



# the ORLA newsletter.

JULY 2021



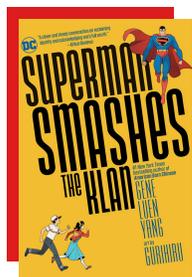
Introducing the Library of Accessible  
Media for Pennsylvanians



New Festival Debuting Next Month  
at the Oil City Library



Agatha Christie's Strange & Wonderful Legacy



## SUPERMAN SMASHES THE KLAN

GENE LUEN YANG

"I knew I had to read this book the second I read the title. The story is set in post WWII America and is based on an old radio play. The Lee family has moved from Chinatown to Downtown Metropolis because the father has started a new job at a "health" lab. While the Lees try to adjust to their new lives, there are some people that aren't happy they live in the neighborhood. There are a lot of good things to talk about in this book! It tackles themes of racism really well, for one. It shows how racism can be inherited, what can cause it and why it's still bad despite these things. It was a lot more nuanced than I thought it would be for a children's comic, which is great! Kids aren't dumb and showing why people might act racist instead of just "racism is bad" is good to see. I also enjoyed how all of the characters feel like real people and have good and bad parts including our title hero, Superman. In this story he starts off not knowing he is an alien and holding himself back so he will fit in better with people. Having his story tied with the main children characters trying to fit in was cool. I will say that the story can come off a little bit preachy towards the end, but all together I think this was a great comic book!" -- *Amanda Barker, Cooperstown Public Library*



YOUNG ADULT

## THE GIRLS I'VE BEEN

TESS SHARPE

"What's worse than Nora O'Malley, her girlfriend, and her ex-boyfriend having an awkward meet-up at the bank? The two bank robbers who just decided to stick up the place. Luckily for everyone involved (besides the two robbers maybe), Nora's not exactly who she says she is. She's the daughter of a con artist. She may have been playing it normal for the past 5 years, but you never forget how to manipulate your mark... Which is good seeing as the prize is their lives. But even though her ex knows about Nora's grisly past, her new girlfriend doesn't. Will the girls of her past be responsible for messing up her future...yet again? Once this book got going, I found myself not able to set it down. Nora strongly reminded me of Kevin from Home Alone, albeit a little less comical, but in the sense that she always had a trick up her sleeve. This book also manages to teach us that we are not defined by our pasts, but by the way we decide to move forward in the future. In conclusion, this book is worth a read, and if you ever find yourself in a tricky situation, don't be so quick to write off the paperclip in your bag or the hair tie around your wrist. Watch out for the film adaptation of this story coming to Netflix soon!" -- *Daidre Green, Oil City Library*



JUVENILE

## ESCAPE AT 10,000 FEET D.B. COOPER AND THE MISSING MONEY

TOM SULLIVAN

"Presented in graphic novel format, this book tells the story of D.B. Cooper, a man who hijacked a Northwest Airlines flight in 1971 and extorted \$200,000 from the airline. Right from the start the book makes it clear that this is a true story, and goes on to describe the events of the day from the moment the mysterious man entered the Portland International Airport to the moment he jumped out of the plane. Several theories about Cooper's disappearance are covered at the end of the book, detailing as well the discovery of some of the money that was stolen. There are also photos from the actual file to provide additional information. This is a fascinating summary of the only unsolved skyjacking in US history. It's sure to grab the attention of anyone who likes a good real life mystery without being too scary. For readers of graphic novels and nonfiction who want a puzzle to mull over while reading." -- *Annie Welsh, Oil Region Library Association*



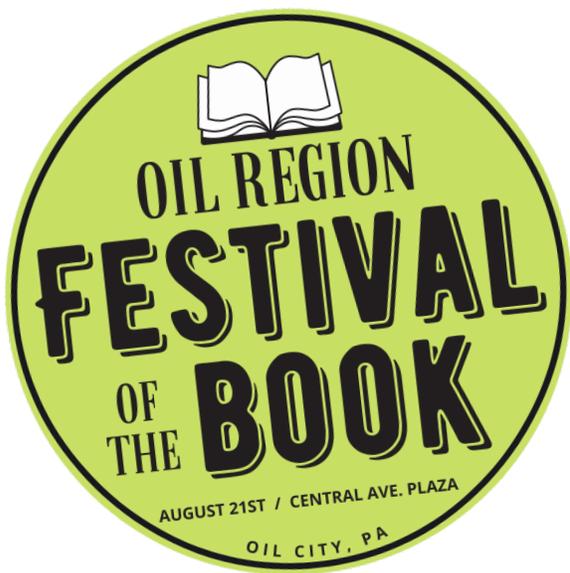
# Franklin Public Library Welcomes New Children's Coordinator

**Tracy Hilton** is the newest employee at the Franklin Public Library. She will be taking on the role of Children's Coordinator for the Franklin Public Library. She comes to us with years of experience in early childhood education & is excited to get started in her new role. Welcome, Tracy!



## Touch-a-Truck, Book Sale Happening for Oil Heritage Festival

Touch-a-Truck returns to the Central Ave. Plaza this summer! On Thursday, July 22, the Central Ave. Plaza will be closed to traffic & will instead be filled with all kinds of trucks, cars & heavy equipment! This free event is sure to be a ton of fun for all ages! The Friends of the Library Book Sale will also be taking place Thursday, July 22 - Saturday, July 24 in the Oil City Library basement. What a great way to kick off the Oil Heritage Festival in Downtown Oil City!



## New Festival Debuting Next Month at the Oil City Library

The Oil Region Library Association will be hosting the first Oil Region Festival of the Book on Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 10am-2pm. The Festival will be held in the Central Avenue Plaza in Oil City, PA (right outside the Oil City Library!).

The Oil Region Festival of the Book will provide an opportunity for community outreach to local published authors. Participating authors will be provided space at the festival to engage with our community and to share and sell their works.

## CALL TO LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORS

Are you a local or regional author interested in promoting your work & participating in the Oil Region Festival of the Book? Apply to be a featured author for this event using the link below!

<https://forms.gle/jQK7afKXt21Y8jvp8>

# Agatha Christie

## THE QUEEN OF MYSTERY



Quite possibly one of the greatest mystery writers ever, Agatha Christie was an English author known for her 66 detective novels, 14 short stories and the world's longest-running play. Her novels have sold more than 2 billion copies to date and *Guinness World Records* lists her as the best-selling fiction writer of all time. She is also the most-translated individual author, ever.

Christie was born in 1890 to a wealthy upper-middle-class family in England. She taught herself to read by age 4, against her mother's wishes. In April of 1901, she wrote her first poem titled "*The Cow Slip*". Christie had long been a fan of detective stories, and she finished her first detective novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, in 1916. She continued experimenting with her writing as she matured, and was soon finding herself settling into married life. She was wed to Archibald "Archie" Christie on Christmas Eve in 1914 and had a child, Rosalind, in 1919. Things took a turn for the worse in 1926 when Archie had an affair and asked Agatha for a divorce. Agatha's mother also passed the same year, sending the author into a spiral of sadness and despair.

## THE DISAPPEARANCE

On December 3rd of 1926, nearly a century ago, Agatha Christie disappeared from her home. The next morning, her car was found parked at the edge of a chalk quarry with nothing but her clothes and expired driver's license inside. Immediately following the discovery of her car, an extensive 11-day manhunt ensued and Agatha's disappearance was all anyone could talk about. The newspapers covered the story excessively in order to satisfy their readers' "hunger for sensation, disaster, and scandal". Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the famous *Sherlock Holmes* novels, even gave a spiritual medium one of Agatha's gloves in hopes that it would help them locate her.



Christie's car being discovered at the edge of the chalk quarry.

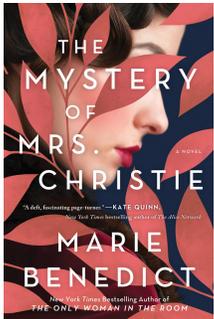
On December 14th, Agatha was found dancing the Charleston at the Swan Hydropathic Hotel checked in under the name "Mrs. Tressa Neele", the surname of her husband's mistress. She seemed to have no memory of being Agatha Christie and was diagnosed by two doctors as suffering from "an unquestionable genuine loss of memory".

Agatha eventually claimed to regain her memory through extensive therapy and continued her writing. Though, her autobiography makes no mention of her disappearance. There are many different theories as to why Agatha Christie disappeared for 11 days. Many believe she disappeared on purpose as a publicity stunt for her upcoming novel. Some think that she wanted to frame her cheating husband for murder. However, Agatha herself proposed she was simply in a fugue state at the time of her disappearance and "...there is no need to dwell on it".

Agatha officially divorced from Archie in October of 1928. Archie married his mistress, Nancy Neele, a week later. Christie then left England the same year to take a trip on the Simplon Orient Express (the inspiration for her famous novel, *Murder on the Orient Express*) and met archaeologist Max Mallowan, who she married in 1930. Their marriage lasted until Christie's death in 1976.

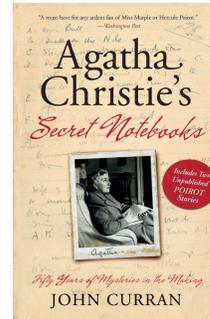
# Recommended Reads

TRY ONE OF THESE TOP 'CHRISTIE PICKS' AVAILABLE AT YOUR LIBRARY



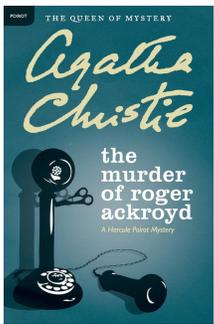
## THE MYSTERY OF MRS. CHRISTIE

In this recent novel release, popular author Marie Benedict reconstructs Agatha Christie's mysterious 11-day disappearance in 1926.



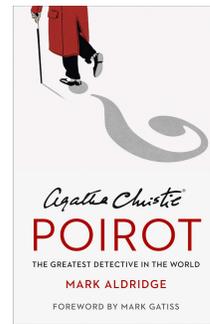
## AGATHA CHRISTIE'S SECRET NOTEBOOKS

A fascinating exploration of the contents of Agatha Christie's secret notebooks, including 2 unpublished Poirot stories, illustrations and analyses.



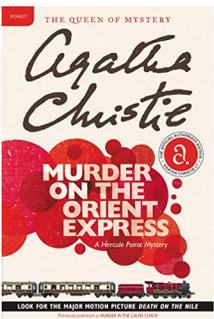
## THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD

This title is a favorite of many Christie readers. The British Crime Writers' Association voted it the best crime novel ever.



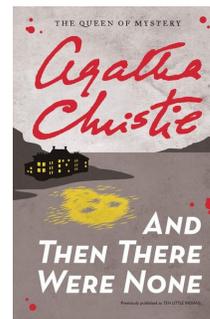
## POIROT: THE GREATEST DETECTIVE IN THE WORLD

Quite possibly the world's favorite fictional detective, Hercule Poirot is the center of focus in this literary analysis of his appearances in Christie's novels and plays.



## MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

Another classic Christie favorite, this exotic story has gained more recognition in recent years due to a film adaptation in 2017 directed by Kenneth Branagh.



## AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

One of Christie's most famous novels, the plot centers around characters on an island where they are picked off one by one.



## NEED SOME MORE MYSTERY THIS SUMMER?



Participate in *Summer @ Your ORLA Library: The Case of the Missing Librarian* at Oil City and Cooperstown Libraries! There's a case to solve for ALL ages, including adults! You can register in person at your library or online at [oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org).

# COMPUTER SCIENCE CAMP



## GEMS Inspired Computer Science Program Beginning This Month

Following in the footsteps of the GEMS (Girls Excelling in Math and Science) Club, a new 4-week program will expose young girls (ages 9-11) to new subject areas within STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) that will excite them and empower them to follow their dreams while bringing more opportunities, free of cost, to the community. After creating a project of their choice, Computer Science Camp participants will have a strong foundation in computer programming, teamwork, and creativity that can be built upon in the future. The program will meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in July beginning Tuesday, July 6th at the Oil City Library. For more information, email Sarah Fisher at [sfisher.steam@gmail.com](mailto:sfisher.steam@gmail.com) or call the library at (814) 678-3072.

**This program is free to attend, but is limited to 7 participants. Make sure to claim your spot soon by registering at the Oil City Library!**

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## Magazines Now Available on OverDrive & Libby

Great news-- you can now borrow thousands of magazines on OverDrive or Libby using your library card! Popular titles such as *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, *Good Housekeeping*, *National Geographic*, *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue* and *Reader's Digest* are available, as well as some more niche titles like *Yoga Journal*, *Mother Earth News*, *Astronomy*, *American History*, *Writer's Digest* and much more!



Magazines check out just like ebooks & audiobooks, but there are no wait times. Feel free to check an issue out whenever you'd like!



# Introducing **LAMP** The Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians

The Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians offers people who cannot access the printed word a way to restore their love of reading by shipping for free materials in accessible formats like braille, audio, described movies and large print directly to patrons across Pennsylvania. In addition to physical content, LAMP also provides digital access to downloadable audio or braille to hundreds of thousands of titles. If you cannot read standard print due to blindness, a visual disability or because you can't hold a book or turn pages or, if you have a reading disability such as dyslexia – then this service is for you. LAMP is made up of two National Library Service network libraries in Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Free Library of Philadelphia.

## What LAMP Offers

LAMP offers a variety of media types to patrons, including digital audiobooks and magazines, braille books and downloads, large print books and braille and tactile early literacy kits.

## Who is Eligible?

If standard print has become difficult to read for you, a friend, or a family member, you may be eligible for this service. Prospective users are required to submit an application form certified by a competent authority which includes doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, ophthalmologists, optometrists, psychologists, registered nurses, therapists, and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (such as social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, certified reading specialists, and superintendents). In addition, professional librarians or any persons whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress may certify eligibility.

- Blind
- Deaf-Blind
- Visually Disabled
- Physically Disabled
- Reading Disabled

## Ready to Become a Member of LAMP?

Visit <https://mylamp.org/> today to apply for LAMP services.

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# FEATURED DIGITAL RESOURCES

Available at [www.oilregionlibraries.org](http://www.oilregionlibraries.org)

## Summertime Cinema on **kanopy**



Stream these & more for free with your library card.

# prenda

## BECOME AN APP INVENTOR

Prenda is a self-paced, cloud-based learn-to-code software that can be used by kids at home, and in ORLA's Code Club programs. Whether a coder wants to learn how to make a website for their favorite band, or an app that makes sound effects, Prenda has the roadmap to get them there. It's fun, engaging, gamified, & ultimately helps kids take ownership over the entire experience.



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