

Book Discussions at Apache County Libraries



Are you interested in taking part in a book discussion? Check out your Apache County Library's upcoming discussions. Copies of the books to be discussed are available at the libraries, and the due date is generally lengthened allowing patrons time to read the book and bring it to the discussion. Those attending the book discussions also have input in upcoming book discussion choices. We hope to see you there.

On Tuesday, December 29 at 6:00 P.M., the book *Ice Land* by Betsy Tobin will be discussed at the Round Valley Public Library. A review by author Lauren Willig describes the book as, "A rich, complex, and compelling tale of myth, magic and very human passion. Tobin weaves together legend and history into an epic saga, layering the grandeur of a semi-mythic Iceland with the familiar landscape of the human heart."

On Tuesday, January 26th at 6:00 P.M., the book *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok will be discussed at the St. Johns Public Library. The Amazon.com review gives the following summary of the book. "In 1940s Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malther and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences (Reuven is a Modern Orthodox Jew with an intellectual, Zionist father; Danny is the brilliant son and rightful heir to a Hasidic rebbe), the young men form a deep, if unlikely, friendship. Together they negotiate adolescence, family conflicts, the crisis of faith engendered when Holocaust stories begin to emerge in the U.S., loss, love, and the journey to adulthood. The intellectual and spiritual clashes between fathers, between each son and his own father, and between the two young men, provide a unique backdrop for this exploration of fathers, sons, faith, loyalty, and, ultimately, the power of love."

Concho Public Library will also be having a book discussion on Tuesday, January 26th. The meeting begins at 1:30 and anyone 16 and older is invited. The book to be discussed is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer. *Bookmark Magazine* offers the following: "Traditional without seeming stale and romantic without being naïve' (*San Francisco Chronicle*), this epistolary novel, based on Mary Ann Shaffer's painstaking, lifelong research, is a homage to booklovers and a nostalgic portrayal of an era. As her quirky, loveable characters cite the works of Shakespeare, Austen, and the Brontës, Shaffer subtly weaves those writers' themes into her own narrative. However, it is the tragic stories of life under Nazi occupation that animate the novel and give it its urgency; furthermore, the novel explores the darker side of human nature without becoming maudlin. The *Rocky Mountain News* criticized the novel's lighthearted tone and characterizations, but most critics agreed that, with its humor and optimism, *Guernsey* 'affirms the power of books to nourish people during hard times'" (*Washington Post*).

