December 16, 2021

Best of 2021

This year may not have been the year we were hoping for, but there were definitely a lot of great books (and movies and music) made this year. I am a huge sucker for “best of the year” lists. I love reading them, exploring them, discovering new things I missed, and, of course, debating them.

Library staff have selected some of their favorite books, movies, and music they enjoyed this year. I compiled some of my favorite picture books that weren’t in other Peculiar Picks posts throughout the year, a couple of which are some of my favorite picture books of the year. For some additional great titles from 2021, check out these lists which cover books for kids, teens and adults, and music (because I love discovering and listening to new music and I imagine some of you do, too). If you’d like to find any of the works listed, look in our catalog.

- Book Riot: Best Books of 2021
- NPR Books: Books We Love 2021
- Publishers Weekly: Best Books 2021
- School Library Journal: Best Books 2021
- The Horn Book: Fanfare - The Best Books of the Year
- The Guardian: Best Books of 2021
- Parents Magazine: 30 Best Children’s Books of 2021
- NPR Music: 50 Best Albums of 2021
- Stereogum: Best Albums of 2021
- The Guardian: 50 Best Albums of 2021
- Paste Magazine: 50 Best Albums of 2021
The Line of Best Fit: Best Albums of 2021

What were your favorites this year? I’d love to know. Share them with me on Twitter: @Carlson_JoshuaJ

Take care,
Josh Carlson
Manager of Youth Services

We appreciate support from the White Plains Library Foundation for many of our programs. Events funded by the Foundation are noted with an ✫.

December Break Week Programs

Some great virtual programs are taking place during the week of 12/27-12/30, including Storybook Dancing with Steffi Nossen School of Dance, Miss Jolie’s Move & Groove!, Let’s Draw Cartoons with Rick Stomoski, and Turtle Dance Music’s Winter Wonderland Show.

Note: 3D Printing for Teens Workshop is full.

Holiday Closings

The Library will be CLOSED December 24th, December 25th, December 31st, and January 1st.
January Project LIT 
Community Book Group 
(Grades 4-8)

As a chapter in the Project LIT Community, Library staff organize discussions revolving around recommended titles, highlighting and celebrating books that affirm and value all students. Join librarians Ashley and Caroline for a book discussion and trivia game for grades 4-8 on **January 12th at 4:30 p.m.** The group will be reading *When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed. A free copy of the book will be provided to the first five individuals to register for the discussion. Please register here.

Teen Battle of the Books… 
Club

Join librarians Kat and Lauren for a new book club in the new year. We'll meet each month for a book discussion and a game, in the beloved Battle of the Books (BOB) trivia format. In January, we're reading *It Ain't So Awful, Falafel* by Firoozeh Dumas. We'll meet on **Monday, January 3rd, at 5:00 p.m.** Sign up for the event on our calendar here, and pick up a copy of the book in print or digitally through OverDrive/Libby or hoopla. Grades 6 and up are welcome to participate.
**January STEM Programs for Kids and Teens**

Check out our great selection of virtual STEM programs for children and teens in January, including *Create a Minecraft World*, *Engineering Time for Youth*, *Fortnite for Teens*, and *Game Design for Youth*.

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**Library Achieves Green Certification**

The Library is pleased to announce it has achieved Green Business Certification through the Green Business Partnership (GBP), a public-private partnership managed in part by Westchester County. GBP offers support to businesses and organizations who are interested in reducing their carbon footprint and making their operations more sustainable. [Find out more here.](#)

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**Holocaust Remembrance**

Join us for two events in January to reflect on our history and remember both Holocaust survivors and victims.

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**Dive into Diversity**

Our *Dive into Diversity* series spotlights noteworthy children's and teen titles that are inclusive, diverse and multicultural selected by Youth Services librarians Ashley, Kathlyn, and Raquel.

- [#fREADom to Read](#) (Youth)
- [2021 Releases](#) (Grades 4-6)
- [Most Popular YA Titles of 2021](#) (Teen)
Tiny Tales Videos
Tiny Tales are short “bite-sized” song and story videos created by Trove librarians. Watch one for a little early literacy break, or a few for a whole storytime! Caroline’s video of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” premiered on December 7 and Ashley’s next video will be available in early January. Check out all of the Tiny Tales videos, including the previous series of forty (and counting!) videos, on YouTube.

Revamped Parenting Collection
Our Parenting Collection in the Trove has been recently revitalized and updated. Stop in the Trove to check it out! Trove librarian Lauren explains: “As parents, one of our most difficult responsibilities is talking to our children about certain challenging topics. Books are a fantastic way to stimulate these

"...one person's preference for their own child should not deprive all children of the freedom to read the books that affirm their existence and their worth."
author Christina Soontornvat, 2021 Newbery Medal & Sibert Award Honoree

Celebrate your #fREADom to read freely
#READom to Read - Dive into Diversity - Youth booklist
Celebrate #fREADom - Youth eBooks list
Celebrate #fREADom - Youth and Adult eBooks list
Censorship News from Book Riot, 12/10/21: Students, Teachers and Librarians are Fed Up With Book Challenges, and More
American Library Association Statement on Book Censorship, 11/29/21
Censorship News from Book Riot, 11/12/21: Students Petition for Library books, School Board Members Want to Burn LGBTQ+ Titles, and More

Free Online Tutoring, Homework Help, Practice Tests & More!
Did you know that with a White Plains Library card students can gain access to free online tutoring, homework support, writing help,
types of discussions and help teach our children valuable life lessons. We've recently reorganized and refreshed our parenting collection. Now, these books are even easier to find!

practice tests and so much more through Tutor.com? They can! Find out more here.

Newsletter Archive
Check out previous editions of What's the Story? here!

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