



BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

STAFF PICKS

Staff members of the Benson Public Library share some of their favorite books...

Recommended by Peggy:

"I enjoyed the first book in the series, but struggled to read books 2 and 3. I also felt that if you hadn't read the book you would not enjoy the movie"

The Hunger Games (Book 1)



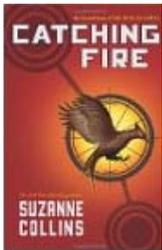
In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed.

What happens if we choose entertainment over humanity?

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Recommended by Peggy:

Catching Fire The Hunger Games (Book 2)



Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has won the annual Hunger Games with fellow district tribute Peeta Mellark. But it was a victory won by defiance of the Capitol and their harsh rules. Katniss and Peeta should be happy. After all, they have just won for themselves and their families a life of safety and plenty. But there are rumors of rebellion among the subjects, and Katniss and Peeta, to their horror, are the faces of that rebellion. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge.

Mockingjay (book 3)



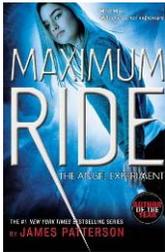
Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has survived the Hunger Games twice. But now that she's made it out of the bloody arena alive, she's still not safe. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge. Who do they think should pay for the unrest? Katniss. And what's worse, President Snow has made it clear that no one else is safe either. Not Katniss's family, not her friends, not the people of District 12.

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Recommended by Kelli:

**The Angel Experiment: A Maximum Ride Novel
(Book 1)**

By James Patterson

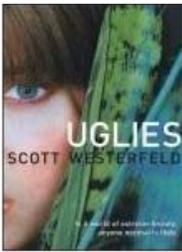


In James Patterson's blockbuster series, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock"--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel--are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time...like when Angel, the youngest member of the flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the "School" where she and the others were experimented on by a crew of wack jobs. Her friends brave a journey to blazing hot Death Valley, CA, to save Angel, but soon enough, they find themselves in yet another nightmare--this one involving fighting off the half-human, half-wolf "Erasers" in New York City. Whether in the treetops of Central Park or in the bowels of the Manhattan subway system, Max and her adopted family take the ride of their lives. Along the way Max discovers from her old friend and father-figure Jeb--now her betrayed and greatest enemy--that her purpose is save the world--but can she?

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Recommended by Kelli:

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

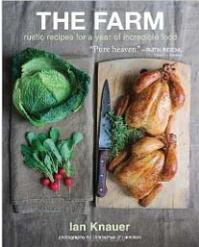


Playing on every teen's passionate desire to look as good as everybody else, Scott Westerfeld (*Midnighters*) projects a future world in which a compulsory operation at sixteen wipes out physical differences and makes everyone pretty by conforming to an ideal standard of beauty. The "New Pretties" are then free to play and party, while the younger "Uglies" look on enviously and spend the time before their own transformations in plotting mischievous tricks against their elders. Tally Youngblood is one of the most daring of the Uglies, and her imaginative tricks have gotten her in trouble with the menacing department of Special Circumstances. She has yearned to be pretty, but since her best friend Shay ran away to the rumored rebel settlement of recalcitrant Uglies called The Smoke, Tally has been troubled. The authorities give her an impossible choice: either she follows Shay's cryptic directions to The Smoke with the purpose of betraying the rebels, or she will never be allowed to become pretty. Hoping to rescue Shay, Tally sets off on the dangerous journey as a spy. But after finally reaching The Smoke she has a change of heart when her new lover David reveals to her the sinister secret behind becoming pretty. The fast-moving story is enlivened by many action sequences in the style of videogames, using intriguing inventions like hoverboards that use the rider's skateboard skills to skim through the air, and bungee jackets that make wild downward plunges survivable -- and fun. Behind all the commotion is the disturbing vision of our own society -- the Rusties -- visible only in rusting ruins after a virus destroyed all petroleum. Teens will be entranced, and the cliffhanger ending will leave them gasping for the sequel. (Ages 12 and up)

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Recommended by Andrew:

***The Farm* by Ian Knauer**

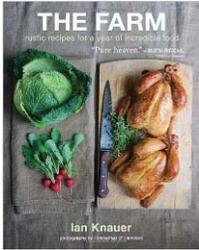


When Ian Knauer was a cook in the *Gourmet* test kitchen, he quickly became known for recipes so stupendously good that they turned the heads of the country's top food editors—effortless combinations that made the best of seasonal produce or treats from the Pennsylvania farm that has been in his family since the eighteenth century. In *The Farm*, Knauer brings his creations to your kitchen. From Cold-Spring-Night Asparagus Soup to Brick Chicken with Corn and Basil Salad, the 150 recipes in this book will help you make the most of your market, garden, or CSA. They are fresh, modern spins on American classics, with ingredients anyone can obtain. Each one is simple, distinctive, and satisfying, getting the best food to the table in the least amount of time. They are both homey and sophisticated. You'll find recipes that incorporate all parts of the vegetable, like Pasta with Radishes and Blue Cheese, which incorporates the radish leaves as well as the root, and spritely Swiss Chard Salad. You'll learn how to make great food from simple ingredients you have on hand, like Potato Nachos. You'll discover recipes for less-familiar produce from your market or your backyard, such as Chicken with Garlic Scape Pesto and Dandelion Green Salad with Hot Bacon Dressing. Many of these recipes have been in Knauer's family for generations, like Pennsylvania Dutch-Style Green Beans or Cloud Biscuits. You won't want to miss his expertly tweaked renditions of his mother and grandmother's desserts: Strawberry Cream Cheese Pie, Blueberry Belle Crunch, and Mary's Lemon Sponge Pie. Whether you want to learn how to roast a pig, make your own hot sauce, or brew hard cider, *The Farm* brings artisanal cooking home, even as Knauer's vivid stories trace a year in the seasons of the farm.

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Recommended by Andrew:

Sample Recipe from *The Farm*: Spicy Cilantro Chicken Wings



Serves 4 to 6

Everyone loves chicken wings, that fiery and buttery all-American snack that pairs perfectly with lots and lots of beer. I love adding unexpected flavors to familiar foods, and these wings are a perfect example of why it's fun to think outside the bottle of Frank's hot sauce. The chile, lime, garlic, cilantro, and Worcestershire provide a savory-acidic base for the sauce and add many new and wonderful layers of flavor, while the butter coats the wings with a luscious richness.

1/3 cup chopped cilantro stems

1-1/2 teaspoons finely grated lime zest

3 tablespoons lime juice

2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

1 hot green chile, such as habanero, serrano, or Thai, chopped

1 large garlic clove, chopped

1-3/4 teaspoons kosher salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

1/2 stick unsalted butter, melted

3 pounds chicken wings

About 4 cups vegetable oil for frying

Cilantro leaves

Puree the cilantro stems, lime zest, juice, Worcestershire, chile, garlic, 3/4 teaspoon of the salt, and the pepper in a blender until smooth. With the motor running, add the butter, blending until it is incorporated. Transfer the sauce to a large bowl.

Pat the wings dry, then halve them at the joint and season them with the remaining 1 teaspoon salt.

Heat 1 inch of oil in a pot or deep heavy skillet to 400°F. Fry the wings in 2 or 3 batches, turning occasionally, until they are golden and cooked through, about 8 minutes per batch (return the oil to 400°F between batches). As they are cooked, transfer the wings to the bowl with the sauce, tossing them to coat, or serve the sauce on the side for dipping. With tongs or a slotted spoon, transfer the wings to a serving plate and sprinkle with the cilantro leaves. Serve the wings with the remaining sauce on the side.

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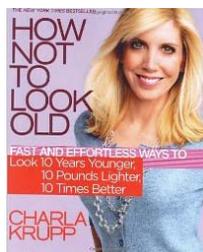
Recommended by Vicky:

How to *never* look fat again by Charla Krupp



When it comes to clothes and the Female figure, the Author understands how proportion, balance and color makes the difference between lumpy and lovely, frumpy and fabulous. Those who know the basics of dressing thin and are ready for advanced techniques will be thrilled with this book.

How *not* to look old by Charla Krupp



Whether high or low maintenance about their beauty routine, women of a certain age who want to look younger will like this easy to read book.

As much about what to do as what not to do. Simple to the extreme procedures depending on the size of your pocket book. Tips to look ten years younger and ten lbs lighter, this is a must read for you.

Staff members of the Benson Public Library share some of their favorite books...

Recommended by Patty:

The Care and Handling of Roses with Thorns by Margaret Dilloway



Thirty six year old Gal Garner lives a regimented life. After teaching biology and her struggle with kidney disease keep her on a strict schedule with dialysis three times a week. Its only at home where Gal feels at peace. Its here that she that she experiments with cross pollenating various species of Roses in the hope of creating a brand new variety that will win Queen of show in a major competition and be able to bring that rose to market. Then one afternoon Gal's teenaged niece Riley, the daughter of her estranged sister arrives, unannounced. Neither one of them will ever be the same, for rose lovers this book has many details of the art of roses breeding and it is also testament to the redemptive power of love.