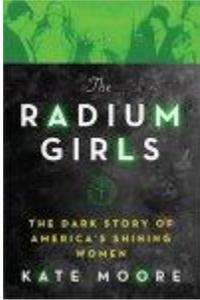


Staff Picks October 2017

Eileen

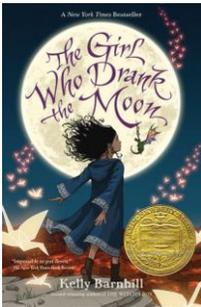


Radium Girls by Kate Moore

The Curies discovered radium in 1898. By World War I girls as young as 15 were working as dial painters – illuminating watch faces with the element to make them glow in the dark. In the 1920s and 1930s, the women reported unusual and troubling medical symptoms and began a long quest to get their employers, and the courts, to acknowledge their plight. Full of personal details, courage, and tenacity. This is an inspiring read.

For fans of: Compelling, dramatic, and haunting non-fiction.

Already read it? Try: [The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kiernan](#), [A Train in Winter by Caroline Moorehead](#), or [Bomb Girls](#).



Katherine

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

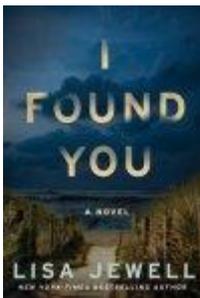
This book was pretty amazing. First off, it wasn't quite what I expected – I was expecting more of a kid's book. While suggested for grades 4-6, there's more layers to get for those who are older. It's not lightweight, the story is complex, and the themes are subtle. It's the kind of book that at the end you want to cry a little, but not in a bad way, and just sit with it and absorb it. It's about magic, and love, and loss. The story is

nourishing and heartwarming. I'm not surprised it won the Newbury.

Recommended for middle school on up, including parents and adults who enjoyed Naomi Novik's *Uprooted*. So glad I read this!

For fans of: Grace Lin, Chris Colfer, Naomi Novik, and lyrical, fast-paced fantasy fiction.

Already read it? Try: [Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin](#), [Grayling's Song by Karen Cushman](#), or [Nightbird by Alice Hoffman](#).



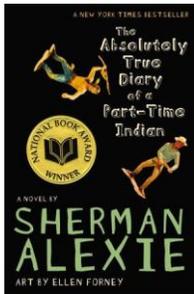
Ann

I Found You by Lisa Jewell

A story of love and loss on many levels. Suspenseful and surprising to the end!

For fans of: Psychological suspense, Gothic fiction, suspenseful books with a strong female lead.

Already read it? Try: [The Last Night at Tremore Beach by Mikel Santiago](#), [Into the Water by Paula Hawkins](#), or [In a Dark, Dark Wood by Ruth Ware](#)



Kelly

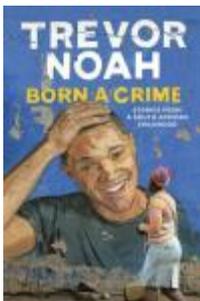
***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

This novel takes a very strong view on modern race interactions. The story is inspired by the true life of author Sherman Alexie. The main character, Arnold Spirit (a Native American who lives on a reservation) must take on a journey to a new school consisting of all white students. He has to face being a “traitor”, physical disabilities, racism, tribalism, poverty, and his father’s alcoholism all while trying to obtain a solid education. He has to learn to

work with his hindrances and make new friends along the way. This dive into culture aids in deviating from the single story of Native people. This mature, coming of age story has deep roots in reservation culture and Native American traditions and tragedy.

For fans of: Culturally diverse, coming of age stories.

Already read it? Try: [Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz](#), [Winger by Andrew Smith](#), or [American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang](#)



Sarah

***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah**

Trevor Noah, (a comedian and the host of The Daily Show), is the son to a Swiss father (white) and a Xhosa mother (black), this coupling rendered him a crime from birth. Trevor’s daily life included secret visits with his father, public outings in which they would walk close by together in a park but pretend not to know each other.

His trademark mischievousness, coupled with his bright, subtle, humorous, and intelligent commentary on the idiosyncrasies of growing up in a disjointed culture will transport you. Trevor’s inherited will of steel and fierce independence (courtesy of his mother), and his insatiable curiosity driven by intellect and enterprise (courtesy of his father) puts him in a variety of comical situations that he always seems to get out of.

An endearing, uplifting, and often surprisingly hilarious, (I was laughing out loud throughout the book), account of growing up in apartheid South Africa, overcoming adversity, and finding a way to make lemons from lemonade (Trevor-style) in any situation.

For fans of: Funny, candid coming of age stories, humorous family memoirs, and celebrity memoirs.

Already read it? Try: [How Did You Get This Number by Sloane Crosley](#), [Let’s Explore Diabetes with Owls by David Sedaris](#), or [Neil Patrick Harris: Choose Your Own Autobiography by Neil Patrick Harris](#).