**1919, by Eve Ewing**

Events and Program Coordinator
Krista Danis says:

Author Eve Ewing offers this collection of poetry as "an entry point into a conversation" about the Chicago Race Riots of 1919, which remain largely neglected in discourse about the history of racism in Chicago. By weaving the subjective historical record with a poetic retelling, Ewing deconstructs and rewrites history, and I am here for it. I recommend listening to this collection on audio as a powerful reading from the author herself. Anyone who enjoys critical storytelling from a lens of anti-racism will love 1919, including teens and adults!

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**Born Standing Up, by Steve Martin**

Selection Specialist
Leigh says:

Steve Martin is known as a movie star, musician and author, but he started out doing stand up comedy. This is the story of how it all began - working at Disneyland, learning magic, and diligently creating his now classic comedy routines. It's absolutely amazing the drive, methodology, practice and precision it takes to make an act spontaneously funny! I also highly recommend the audiobook read by the author.

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**Lies My Teacher Told Me, by James W. Loewen**

Library Assistant
Colleen says:

The author shares little known facts about people and events of the United States of America from the 1400s to recent times. Much of the information found in this book was either too messy or controversial to be included in the standard U.S. history books that many high schools use. It is a page turner for those who love history and those who want to know more about it.

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**A Kind of Freedom, by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton**

Adult Services Librarian
Cailín says:

Sexton's novel personalizes the trajectory of racism in American by exploring how it affects three generations of an African American family in New Orleans. Through the lens of Evelyn, Jackie, and T.C., Sexton takes us through the Jim Crow South in the 1940s, the drug epidemic and economic recession of the 1980s, and the current crisis of mass incarceration in post-Katrina New Orleans.
Staff Picks: Adults

**Rise of the Rocket Girls**, by Nathalia Holt

*Selection Specialist*

**Leigh says:**

Before we could turn to computers for answers to complex equations in a matter of seconds, it was all up to using a pencil, some paper, and having a mathematically minded brain. The women who made these calculations were a vital part of creating working rockets, sending astronauts into space, and landing a man on the moon. An inspiring story of women in research during the 40s and 50s, and a great companion piece to Hidden Figures.

**The Smartphone Society**, Nicole Aschoff

*Adult Services Librarian*

**Cailín says:**

If you like books about modern technology or our current zeitgeist, this is the book for you. Other books I’ve read that circle this topic – Digital Minimalism, Zucked – carefully detail the myriad ways in which tech has a negative impact on our society at-large as well as the individuals who use it. While these critiques may be valid, I appreciate that Aschoff explicitly argues that tech in and of itself is not inherently bad. Rather, she makes the case that tech is being manufactured and used in a way that reproduces and reinforces pre-existing systems of injustice and oppression.

**Mrs. Kennedy and Me**, Clint Hill

*Outreach Services Assistant*

**Laura says:**

I chose this book because Jackie Kennedy has always peaked my interest. Clint Hill, former SSA to President Eisenhower, had just been assigned to protect the new First Lady. As the book unfolds we see how Agent Hill went from a reluctant guardian to a close friend of Mrs. Kennedy. Clint Hill's engaging writing style has this book reading almost like a love story. Anyone interested in the Kennedy's, First Ladies, and fans of Clint Hill's writing would enjoy this book.
Staff Picks: Teens

**Juliet Takes a Breath**, by Gabby Rivera & Celia Moscote

*Teen Services Librarian*

**Flannery says:**

If you loved Gabby Rivera’s novel *Juliet Takes a Breath* as much as I did (definitely one of my favorite books of 2016), you’ll adore the graphic novel adaptation that just came out! Moscote’s gorgeous illustrations deliver a colorful vibe that brings out the hearts of the characters. I was so happy to rejoin Juliet on her journey of self-discovery and self-affirmation, and I hope you enjoy it too!

**The Way of the House Husband**, by Kousuke Oono

*Teen Services Librarian*

**Cesar says:**

Tatsu was once a feared Yakuza boss known as the Immortal Dragon. He gave that all up to be a...House Husband?

In this hilarious slice of life manga, follow Tatsu in his day-to-day life trying to be the best husband he can be to Miku, all while dealing with frightened neighbors and rival gang members.

A Netflix adaptation Anime was announced for 2021.

**Akata Witch**, by Nnedi Okorafor

*Teen Services Librarian*

**Phoebe says:**

Twelve-year-old Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has latent magical powers which she and three similarly gifted friends use to catch a serial killer. *Akata Witch* is a thrilling story of magic, mystery, and finding one’s place in the world. Drawing on Nigerian history and mythology, this book is great for anyone looking for a less eurocentric approach to fantasy.

**Sorcery and Cecelia**, by Patricia C. Wrede & Caroline Stevermer

*Teen Services Librarian*

**Phoebe says:**

This book is written entirely in letters between two cousins: Cecilia living in the country and Kate in London. Watch as they help each other with overbearing family, irritating men, and evil wizards all in the middle of the 1817 social season. Co-written by two authors who had no idea what the other one was going to do, this story is a fun adventure full of surprises and humor. Especially recommended for anyone who enjoys role playing or creative writing; the afterward explains the game that started the story which is super fun to play with a friend.

**Our Dreams at Dusk Vol. 1**, by Yuhki Kamatani

*Teen Services Librarian*

**Flannery says:**

Warning: I cried at this one. A lot. Your results may vary. The story follows a young man who is struggling with the realization that he's gay. When his despair is at its peak, he meets a community of people from across the LGBTQ+ spectrum. Even as Tasuku learns to accept himself, he finds he has a lot to learn about accepting other people. This is a great manga because there’s only four volumes, so it's a quick read that will punch you right in the feels!

**The Rithmatist**, by Brandon Sanderson

*Teen Services Librarian*

**Phoebe says:**

In this book drawings come to life, and people use chalk to duel. Rithmatists have the power to infuse life into two-dimensional figures known as Chalklings. As wild Chalkings overrun the territory of Nebraska, Rithmatists are the only defense for the American Isles. Joel, the son of a chalk maker, can only watch as Rithmatist students learn the magical art that he would do anything to practice, but when students start disappearing, Joel and his friend Melody find themselves on the trail of an unexpected discovery. Great mix of mystery, adventure, and unusual powers.
## Staff Picks: Teens - Winter 2021

### Spy X Family, Tatsuya Endo

**Teen Services Librarian**

**Cesar says:**

Agent Twilight must start a family to complete his mission, but what he doesn’t know is that his adoptive daughter is a telepath, and his fake wife is an assassin.

Follow Loid, Anya, and Yor Forger on this hilarious daily life of espionage, assassinations, and starting at a brand new school.

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### The Project, by Courtney Summers

**Teen Services Librarian**

**Flannery says:**

Have you ever been told to stop talking about cults at the dinner table? Me too! That’s why I’m excited about this new novel by Courtney Summers, author of the smash-hit Sadie. In The Project, Lo is trying to save her sister Bea from a group that seems suspiciously like a cult. But the only way to rescue Bea is for Lo to infiltrate the cult, which brings her ever-closer into the orbit of the dangerous and charismatic leader. Will Lo be able to hold onto what is true when the world seems to turn upside down?

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### Into the Streets, by Marke Bieschke

**Teen Services Librarian**

**Flannery says:**

The year 2020 saw a lot of different kinds of public demonstrations. Protests, riots, marches, sit-ins; whatever the type, public demonstrations have a long history in the United States. This book highlights just a few acts of resistance that have shaped our country. Whether you’re just interested in history or looking for tips on how to organize your own demonstration, this book is for you!

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### Sabriel, Garth Nix

**Teen Services Librarian**

**Phoebe says:**

Sabriel has little experience with the random power of Free Magic or the Dead who refuse to stay dead in the Old Kingdom. When her father, the Abhorsen, goes missing Sabriel must enter the Old Kingdom to find him. With Mogget, a powerful spirit barely contained in the form of a cat and Touchstone, a young mage long imprisoned by magic, Sabriel must confront an evil that threatens much more than her life and a responsibility she never wanted. This eerie fantasy and complex world-building will stick with you and make you want to read the rest of the series.

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### You Bring the Distant Near, by Mitali Perkins

**Teen Services Librarian**

**Phoebe says:**

This story follows an Indian American family as they adjust to life in New York City. Told from the perspective of five teens across three generations, You Bring the Distant Near explores sisterhood, first loves, friendship, and the inheritance of culture—for better or worse. This is a wonderfully written story, showing a wide range of experiences and perspectives. With such different characters everyone will be able to find a character that speaks to them. Recommended for fans of realistic fiction, family stories, or a bit of romance.
**Staff Picks: Children**

**Dreamers, Yuyi Morales**

*Children's Services Assistant*

**Ratna says:**

This book is a Monarch Nominee for 2021. It is about a mother and a child starting their new life in a new country. This book attracted me because the story line is somewhat similar to mine. I deeply felt the love and welcome despite my ethnicity when I first visited the library. Take home message: Being welcoming.

**The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read, by Rita Lorraine Hubbard**

*Selection Specialist*

**Vita says:**

Shero Mary Walker's life is a true testament to the power of YET! Read and be inspired by this woman's tenacity to never give up her dream to learn to read.

**Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow, by Jessica Townsend**

*Library Assistant*

**Caitlin says:**

Cursed child Morrigan Crow is destined to die on the eve of her eleventh birthday. But before she can be taken, Morrigan is saved by Jupiter North and brought to the magical city of Nevermoor. There, safe and no longer an outcast, she is given the opportunity to compete in four trials for one of nine spots in the next class of the prestigious Wunderous Society. But if she does not win a spot, she will be forced to return to her fate back home. Recommended for those wanting to fall in love with a new fantasy series with vibrant characters and an extraordinary world.