



**What is on your nightstand?
Books Discussed November 2020**

After the dancing days by Margaret Rostkowski- This title is not available at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: That's what Annie's mother would like to do. She wants to forget the pain and heartache--and to keep it away from Annie, too. But Annie cannot forget the death of her favorite uncle, who was killed in France. She cannot forget Andrew, the angry young veteran she meets at the hospital where her father works. Can Annie find the courage to help Andrew? And will she ever be able to make sense of a war that took so much from so many?

A good man is hard to find and other stories (Good Country People) by Flannery O'Connor - This title is available in the library (Call number:Fic O'Co) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: The collection that established O'Connor's reputation as one of the American masters of the short story. The volume contains the celebrated title story, a tale of the murderous fugitive, *The Misfit*, as well as "*The Displaced Person*" and eight other stories.

Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation by Ari Folman (Adapter), Anne Frank (Author) and David Polonsky (Illustrator) - This item is not available in the library, but may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: A timeless story rediscovered by each new generation, *The Diary of a Young Girl* stands without peer. For both young readers and adults it continues to capture the remarkable spirit of Anne Frank, who for a time survived the worst horror the modern world has seen—and who remained triumphantly and heartbreakingly human throughout her ordeal.

Babysitters Club by Emily Nagoski, PhD and Ameila Nagoski, DMA This title is available in the library (Call number: J Fic Mar) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Join Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, Stacey, Dawn, and Mallory on their baby-sitting adventures! No matter what comes up -- cranky toddlers, huge dogs, scary neighbors, prank calls -- you can count on the BSC to save the day.

Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle by Emily Nagoski, PhD and Ameila Nagoski, DMA This title is not available in the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Burnout. Many women in America have experienced it. What's expected of women and what it's really like to be a woman in today's world are two very different things—and women exhaust themselves trying to close the gap between them. How can you “love your body” when every magazine cover has ten diet tips for becoming “your best self”? How do you “lean in” at work when you're already operating at 110 percent and aren't recognized for it? How can you live happily and healthily in a sexist world that is constantly telling you you're too fat, too needy, too noisy, and too selfish?

Eric by Doris Lund – Not currently available at the library or through OverDrive/Bridges, but may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: This is the bestselling story of Eric, a boy with leukemia who refused to give up living--as told by the person who was with him through it all, his mother. Eric was seventeen when he heard the doctor's verdict about the disease that wanted his life. At first he and his family could not believe it. Eric was the picture of everything a youth should be--a champion athlete, a splendid human being, vibrant with energy and loved by all who knew him.

Feed by M.T. Anderson - This title is available at the library (Call Number: Fic Ya And), and is available on [OverDrive/Bridges](#), and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon — a chance to party during spring break. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its ever-present ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. M. T. Anderson's not-so-brave new world is a smart, savage satire that has captivated readers with its view of an imagined future that veers unnervingly close to the here and now.

Frankenstein: Or the modern Prometheus by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly - This title is available at the library (Call number: Fic She) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: The legend of Victor Frankenstein and his unholy creation, and their obsessive, murderous pursuit of each other from Switzerland to the North Pole, has been the stuff of nightmares for nearly two centuries. A masterpiece of Romantic literature, it is also one of the most enduring horror stories ever written.

Girl Mans Up by M.E. Girard - This title is not available at the library but may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: All Pen wants is to be the kind of girl she's always been. So why does everyone have a problem with it? They think the way she looks and acts means she's trying to be a boy—that she should quit trying to be something she's not. If she dresses like a girl, and does what her folks want, it will show respect. If she takes orders and does what her friend Colby wants, it will show her loyalty. But respect and loyalty, Pen discovers, are empty words. Old-world parents, disintegrating friendships, and strong feelings for other girls drive Pen to see the truth—that in order to be who she truly wants to be, she'll have to man up.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald - This title is available at the library (Call number: Fic Fit) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's third book, stands as the supreme achievement of his career. First published in 1925, this quintessential novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when *The New York Times* noted "gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession," it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.

The Halloween Tree by Ray Bradbury - This title is available in the library (Call Number: J Fic Bra) and on [OverDrive/Bridges](#) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Join the shadowy Carapace Clavicle Moundshroud as he takes eight trick-or-treaters on an unforgettable journey to find their missing friend, Pip. Travel through space and time, from the tombs of ancient Egypt to the gargoyles of Notre-Dame Cathedral, all the way to the cemeteries of Mexico on el Día de Los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. Is Pip still alive? And if so, can his friends save him from a ghastly fate before it's too late?

I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing up in the Holocaust by Livia Bitton-Jackson - This title is available in the library (Call Number: J Fic Bit) and on [OverDrive/Bridges](#) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: The author was 13 when the Nazis invaded Hungary. In intimate and excruciating detail, Livia Bitton-Jackson describes how her young life was transformed by her experiences, from suspension from school to surviving the horrors of Auschwitz.

The Land of Stories (Series) by Chris Colfer - This title is available at the library (J Fic Col), but may also be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Alex and Conner Bailey's world is about to change, in this fast-paced adventure that uniquely combines our modern day world with the enchanting realm of classic fairy tales. *The Land of Stories* tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. But after a series of encounters with witches, wolves, goblins, and trolls alike, getting back home is going to be harder than they thought.

The Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne- This title is available in the library (Call Number: J Fic Osb) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: The Magic Tree House is an American series of children's books written by American author Mary Pope Osborne. The original American series is illustrated by Salvatore Murdocca, although other illustrators have been used for foreign-language editions. The series consists of two groups.

Moloka'i by Alan Brennert- This title is available in the library (Call Number: Fic Bre) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: *Moloka'i* tells the story of Rachel Kalama, a seven-year-old Hawaiian girl who contracts leprosy and is quarantined on the island of Moloka'i during the 1890s. Separated from her family and forced to grow up in the leper colony of Kalaupapa, Rachel experiences intense isolation. But she remains strong, finding moments of joy, and even love. Rich in Hawaiian history, this novel proves itself a stellar piece of historical fiction.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate - This title is available (J Fic App) in the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes. In the tradition of timeless stories like *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*, Katherine Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create an unforgettable story of friendship, art, and hope. *The One and Only Ivan* features first-person narrative; author's use of literary devices (personification, imagery); and story elements (plot, character development, perspective).

Paper Towns by John Green - This title is available at the library (YA Fic Gre), but may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: When Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night—dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge—he

follows her. Margo's always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she's always planned solo. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q . . . until day breaks and she has vanished. Always an enigma, Margo has now become a mystery. But there are clues. And they're for Q.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston - This title is available in the library (Call Number: Fic Hur) and on [OverDrive/Bridges](#) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston's classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt- This title is available in the library (Call Number: J Fic Bab) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: *What if you could live forever?* Is eternal life a blessing or a curse? That is what young Winnie Foster must decide when she discovers a spring on her family's property whose waters grant immortality. Members of the Tuck family, having drunk from the spring, tell Winnie of their experiences watching life go by and never growing older. But then Winnie must decide whether or not to keep the Tucks' secret—and whether or not to join them on their never-ending journey.

Upside-Down Magic (Series) by Sarah Mlynowski - This title is available at the library (J Fic Mly) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: It's never easy when your magic goes wonky. For Nory, this means that instead of being able to turn into a dragon or a kitten, she turns into both of them at the same time -- a dritten. For Elliott, the simple act of conjuring fire from his fingertips turns into a fully frozen failure. For Andres, wonky magic means he's always floating in the air, bouncing off the walls, or sitting on the ceiling. For Bax, a bad moment of magic will turn him into a . . . actually, he'd rather not talk about that. Nory, Elliott, Andres, and Bax are just four of the students in Dunwiddle Magic School's Upside-Down Magic class. In their classroom, lessons are unconventional, students are unpredictable, and magic has a tendency to turn wonky at the worst possible moments. Because it's always amazing, the trouble a little wonky magic can cause . . .

When the legends die by Hal Borland - This title is not available at the library, but may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Thomas Black Bull's parents forsook the life of a modern reservation and took to ancient paths in the woods, teaching their young son the stories and customs of his

ancestors. But Tom's life changes forever when he loses his father in a tragic accident and his mother dies shortly afterward. When Tom is discovered alone in the forest with only a bear cub as a companion, life becomes difficult. Soon, well-meaning teachers endeavor to reform him, a rodeo attempts to turn him into an act, and nearly everyone he meets tries to take control of his life. Powerful and timeless, *When the Legends Die* is a captivating story of one boy learning to live in harmony with both civilization and wilderness.

When they call you a terrorist: A black lives memoir by Patrisse Khan-Cullors - This title is not available at the library, but is available on [OverDrive/Bridges](#), and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Raised by a single mother in an impoverished neighborhood in Los Angeles, Patrisse Khan-Cullors experienced firsthand the prejudice and persecution Black Americans endure at the hands of law enforcement. For Patrisse, the most vulnerable people in the country are Black people. Deliberately and ruthlessly targeted by a criminal justice system serving a white privilege agenda, Black people are subjected to unjustifiable racial profiling and police brutality. In 2013, when Trayvon Martin's killer went free, Patrisse's outrage led her to co-found Black Lives Matter with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi.

Where the red fern grows by Wilson Rawls - This title is available at the library (J Fic Raw) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two, dogs. So when he's finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own—Old Dan and Little Ann—he's ecstatic. It doesn't matter that times are tough; together they'll roam the hills of the Ozarks. Soon Billy and his hounds become the finest hunting team in the valley. Stories of their great achievements spread throughout the region, and the combination of Old Dan's brawn, Little Ann's brains, and Billy's sheer will seems unbeatable. But tragedy awaits these determined hunters—now friends—and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair, and that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past.

Winesburg Ohio by Sherwood Anderson - This title is available at the library (Call number: Fic And) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Sherwood Anderson's most famous work, "Winesburg, Ohio" is a cycle of short stories set in the fictional town of Winesburg, loosely based on the author's own home town of Clyde, Ohio. A picture of small town America during the first part of the 20th century, the series of short stories revolves around the life of George Willard, from youth, through his yearning for independence, to his eventual departure from the town. Each story tells the tale of a distinct member of the town as related to George, a young reporter for the "Winesburg Eagle". Through this device the author establishes a frame in which George acts as a recorder of the other town members' narratives and which also acts as a foil for his own

coming-of-age story. Central to all the stories are the themes of loneliness and isolation which permeate the existence of small-town life.

5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts by Gary Chapman - This is not available at the library but may be an interlibrary loan depending on publication date and lending library availability.

Summary: Falling in love is easy. Staying in love—that's the challenge. How can you keep your relationship fresh and growing amid the demands, conflicts, and just plain boredom of everyday life?

The 100 (Book Series) by Kass Morgan— This title is not available in the library but may be available through InterLibrary Loan.

Summary: No one has set foot on Earth in centuries -- until now. Ever since a devastating nuclear war, humanity has lived on spaceships far above Earth's radioactive surface. Now, one hundred juvenile delinquents -- considered expendable by society -- are being sent on a dangerous mission: to recolonize the planet. It could be their second chance at life...or it could be a suicide mission.

1984 by George Orwell - This is available (Fic Orw) at the library but may be an interlibrary loan depending on publication date and lending library availability.

Summary: Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching.

*****Notable mentions by Director Aric Bishop***:**

Digital storytelling in a video game format (geared toward young adults ages 12 - 18).

[Never Alone](#), also known as *Kisima Injitchuᅇ* ("I am not alone"), is a puzzle-platformer adventure video game developed by Upper One Games and published by E-Line Media based on the traditional Iñupiaq tale, "[Kunuksaayuka](#)", which was first recorded by master storyteller Robert Nasruk Cleveland in his collection *Stories of the Black River People*.