

READER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to the monthly installment of Reader Spotlight—in which we ask a library patron to tell us about their favorite books!

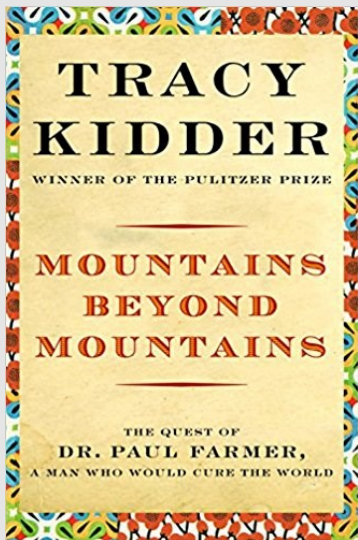


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Lopez Island Library

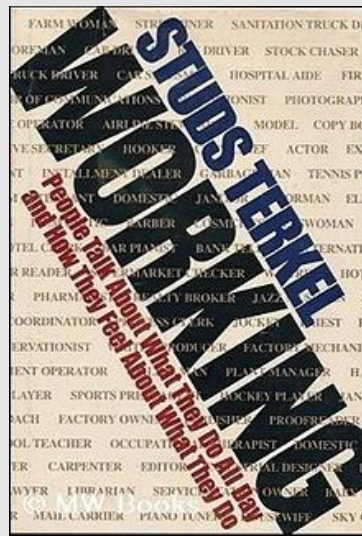
Barbara Gurley

Executive Director of the Lopez
Island Family Resource Center

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder



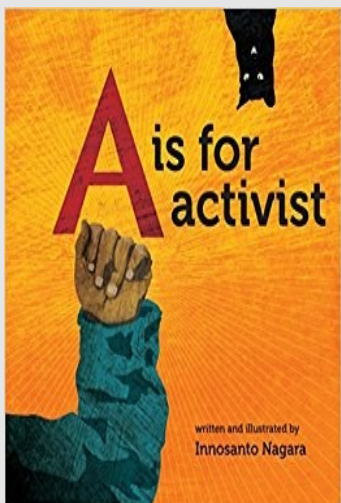
“I got my training in public health, in epidemiology. I was fascinated by the parts about TB and how it spreads and the antibiotic resistance. I liked reading about Dr. Farmer’s personal journey and the risks he took to help people and set up clinics in other parts of the world. It’s a weaving of many things I’m passionate about.”



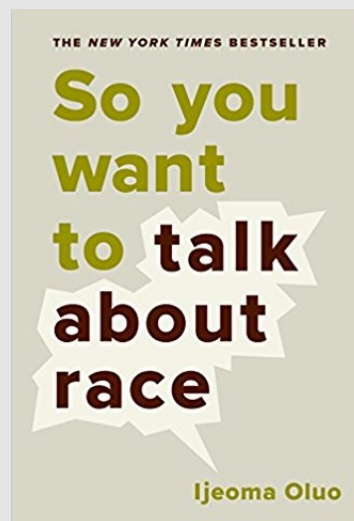
Working by Studs Terkel

“My grandfather was a big storyteller, and to me, this is all about gathering people’s stories. So much of people’s identity is their job and career. There’s stereotypes about people and their work, which is unfair. There’s so much more to people than their job title. A person’s passion and motive behind their work is more important than their job title.”

A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara

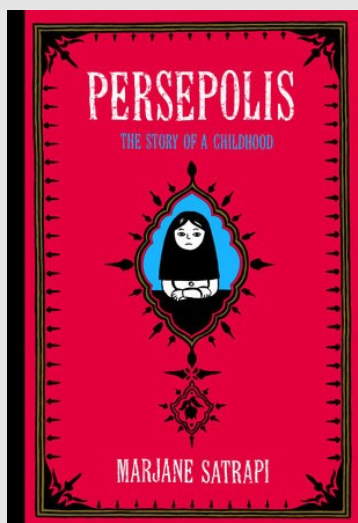


“My daughter shared this book with me. I love that it introduces kids at a young age to activism and broadens their horizons. This would have been nice to have when my kids were little. In my generation, we didn’t have those conversations about social justice until kids were older. This book helps you start as young as 2 or 3.”

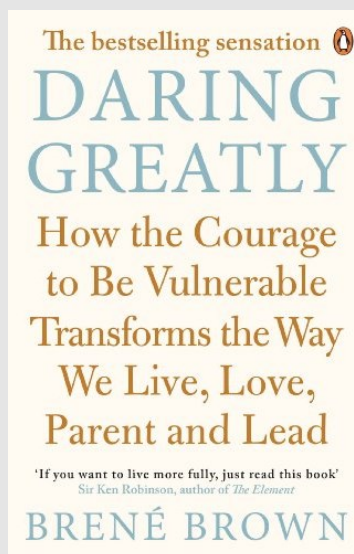


So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo

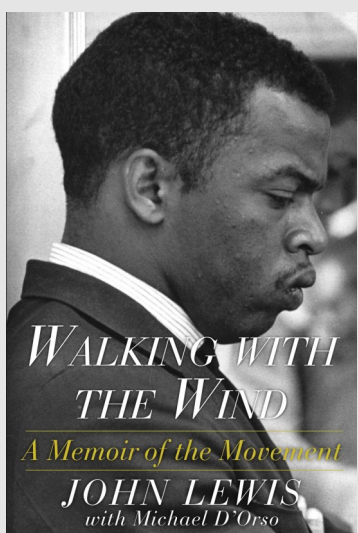
“I love her blunt style, her humor. She starts with her life story, and you can hear the racism and injustice that happens to people of color. But she also offers examples of how to talk to people, how to reframe the conversation about systemic racism and advocate for people. You feel like you’re in a living room with her.”



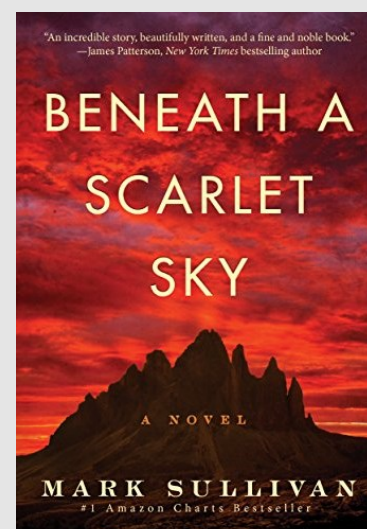
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
“I’m really engaged when someone tells their story, and I love books that give you a deeper understanding of what women go through in other parts of the world. I found the format to be powerful, it evoked more emotion through the images. I had never read a graphic novel before.”



Daring Greatly by Brené Brown
“I love her. All of her TED Talks are amazing. It’s so easy to let fear, anxiety, or discomfort with new situations get in the way of doing what you want. She encourages people to take risks. She’s like a Take-A-Risk Cheerleader. It’s a really encouraging, positive book.”



Walking with the Wind by John Lewis
“He’s just amazing, and the introduction is powerful. It’s about when he’s a little boy, and a sudden tornado comes. His aunt has him and all his cousins hold hands and stand in corners of the house to keep it down. I used to teach immigrant parent leadership classes. I remember us talking about that story and the power of coming together, holding hands, joining forces.”



Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan
“This is about an Italian man during the Holocaust who becomes a spy for the Allies. It’s based on a true story. The introduction is fascinating. The author was depressed and suicidal, and then he heard this story. He flew to Italy and became fast friends with the man and it totally turned his life around. Stories are powerful. My grandfather emigrated from Germany and could never talk about the war, so reading Holocaust stories helps me connect.”