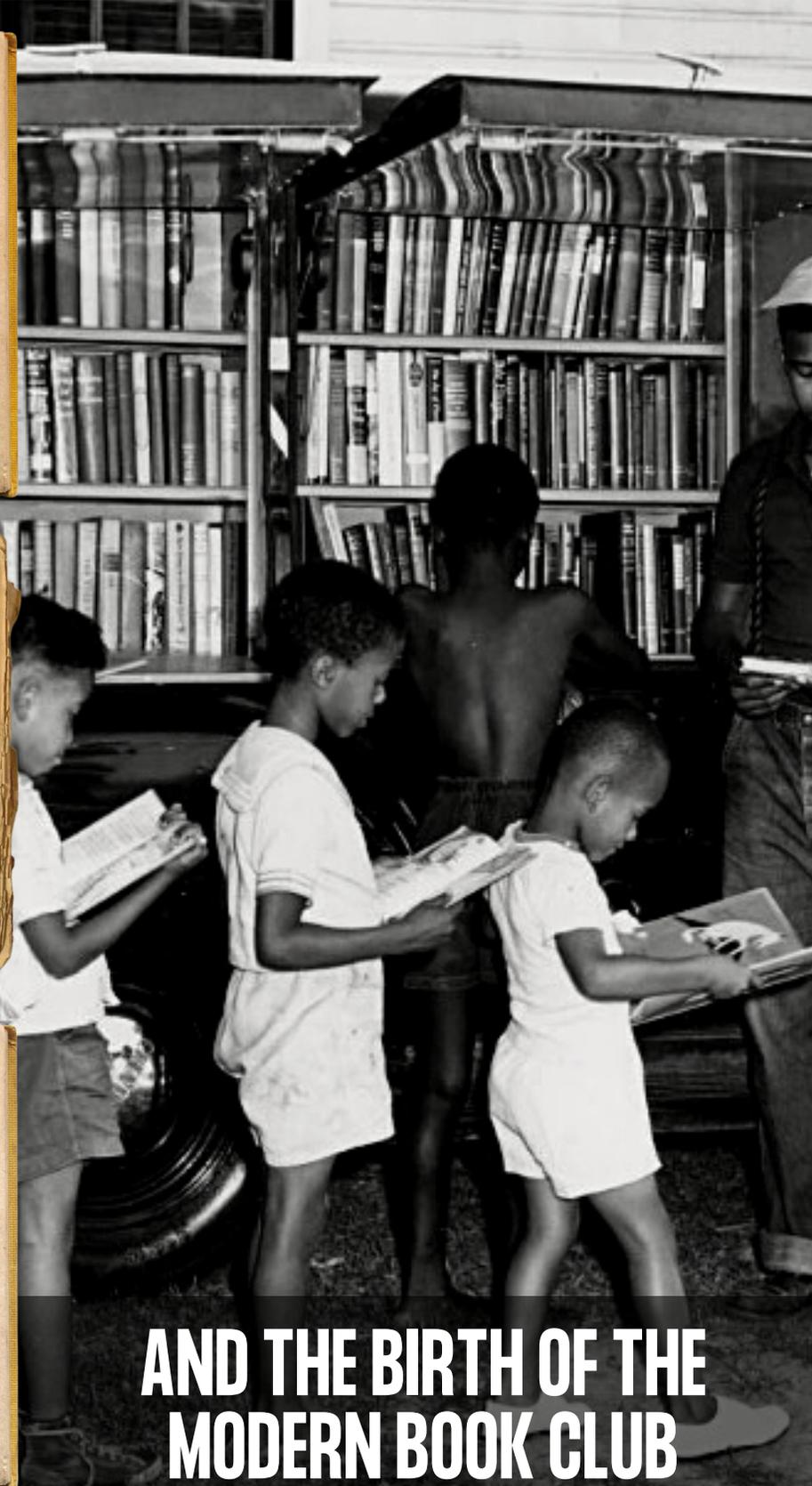
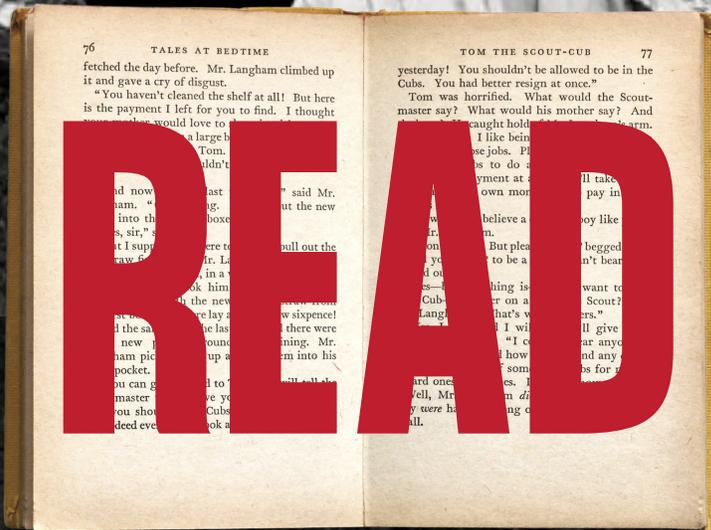
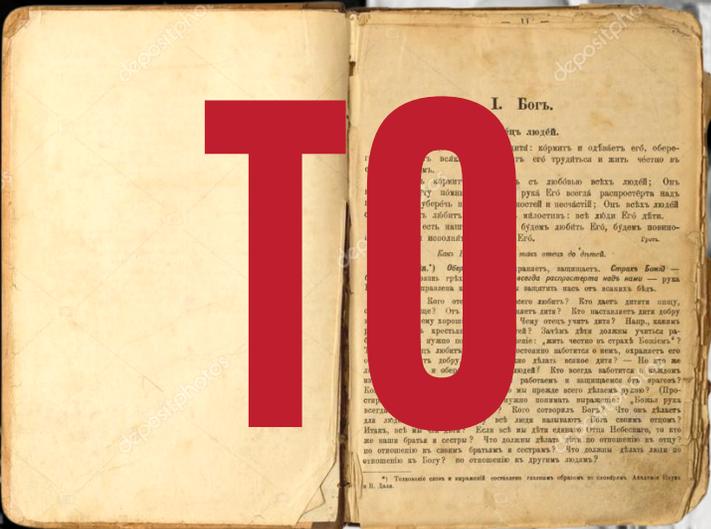
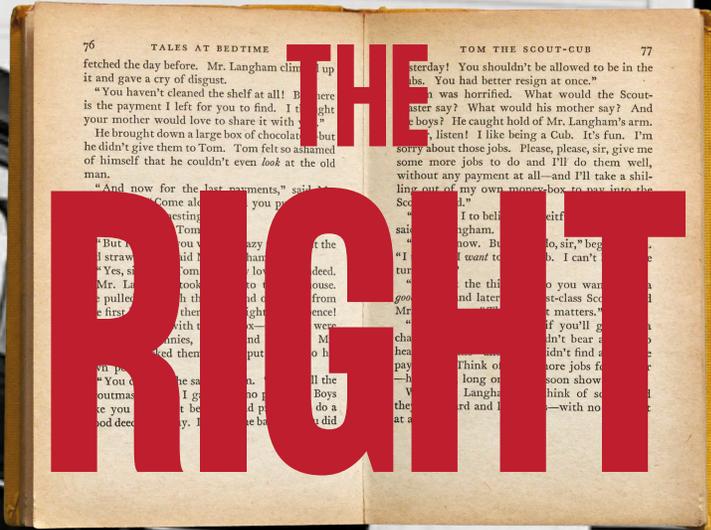


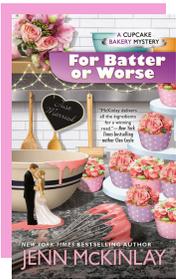


the ORLA newsletter.

MARCH 2022



AND THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN BOOK CLUB



FOR BATTER OR WORSE

JENN MCKINLAY

"For Batter or Worse capably fulfills the cozy mystery order: it's new enough to be interesting, but doesn't go too far out of the comfort zone. Compared to other entries in the series, *Batter* doesn't have an incredibly convoluted mystery. It's just enough to let the hijinks of our favorite characters shine

without becoming annoying. The tight timeline for the wedding was enough to keep the pacing moving forward without too much time being spent chasing the red herrings. Though readers could probably guess the true murderer early on, the murder weapon and reveal was a surprise. McKinlay brings the focus back onto the character growth in a way that feels complete; I actually checked to make sure this wasn't the last book in the series. The characters have open roads ahead of them but there aren't any convoluted cliffhangers that were in previous entries in the series. Though I don't necessarily agree with the direction all of the characters took, nothing was dragged out for long in a refreshing change of pace for this series. All in all, *For Batter or Worse* is a great companion to holiday baking and escaping from the stress of the season to visit friends in warmer climes who just so happen to specialize in sweet treats. The audiobook is read by the accomplished Susan Boyce." -- *Erin Joyce, Oil Creek Library District*

STAFF

Cozy Reads ☕

PICKS

WEATHER GIRL

RACHEL LYNN SOLOMON

"This is a really cute office romance involving a weather-girl and sports-caster who are trying to get their bosses back together because of drama at work. They then end up falling in love themselves in the process. A little cliché but fun! I really enjoyed how realistic the characters are in this. They all have their own problems and quirks to deal with; one character has depression and is dealing with it, another is divorced with a child, it's all treated with respect and very true to life. The story gets steamy in the middle but overall it was a light, fun, comfort read with good characterization." -- *Amanda Barker, Cooperstown Public Library*



THE WINTERBORNE HOME FOR VENGEANCE AND VALOR

ALLY CARTER

"April's mom is coming back for her...just not yet. Left at a fire station as a baby with nothing but a key around her neck and a note from her mother, April is used to the foster care system. On a field trip to a fancy museum, she discovers that the symbol on her key matches the crest of the Winterborne family. Everyone knows about the Winterborne tragedy - two parents and five children went out on their boat for a day on the water, but only one child returned, with no memory of what happened that day. That child, Gabriel Winterborne, grew up and walked away from his life, leaving no trace behind. April is invited to live in the Winterborne Home with other orphaned children after she accidentally sets fire to the museum - can she uncover the mystery of her key and what happened to Gabriel Winterborne? A mystery that's sure to please, the orphaned children create a familial bond and work together to solve the mounting mysteries of the Winterborne House. The characters are likable and easy to root for, and there's enough suspense to keep the pages turning without being TOO scary for younger readers." -- *Annie Welsh, Oil Region Library Association*



WANNA SUBMIT YOUR OWN BOOK REVIEW?

Email a review of a book you read recently (good or bad!) to promotions@oilregionlibraries.org to be featured in a future issue of the ORLA Newsletter!

Franklin Library Seeking Facilitator for Teen Reading Lounge Program

The Franklin Public Library is looking for a facilitator to help with our upcoming Teen Reading Lounge Program. This person would be needed for a minimum of 5 hours per week for two sessions (one 6-8 week session in Spring and one 6-8 week session in Summer). This is a paid position & a degree in education or social work is preferred.

What is Teen Reading Lounge?

Built on the belief that encouraging youth to choose creative programs based on their own interests is crucial to adolescent development, PA Humanities created an award-winning, unconventional approach to book clubs that offers a safe space for ages 12 to 18. The humanities naturally push young people to ask questions and share ideas, which are vital activities to discovering who they are, who they want to be, and their role in

their community. Participants work together to co-create the reading list and design projects that connect themes in their selections to tangible action in their communities. With support from trained facilitators, they learn to hear from different perspectives and apply the questions from the readings to the world around them. Teens are proud to report on stronger interpersonal, communication, literacy, and critical-thinking skills and increased confidence thanks to Teen Reading Lounge.

We hope to have registration open for Session 1 of Teen Reading Lounge by mid-Spring!



If interested, please email fplteen@oilregionlibraries.org or call the Teen Services Coordinator, Daidre, at (814) 432-5062 on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays. To learn more about Teen Reading Lounge & what being a TRL Facilitator means, visit <https://pahumanities.org/initiative/teen-reading-lounge/>.

You read for **47,394** minutes!

THE 2ND ANNUAL
**WINTER OF
READING**

read. track. win.

You crushed it this year! Participants ages 5+ read for a total of **47,394 minutes** in ORLA's 2nd Annual Winter of Reading challenge!

WINNERS

Adult: Emily Gibson

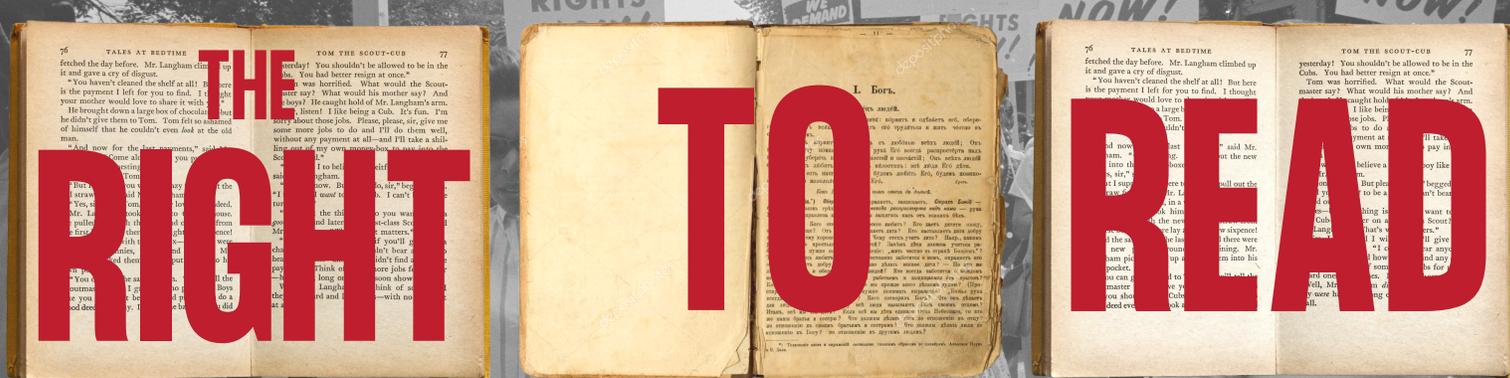
Teen: Braylyn Brewer

Ages 9-12: Isaiah Gramley

Ages 5-8: J.R. Gibson

Thank you to all who participated & we'll see you again next year!





AND THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN BOOK CLUB

Lake City, South Carolina, 1959. A 9-year-old boy stood in line at his local public library to check out his stack of books, attracting a slew of stares from library patrons. When he approached the counter, the librarian asked, "What do you think you're doing?" The boy politely explained he wanted to check out some library books. The librarian warned, "We don't circulate books to Negroes," and threatened to call the police. Unwavering, the young boy propped himself up on the counter and said, "I'll wait." The police arrived and the boy was begrudgingly given his library books. He thanked the librarian as he left.



Ronald McNair, NASA astronaut & physicist.

The young boy was Ronald McNair, a future physicist and NASA astronaut, who later was on board the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986. The library in Lake City was later renamed the *Dr. Ronald E. McNair Life History Center* in January, 2011.

On the heels of Black History Month and Freedom to Read Week, it's important to recognize that the 'Right to Read' hasn't always been free and accessible to many populations in America. Ronald's story sheds light on a very formative component of library history that you may be surprised to learn: the modern book club was largely shaped by marginalized groups in a centuries-long fight for the freedom to read.

Black Reading & Literary Societies

Book clubs and reading groups are part of a rich history that helped to shape Black Americans' reading habits in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. For most of the 19th century, the free Black population was prohibited from using public libraries and participating in literary activities. For the enslaved, reading was a crime subject to harsh punishment. For the freed, public meeting spaces were frequently denied and accessible reading materials were frequently refused. Freed men and women felt it was crucial to participate in literary discussion groups (whether formal, informal or secret) to make up for absent or insufficient educational opportunities. So they formed their own.

Records indicate that freed men and women started forming literary discussion groups in America as early as 1821. In 1828, a group of freed Black men started the Colored Reading Society in Philadelphia, PA. Their main focus for the group was "strengthening memory...and form[ing] habits of analyzing, comparing, abstracting, and correct reasoning" by reading and discussing materials together. By reading texts aloud in a group, it enabled individuals with varying levels of literacy to participate. The Colored Reading Society was exclusive to men. However, over the course of the next century, more than 50 Black library & literary societies were founded in northern American cities.

Many of these societies were very crucial to abolitionist efforts, some even responsible for directly freeing slaves.

The landmark *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision in 1896 created the legal foundation for segregated libraries for the next 58 years. "Separate but equal" public library policies resulted in separate entrances, rooms, days of service and circulation policies. In some areas, Black populations were only offered bookmobile service. Often, they got no service at all.

Plessy v. Ferguson was overturned by the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954, but the Black population still faced racism and inequity daily. Black Americans were beaten, arrested and sometimes even lost their jobs for attempting to register for a library card.



Children secure books at a North Carolina Albemarle Region bookmobile stop, 1950.

Consequently, the amount of Black literary and reading societies continued to grow and spread to the South in order to reach formerly enslaved Black Americans. The groups served as a safe and enjoyable way to enhance literacy and cultural ideas within communities. Even after the Civil Rights Movement, Black reading groups continued to meet and collectively support Black authors and creators. Their fight for literacy and access has resulted in an important and precious tradition of reading with others that is now so common in many libraries and communities.

Women's Reading & Literary Societies

It's also no secret that women have had to fight for literacy throughout history. One of the earliest recorded book clubs was started in 1634 by Anne Hutchinson, who started a weekly women's group to read and discuss sermons while aboard a ship travelling to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Colony's general assembly condemned the reading group and Anne was eventually put on trial, convicted and banished from the Colony. However, the women continued to meet in Anne's home and discuss important, historical texts.

As women gained more rights, they created more safe spaces to examine and discuss literature. At the beginning of the 19th century, women's groups began meeting to discuss Shakespeare, poetry and nonfiction. Women's book clubs were also crucial to the Women's Rights Movement, allowing space for lectures, readings and meetings with revolutionaries.

When female journalists were barred from attending an event honoring Charles Dickens in 1868, Jane Cunningham Croly founded *Sorosis* (later the *Federation of Women's Clubs*), a women's literacy and civic improvement club. Many other groups inspired by Croly's group soon followed and are still active to this day.



Anne Hutchinson on trial in Massachusetts.

Franklin Branch Manager Back From Maternity Leave

Welcome back, Zoe! Branch Manager of the Franklin Public Library, Zoe Oakes, returned last month from her maternity leave. Zoe and her husband Tad welcomed their youngest, Ted, on November 4th, 2021. She's enjoyed 14 weeks off at home bonding with Ted, as well as his two older brothers Declan and Ollie. Zoe says she's happy to return to work to reaffirm her relationships with her fellow ORLA staff and the community.



PAWS 4 A Cause Therapy Dogs at the Franklin Public Library

Looking for an inviting and motivating way for your child to practice their reading skills? Come to the Franklin Public Library and have them read with a friendly certified therapy dog. Open to all school age children & no registration needed. We "paws"-itively can't wait to see you! **Questions? Call (814) 432-5062**



Saturday
MARCH 5
10:30am - 11:30am



Wednesday
MARCH 9
5:00pm - 6:00pm

Franklin Library Planning Centennial Celebration

The Franklin Public Library turns 100 years old this year! We're looking for active volunteers to help plan and host the 100 Year Celebration. The first meeting will take place on Monday, March 28 at 10:00 am at the Franklin Public Library. Bring your thinking caps! **Questions? Call (814) 432-5062 or email info@oilregionlibraries.org**

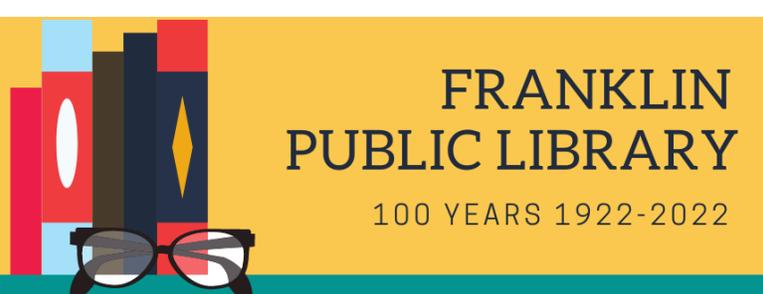
Friends of the Franklin Library Holding 50/50

Get your tickets now for the Friends of the Franklin Public Library 50/50 Raffle in March! Tickets can be purchased at the Franklin Public Library and are \$1 each. All proceeds benefit Friends of the Library projects. The winner will be drawn and announced on April 1st.

**FRANKLIN
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

100 YEARS 1922-2022

50/50
Raffle





Cooperstown Library Adds STEM Kits to Collection

Thanks to a grant from the *Venango Area Community Foundation*, an affiliate of *Bridge Builders Community Foundations*, the Cooperstown Public Library has added several new STEM Kits available to check out with your library card! The new kits contain items such as Magna-Tiles, Hex Bugs, a Makey Makey, PlusPlus Blocks, a Marble Run & more! Stop in soon to check them out!

Oil City Library Holding Monthly Adult Craft Club

Come craft with us! Adult Craft Club is held on the last Wednesday of each month at 5:30PM. Participating is always free & all materials will be provided. We create a different project each month & always have a fun time! Registration is required for this program so that enough supplies can be provided. To register for the next Adult Craft Club night, please call (814) 678-3072 or stop in to the Oil City Library!

SPRING DATES

- ☀️ **Wednesday, March 30th**
- ☀️ **Wednesday, April 27th**
- ☀️ **Wednesday, May 25th**



Upcoming Workshops



COMPUTER BASICS WORKSHOP
FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
11AM - 1PM & 4PM - 6PM
FREE



COMPUTER BASICS WORKSHOP
OIL CITY LIBRARY
10AM - 11AM
FREE

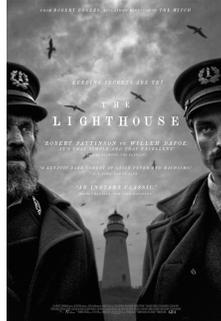
Join us at the Franklin Public Library on Tuesday, March 8th at 11AM or 4PM for a Computer Basics Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! Almost all workplaces require some computer skills. Learn to confidently navigate your way through basic systems, including the desktop environment, internet searching, emailing, and Microsoft word. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Franklin Public Library or by calling (814) 432-5062. Walk-ins are okay too!

Join us at the Oil City Library on Monday, March 14th or Monday, March 28th at 10AM for a Computer Basics Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! Almost all workplaces require some computer skills. Learn to confidently navigate your way through basic systems, including the desktop environment, internet searching, emailing, and Microsoft word. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Oil City Library or by calling (814) 678-3072. Walk-ins are okay too!

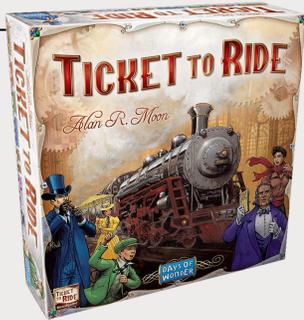
FEATURED DIGITAL RESOURCES

Available at www.oilregionlibraries.org

Watch **A24** films on **kanopy**



Stream these & more for free with your library card.



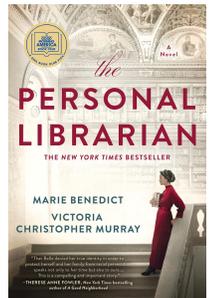
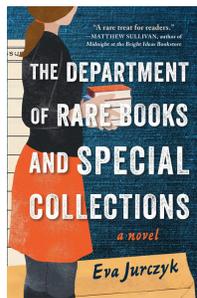
FEATURED LIBRARY EQUIPMENT

TICKET TO RIDE BOARD GAME

Ticket to Ride is an award winning, cross-country train adventure game. Players collect train cards that enable them to claim railway routes connecting cities throughout North America. The longer the routes, the more points they earn. Check out Ticket to Ride today for FREE with your library card!



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