

The Perfect Recipe:

**Engaging and Assessing
Library Book Clubs**



WHO WE ARE

Ronald Headen



Greensboro Public Library Mission: *In partnership with the community, the Greensboro Public Library strives to provide free and equal access to information, foster lifelong learning, and inspire the joys of reading. We connect and collect.*

BOOK CLUB History

- Started in 1997 as an internal special collection of classics.
- Sets of 10-15 copies. Checked out for 6-8 weeks.
- Opened up to public groups in 2001. Expanded to include Popular titles (both fiction and nonfiction)
- Has grown to over to over 300 book discussion group sets.
- Serves 135 bookclubs in our service area
- Booklovers Social started in 2008 as a way to bring all the community groups together. It is held typically in January or February (Book Lovers Month).
- We started Meet an Author Day as a summer event to compliment Booklovers Social.



The Life Cycle of a Book Club Set

The demand for a new title is recommended.



A NEW SET IS ORDERED

Whether by patron recommendation/demand, best sellers lists, or some other means, the need for a new set is evaluated and approved sets are ordered through technical services. Most sets are ordered in groups of 15 and some titles will have multiple sets, depending on demand.

The ordered set arrives at Central Library and then prepared for use.

NEXT STEP: PROCESSING AND STORAGE

Each set is numbered with a color sticker and then stamped on the title page and a sticker is placed on the back cover with GPL book club set information. The set is then stored in compact storage (sorted by author's last name regardless of genre and then title).

Now it's ready for check out!

4

A patron or staff member requests a set for their book club group.



A HOLD IS MADE ON THE MASTER LIST™

A request is placed, typically via email, and then recorded on The Master List™. Most holds are for 6-8 weeks and patrons can place holds as far in advance as they want. Usually a cushion of a few days is placed on either side of the hold to ensure that everyone gets their set on time. Books are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests should be made by email to Amy Bacon.

The requested set is prepared and sent out for the group.



THE BOOKS ARE SENT ON THEIR NEXT ADVENTURE

A pull list is generated. When book club volunteers come, they grab the sets from compact storage, place them in a bag with a sign out sheet, and send them on their way with the courier or put them behind the circulation desk at Central.

The set is returned to Central via patron or courier.



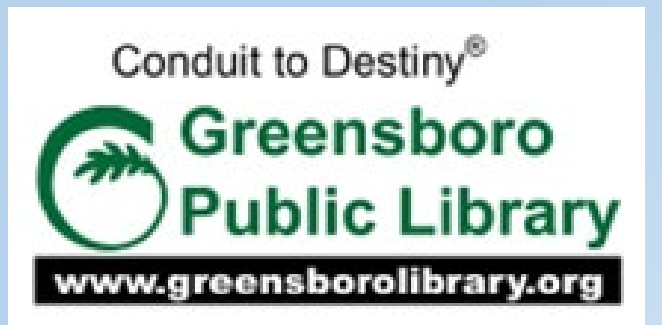
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

The book set is returned (hopefully!) before its due date to any GPL location and sent back to Central for storage. The book club volunteers make sure that there are no missing copies and then place the set back on the shelf in compact storage to await its next adventure.

Internal vs. External Bookclubs

Library Sponsored bookclubs (LSB) Are facilitated in the library, staff advisor, staff member designated to submit selections, publicity, and distribute books / monthly

Community Sponsored Bookclubs(SCB) - can be at the library or in community, a designated person that is a member of the bookclub is the liaison w the branch of pick up and BDG coordinator for book distribution, consulting and collaboration



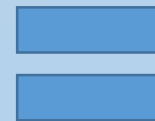
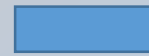
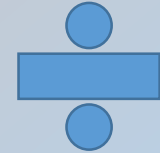
Two Different Approaches to Data Gathering



Quantitative

– numbers – measurements

Examples: Number of people at your program,
quantity or circulation of book club copies,
number of check outs.



Qualitative

The narrative approach to data gathering

“Let’s talk about it” or **S**trengths **W**eaknesses **O**pportunities **T**hreats analysis.

ex. “Tell me about the quality of the program?”

“How did your book club go?”

“What does your club like to read?”

“How should we improve the BDG collection?”



How we build the book club collection using data.

Qualitative – informal polling at programs

constantly informing and involving book clubs in added selections

**Suggestions come in by email and then are evaluated by
the Bookclub Resource Team**

Amanda Sanson(InfoServices), Beth Sheffield (Adult Programming), Ron Headen (Bookclub Facilitator)

We consider: That at least 3 area book clubs must want to read the title

Books must be in print

We evaluate budget constraints before placing an order for the collection

MEET AN AUTHOR DAY



LAURA CARNEY



ADELE MYERS



CAROLINE COTTOM



CORINNE AUMAN



DR. JOSEPH STERN



EDDIE HUFFMAN



ESME ADDISON



FRANK MORELLI



HEATHER FRESE SANCHEZ



JAMES ROBINSON



KIANNA ALEXANDER

Featured presentation from 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Laura Carney, author of *My Father's List: How Living My Dad's Dreams Set Me Free* in conversation with James Tate Hill.



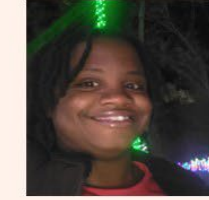
MELANIE MELTON



PATRICIA LEWIS



DR. TONIA REAVES



TRINA ROGERS

Meet some great regional authors and beyond. You can chat, buy books, and have them signed. Frank Morelli will present workshop on *Story Planning Strategies for the Character Driven Writer* at 1:30 - 2:30 pm.

This is for aspiring and seasoned writers. Registration is required for the workshop.

Contact Ronald Headen for more info or workshop registration at 336-412-6199 or ronald.headen@greensboro-nc.gov.

Conduit to Destiny®



www.greensborolibrary.org

Saturday, July 22

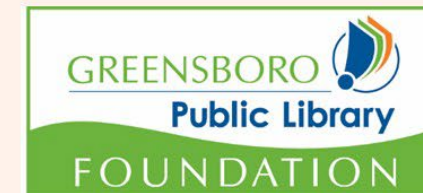
1- 4:30 pm

Central Library

219 N. Church Street

336-412-6199

This program is sponsored by



The Ultimate Book Discussion

Every other year the Greensboro Public Library, along with many community partners, lead a citywide reading of a selected book, One City, One Book (OCOB). Guilford Technical Community College and UNCG have chosen our book as their all-campus read. Since 2002, 77,975 people have participated in OCOB:

- [2002](#) - *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines
- [2004](#) - *The Middle of Everywhere* by Mary Pipher
- [2006](#) - *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl*
- [2008](#) - *The Pleasure Was Mine* by Tommy Hayes
- [2010](#) - *The Soloist* by Steve Lopez
- [2013](#) - *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea
- [2015](#) - *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson
- [2017](#) - *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- [2019](#) - *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
- [2021](#) – *There, There* by Tommy Orange
- [2023/2024](#) *The Carolina Table* edited by Randall Kenan



Any Questions?



Thank YOU!



Ronald.Headen@Greensboro-nc.gov

336-373-2925

