

Heed to the Reads

BOOKS COME TO LIFE DURING THE SUMMER GR READS PROGRAM



BY BRI KILROY

Where will you go when you open to the pages of a new book or pop in its audiobook during a lengthy commute? It's a delightfully impossible question to answer because part of the thrill of delving into a new story is you never know where it will take you. You can answer that excitement with the 10 dynamic titles selected for this summer's GR Reads program at the Grand Rapids Public Library (GRPL).

"We're trying to reach all types of reading styles," GRPL communications manager Kristen Krueger-Corrado said about choosing the selections for the annual summer program. The result is a fleet of suggested reads ranging from fiction, non-fiction, humor, drama, mystery, wellness and more. "This program is designed toward what interests you," Corrado continued.

The goal of GR Reads is to introduce readers, vigorous and casual, to new books and encourage people to read for pleasure. Readers have the power to enter a new world whether it's the site of a sunken World War II German U-boat off the coast of New Jersey (*Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson), other cultures' bizarre traditions when it comes to love (*Modern Romance* by Aziz Ansari), or the inner arguments between a washed-up football star and a dead realtor, who manifests himself as a voice inside the former sports giant's head (*The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man* by W. Bruce Cameron). See the full list of GR Reads 2016 at GRPL.org/GRREADS.

Paired with each read are events that invite people to experience and explore the books' messages in a number of ways. Discussions led by Dr. Sherry Johnson (June 8, 7 p.m.) and a panel composed of Jamon Alexander, Dr. Andre Fields, Tony Jolliffi and Joe Jones (June 16, 7 p.m.) reveal a connection that people in our community have with author Ta-Nehisi Coates' experiences in *Between the World and Me*. Wellness activities like Tai Chi in the Park (June 15, 6:30 p.m.) and Meditation 101 (June 30, 7 p.m.) touch on self-help themes related to Dan Harris' *10% Happier*. Find all activities at the GRPL website.

GRPL is stocked with plenty of copies of 2016's GR Reads selections (hard copy, ebook and audio) for those eager to explore literature. Use your GRPL card to join the fun and, if you don't have a library card, visit any of the library's branches with proof of your home address and get yours for free.

Events are open to everyone, no library card required, and GRPL looks forward to hanging out with you this summer.

What: GR Reads 2016

Where: Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library St. NE

When: June 1-August 31

Why: To find adventure within a story and your community

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