



**What is on your nightstand?
Books Discussed on 5.6.2021**

1. *Among the hidden (Shadow Children series)* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
 - a. **Summary:** In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm in this start to the Shadow Children series from Margaret Peterson Haddix. Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** *J Fic Had*

2. *Carrie* by Stephen King
 - a. **Summary:** Carrie White may be picked on by her classmates, but she has a gift. She can move things with her mind. Doors lock. Candles fall. This is her power and her problem. Then, an act of kindness, as spontaneous as the vicious taunts of her classmates, offers Carrie a chance to be a normal...until an unexpected cruelty turns her gift into a weapon of horror and destruction that no one will ever forget.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** *Fic Kin*

3. *Educated: A memoir* by Tara Westover
 - a. **Summary:** Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** *B Wes*

4. *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
 - a. **Summary:** Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** Ya Fic Tho

5. *Holes* by Louis Sachar
 - a. **Summary:** Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** J Fic Sac

6. *I'm just a person* by Tig Notaro
 - a. **Summary:** One of America's most original comedic voices delivers a darkly funny, wryly observed, and emotionally raw account of her year of death, cancer, and epiphany. In the span of four months in 2012, Tig Notaro was hospitalized for a debilitating intestinal disease called C. diff, her mother unexpectedly died, she went through a breakup, and then she was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer. Hit with this devastating barrage, Tig took her grief onstage. Days after receiving her cancer diagnosis, she broke new comedic ground, opening an unvarnished set with the words: "Good evening. Hello. I have cancer. How are you? Hi, how are you? Is everybody having a good time? I have cancer." The set went viral instantly and was ultimately released as Tig's sophomore album, *Live*, which sold one hundred thousand units in just six weeks and was later nominated for a Grammy.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** B Not

7. *A lion to guard us all* by Clyde Robert Bulla
 - a. **Summary:** Featuring a heroine with faith, courage, and a great deal of grit, this acclaimed historical fiction novel portrays the realities faced by three children hoping to find a new home in an unknown land. Amanda Freebold doesn't know what to do. Her father left three years ago for the new colony of Jamestown in America, thousands of miles away. But now that her mother has died, Amanda is left to take care of her younger brother and sister all alone back in England.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** This book is currently not available at the library but may be available through interlibrary loan depending on the lending library.

8. *Looking for Alaska* by John Green

- a. **Summary:** *First drink. First prank. First friend. First love. Last words.* Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words—and tired of his safe life at home. He leaves for boarding school to seek what the dying poet François Rabelais called the “Great Perhaps.” Much awaits Miles at Culver Creek, including Alaska Young, who will pull Miles into her labyrinth and catapult him into the Great Perhaps.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** YA Fic Gre

- 9. *On Earth we're briefly gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong
 - a. **Summary:** *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family's history that began before he was born — a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam — and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. At once a witness to the fraught yet undeniable love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity. Asking questions central to our American moment, immersed as we are in addiction, violence, and trauma, but undergirded by compassion and tenderness, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is as much about the power of telling one's own story as it is about the obliterating silence of not being heard.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** Fic Vuo

- 10. *The Only Little Prayer You Need: The Shortest Route to a life of joy, abundance and peace of mind* by Debra Landwehr Engle and forward by the Dalai Lama
 - a. **Summary:** These six words--*please heal my fear-based thoughts*--change lives. In this brief and inspiring book, based on Engle's study of *A Course in Miracles*, she explains how to use the prayer and experience immediate benefits: being less irritable, more patient, laughing more, feeling like you have more time, more energy, worrying less, making decisions more easily and saying no without guilt.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** 204.3 Eng

- 11. *Own it: The Secret of Life* by Diane von Furstenberg
 - a. **Summary:** The words included in this book are ones that have been key to DVF attaining self-awareness and realization, the fuel for all her accomplishments personally and professionally. *Own It* is an A - Z dictionary of life-enhancing vocabulary that is the basis of her accessible and empowering philosophy. It is a true manifesto, a compilation of words that together will empower you to attain the satisfaction and serenity you have always wanted.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** This book is currently not available at the library but may be available through interlibrary loan depending on the lending library.

- 12. *Paper Towns* by John Green

- a. **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.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** YA Fic Gre

13. *Phoenix Rising* by Karen Hesse
 - a. **Summary:** Nyle's life with her grandmother on their Vermont sheep farm advances rhythmically through the seasons until the night of the accident at the Cookshire nuclear power plant. Without warning, Nyle's modest world fills with protective masks, evacuations, contaminated food, disruptions, and mistrust. Nyle adjusts to the changes. As long as the fallout continues blowing to the East, Nyle, Gran, and the farm can go on. But into this uncertain haven stumble Ezra Trent and his mother, "refugees" from the heart of the accident, who take temporary shelter in the back bedroom of Nyle's house.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** This book is currently not available at the library but may be available through interlibrary loan depending on the lending library.

14. *Space Case* by Stuart Gibbs
 - a. **Summary:** It's a murder mystery on the moon in this humorous and suspenseful space adventure from the author of *Belly Up* and *Spy School* that *The New York Times Book Review* called "a delightful and brilliantly constructed middle grade thriller." Like his fellow lunarnauts—otherwise known as Moonies—living on Moon Base Alpha, twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is famous the world over for being one of the first humans to live on the moon.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** This book is currently not available at the library but may be available through interlibrary loan depending on the lending library.

15. *The Stars Beneath our feet* by David Barclay Moore
 - a. **Summary:** It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Lolly's always loved Legos, and he prides himself on following the kit instructions exactly. Now, faced with a pile of building blocks and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** This book is currently not available at the library but may be available through interlibrary loan depending on the lending library.

16. *A thousand splendid suns* by Khaled Hosseini

- a. **Summary:** Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever-escalating dangers around them-in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul-they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** Fic Hos, L.P. Fic Hos and CD Fic Hos

17. *Turtles all the way down* by John Green

 - a. **Summary:** Aza Holmes never intended to pursue the disappearance of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Pickett's son Davis.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** Ya Fic Gre

18. *We are still here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know* by Traci Sorell

 - a. **Summary:** Too often, Native American history is treated as a finished chapter instead of relevant and ongoing. This companion book to the award-winning *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* offers readers everything they never learned in school about Native American people's past, present, and future. Precise, lyrical writing presents topics including: forced assimilation (such as boarding schools), land allotment and Native tribal reorganization, termination (the US government not recognizing tribes as nations), Native urban relocation (from reservations), self-determination (tribal self-empowerment), Native civil rights, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), religious freedom, economic development (including casino development), Native language revival efforts, cultural persistence, and nationhood.
 - b. **Availability/Call Number:** J 973.04 Sor

19. *White Fragility: Why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism* by Robin J. DiAngelo

 - a. **Summary:** In this "vital, necessary, and beautiful book" (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and "allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to 'bad people' (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how

white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

b. Availability/Call Number: 305.8 Dia

20. *The 100 Series* by Kass Morgan

a. Summary: Ever since nuclear war destroyed our planet, humanity has been living on city-like spaceships hovering above the toxic surface. As far as anyone knows, no one has stepped foot on Earth in centuries--that is, until one hundred juvenile delinquents are sentenced to return and recolonize the hostile land. The future of the human race rests in their hands, but nothing can prepare the 100 for what they find on this strange and savage planet.

b. Availability/Call Number: Ya Fic Mor