

# CLARKSTON INDEPENDENCE DISTRICT LIBRARY

---

## Book Club in a Bag by Title

Need help getting books for your book club? We have **Book Club in a Bag** available in a variety of titles for you to choose from. Each **Book Club Bag** has **10 copies of the book and Discussion Questions.**

**If you would like to check out a Book Club Bag, take the book card to Circulation and they will pull the bag of your choice. If you have any questions, please stop by the information desk and a Librarian will assist you.**

---

***All the Light We Cannot See** by **Anthony Doerr** A blind French girl and German boy's paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.*

***Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age** by **Kevin Boyle**. 1925 Detroit was a place of tension from racism as varying nationalities looked for jobs & housing. In the jazz-age era of changing ethics, a slave's grandson moves to a white neighborhood & is threatened with eviction.*

***The Art Forger** by **B.A. Shapiro** Several years after the art heist at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the largest unsolved art theft in history, one of the stolen Degas paintings is delivered to the Boston studio of a young artist, Claire Roth.*

***Astrid and Veronika** by **Linda Olsson** Four women two decades apart in age, share their emotional scars while living next door to one another in a small Swedish town.*

***Before We Were Yours** by **Lisa Wingate** Based on the real lives of the children placed in a corrupt Tennessee Children's Home Society Orphanage. Children were stolen from their families and adopted by those who had the money to "buy" a child. When the corruption was discovered it caused quite a scandal.*

***The Buddha in the Attic** by **Julie Otsuka** Presents the stories of six Japanese mail-order brides. Their new lives in early twentieth-century San Francisco are marked by back breaking migrant work, cultural struggles, children who reject their heritage and the prospect of wartime internment.*

***Calling Me Home** by **Julie Kibler**. Isabelle McAllister asked her hairdresser, Dorrie Curtis to drive her from Texas to Cincinnati to attend a funeral. In 1930 Kentucky, when Isabelle was a teen, she fell in love with Robert Prewitt, the black son of her family's housekeeper, in town where blacks weren't allowed after dark. The forbidden relationship had tragic consequences, so Dorrie and Isabelle are headed for a gathering of the utmost importance.*

***Case Histories** by **Kate Atkinson** Private detective, Jackson Brodie works on three cases involving past crimes that occurred in and around London.*

***Cutting for Stone** by **Abraham Verghese** Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of an Indian nun and a British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution.*

***Destiny of the Republic:*** by **Candace Millard.** President James Garfield was shot less than four months into his presidency. A series of medical errors resulted in his death, although the bullet wounds were not fatal.

***Devil in the White City*** by **Erik Larson** A story of two men, Daniel H. Burnham and architect for the fair's construction, & H. H. Holmes serial killer, masquerading as a doctor.

***The Dinner*** by **Herman Koch** A dark suspenseful and controversial tale of two families struggling to make the hardest decision of their lives - over the course of one meal.

***Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*** by **Anne Tyler** Pearl Tull is nearing the end of her life, but not her memory. Since 1944 when her husband left her, she raised her three children on her own. Now grown, they gather together with anger, hope, and a beautiful, harsh and dazzling story to tell.

***The Dovekeepers*** by **Alice Hoffman** Nearly two thousand years ago, nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. This tale, inspired by this tragic first-century massacre, tells the stories of a few of these people.

***Educated: a Memoir*** by **Tara Westover.** Tara Westover, born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, never saw a doctor or nurse, and was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. One of her brothers went to college and brought back news of the world. So she decides to teach herself mathematics, grammar, and science to take the ACT and was admitted to Brigham Young University. As she moves forward in her quest for knowledge, she wonders if she has journeyed too far, and if she still has a way home. In her memoir, Westover gets to the core of what an education is and what it offers: to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it.

***Ella Minnow Pea: a Novel in Letters*** by **Mark Dunn.** Recounts what happens when the citizens of an island must rely on all their ingenuity to communicate in an increasingly limited language when the government progressively bans letters from the alphabet.

***Euphoria*** by **Lily King** Frustrated by his research efforts and depressed over the death of his brothers, Andre Banson runs into two fellow anthropologists, a married couple, in 1930s New Guinea and begins a tumultuous relationship with them.

***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*** by **Jonathan Safran Foer.** Oskar Schell, the 9 year old son of a man killed in the World Trade Center attacks, searches the five boroughs of New York City for a lock that fits a black key his father left behind.

***Five Quarters of the Orange*** by **Joanne Harris.** Framboise Simon returns to a small village on the banks of the Loire, and locals don't recognize her as the daughter of the infamous woman they hold responsible for a tragedy during the German occupation.

***The Girl on the Train*** by **Paula Hawkins** Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and watches the same couple breakfasting on their deck. Their life, as she sees it, is perfect... until she sees something shocking. Rachel goes to the police, and becomes inextricably entwined in the lives of everyone involved.

***Glory over Everything: Beyond the Kitchen House*** by **Kathleen Grissom.** Jamie Pyke, son of both a slave and master of Tall Oakes, has a deadly secret that compels him to take a treacherous journey through the Underground Railroad.

***The Golem and the Jinni*** by **Helene Wecker** Jewish and Arab folk mythology are combined in the story of two supernatural creatures, Chava, a Golem and Ahme, a Jinni made of fire who forms an unlikely friendship on the streets of turn-of-the-century New York.

***The Goldfinch*** by **Donna Tartt** The story begins with an explosion at the Metropolitan Museum that kills Theo Decker's mother and results in Theo having possession of a Dutch masterwork called *The Goldfinch*.

***The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*** by **David McCullough**. David McCullough tells the enthralling, inspiring—and until now, untold—story of the adventurous American artists, writers, doctors, politicians, and others who set off for Paris in the years between 1830 and 1900, hungry to learn and to excel in their work. What they achieved would profoundly alter American history.

***The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society*** by **Mary Ann Shafer & Annie Barrows** In 1946, as London is emerging from the shadow of WWII, writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a founding member of the Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society. So begins a tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation.

***Halcyon Fury*** by **R. Anton Hough** A graduate student is found mortally injured on the research ship *Halcyon*, and Paul Tyson is charged with attempted murder, having earlier threatened his fellow student for plagiarizing his data.

***The Handmaid's Tale*** by **Margaret Atwood** This look at the near future presents the story of Offred, a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, once the United States. It is an oppressive world where women are no longer allowed to read (signs are now pictures instead of words) and the handmaids are valued only as long as they are viable for reproduction. Funny, unexpected, horrifying, and altogether convincing.

***The Happiness Advantage: The Seven Principles of Positive Psychology that Fuels Success and Performance at Work*** by **Shawn Achor**. Recent discoveries in the field of positive psychology have shown that happiness fuels success, not the other way around. Achor isolates seven practical, actionable principles that show how to capitalize on the Happiness Advantage to improve performance and maximize potential.

***The House at Riverton*** by **Kate Morton** Grace Bradley worked at Riverton House as a servant before the First World War, and her life revolved around the two daughters. In 1924, at a society party held at the house, a young poet shot himself. The witnesses were Grace and the two daughters. In 1999, Grace was 98 yrs old, living in a nursing home. A film was being made about those events. Grace, going back to Riverton House, reawakens her memories.

***The Husband's Secret*** by **Liane Moriarty** Discovering a tattered letter that says she is to open it only in the event of her husband's death, Cecelia is unable to resist reading the letter and discovers a secret that shatters her life and the lives of two other women.

***The Immortalists*** by **Chloe Benjamin**. In New York City's Lower East Side, word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, and psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold children, four adolescents, sneak out to hear their fortunes. The prophecies inform the children about their next five decades.

***In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson.** The time is 1933, the place, Berlin, when William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany during Hitler's rise to power. This was the year that proved to be a turning point in history. This eyewitness perspective on events, as they unfold in real time, reveal an era of surprising nuance and complexity. The result is a dazzling, addictively readable work. It speaks volumes about why the world did not recognize the grave threat posed by Hitler until Berlin, and Europe, were awash in blood and terror.

***The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd** The story follows Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid.

***The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom** The author brings to life a Virginian plantation in the decades before the Civil War, A secret threatens to expose the best and worst in those tied to the estate. The novel unfolds in a heartbreaking and hopeful story of class, race, dignity, deep-buried secrets, and familial bonds.

***Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders & the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann** A true life murder mystery in American history about the Osage Native Americans, the FBI, and how oil was an important part of this crime. The Osage Native Americans were the richest tribe because of oil found in their Nation, but many of the Osage were being murdered, and the FBI came to solve this mystery.

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini** This book traces the friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son, in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through atrocities of the present day.

***The Light between Oceans* by M. L. Stedman** A Lighthouse keeper lives in Janus Rock where a baby washes up in a rowboat and he and his wife raise the child as their own.

***Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng** In Shaker Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned. And Elena's guiding principle is playing by the rules. An artist, a single mother, arrives with her teenage daughter and rents a home from the Richardsons. They soon become friends. But when an old family friend of the Richardsons attempts to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town and causes a rift in their friendship.

***The Little Paris Bookshop: A Novel* by Nina George.** Monsieur Perdu calls himself a literary apothecary. From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, he prescribes novels for the hardships of life.

***Love & Ruin* by Paula Mclain** In 1937, Martha, 28 yrs, old, travels alone to Madrid to report on the atrocities of the Spanish Civil War. She becomes drawn to stories of ordinary people caught in the conflict and feels this is her chance to prove herself a worthy journalist. In the process, she finds herself falling in love with Hemingway. Set against the atmosphere of Madrid and Cuba, just before World War II, their relationship and careers elevate. Ernest publishes the literary success of his career, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and now, they are not equals in their careers. Martha must make the decision of surrendering to the demands of being a famous man's wife or risk losing him by moving forward on her own course as a writer.

***Loving Frank: A Novel* by Nancy Horan** In the early 1900's, married architect Frank Lloyd Wright eloped to Europe with the wife of one of his clients. The scandal rocked Oak Park, Illinois.

**Magpie Murders** by **Anthony Horowitz**. When editor Susan Ryeland is given the manuscript of Alan Conway's latest novel, she has no reason to think it will be much different from any of his others, as she is familiar with his detective, Atticus Pünd, who solves mysteries disturbing sleepy English villages. Alan's traditional formula has proved hugely successful. So Susan must continue to put up with his troubling behavior if she wants to keep her job. Conway's latest tale has Atticus Pünd investigating a murder at Pye Hall, a local manor house. The more Susan reads, the more she's convinced that there is another story hidden in the pages of the manuscript: one of jealousy, greed, ruthless ambition, and murder.

**Maisie Dobbs** by **Jacqueline Winspear** Maisie Dobbs got her start as a maid in an aristocratic London household when she was thirteen, with her employer taking Maisie under her wing.

**Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by **Helen Simonson** An Englishman clings to traditional values and tries to pass them to his son, while fighting to keep his greedy relatives from selling a valuable family heirloom.

**A Man Called Ove** by **Frederik Backman** A curmudgeon hides a terrible personal loss beneath a cranky and short-tempered exterior while clashing with new neighbors - a boisterous family whose chattiness and habits lead to unexpected friendship.

**Mary: Mrs. A. Lincoln, a Novel** by **Janis Cooke Newman** Abraham Lincoln's widow was committed by her son in 1875. Kept awake by the bedlam of her fellow inmates, she takes up a pen to block out the screams & moans of other inmates, & to save her own sanity.

**Me Before You** by **Jojo Moyes** Louisa, an ordinary girl, and Will, who is wheelchair bound after a motorcycle accident, had nothing in common until love gave them everything to lose.

**Middlesex** by **Jeffrey Eugenides** Calliope's friendship with a classmate, and her sense of identity, are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite.

**The Midwife of Hope River: The Novel of an American Midwife** by **Patricia Harman** The Great Depression years of the 1930's show a remarkable heroine, Patience Murphy, as a midwife struggling against disease, poverty, prejudice, and her own haunting past.

**The Miniaturist** by **Jessie Burton** Engaging the services of a miniaturist to furnish a cabinet-sized replica of her new home, Nella Oortman, wife of a merchant in 17th century Amsterdam, discovers the artist's tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in eerie and unexpected ways.

**Moloka'i** by **Alan Brennert** Rachel Kalama, a 7 year old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far-off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. One day a rose-colored mark appears on her skin, and those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, she is sent to the island of Moloka'i.

**My Antonia** by **Willa Cather** First published in 1918, and set in Nebraska in the late 19th century, this is a tale of the spirited daughter of a Bohemian immigrant family planning to farm on the untamed land and comes to us through the romantic eyes of Jim Burden.

**News of the World: a Novel** by **Paulette Jiles** In the aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader, gives live readings from newspapers to paying audiences. He is offered a \$50 gold piece to deliver a young captive of the Kiowa to her relatives in San Antonio, and he agrees to do it. The journey is difficult and dangerous. As the miles pass, they form a bond. When her aunt and uncle feel she is an unwanted burden, he is faced with the choice to abandon the girl to her fate, or become a kidnapper himself.

***The Nightingale***; by **Kristin Hannah** Viann and Isabelle have always been close despite their differences. When World War II strikes and Antoine is sent off to fight, Viann and Isabelle's father sends Isabelle to help her older sister cope.

***A Northern Light*** by **Jennifer Donnelly** In 1906, 16 year old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest.

***On The Occasion of my Last Afternoon*** by **Kaye Gibbons** In 1990, aged Emma Garnet Tate Lowell recalls her hard life. Raised on a plantation, Emma opposed slavery because of her contempt for her monstrous father. Escaping him via marriage, she finds peace with her husband, three daughters, and a faithful servant.

***Once In a Great City: a Detroit Story*** by **David Maraniss**. It is 1963 and Detroit is on top of the world. The city's leaders are among the most visionary in America: Henry Ford II; labor leader Walter Reuther; Motown founder Berry Gordy; the Reverend C.L. Franklin and his daughter, Aretha; Governor George Romney; super car salesman Lee Iacocca, and Martin Luther King. It was a time full of promise. But in ***Once in a Great City***, David Maraniss shows that the shadows of collapse were evident even then.

***Orphan Train*** by **Christina Baker Kline** Molly has a community service position helping an elderly woman, Vivian, clean out her home. As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, she learns that they share similar stories. As a young orphan in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies were determined by luck and chance.

***The Orphan's Tale: a Novel*** by **Pam Jenoff**. Sixteen-year-old Noa, forced to give up her baby fathered by a Nazi soldier, snatches a child from a boxcar containing Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp. Noa and the infant take refuge with a traveling circus, where Astrid, a Jewish aerialist, becomes her mentor. At first rivals, Noa and Astrid soon forge a powerful bond. But as the facade that protects them proves increasingly tenuous, Noa and Astrid must decide whether their friendship is enough to save one another—or if the secrets that burn between them will destroy everything.

***The Other Typist*** by **Susan Rindell**. Rose Baker is a 1920's police stenographer. As a typist for the New York City Police Department, she sits in judgment like a high priestess. But as soon as she leaves the room, she reverts to a proper lady, until Odalie joins the typing pool, and Rose falls under her spell.

***The Paris Wife*** by **Paula McLain**. In this fictional memoir, Hadley Hemingway chronicles the life and career of her husband, famed twentieth century writer Ernest Hemingway.

***Pope Joan*** by **Donna Woolfold Cross**. When her older brother is killed, Joan a rebellious ninth century woman, assumes his identity, enters a monastery and becomes a great Christian scholar, eventually attaining the throne of the Pope.

***The Rosie Project*** by **Graeme Simsion** Don Tillman, a professor of genetics, sets up a project and questionnaire designed to find him the perfect wife. Then he meets Rosie, who is everything he's not looking for in a wife.

***Season of Water and Ice*** by **Donald Lystra** Set in 1957 in rural northern Michigan, this is the coming of age story of a young teenaged boy who lives alone with his father following the sudden departure of his mother.

***The Secret Scripture*** by **Sebastian Barry** The novel pits two contradictory narratives against each other in an attempt to solve the mystery of a 100-year-old mental patient.

***Silver Sparrow: a Novel by Tayari Jones.*** In 1980's Atlanta, two teenage girls become friends with only one knowing that they are in fact both daughters of the same bigamist father. As their friendship develops their father's secret begins to unravel.

***The Silent Wife: a Novel by A.S.A. Harrison.*** Told in alternating voices, this novel follows the events leading up to the violent dissolution of Jodi and Todd's marriage, a union steeped in lies, infidelity, jealousy, and denial.

***The Sisters: The Saga of the Mitford Family by Mary S. Lovell.*** This is the story of a close, loving family splintered by the violent ideologies of Europe between the world wars. In this book, Mary Lovell captures the vitality and drama of a family that took the twentieth century by storm and became, in some respects, its victims.

***Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult.*** Ruth, a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital for 20 years, begins a routine checkup on a newborn only to be told that she will be helping a different patient. The parents white supremacists, don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and is charged with a serious crime. A white public defender takes her case but gives unexpected advice: that mentioning race in the courtroom is not a winning strategy. As the case becomes a media sensation and the trial moves forward, Ruth and her defender come to see that what they have been taught about others, and themselves, might be wrong.

***A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler*** The changing needs of aging parents impact a family gathering during which Abby Whitshank relates how her husband and she fell in love during the summer of 1959 and shares decades of marriage impacted by children and long-held secrets.

***Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel*** A novel about art, fame and ambition set in eerie days of civilizations collapse. The story moves back and forth in time from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theater troupe known as the Traveling Symphony roams the wastelands of what remains.

***Still Life by Louise Penny*** Residents of a tiny Canadian village, Three Pines, are shocked when Mrs. Jane Neal's body is found in the woods. It's deer hunting season and a stray arrow killed her. Some folks are suspicious, and Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of Montreal Surete and his team are called in to investigate.

***The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin*** When his most prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, is stolen, bookstore owner A. J. Fikry begins isolating himself from his friends, family and associates before receiving a mysterious package that compels him to remake his life.

***Supreme Courtship: a Novel by Christopher Buckley*** In this hilarious novel, the President of the United States, ticked off at the Senate for rejecting his nominees, decides to get even by nominating America's most popular TV judge to the Supreme Court.

***Suspicious of Mr. Whicher: by Kate Summerscale*** This crime thriller is a sociological history, a biography, and a fascinating essay on the nature of the investigation. It's a portrait of one of England's first detectives, and the gruesome murder investigation that nearly destroyed him.

***Swimming Lessons by Claire Fuller*** Ingrid Coleman writes letters to her husband, Gil, about the truth of their marriage, and hides them in the thousands of books he has collected. After writing her final letter Ingrid disappears, leaving behind her beautiful but dilapidated house by the sea, her husband, and her two daughters, Flora and Nan. Twelve years later Gil thinks he sees Ingrid, but it's chalked up to senility. Flora returns home to care for her father and to try discover what happened to Ingrid, never realizing that the answers to her questions surround her.

**Tallgrass** by **Sandra Dallas** During World War II, a family finds life turned upside down when the government opens a Japanese internment camp in their small Colorado town.

**The Tenderness of Wolves** by **Stef Penney** Screenwriter Penney casts the harsh Canadian landscape in vivid hues, while portraying a small isolated society, corporate greed, and an unforgiving environment.

**The Thirteenth Tale** by **Diane Setterfield** Margaret Lea, a bookish loner, is called to the home of Vida Winter, England's most popular novelist, and commanded to write her biography. Miss Winter has been falsifying her life story and identity for over 60 years.

**This is Where I Leave You** by **Jonathan Tropper** Judd Foxman is thrown together with his dysfunctional family when his father dies, while at the same time coping with his wife's infidelity and the end of his marriage. This book is about a family's reckoning and one man's attempt to get it together.

**A Thousand Splendid Suns** by **Khaled Hosseini** A tale of two generations of characters in Afghanistan brought together by the tragedy of war. They struggle to survive, raise a family, and find happiness in the history played out around them.

**Three Junes** by **Julia Glass** Set in Greece, Scotland, Greenwich Village, and Long Island, the story traces members of a Scottish family as they confront joys, longings, accomplishments, and betrayals of love in all its appearances.

**The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox** by **Maggie O'Farrell** Iris Lockhart, a young Scottish woman, is informed that she has the power of attorney for her great aunt, Esme Lennox, who Iris never knew existed. Esme has been locked away in a mental institution for over 60 years, a fact not mentioned by her family.

UPDATED July 20, 2018

LM, MG, JA