

## **Extreme Reader Challenge Newsletter: Volume 1**



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## **Welcome to the 2022 Extreme Reader Challenge!**

**The 2022 challenge year has already started off with a bang and we are so excited to bring you our first newsletter of the year!**

Program information and updates can be found by visiting  
[www.tacomalibrary.org/extreme-reader](http://www.tacomalibrary.org/extreme-reader)

## All the details you need right at your fingertips!

- Challenge dates & program updates
- Category definitions
- Printable category lists
- Booklists full of staff recommendations
- Challenge FAQs
- Access to the ER Facebook group

## A reminder about 2021 rewards...



**Rewards for the Extreme Reader challenge are not ordered or distributed until after the challenge has concluded.** For those that completed the 2021 challenge, please be on the lookout for an email survey in the coming weeks regarding your preferred library branch pickup location!

## Overbooked Meetup



**Come talk books with staff and fellow participants at an Overbooked meetup.** This low key hangout is for chatting about what you are reading, sharing recommendations, and discussing how the challenge is going for everyone.

**The first Overbooked of the year is happening on Saturday, Mar 5th from 11:30am-1:00pm**

Currently, all Overbooked meetups are held virtually through Zoom. [Register for this program here.](#)

## Celebrate Black History Month

**Enjoy these book recommendations that both honor Black History Month and fit several 2022 categories!**



- **[The Dead Are Arising by Les Payne](#)**
  - **Categories:** #1 A book about an historical figure, #44 A book written by an author whose first or last name begins with T, P, or L, #47 A book written by multiple authors, and #48 A book written by someone who is no longer living
- **[Heavy by Kiese Laymon](#)**
  - **Categories:** #14 A book set in a school, #22 A book that focuses on mental health, #44 A book written by an author whose first or last name begins with T, P, or L, and #45 A book written by an author whose last name is six letters or more
- **[Punching the Air by Ibi Aanu Zobi](#)**
  - **Categories:** #3 A book about starting over, #14 A book set in a school, and #47 A book written by multiple authors
- **[Pushout by Monique W Morris](#)**
  - **Categories:** #5 A book cover that shows a person from behind, #14 A book set in a school, #19 A book that begins with a disappearance, and #45 A book written by an author whose last name is six letters or more
- **[Another Country by James Baldwin](#)**
  - **Categories:** #12 A book published more than ten years ago, #16 A book set on the East Coast of the United States, #41 A book with best friends, #45 A book written by an author whose last name is six letters or more, and #48 A book written by someone who is no longer living
- **[Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi](#)**
  - **Categories:** #2 A book about or including a wedding and #16 A book set on the East Coast of the United States
- **[Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison](#)**
  - **Categories:** #12 A book published more than ten years ago, #16 A book set on the East Coast of the United States, #45 A book written by an author whose last name is six letters or more, #48 A book written by someone who is no longer living, and #53 A philosophical literature or philosophy book
- **[The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson](#)**
  - **Categories:** #3 A book about starting over, #12 A book published more than ten years ago, #16 A book set on the East Coast of the United States, and #45 A book written by an author whose last name is six letters or more
- **[The Fifth Season by N. K. Jemison](#)**

- **Categories: #19** A book that begins with a disappearance and **#45** A book written by an author whose last name is six letters or more
- ***Devil in the Grove by Gilbert King***
  - **Categories: #1** A book about an historical figure and **#16** A book set on the East Coast of the United States

## Category Questions & Answers

### Not quite sure what a category is asking for?

Check out a few of the category questions our team has been answering since the challenge launched!



- **QUESTION 1: What if I find a book that fits a category with a cover requirement but when I pick it up, the cover is different? Would it still count?**
  - Answer: Yes, the book would still count as long as the intent was to acquire the correct copy or there is a version of the title's cover that does fulfill the category prompt. This goes for digital, large print, and audio versions as well.
- **QUESTION 2: Would America be considered a country for the “A book that takes place in a country that starts with the letter A” category?**
  - Answer: America would not count as it is the shortened version of United States of America.
- **QUESTION 3: If I find a book rated 5 stars for the 'A book with a five star rating in the TPL catalog' category and read it or plan to read it, will it still count if the rating changes due to additional reviews?**
  - Answer: Yes, if you searched and found a book that was 5 stars and read it (or plan to read it for that category) and the

rating changes, it would still count towards the category.

- **QUESTION 4: Does the historical figure need to be someone that really existed, or could something like a retelling of Arthurian legend count for the 'A book about an historical figure' count?**
  - Answer: Yes, the historical figure would need to be an individual that existed in real life.

Find another great resource for category information on the webpage with the [Official 2022 Category Definitions](#).

## Books & Authors

### Tacoma Creates and the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation Present: The Chinese in Early Tacoma



**Wednesday, March 23 2022 6:30pm - 7:30pm**

Join us for a panel discussion of Lorraine Hildebrand's 1977 book *Straw Hats, Sandals and Steele*. Members of the Board of the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation and the Tacoma Historical Society will have a panel discussion about the history with which this book is concerned and the importance of this book as a resource for Tacoma citizens and educators.

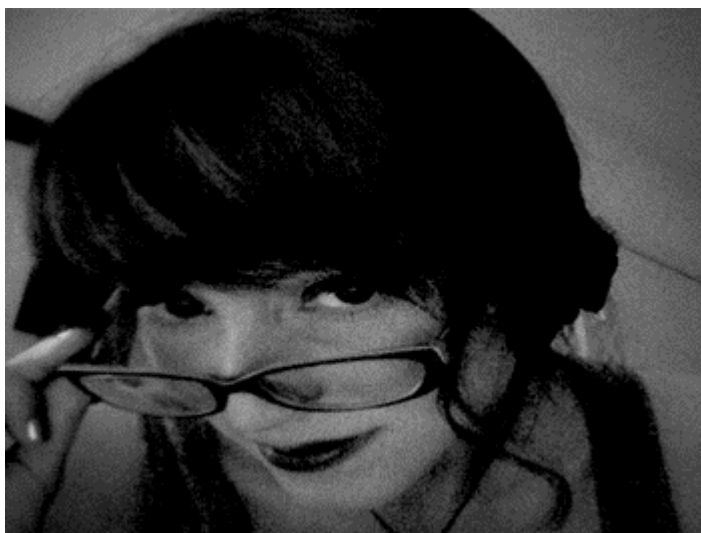
Please register for this online event in advance via [this link](#). Registration opens Monday, Feb 21, 2022.

## Meet the Team - We're Growing!

### The Extreme Reader staff team has been growing!

We're ecstatic to introduce two new members of the team that help make this program happen.

**Introducing Gabi!**



Hello, so nice to meet you! **My name is Gabi Barragan, and I am a Library Associate here at the Moore Branch.** I have been with TPL for all of eight months, and I have been part of the Extreme Reader team since November 2021!

**What I Like to Read:**

I am currently in school pursuing my MLIS, so I don't get as much time to read for pleasure as I'd like. :( But when I do, I love to kick back with some cozy mysteries, absurdist fiction, magical realism, and titles that would count towards the "Space Opera" category of this year's ER Challenge!

**Fun Fact:**

I never used to consider myself a "gamer," but over the past year I've fallen completely in love with video games like Cozy Grove and Animal Crossing! I love being immersed in these little worlds, and I have made so many connections with people over this shared interest!

**Recommendations:**

Here are a few of my favorite reads from the past couple of months. If you pick up any of these titles, let me know what you think!

- ***The Final Girl Support Group* by Grady Hendrix** (Fulfills category #3 - A book about starting over)
- ***Things My Girlfriend and I Have Argued About* by Mil Millington** (Fulfills category #19 - A book that begins with a disappearance)
- ***The One Hundred Nights of Hero* by Isabel Greenberg** (Fulfills category #49 -A fantasy book inspired by the Middle East)

**Introducing Karen!**



**Hello! My name is Karen Knapp (she/her), and I'm a Library Associate at the Swasey branch.** I've worked for TPL for almost 4 years now, and this is my first year on the Extreme Reader team. I'm excited and honored to be a part of this team! **I'm also participating in the challenge for the first time this year!**

**What I Like to Read:** I gravitate towards character-driven literary fiction. I love books with lyrical writing and/or dysfunctional family dynamics, gritty memoirs (particularly of the rock-star variety), and those that delve deep into the human experience.

**Fun Fact:** I love crystals, the band Faith No More, and pizza.

**Karen's ER Recommendations:**

- [\*\*Crossroads by Jonathan Franzen\*\*](#) (Fulfills category #22 - A book that focuses on mental health)
- [\*\*Things We Lost to the Water by Eric Nguyen\*\*](#) (Fulfills category #20 - A book that centers a refugee's experience)
- [\*\*Beasts of a Little Land by Juhea Kim\*\*](#) (Fulfills category #43 - A book written by an Asian American author)
- [\*\*Sing, Unburied, Sing\*\*](#) or [\*\*Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward\*\*](#) (Both fulfill category #54 - A Southern Gothic novel)
- [\*\*The Stranger in the Woods by Michael Finkel\*\*](#) (Fulfills category #17—A book set outdoors)
- [\*\*Dracula by Bram Stoker\*\*](#) (Fulfills too many categories to list and is one of my favorite novels of all time!)



**Connect & Contact**



Have a question about the challenge or a category? Reach out to the ER team at: [extemereader@tacomalibrary.org](mailto:extemereader@tacomalibrary.org)



Join fellow participants in the TPL Extreme Reader 2022 Facebook group for book recommendations, fun conversation, and more!



Check out the Extreme Reader web page for all program details! [tacomalibrary.org/extreme-reader](http://tacomalibrary.org/extreme-reader)

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