main reasons I picked this book, and I'm glad I did. I've already recommended it to friends!"

A reader from Boston read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Definitely out there, but a pretty interesting and unique book. Not something I would've read without this challenge so I'm grateful."

A reader from North Attleboro read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "Loved it."

A reader from Springfield read *Everything I Never told You* by Celeste Ng: "Deep and thought provoking mystery centered around the death of the favorite daughter in the Lee family. This book touches upon race issues, generational trauma, and grief; and how it deals with all of that it was so good."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Under a White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "An easy to digest narrative outlining some man-made solutions to fix man-made problems with regards to environment and nature."

A reader from Seekonk read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "A beautifully written book about a son writing a letter to his mother. Raw and sad at times, but beautiful."

A reader from Chatham read *Travels With George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I enjoy reading Philbrick's books. I am learning more than I ever new about George Washington. A really good book."

A reader from Brookline read *Popol Vuh : a Retelling* by Ilan Stavans: "Fascinating story, beautifully illustrated."

A reader from Scituate read *The Smash-Up* by Ali Benjamin: "This reminded me that, even at 82, there is always time for what's next."

A reader from Palmer read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: "Extremely beautiful book of how much women suffered but never forgot the importance of love and family."

A reader from Weymouth read *Committed: Dispatches from a Psychiatrist in Training* by Adam Stern, MD: "Intriguing, insightful, and heartfelt insight into the life and experiences of a Harvard trained psychiatrist. Opened my mind to how self-doubt can produce the most amazing outcomes."

A reader from SUTTON read *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks: "Two members of my book club highly recommended this book, which enticed me to read it. Viewing the history of slavery through a new lens served to further expand my understanding of this most horrible stain on U.S. history. I also appreciated the way the author presented the lifelong human-animal bond that was forged."

A reader from Chelmsford read *Floater* by Martin Espada: "I know next month is poetry but as a retired English teacher when I saw this collection on the Honoree list, I had to read it. I found the poems beautiful, moving, and joyous. "Floater" is powerfully moving devastating, but my favorite is "The Bard Shakes the Snow From Trees" concisely and beautify portraying one of my favorite poets, Donald Hall."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: "This novel based on the life of Lucy Stone made me truly appreciate her and the other remarkable women of her era who advocated for abolition and women's rights."

A reader from Pembroke read *Everyone on the Moon is Essential Personnel* by Julian K. Jarboe: "I like the author's style. It was surprising how much they could do within a 2-3 page story. I look forward to reading more of their work."

A reader from Hampden read *I Wish My Father* by Leslea Newman: "This book was a lovely tribute to the author's father."

A reader from Dracut read *Travels With George* by Nathaniel philbrick: "Enjoyable."

A reader from Erving read *Now It's Dark* by Peter Gizzi: "Deep! Deep, but not dark. Talks of afterlife, but not in a suicidal way. Not conceited or cocky, but wise. Poetry that if you don't get into it, you may not understand it. This author is a good friend of mine, we play pool league together. I told him about this challenge and how not only did i read his book for it, but that I read it in one day, and it was amazing! He very much appreciated it."

A reader from Lynnfield read "*Flamer*" by Mike Curato: "It was really clever how the illustrations looked similar to charcoal art and how warm colors were used for emotional moments and depictions of fire,

and Aiden had a clear, driven character arc of beginning to accept his sexuality in a predominantly-homophobic setting. It was a page-turner and I stayed up at night reading it!"

A reader from Braintree read *Light from a Distant Star* by Mary McGarry Morris: "Light from a Distant Star is a first-person coming-of-age story in the voice of 13-year-old Nellie, an inquisitive, talkative people-pleasing middle child who feels responsible for her struggling family and for their reputation in their gossipy small town when a scandalous murder is committed close to home, but also feels a responsibility to defend the man the rest of the town believes is guilty. The novel does better with family dynamics than with developing a suspenseful storyline."

A reader from Northampton read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "This book was so beautifully written and clearly every parents worst nightmare; that they don't actually know anything that is going on with their children. The merging of two worlds and cultures was highlighted really well in the context of tragedy."

A reader from South Yarmouth read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "It was enlightening to understand the challenges facing women and how the women's rights movement and the abolitionist movement were connected by so many advocates and how some could be for one cause and not the other."

A reader from Hopedale read *Monogamy* by Sue Miller: "This is the first book of Sue Millers that I have read. I enjoyed how she fully developed the main characters by their thoughts and feelings which determined many of their actions and reactions to different situations. Life is wonderful yet terrible as it is representative of life in general."

A reader from Cambridge read *Salem Witch Judge* by Eve LaPlante: "How did I not know this fascinating person before? LaPlante brings Sewall to life with all his flaws, brilliance and righteousness."

A reader from Franklin read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "This is a beautifully written story about family, grief, and mental illness. The characters are well-developed and likable, and I really enjoyed Ozeki's thoughtful use of the book itself as a narrator at various points throughout the story."

A reader from East Taunton read *Under a White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "It was enlightening to learn of Kolbert's travels around the globe, the relationships she forged along the way, in the context of the effects that humankind's use and abuse of our natural resources. I found it to be a sobering account but not a book without hope for the future; the earth and its inhabitants are tremendously resilient."

A reader from Springfield read *The Empathy Diaries* by Sherry Turkle: "Turkle writes about the messiness and complexity of relationships with family, loved ones, and colleagues and makes a compelling argument for why we should crave that rather than turn to the simplicity of technology. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and now want to read more of Turkle's writing on technology."

A reader from Sandwich read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "An amazing look at how the seemingly most innocent objects have a history (an insect wing, a hair) that is more involved than one thinks possible. I loved the juxtaposition of voices as well as the story itself."

A reader from Northampton read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: "Love, loss, hope, survival - the herstory of women and girls, especially Black and Indigenous women. Historian Tiya Miles gives not just

archival history but most importantly cultural history. Her writing reminded me of Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass* - a demand to see deeper than the surface, a demand to see memory and the power of love across time. I would re-read this book, it is the American story including its warts those past and current; it is the story of love and hope."

A reader from Sunderland read *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "A very thoughtful and introspective look at the concerning state our climate is in, and the questionable means we must employ to prevent further catastrophe— if we even can."

A reader from Buzzards Bay read *Woods burner* by John pipkin: "A lovely intertwining of lives. Insightful and thoughtful like Thoreau himself."

A reader from Amherst read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "The book was an adequate fictionalized account of Lucy Stone's life. I would have rather read a non-fiction biography because then I would know what really happened."

A reader from peabody read *The Smash-Up* by Ali Benjamin: "I liked this book. It kept me interested throughout the story."

A reader from Weymouth read *First Family* by Joseph J. Ellis: "Having been born in the same town as Abigail, I have read many books about her. I learned more about her and her life in this book than any other."

A reader from Barnstable read *The Inheritors* by Asako Serizawa: "I had difficulty finding a book that grabbed me, in this month's challenge. But it was worth the struggle because I found this book and am so grateful! It was excellent and I have recommended it to many!"

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "Really fascinating talking about the past and the present!"

A reader from Barnstable read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Really enjoyed this book. Celeste writing style is very comfortable and familiar all while delving deep into complex family relationships and the struggle to understand each other and ones self. Highly recommend."

A reader from Lowell read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "I absolutely adored this beautiful queer love story set in the 50s during the Red & Lavender Scare. I laughed, I cried, I did not want to put it down."

A reader from Craryville read *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk: "Wow! I sobbed at the end of this book for all the injustices in the world. This book very much reminded me of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and I think I might have actually enjoyed it more."

A reader from Amherst read *Travels With George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "A delight. Nice to see "behind the curtain" look, rather than having an disembodied narrator of a historical work."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Phase Six* by Jim Shepard: "I enjoyed the COVID play here and taking it in a different direction."

A reader from Melrose read *A Headful of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "What I liked about this book was the uncertainty of whether the narrator's sister was really possessed, or simply schizophrenic. But I was ultimately disappointed with the many unanswered questions when the story ended."

A reader from Essex read *A Head full of ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "I am not a fan of reality TV, so I did not really enjoy that aspect of the book. However, it was pretty creepy and had a surprising ending."

A reader from Northampton read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Beautifully crafted. Enjoyed floating through where poetry and prose meet."

A reader from Salem read *The chalk artist* by Allegra Goodman: "Absolutely loved! I discovered her via this monthly selection and feel like I've stumbled upon a jewel of an author."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Dream Catchers Code* by Barbara Newman: "Excellent book- loved seeing a group of young women empowered and working together to save the earth."

A reader from Harwich read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "Great book! Philbrick has a wonderful way of making history come alive."

A reader from Peabody read *The Idiot* by Fyodor Dostoevsky: "Excellent Boston Harvard based book."

A reader from Stoneham read *Revere Beach Elegy* by Roland Merullo: "I like how Merullo's life views change as he travels and meets people from different cultures. It can be easy to live in the bubble surrounding you from childhood, and traveling can definitely broaden it."

A reader from Braintree read *Outwitting History* by Aaron Lansky: "I enjoyed this book. The author's style of storytelling was engrossing and attractive. I had never heard of the Yiddish Book Center, despite the fact that it sits 20 miles from my hometown of Springfield. I plan to pay a visit to the center the next time I'm in Western MA."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt: "Great read for middle schools students."

A reader from Marstons Mills read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "A book about Oto, who identifies as a female, being forced to grow up as a boy, along with the bullying and abuse that come with it. Determination and love fuel his fire to become who she believes she truly is."

A reader from West Whately read *I Wish My Father* by Lealéa Newman: "When you get to a certain age your relationship with your parents shifts, and that is complicated. Newman's poems capture the delicate, messy, bittersweet feelings of this period of time when familial roles reverse between a parent and (adult) child."

A reader from Salem read *Mercury* by Margot Livesey: "Slow-building examination of the faults in a relationship, courtesy of a horse."

A reader from Braintree read *Extraterrestrial* by Avi Loeb: "Even though, I have a Bachelor of Science degree, Astrophysics is a bit above my level of science knowledge. Still, I found this nonfiction book to be very interesting and thought-provoking in regards to the possibility of other civilizations."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I liked the book, but some parts were a little slow paced. The ending was interesting."

A reader from Beverly read *The Imprisoned Guest* by Elisabeth Gitter: "I knew of Laura Bridgman's existence, but really nothing else about her. I really enjoyed learning about her life and the complicated, interesting personality of her "rescuer," Samuel Howe."

A reader from Weymouth read *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I enjoyed the book and I learned some facts like 2 dogs came on the Mayflower."

A reader from Beverly read *We Are Trees* by Maria Gianferrari.

A reader from Beverly read *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt: "This book was a bit confounding for me, because even though it supposedly takes place on the Cape, everyone in it speaks like they live down South. There were a lot of folksy sayings that seemed incongruous with the book itself, and even though it's a YA book, the protagonist read younger than she's supposed to be."

A reader from northfield read *a head full of ghosts* by paul tremblay: "this book kept me reading. i read it very fast, not realizing that i had already read a book by him (survivor song) and watched a movie based on one of his books (the cabin at the end of the world). i found this book extremely interesting and always wondering what it was that merry actually remembered and what was fiction. finding out at the end that she is the one who actually killed her parents was a great twist. i will be looking for more books by this author."

A reader from Ludlow read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I tried, tried, tried to finish this book but I found it a real challenge. I finally quit about 3/4 of the way thru. Intention was to challenge myself with something different--but just too different for me!"

A reader from Springfield read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "This historic fiction book was bittersweet and sad but serves as a solid example and reminder of how horrible things were during WWII. I wish the author would have shortened the book overall as I found myself skipping some of the details (seemed minutiae) and moving onto the dialogue that moved the story along. I also felt some parts could have been more literal. Fair, 3 out of 5."

A reader from Springfield read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "Very depressing but inspiring at the same time. The ending was OK but not satisfying enough for me. I wanted to feel better at the end."

A reader from Topsfield read *Floaters: Poems* by Martin Espada: "Intense, heartbreaking verses that offer a window into experiences I've never had, but only read about in the news and I'm books."

A reader from South Easton read *The Summoning* by J.P. Smith: "An engaging mix of mystery and light horror with supernatural elements."

A reader from Milford read *On Earth we're briefly gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "I wasn't sure of what I thought of this book at first, but I enjoyed it more as it went along. It's unique narrative would probably benefit from repeat reads."

A reader from Lincoln read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "A very interesting story about a gay teenage immigrant to the US. Explores relationships with his mother and lover. I recommend it."

A reader from Medway read *Don't Hug Doug* by Carrie Finison: "This was a clear and relevant message offered in a jovial manner."

A reader from Columbus read *The Lesson* by Caldwell Turnbull: "I enjoyed *The Lesson* but I found the ending a little underwhelming. What is there is good — and I loved his prose, would read more by Mr. Turnbull — but the story ultimately left too much unexplored and unanswered for me. Three stars."

A reader from Hingham read *The Inn at Lake Devine* by Elinor Lipman: "delightful, funny, rye."

A reader from Franklin read *How To Make a Slave and Other Essays* by Jerald Walker: "I loved this book and I highly recommend it! It is a collection of many short, powerful, fast-reading essays from different points in the author's life. Walker's profound essays draw us in and make us laugh, but they also show us how racism is still alive and well in our nation and until white people accept and acknowledge that fact, we can never cure this cancer. Walker's writing is so good! Please read this book!"

A reader from Wilbraham read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "Overall, I enjoyed the book but would have preferred more attention on character development vs. extensive descriptions of the video games."

A reader from Attleboro read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Heartbreaking story of family disfunction and the catastrophic results of not communicating, especially in the most basic of relationships - the family."

A reader from Woburn read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "This is a stunning and surprising work of beauty. Easily the best I've read in some time."

A reader from Dracut read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "The book got my attention right away and held it for most of the book, they I did feel like it got over-long with the history of the book. Nice twist at the ending."

A reader from Springfield read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Lots to unpack with this book. The experience of Vietnamese immigrants, of gay teenagers coming of age, untimely deaths due to drug use. Language is unbelievably beautiful even as the author deals with heartrending topics."

A reader from Braintree read *Everyone on the Moon is Essential Personnel* by Julian K. Jarboe: "This book of short stories of interesting characters is full of opportunities to reflect with."

A reader from Wilmington read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: "I felt this was a powerful window into an interesting time in American history. I really appreciated Lucy's drive to pave a new future for women as she spoke passionately on abolition and women's rights. I also appreciated the honest portrayal of the tradeoffs women had to make if they chose to become a wife and mother."

A reader from Attleboro read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: "I thought this was an amazing story following the fictional life of a historical woman. I loved this book and it left me reflecting how this was very recent history."

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "Interesting tale of what it means to be free and what freedom looks like for black Americans in Antebellum America and post-Civil War."

A reader from Reading read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: "I liked hearing about Lucy Stone and her role as an abolitionist and women's rights campaigner. But because this was fiction, it was hard to know what was true and what wasn't, though the author talked about this briefly at the end. It left me a little unsettled, like I was being manipulated a bit."

A reader from Salem read *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "This book was incredibly informative, albeit ominous. It was one of those books that has a sort of crucial importance, like you want to walk up to everyone you see and say "Hey!! You need to read this!!" One particular chapter inspired my current reading choice, a book about the importance of our smallest friends, bugs! I would recommend the Sixth Extinction to anyone who wants to learn more about the world we live in-- past, present, and future!"

A reader from Sandwich read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "An inciteful and entertaining view of George Washington, our first President and former military commander of the Revolutionary War. His goal as President involved taking 3 trips to learn best way to unify 13 colonies into 1 America. From 2018 to 2020. Mr. P. emulated GW's trips of 1789 to 1791. Each century posed both enjoyments and dangers and a romp through history comparing then and now."

A reader from Needham read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "This biographical novel is as absorbing as it is informative. Sherbrooke brings Lucy Stone, women's rights warrior, public speaker, advocate for universal suffrage, writer, editor, wife and mother to life. I especially appreciated the author's recreation of language appropriate to the 1800's - no jarring contemporary idioms."

A reader from Randolph read *World and Town* by Gish Jen: "A single Chinese American woman, a retired neuroscientist, and a family of refugees from Cambodia are all starting over in a small New England Town. Their experiences and experiences of each other are beautifully rendered, including references to the long history and culture of both Hattie, the main character, and the Cambodian family. How the characters attempt to assimilate into this small town is richly drawn, and is sometime beautiful, sometimes heartbreaking. Fascinating."

A reader from Wilmington read *The summoning* by J.P. Smith: "It was a very quick read. The story was well done, and left the ending moderately to the reader's imagination."

A reader from Melrose read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "I had never heard of Lucy Stone before this book, and I am really glad this book introduced me to her story. I highly recommend!"

A reader from Wakefield read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "Transports you to a time and place we rarely hear about, from a perspective that rarely gets the chance to be heard."

A reader from East Taunton read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "I love a character driven novel and this was it. 4/5 stars."

A reader from Tewksbury read *First Family* by Joseph Ellis: "Ellis weaves a great narrative - will be passing on this recommendation!"

A reader from Middleboro read *People of The Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "I enjoyed the book ( although "enjoyed" doesn't seem the appropriate word as the subject matter is about war and persecution). The book provides great insight into how the Jewish people have survived through all their tribulations by showing the determination, dedication and the perseverance of all the characters to preserve the Haggadah."

A reader from Northampton read *The Empathy Diaries* by Sherry Turkle: "I mostly enjoyed this although Part II was a bit dense as it got into her years in Paris and beginnings of her time as an academic."

A reader from peabody read *The book of form and emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "i liked this book but i was very sad for the family. it was interesting to hear from the main character's perspective. it really was a heartfelt story."

A reader from Milford read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "what if we paused, listened to what each bit contains? each thing's journey to right now? each each person's way of making it through? and the way we all do it together."

A reader from Beverly read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "I really loved how the characters made excellent use of the Earth without damaging it — it made me hopeful for what a post-apocalyptic world could look like?! Very strange sensation."

A reader from Boxford read *A Big Mooncake For Little Star* by Grace Lin: "I love this beautiful story of a mother and daughter, and I thought it was a really neat way to think about the moon. I also adore the illustrations and all of the little references they put in the front and back of the book for the big and little dipper. My daughter and I both love this book."

A reader from Hamilton read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "Loved the representation of LGBTQ+ people and stories in Nigeria."

A reader from Swansea read *Picturing a Nation* by Martin Sandler: "Quite humbling to see the photos, and interesting to learn the stories behind the photographers."

A reader from Lynnfield read *A Head Full of Ghosts: A Novel* by Paul Tremblay: "A tragic story, but a good page turner. The main character/narrator was my favorite part of the novel. I wish there had been some more detail or discussion about the illness that is the central driving force of the events in the novel, but overall I enjoyed a good read."

A reader from Beverly read *The List of Things that Will Not Change* by Rebecca Stead: "A delightful and deep story of the power of family and love."

A reader from Duxbury read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Ng has a way of writing people that feels very informed by psychology and I appreciate that. You can understand her characters' intentions and follow why they do the things they do as informed by their circumstances."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "A sweet book about self discovery as well as self acceptance."

A reader from Springfield read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "This year I am participating in the #massbookreadingchallenge. March's challenge/book is a Mass Book Award Honoree. My selection, *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon. What a powerful book about being born different. Different cultures have different ways of dealing with challenges and this one is not an easy one."

A reader from Scituate read *Alice Bliss* by Laura Harrington: "Fabulous read with reminders of life as a teenage girl with Alice's extra pressure of supporting her family while her dad was deployed! Very emotional on so many levels. Please always thank our Veterans and support their families if possible."

A reader from Melrose read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "I didn't love or hate it. Enjoyed that it took place locally."

A reader from Sutton read *The Thing about Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin: "I was so intrigued by the way the author organized this story with telling the past and the present simultaneously! The main character's journey was one of the best I've read, I couldn't put it down!"

A reader from Revere read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "It was a very interesting book. I have realized that I very much enjoy characters dealing with their daily activities, which led me to like this book."

A reader from Norwell read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I love both history and travel and when an award-winning historian who I love reading decides to follow in the first president's footsteps as a travelogue, well I am there for that every single time."

A reader from Marriottsville read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "An interesting perspective on the bias even within ones race based on physical characters. In this case clearly the darkness of ones skin affected how a person was perceived and treated. I felt that the story was very negative. I would not recommend it."

A reader from East Sandwich read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: ""It is incumbent on me to know myself." In a world where they are punished and taught to be afraid and ashamed of who they are, there is power in finding answers and language for their experience, and finding community who loves and support them as they are. This story is heart-wrenching and empowering and exquisitely written."

A reader from Middleboro read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "A road trip memoir and historical exploration of George Washington's travels as President. The two pieces were not woven as tightly as I would expect, but I learned a lot."

A reader from Lake Pleasant read *Colossus of Roads* by Christina Uss: "Cute kids' chapter book with clever plot that helps a kid both use his special talents and realize that other people have good ideas, too."

A reader from Somerville read *Hold Me Down* by Clea Simon: "Interesting to hear the mention of Boston landmarks and the music scene here (that I love) woven in between a true crime story (which I also love)! Great read."

A reader from Turners Falls read *Everything I never told you* by Celeste Ng: “An interesting, yet sad, read on family dynamics, race issues, society, the danger in keeping secrets, expectations and yearnings. I don’t have children, but I would hope that my molding of a child would not have been in this fashion.”

A reader from Forestdale read *Leaving Coy’s Hill* by Katherine A Sherbrooke: “I didn’t expect to love this book as much as I did. The very first story of her sister having no rights to her horse because she got married drew me in. We have come so far as women, yet still so much needs to be done.”

A reader from Sandwich read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: “This story had me both in tears and raising my arms in joy. Buki Papillon is nothing short of an artist. I highly recommend the audiobook version, as Adjoa Andoh’s reading adds an extra bit of magic in bringing the characters to life.”

A reader from Northborough read *The Book of Form & Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: “This was the story of a mother and son struggling with mental illness, grief, and loss. The book itself was a character in the story which was a unique approach.”

A reader from Bourne read *Revere Beach Elegy* by Roland Merullo: “I thought that it would be a little more about Revere and less self-reflection but I guess that I did read the summary correctly. It was interesting.”

A reader from Gill read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: “An enjoyable modern-day ramble through the original thirteen colonies with the author, his wife and their dog. Many interesting tidbits about George Washington and the people preserving his memory, including one bed that he actually did sleep in. Also some sobering facts about his relationship to slavery.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: “Such a stunning and also disturbing book. It is so beautifully written that I found myself rereading passages just so I could hear them in my head again and think about them some more. The subject of war and its effect on generations is sad and even horrific, but the unique format and elegant writing, along with the obvious love and connection between the characters really gives the reader a feeling of redemption.”

A reader from North Hampton read *Be a Tree!* by Maria Gianferrari. Felicita Sala, illus.: “Beautiful message and illustrations.”

A reader from Bolton read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: “I REALLY enjoyed this book! Following Lucy Stone's journey, along with her many celebrated contemporaries, was educational, emotional (I actually cried at the end.) and thought provoking. Lucy's passion is inspiring.”

A reader from Plymouth read *On Earth We Are Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: “This book is heart breaking and raw and real. The depiction of how war touches a family is crystal clear while also being so abstract.”

A reader from Three Rivers read *The brief wondrous life of Oscar wao* by Junot diaz: “I did not care for the story. It seemed like there was a lot of information that was unnecessary.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Leaving Coy’s Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: “I enjoyed learning about the rivalry between these strong women suffragettes. I didn’t know about Lucy Stone who is a more

interesting character than Susan B. Anthony who seems to take the spotlight in the history of women's suffrage."

A reader from Norwell read *Under A White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "This collection of reports/essays about various scientific and nature experiments was an interesting read, but I was surprised to see it had won awards and accolades from so many--I found parts of it pretty dry and a few of her observations odd, and I'm a big fan of nature essays. It's worth reading but personally I'd recommend other collections by practicing scientists/naturalists over those of journalists."

A reader from Beverly read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "What a wonderful book! Not only was the plot fabulous - alternating chapters between modern day and points of time throughout history, but there is so much to learn about book conservation and what can be learned from how a book is preserved throughout the centuries. In this present day of book bans and increasing religious intolerance, the anti-semitism/ anti-other sentiment portrayed in the book seemed particularly poignant."

A reader from Beverly read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: "I learned so much about Lucy Stone and her impact on women's rights. It is packed with history but also very readable. I never would have picked up this book if not for the Mass Book Challenge, so thank you!!"

A reader from Braintree read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "A heartbreaking story of loss and mental illness. Ultimately the story is uplifting and redeems itself at the end, but it was hard to get through at times."

A reader from Wilmington read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "This is an novelization of the life of 19th century abolitionist and feminist Lucy Stone. I found this a very interesting book as I had never heard of Lucy, although the book makes clear that she worked closely with many historical figures of the mid 19th century."

A reader from Plymouth read *Committed: Dispatches from a Psychiatrist in Training* by Adam Stern: "I previously worked at BIDMC in a non-clinical capacity and found it interesting to read Dr. Stern's perspective on working there as a clinician. He was very honest about his personal and professional life as he completed his internship and psychiatry residency. A moving first person account of a medical specialty that is so needed in this day and age."

A reader from Kingston read *The Summoning* by J.P. Smith: "The Summoning is a 2022 "must read fiction" selection and my kind of genre. It was a page turner from start to finish. I love of book that keeps me up late at night reading. I went onto to immediately purchase and I am currently "The Drowning" by the same author."

A reader from Somerville read *Everyone on the Moon Is Essential Personnel* by Julian K. Jarboe: "This book helped me get past my mental roadblocks to reading short stories with this clutch of tales wildly divergent in tone and voice. I loved our narrators who ranged from angry to apathetic. Jarboe's takes on the many ways a "body" can manifest was very cool!"

A reader from New York read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Really sad book about grief, mental illness and how death can effect a small family."

A reader from SALEM read *The Boy in the Field* by Margot Livesey: “To be honest this was a tough book to read and I felt like there was a lot I was may have been missing. From the description I was expecting a thriller or mystery but the leading scene seemed to be displaced and not applicable to the story.”

A reader from middleboro read *head full of ghost* by paul tremblay: “Paul tremblay brings his words into a picture of what it is like to live with someone with the signs of schizophrenia from the eyes of an eight year old little sister. the story flows smoothly and kept me reading late into the night. it's not medical jargon, it's a story of a family and love.”

A reader from Scituate, MA read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani Laroocca: “It was a very good book.”

A reader from Northampton read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: “Had an interesting concept and some lovely descriptions of nature, but I was disappointed by the overall slowness and lack of world-building.”

A reader from Hudson read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: “The author adroitly weaves together the lives of her characters — a young schoolteacher, an artist, two troubled teens, a videogame mogul, a viral marketer. I found the book emotionally powerful and beautifully written.”

A reader from Melrose read *The List of Things That Will Not Change* by Rebecca Stead: “Absolutely beautiful book, every child and adult I feel should read and would enjoy. Wonderfully describes a child working through real life scenarios and learning how to understand and sit with big emotions with the help of loving friends and family by her side.”

A reader from Hingham read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani Laroocca: “Beautifully written middle-grade novel about a young girl who feels stuck between two identities as she navigates adolescence in the 1980's. Come for the story, stay for the great characters, tasty food, and totally awesome music!”

A reader from Chester read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: “Interesting perspective of being Asian in the middle of the 20th century.”

A reader from Beverly read *Phase Six* by Jim Shepard: “It wasn't something I would normally read but I enjoyed it.”

A reader from Andover read *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* by Tiya Miles: “I loved how this book used material culture to bring to life stories of enslaved black women and their descendants.”

A reader from Beverly read *Something Wild* by Hanna Halperin: “A very tragic story that I feel did a pretty accurate picture of the effects of domestic violence.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Under A White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert: “This was an eye opening book about the climate as it is today and for the future. I was surprised by how many environmental things have already change and continue to change. It makes you wonder about the future of our planet.”

A reader from Hamilton read *Everything I never told you* by Celeste Ng: “Very good! Loved the writing, very beautifully written.”

A reader from Pittsfield read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "This half dystopia/half magical book wasn't for me. That mix written in the style of 1984/Anthem was off-putting in my opinion. Nice imagery of the mountains and forest though."

A reader from Dennis Port read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "The first 2/3 of this book was so malicious and abusive and stressful. I kept setting it aside and avoiding it. But it always drew me back because it was so fluidly written and dared to hope. I'm glad I finished it."

A reader from Lowell read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz: "I liked the magic realism aspects and the writing style. The portrayal of women made me uncomfortable at times. Overall, I wanted to enjoy it more than I actually did."

A reader from Enfield read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "This book is stunning, heartwrenching, and well deserving of every accolade it's received. I read it in like two days and I've been thinking about it ever since."

A reader from Kingston read *News from Heaven* by Jennifer Haigh: "An excellent book of short stories linked by the coal mining town of Bakerton, PA. The characters come alive on the page."

A reader from Beverly read *Cross of Snow* by Basbanes, Nicholas A.: "I really enjoyed getting to know this area in the Victorian time period through the lives of Henry and Fanny Longfellow."

A reader from Beverly read *Travels with George* by Philbrick, Nathaniel: "I found this book to be a very interesting concept, and I really loved the description of the locations from the past followed by the author's recent visit's description. I also enjoyed seeing the history of Washington through the lens of the positives and negatives in the light of a modern view of social justice. I was disappointed however that Beverly was on his travel map, but not included in the text."

A reader from Lowell read *Speculation* by Ed Pavlic & Ivelisse Rodriguez: "A refreshing mix of theories, science, and the art of articulation. A melting pot of groovy insights, polished concepts on improving humanity, and a welcomed heavy helping of modern philosophy."

A reader from Randolph read *Repentance* by Andrew Lam: "This book presented an interesting and human perspective on a disturbing historical event."

A reader from East Taunton read *Ketzel the Cat who Composed* by Lesléa Newman: "I really liked this book the inspiration it gives and that it is based on a true story."

A reader from Attleboro read *How to Make a Slave and Other Essays* by Jerald Walker: "I did not expect to enjoy this book as much as I did. Walker's essays are humorous and poignant, and made me realize that we are all racist and need to acknowledge it, as he says in his essay "The Heritage Room"."

A reader from Franklin read *The Wide Starlight* by Nicole Lesperance: "I didn't enjoy this book as much as I hoped. It was slow to develop but at the same time I wanted to know how it would end so I kept reading."

A reader from East Sandwich read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Very well written and engaging with a very original twist."

A reader from Hadley read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "This book explores so many aspects of being a young Chinese American woman coming into her own in San Francisco's Chinatown in the 1950s: racism, homophobia, McCarthy's red scare, girls in science, being an immigrant (whether documented or not), etc. So well written and sensitively so, I love these characters, particularly Lily (the main character) and Kath (the fellow student Lily is falling in love with)."

A reader from Erving read *Inheritors* by Asako Serizawa: "Although the book is interesting I did not enjoy reading some of the details of how war affected the lives of these people. It had more descriptions of what happens in wars than I enjoyed reading about. It's really rather depressing although I'm sure the details are fairly accurate. People responsible for wars should be forced to read it so perhaps they would have 2nd thoughts about starting a war although I doubt if it would have any affect on them."

A reader from Melrose read *Bubbles.. Up* by Jacqueline Davies: "A magical bubbly book with fabulous words!"

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Season of Open Water* by Dawn Clifton Tripp: "Between the read-between the lines imagery of landscape and in-depth intricacy of character development, this book held my interest. Very good book!"

A reader from Salem read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "Wow, this was an emotional read! It was truly fantastic and so realistic that I had to double-check that it wasn't a memoir. It's a heartbreaking reminder of how so many children lack the familial support needed to navigate difficult circumstances."

A reader from Belchertown read *Under a White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "A very relevant book for the time we are living in. The author explores how humans have had substantial impacts to the environment."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine A. Sherbrooke: "Solid historical fiction about Lucy Stone."

A reader from Danvers read *Everything I never told you* by celeste NG: "I liked this book because it taught me how important it is to listen to what your children really want in life. And how it is important to be honest among your family about your hopes and goals."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Written World* by Martin Puchner: "I learned a lot listening to this book--the story of Gilgamesh, how sacred texts (old and new testaments, buddhist sartras, confucious wisdom), are different from foundational texts. I also learned how new technologies (phonetic alphabet, paper, printing, automatic printing, and the digital age) influence literacy and spread of knowledge. I would never have listened to this book had it not been for the challenge!"

A reader from Lowell read *How to Make a Slave* by Jerald Walker: "All essays were short, but powerful. As a white woman, I appreciate the opportunity to have a glimpse, into what it is like growing up black man in the USA. I look forward to reading more of Walker's work."

A reader from Hampden read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "In the fashion of Dan Brown and Umberto Eco, Brooks has crafted a story that is part memoir ( of a book- the Sarajevo Haggadah), part

historical fiction, part religious history and all mystery/thriller. The past/present presentation of events holds one interest through the entire journey.”

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *The Technologists* by Matthew Pearl: “Ok. This was COOL. MIT was NOT considered science?? More witchcraft? (obv not really) Character development was incredible. (and i could HEAR the accents as i was reading them!)”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: “This book delivers an important message to anyone struggling with acceptance of their identity; LGBTQ+ youth in particular. As this book and books like it are banned for political reasons in school districts across the country, it's even more important to spread that message to those who need it the most.”

A reader from Weston read *Fly away* by Patrica Maclanchlan: “I really liked fly away one example why I liked it is because through the whole story I felt like they were a close family as you can see that is why I liked fly away.”

A reader from Melrose read *Human Zoo* by Sabina Murray: “I thought this book was just okay. It painted a vivid and interesting picture of life in the Philippines but the plot didn't pick up for me until the final 60 pages or so.”

A reader from Weston read *Wherever I go* by Mary wagley copp: “I thought it was a very well written. the book was about a girl that moved to a new country. she thought she was queen and it was interesting how she lived.”

A reader from Rockland read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: “I’m not a big graphic novel fan, but the story and art were good. I think this book will help people feel seen, and perhaps teach others as well.”

A reader from Somerville read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: “This was such a honest reflection of homophobia among friends and enemies! I love how Aiden’s internal thoughts addressed how hard it is to know your sexuality when you don’t have the words and you are in the midst of this deeply homophobic environment where the people tormenting you are men!!”

A reader from Westford read *Phase six* by Jim Shepard: “I found it a little alarming after going through covid.”

A reader from Somerset read *The Book of form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: “Bring a clinical therapist I was intrigued by the story concept but found it wordy and long winded at times.”

A reader from Franklin read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: “This novel is a sad tale about a family of misfits where everyone in the family has felt that they don't belong anywhere. The story opens with a suicide and from then on each person in the family tries to cope in their own ill-conceived way.”

A reader from Amesbury read *Under a White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert: “Mind-blowing, devastating, and also hilarious.”

A reader from Nashua read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: “I enjoyed the book. The story of the bear and his journey in the natural world was magical. The story of the girl alone, although sad, told a story of love and strength.”

A reader from Reading read *Picturing A Nation* by Martin W. Sandler: "Picturing a Nation is an excellent book. Beautiful and captivating photos of the US of the 1930s."

A reader from NIANTIC read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "An amazing story. At times hard to read because of the abuse and the hate the main character endures but so glad I stuck with it."

A reader from Lowell read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "I loved this book. Not only did it highlight the bond between mother and child, but also the resilience of the human spirit."

A reader from Hampden read *White Rose* by Kip Wilson: "This is a touching account of a young woman's courage and determination to sound the alarm on Hitler and his schemes. The book's format added to her sense of urgency as it made for a real page-turner!"

A reader from Enfield read *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt: "This was a great coming of age story. This is something I would recommend to my students."

A reader from Hamilton read *Under a White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "A fascinating and terrifying look into the attempts mankind is making to undo its own impact on our environment, by carefully considering three catastrophes of man's previous attempts to reshape our world, and the challenges in trying to undo them."

A reader from Salem read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "Very profound. I really enjoyed this story. Coming of age and very eye opening for women's history."

A reader from ATTLEBORO read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: "A deeply humanizing book, All That She Carried brings the readers into an intimate view of the lives of enslaved black women and their stories that have persevered. The book has much to teach us all about fighting for human life; five stars."

A reader from Salem read *The Resistors* by Gish Jen: "A very interesting take on a cyberpunk distopia. I thought the choice to have a POV from the dad to be a good one. It keeps the perspective constant as the main character grows up. Some of the naming conventions, while fitting with the evolution of modern slang might become outdated as the language shifts."

A reader from Centerville read *The Book Of Form And Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "This book is heartbreakingly beautiful and you can tell that from the first few pages in. It's written with so much care and craft and love that you can't help but love it."

A reader from Whately read *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles: "This story begins in South Carolina in the 1850's. It is a poignant story of love, loss, resilience and hope. Tiya Miles traces the journey of Ashley's sack which is passed down through three generations of Black women (Rose, Ashley and Ruth)."

A reader from Plymouth read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "I loved this book even though it ripped my heart into pieces. It took almost the whole month to actually get through it because I had to take so many breaks to cry or contemplate calling my mom in the middle of the night to tell her I love her. Easily a top 10 favorite book of all time."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Silent Boy* by Lois Lowry: "A nice look into the past of what life was like for a young girl born 100 years before me. I was most interested to see how an Autistic child lived and was treated at that time, as I am the mother of 2 Autistic children."

A reader from Palmer read *Say I'm Dead: A Family Memoir of Race, Secrets, and Love* by E. Dolores Johnson: "When E. Dolores Johnson's mother found out she wanted to learn about her white family, she told her, "You'll have to say I'm dead." But that didn't stop Dolores, a mixed-race woman who was born years before Loving v. Virginia ended miscegenation laws in the U.S., from learning about both sides of the family. What results is a phenomenal memoir illuminating both the personal and the general challenges of race in America through one family's story."

A reader from Charlton read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "This was an interesting story about secrets, desires and the impact on lives and relationships."

A reader from weymouth read *Hold Me Down* by Clea Simon: "This is a story of a middle age rocker who has been out of the industry for a while and returned to her hometown to benefit her bandmate, who passed away. She sees a familiar face in the crowd and frizzes. The next day he is found dead. The story switches back and forth between the present day and the past to give you a whole story."

A reader from Amherst read *These Truths* by Jill Lepore: "A massive tome about the history of the USA. More than 800 pages. Jill Lepore focuses on how the nation fulfilled and failed to fulfill the promises of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, with an emphasis on slavery and racial justice. I learned a lot in reading it."

A reader from Centerville read *The yellow bird sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "I have read many stories of Polish Jews during 2nd World War, these stories are very sad but important to remember, they really happened. While reading I put myself in the shoes of the main character and I was thinking what would I do to save my daughter, would I give her away? This story had a happy ending but many of them didn't. The worst part of it is that similar stories are happening in other countries at war."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Alice Bliss* by Laura Harrington: "I heartily recommend this book. It started with the familiar venue of a New England contra dance, beautifully portrayed the relationship of a daughter and father and showed the all-too-familiar tension between mother and adolescent daughter, and the emotional rollercoaster of high school friendships. Following the daughter's journey through the time from her father's preparation and deployment, MIA status, and death was heartbreaking. The portrayal of the shifting relationships between Alice and members of her family and community was touchingly realistic."

A reader from Stoneham read *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life* by Megan Marshall: "Fascinating. I meant to read it when it came out, but didn't get to it so I was glad to see it on the list of Mass Book honorees."

A reader from Middleboro read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I did not like this book at all! It was not what I was expecting. It was long, had a lot of characters, and was confusing as it jumped from voice to voice."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Silent Boy* by Lois Lowry: "This book was a very interesting story, and not one I would have picked up to read were it not for this reading challenge."

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "I love post-apocalyptic fiction but this was a sweet and sad approach to it. I loved how it incorporated familiar natural environments."

A reader from Centerville read *Shouting at the Rain* by Linda Mullaly Hunt: "A beautifully written novel for young people that deals with the complexity of families today. Set on Cape Cod where we have so many children being raised by grandparents. This should be required reading in our schools."

A reader from Harrisburg read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "It wasn't what I thought it would be, but I loved it all the same."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "A heart wrenching, deeply moving book about family relationships and a mystery."

A reader from Reading read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "The story and representation of queer Asians hits deeply and I'm so happy these kinds of stories exist and are being recognized now!"

A reader from Melrose read *Snow Falling in Spring* by Moying Li: "An incredible memoir, written by a young woman who lived through the turbulent and cruel times of modern China and survived with the help of her family and friends and an amazing spirit to survive."

A reader from EAST WEYMOUTH read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "Historical fiction set in 1950's San Francisco as a Chinese American high school girl struggles with her attraction to another woman while dealing with sexism, racism and McCarthy's Red Scare. Interesting but slow in parts."

A reader from Forestdale read *Devils Rock* by Paul Trembly: "Great read...An excellent story of fear and loss."

A reader from Woburn read *Saint X* by Alexis Schaitkin: "I wasn't sure about Saint X for the first 30 pages or so, and then I was hooked. The story is told through multiple perspectives, and the writing is beautifully descriptive. This is not a fast-paced thriller but a character-driven deep dive into issues including relationships (familial and friendships) and privilege. Wonderful debut novel!"

A reader from Attleboro read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "This book was beautiful and heartbreaking. Human connections with nature."

A reader from Spencer read *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* by Tiya Miles: "Beautifully written history. It really helps make a connection with what this sack may have meant."

A reader from South Weymouth read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "It was not a story that I normally would have read, but I found the story and writing captivating."

A reader from Hanover read *Rosemary the Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Larson: "This book presents fascinating information about one family and how they handled a child with developmental delays. The family tried to educate her, with limited success. She attended numerous schools, both

religious and nonsectarian. During these years children with developmental delays often lived in state institutions. Her parents finally agreed to a prefrontal lobotomy that further delayed her. After that she spent her life at a Catholic residential school in Wisconsin. She lived until the age of 83.”

A reader from Reading read *Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: “The characters in this book are so interesting, and I adore that the book is its own character. It's a beautifully written work, and I am inspired to read more from Ozeki.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: “An excellent novel based on the life of Lucy Stone a true pioneer of women's rights.”

A reader from Woods Hole read *The book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: “Very interesting perspective. The book is narrating the story and the main character can hear inanimate objects talk. Mind boggling but very interesting view of how mental health impacts the brain.”

A reader from Santa Cruz read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: “Loved the relationship of father and daughter and their relationship to their environment. Magical story. I've recommended it to many of my friends!”

A reader from Lowell read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: “Through the audiobook I was able to hear the emotions the author intended as they were the narrator. It touched on parts I could identify as a Southeast Asian American that felt both familiar and distant to the refugee's child experience.”

A reader from Beverly read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: “This was my second Geraldine Brooks novel and I can't wait to read more. I usually don't like books that jump around in time (back and forth), but nonetheless I enjoyed this one just as I enjoyed *Horse* (my first Geraldine Brooks novel), which also jumps back and forth in time. I can't wait to read more of her books.”

A reader from Hampden read *Because* by Amber Ren: “I liked the progression of the story.”

A reader from Beverly read *Brothers* by George Howe Colt: “Really enjoyed the historical accounts of the Booths and the Van Goghs intermixed with Colt's own personal stories with his brothers. As a brother myself, I was quite taken with rethinking my own relationships with my older brothers, who I love, admire, and compete with.”

A reader from Hopedale read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: “I've read so much about the American Revolution and the famous colonists we've all heard so much about. But this look at Washington as president and his need to reunite the country was all new to me, and so interesting.”

A reader from Florence read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: “Still reading, and don't want it to end. Love that the book itself is a character, and love how she writes about grief, family, being human, wonder, and the world.”

A reader from Arlington read *The Limits of the World* by Jennifer Acker: “I enjoyed this well written and engrossing book about immigration and family.”

A reader from Monson read *Windows* by Julia Denos; illustrated by E.B. Goodale: "This was one of the children's books I received at my baby shower, and I thought it was incredibly cute! It was a reminder of the days when I was younger and would walk through town, catching short glimpses into the lit up homes on the street. I found that fascinating and remarkable as a child--this book encapsulates that feeling."

A reader from Boston read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Such an interesting format, with the book as its own character, and it didn't feel gimmicky at all."

A reader from Lowell read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Such a compelling narrative about grief and family!"

A reader from Melrose read *The Empathy Diaries: A Memoir* by Sherry Turkle: "Interesting, with some surprising vignettes. By the end, I was very intrigued and want to find out more about her thoughts on the predominance of computers and social media in our lives."

A reader from Danvers read *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca: "A poignant and beautiful story of a first generation immigrant in America. It's a story of love, loss, finding one's identity, friendship, family, and community."

A reader from Middleboro read *When All the Girls are Sleeping* by Emily Arsenault: "Started slow but then I got invested. Spooky!"

A reader from Brewster read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "Another great Dennis Lehane book! This thriller keeps you riveted to the very end!"

A reader from Amesbury read *Leaving coys hill* by Katherine a Sherbrooke: "It took me long to read wasn't my type of book but I ended up like it more than I thought I would."

A reader from Reading read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: "This book was nearly impossible to put down. Malinda Lo is very gracious with her characters and wrote a beautiful coming of age story."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "This was a hefty book with a lot going on. I recommend reading it for yourself :)"

A reader from Wayland read *Rosemary the hidden Kennedy daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson: "I found this book hard to get through. I'm not a fan of nonfiction as well as because of Rosemary's disabilities we weren't able to get her perspective on anything. The boom focused a lot on her affect on her family rather than her for the most part."

A reader from Quincy read *Conversion* by Katherine Howe: "Conversion is a new favorite of mine! Compelling and interesting read set in Danvers, MA; I could see why it was a Mass Book Awards honoree."

A reader from Fall River read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "This graphic novel was fantastic! Read it in one day!"

A reader from Wilmington read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: “The Bear is an interesting book with a unique take on a future in which most of humanity has ceased to exist. The book focuses on life in tune with nature with no modern technology. I believe the book might be trying to speak on the importance of being in tune with nature and for humanity to not lose basic and old skills passed down from previous generations, in our every increasing technology driven world.”

A reader from Wakefield read *Something Wild* by Hanna Halperin: “It was a solid read. It was slow but it picked up. The familial relationships were quite interesting and sad.”

A reader from Sudbury read *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt: “A very sweet read that’s perfect for middle schoolers. A cozy and nostalgic setting on the Cape paired with a touching story about belonging during the turbulent time that is adolescence.”

A reader from Salem read *The Boy In The Field* by Margot Livesay: “I really enjoyed the unique narrative style, tranquil tone, and thematic ideas of humanity and family that are explored by this novel, which tells the story of three siblings and their personal mental, physical, and emotional journeys after they find a boy unconscious and wounded in a field. The book made use of three POVs between the siblings, and the words read almost like flowing water; telling one part of the story happening in the present, then rolling back to a past interjection or forward to a future conversation like an ocean wave. It was fluid and fascinating, and touched on many valuable lessons learned by the characters as they work through obstacles and come of age.”

A reader from Salem read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: “Enjoyed it more than I expected, made me want to go camping.”

A reader from Longmeadow read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: “Author Nathaniel Philbrick, his wife Melissa, and their dog, Dora, set out in 2018 to recreate George Washington's tour of the brand-new United States of America prior to and shortly after his inauguration as its first President. I felt as though I was a part of both journeys, as the 18th-century and 21st-century narratives intertwined and painted a vivid picture of our nation "then and now." I also came away convinced of how important Washington was to the success of the new nation. Highly recommended.”

A reader from Wakefield read *The Smash Up* by Ali Benjamin: “I loved this book and couldn’t put it down. It’s a great story centered around a family going through a mid life crisis who are surrounded by a toxic mentality.”

A reader from Northborough read *News From Heaven* by Jennifer Haigh: “I am a bit behind! This is my March book! If I am to be honest, I’m not quite finished but I love this book! It has “short stories inspired by a Pennsylvania coal-mining town” and each story is so well written and each one stays with you like a good novel does. I love how different characters from each family show up in each story. Jennifer is such a good writer and I look forward to reading more of her books!”

A reader from Franklin read *Picturing a Nation* by Martin Sandler: “A beautiful, modern display of the moving imagery from the Great Depression. A light look at the mission of the photographers sent out to document the country.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Brief Wonderful Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz: “The style of the author is unlike any other, seamlessly integrating history, language, dialogue, and narration. The story of Oscar Wao is beautiful, funny, and tragic.”

A reader from Quincy read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: “I knew essentially nothing about this historical time so it was nice to get this perspective from the POV of a young girl coming of age.”

A reader from Bondsville read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: “This was not my cup of tea - I had a hard time connecting to any of the characters, and wasn’t drawn into the story at all.”

A reader from Leominster read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: “An authentic look at racism, parental pressure and family dynamics.”

A reader from Northborough read *Leaving Coy’s Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: “Well written and educational! Little slow but I still enjoyed it and am glad I read it.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz: “I loved the shifting voices of the various narrators (which felt just right alongside the changing places and styles in the book) -- Lola’s was my very favorite, though!”

A reader from Burlington read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: “This book was a really powerful graphic novel about adolescence and finding ourselves. It has really stayed with me even though I finished it quickly.”

A reader from Beverly read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: “Interesting book. The author makes a fair attempt to address the hypocrisy of celebrating newfound freedoms while still enslaving a large percent of the population, but it's touched on very lightly. Overall, I enjoyed the history, but I kept comparing this book to David McCullough's excellent "1776" and it didn't quite measure up.”

A reader from Northampton read *How to Make a Slave and Other Essays* by Jerald Walker: “Brief, powerful essays ranging from funny to fuming, ranging across the dimensions of Black male experience as a person, a parent, and a professor.”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Leaving Coy’s Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: “Excellent "time" and "place" novel. Interesting story of life in the 1800s and a woman's battle against slavery and against the lack of women's rights in our country at that time.”

A reader from Hadley read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: “I loved how the narrative moved around in time— historical fiction of several different eras and places. Fascinating that parts are based on true events.”

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: “Picked this book as not only did it fit the month of March challenge but I have a road trip this April where I am visiting Mount Vernon. I really enjoyed learning about a side of George Washington that I was not taught of in school, a man of the people. I also enjoyed the authors personal journey with his wife and dog as they visited some of the same places Washington visited after becoming president. The author really did his research before venturing out on their journey and really liked the commentary and people they met along the way.”

A reader from Malden read *White Hot Hate: A True Story of Domestic Terrorism in America's Heartland* by Dick Lehr: "Very quick read and accessible writing about a potentially horrible event, had it not been foiled by a local guy doing good."

A reader from Springfield read *The Chalk Artist* by Allegra Goodman: "I enjoyed the insight into the addictive lifestyle of gamers."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Something Wild* by Hannah Halperin: "At times brutally raw, *Something Wild* is a story of two sisters, Nessa and Tanya, and their mother Lillianne. The girls return home thinking they will help their mom do a little downsizing, but in the process confront some pretty awful truths and the consequences of covering for someone you think you love."

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak: "I loved it! It was oddly relaxing for a post-apocalypse world but beautifully written."

A reader from Beverly read *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "Published in 2006, this book is totally relevant in today's discussion of First People and Land Acknowledgement. Philbrick is an excellent writer, an engaging storyteller. There was so much I did NOT know about the early settlement of (now) New England: a more complete understanding of the Pilgrims and the roots of our state and national culture; the relationship to Indigenous populations; and the realization that broken treaties, theft, exploitation, and massacres were behaviors practiced by the colonists --- long before the Trail of Tears and Wounded Knee (for example). Absorbing and sobering."

A reader from Teaticket read *Saving American Beach* by Heidi Tyler King: "Although a children's book, it thoughtfully focused on environmental issues that we adults need to care about. In a few pages, gave insight into the special life & contributions of MaVynee Betsch."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Alice Bliss* by Laura Harrington: "Moving account of a military family, especially the older daughter, when the Dad is sent to Iraq. Well worth reading."

A reader from Uxbridge read *A Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "I found this book more sad than scary. The mental illness of a teen girl turned into a reality show was sad."

A reader from Reading read *On Earth We're briefly gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "I liked the premise, but the constant shift in time made it difficult for me to be engaged, often having to reread passages a few times before they landed."

A reader from Stanford read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Katherine Sherbrooke: "I enjoyed reading about Lucy Stone, the first woman in Massachusetts to receive a college degree. Her courage in advocating for the abolition of slavery and in defending women's rights are still relevant today."

A reader from Beverly read *Twins* by Varian Johnson, Shannon Wright: "I really liked the book and the different personalities of Maurine and Francine. I also enjoyed the art style and the illustrations."

A reader from North Bethesda read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "It was overly long and hard to invest in. Pieces really shone and some dragged. Felt young even though it wasn't written for young readers."

A reader from South Hadley read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "An epistolary novel, it read as a long, but not quite epic, poem. It was emotionally raw and beautiful, and kept me thinking about it when I wasn't reading it."

A reader from East Sandwich read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks: "I love the jumps between the past and the present, and the weaving of a fictional story with real history."

A reader from Allston read *The book of form and emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "The main characters were very hard to sympathize with, but they gave the reader a fair insight into institutionalization, mental illness and the power of books."

A reader from Salem read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Great book with a unique narration and perspective that creates a lot of empathy for its characters."

A reader from Wilmington read *Libertie* by Kaitlyn Greenidge: "The life of a young woman struggling to find herself in the scope of freedom and motherhood is told through the poetic and lyrical lines of this book. I think I best enjoyed the last few chapters. The ending was more of a beginning."

A reader from Dartmouth read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozecki: "Totally original, heartbreaking and heartwarming."

A reader from Hanson read *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "Interesting to see where Washington traveled then and how it is now."

A reader from Wakefield read *Travels with George* by Philbrick: "Not my favorite. Just read it for the challenge."

A reader from fitchburg read *All that She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* by Tiya Miles: "Interesting and eye opening account of the importance and historical value of family keepsakes."

A reader from Salem read *Flamer* by Mike Curato: "I loved this graphic novel. I thought the story was realistic and the imagery was great."

A reader from Salem read *Dandelion Magic* by Darren Farrell: "As a dandelion wisher myself, Dandelion Magic was not what I expected. It's an interactive adventure where the outcome is based on your ability to bring out your inner child and act a little silly with your little one as you guide the MC to safety."

A reader from Greenfield read *The bok on form and emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "I really liked this book which taught me quite a lot about the personal experiences of people who hear voices. It was very informative about the lives of people who we label as "mentally ill.""

A reader from READING read *Outwitting History* by Aaron Lansky: "Even though this is non-fiction, it reads like an adventure novel. I learned more about Yiddish in the first four chapters than my whole life!"

A reader from Shelburne Falls read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "Weaves sadness and complex feelings into beautiful art."

A reader from Pelham read *Travels With George* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I was disappointed in the author's retelling of Washington's journey. I thought he inserted himself too much into the story."

A reader from Melrose read *MotherKind* by Jayne Anne Phillips: "This was a beautifully written story about a young woman who, as she became a mother, she took us on a journey through caring for her terminally ill mother as well as negotiating her new roles as a mother, step-mother and new wife. I liked the way she did not lose herself in all of this caretaking, in spite of the heavy responsibilities on her."

A reader from Melrose read *MotherKind* by Jayne Anne Phillips: "This story involved a young woman's journey through being a caretaker for her terminally ill mother while balancing being a new mother, stepmother and new wife. I was pleased that this protagonist was able to carve out time for herself as she carried the weight of caring for all of her loved ones. The key to this seemed to be the amount of support she received from others."

A reader from Agawam read *Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "Honestly, I had to force myself to finish this one. The story was okay, but it was way too long!"

A reader from Wilmington read *Everything I never Told Ypu* by Celeste Ng: "Beautifully written!"

A reader from Reading read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "Beautiful, angst-ridden characters and incredible family dynamics. So many issues here—racial, sexual, psychological. Extremely impactful."

A reader from Northampton read *Winter Recipes from the Collective* by Louise Glück: "Evocative, elegaic, spare."

A reader from Northborough read *Spirit run* by Noe Alvarez: "I really liked the book because the author shared his experiences very well regarding being the son of immigrants and how that influenced his life and the interest to learn more about his roots. The run did not go as expected since he experienced injury, bullying and bad weather conditions so that the whole trip was a lot more than to be part of the run for peace and freedom."

A reader from Beverly read *Mapping the Bones* by Jane Yolen: "Really good and really sad."

A reader from Worcester read *Cross of Snow: A Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* by Nicholas A. Basbanes: "Superbly researched biography of Longfellow, offering fresh insights into the man, his family, his works and his friendships. Truly excellent book."

A reader from Salem read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "This is a beautiful story of healing. Each of the characters is dealing with an assortment of trauma on their own, and it's only by coming together and opening themselves up to their own truths that they're able to clear out the emotional, mental, and physical garbage in their lives and to accept help from others."

A reader from Monument Beach read *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng: "So beautifully written and easy to read despite the tragic undertone. It was interesting to read, too, about racism against Asian

Americans in the 50s/60s/70s just at the time when the first Asian American was awarded an Oscar for best actress.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: “This book was a deep dive into what is real and not, what is psychosis and what is a true connection to the world around us. I loved that the author used the book of Benny Oh as one of the narrators and also a main character. The idea that books are more than objects, but also living forces in our lives really resonated with me. This book really needs more than 2 sentences to tell how I feel about it.”