

119 North Fourth Street  
West Branch Michigan  
48661  
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**HOURS**  
Monday 10am-7pm  
Tues-Friday  
10am-5pm  
Sat  
10am-2pm

**STAFF**  
*Director*  
John S.  
*Technical Processor*  
Amy W.  
*Programming-  
Coordinator*  
Mandy S.  
*Circulation Staff*  
Ellie M.  
Steffanie S.  
Matt T.

—BOOK NOOK—  
Used & collectable books  
for sale.

**Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
10am - 4pm  
Saturday  
10am - 1:30pm

100% volunteer staffed—  
please call ahead for  
exact hours



Join the WBDL 2024  
"The Decades"



Reading Challenge!

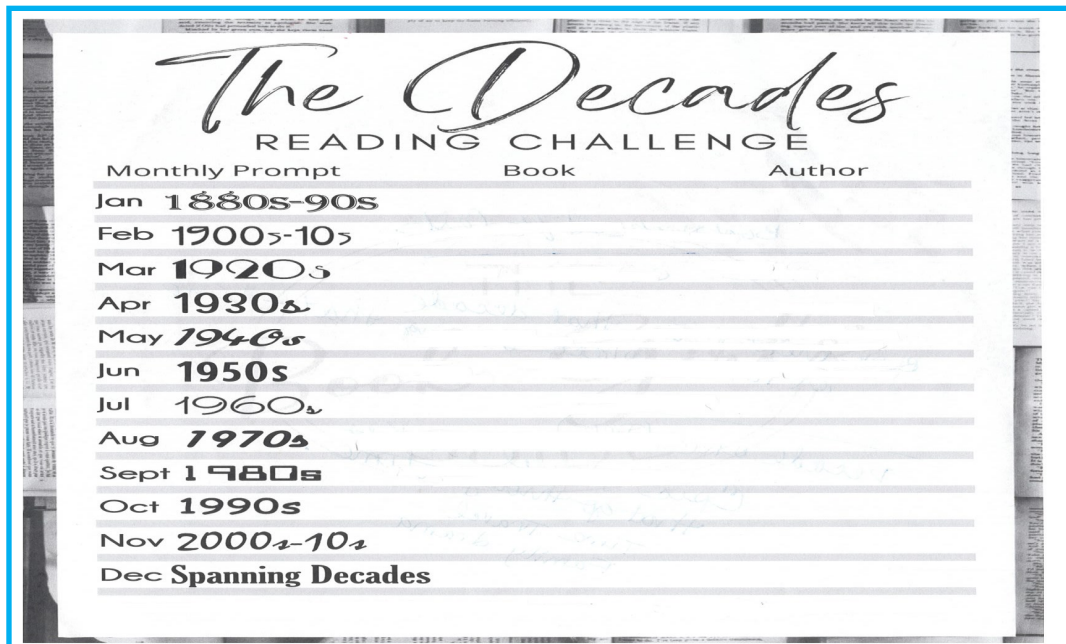
**How Does the Decades Challenge Work?**

Every month, you will read a book of your choice set in a specific decade, working your way chronologically from the late nineteenth century in January, up to the early twenty-first century by the end of the year.

**What Kinds of Books Are Included?**

As with our other challenges, we provide carefully researched display of highly-rated titles for you to choose from, for each reading prompt. The Decades Challenge is perfect for anyone who enjoys historical fiction, including sub-genres like romance, mystery, literary fiction, and more. However, you don't have to be a fiction reader to participate. We also include non-fiction suggestions about important people and events from each decade.

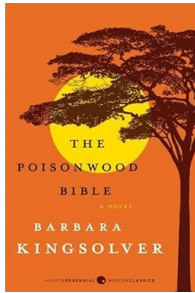
**\*\*\*Sign-up at the Circulation Desk\*\*\***



Monthly Prompt	Book	Author
Jan 1880s-90s		
Feb 1900s-10s		
Mar 1920s		
Apr 1930s		
May 1940s		
Jun 1950s		
Jul 1960s		
Aug 1970s		
Sept 1980s		
Oct 1990s		
Nov 2000s-10s		
Dec Spanning Decades		

Technical Assistance provided by appointment only Tuesday-Friday 1:30-4:00 PM

"READING IS DREAMING, WITH OPEN EYES"



**Title:** *The Poisonwood Bible*  
**Author:** *Barbara Kingsolver*  
**Date:** *Thursday, Feb 8, 2024*  
**@ 2 p.m.**

The story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil.

The novel is set against one of the most dramatic political chronicles of the twentieth century: the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium, the murder of its first elected prime minister, the CIA coup to install his replacement, and the insidious progress of a world economic order that robs the fledgling African nation of its autonomy. Against this backdrop, Orleana Price reconstructs the story of her evangelist husband's part in the Western assault on Africa, a tale indelibly darkened by her own losses and unanswerable questions about her own culpability. Also narrating the story, by turns, are her four daughters—the teenaged Rachel; adolescent twins Leah and Adah; and Ruth May, a prescient five-year-old. These sharply observant girls, who arrive in the Congo with racial preconceptions forged in 1950s Georgia, will be marked in surprisingly different ways by their father's intractable mission, and by Africa itself. Ultimately each must strike her own separate path to salvation.

## The BOOK NOOK

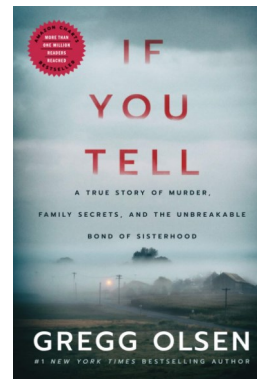
January Sale  
**WESTERN BOOKS**  
**4 FOR \$1.00**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## January 2024

**Dates are subject to change:**

- Jan 2-BOOK LOVER'S LUNCH @ 12 p.m.**
- Jan 3-PRESCHOOL STORY TIME @ 11 a.m.**
- Jan 8-Decades Reading Challenge Begins**
- Jan 10-PRESCHOOL STORY TIME @ 11 a.m.**
- Jan 11-LET'S DISCUSS BOOK CLUB @ 2 p.m.**
- Jan 17-PRESCHOOL STORY TIME @ 11 a.m.**
- Jan 24-PRESCHOOL STORY TIME @ 11 a.m.**
- Jan 31-PRESCHOOL STORY TIME @ 11 a.m.**



**True Crime Book Club**  
**Monday, Feb 19, 2024**  
**@ 4 p.m.**

After more than a decade, when sisters Nikki, Sami, and Tori Knotek hear the word *mom*, it claws like an eagle's talons, triggering memories that have been their secret since childhood. Until now.

For years, behind the closed doors of their farmhouse in Raymond, Washington, their sadistic mother, Shelly, subjected her girls to unimaginable abuse, degradation, torture, and psychic terrors. Through it all, Nikki, Sami, and Tori developed a defiant bond that made them far less vulnerable than Shelly imagined. Even as others were drawn into their mother's dark and perverse web, the sisters found the strength and courage to escape an escalating nightmare that culminated in multiple murders.