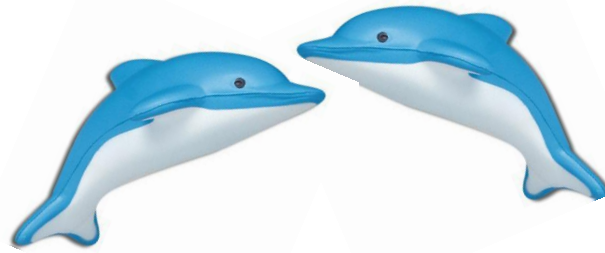




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September 2019 Book Report

All Time Favs

- Sharon D: [A Manatee for All Seasons](#) by Johnny Dicks
- Mara: [Harry Potter Series Box Set \(Harry Potter, #1-7\)](#) by J.K. Rowling
- Carolyn: [Gone with the Wind](#) by Margaret Mitchell

Book Reports

- Allison: [Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others](#) by [Barbara Brown Taylor](#) (npr interview), [A Gentleman in Moscow](#) by Amor Towles
- Peggy: [Rules of Civility](#) by Amor Towles
- Debbie: [The Nature of the Beast](#) by Louise Penny, [Faithful](#) by Alice Hoffman, [Southernmost](#) by Silas House, [A Well-Behaved Woman: A Novel of the Vanderbilts](#) by Terese Anne Fowler
- Mara: [The Art of Not Breathing](#) by Sarah Alexander, [Night](#) by Elie Wiesel, [The Boy in the Striped Pajamas](#) by John Boyne
- Amy: [This is How It Always Is](#) by Laurie Frankel, [We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves](#) by Karen Joy Fowler
- Mary: [Unsheltered](#) & [The Lacuna](#) by Barbara Kingsolver
- Judy: [Summer of '69](#) by Elin Hilderbrand, [The Lager Queen of Minnesota](#) by J. Ryan Strada, [Ask Again, Yes](#) by Mary Beth Keane
- Carolyn: [The 7½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle](#) by Stuart Turton
- Virginia: [Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine](#) by Gail Honeyman, [Educated](#) by Tara Westover, [The Handmaid's Tale](#) by Margaret Atwood, [The Kitchen House](#) & [Glory Over Everything: Beyond The Kitchen House](#) by Kathleen Grissom, [The Art of Racing in the Rain](#) by Garth Stein, [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens
- Deb: [The Hour I First Believed](#) by Wally Lamb
- Kathy P: [Where'd You Go, Bernadette](#) by Maria Semple, [Chances Are...](#) by Richard Russo
- Cindy: [Dying to Be Me: My Journey from Cancer, to Near Death, to True Healing](#) by Anita Moorjani, [Riding Lessons](#) & [Flying Changes \(Riding Lessons, #2\)](#) by Sara Gruen
- Megan: [Last Kiss](#) by Luanne Rice, [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens
- Nancy: [The Keepsake](#) by Tess Gerritsen

How did we get so lucky?

The demographics of Anna Maria Island have changed in the last 15 years. As I understand it (because I have only lived here for 3 years), it used to be a community of families. As kids grew up and away, parents saw property values/taxes sky rocket and saw fit to sell and buy something far less expensive off island. Developers moved in and built mini hotels (not regulated as hotels) and called them VRBOs. So, what we currently have is lovely and committed retired residents, delightful snowbirds and tourists.

Enter Mara. Mara is a Manatee High School student with the energy, excitement and multidirection only a high school student can have. She was doing homework in the room we use for our book club. Allison met her and their brief conversation led her to stay for our meeting. As you might guess, we were thrilled and amazed that she would be interested in joining us. She said that she loved to read. In a climate that is filled with lots of alternatives for free time-mostly involving screens-we marveled that she chose

reading. I mean, this is a busy girl! And, of course, we were a little surprised that she would want to join a book club with a bunch of middle aged gals. (I say a 'little' because we do think of ourselves as hip-ok, that's not the new word. You know what I mean.) She enthusiastically reviewed her books. As she left Carolyn felt sad because she was certain she wouldn't return with her email to be notified for the next meeting. But she did! And we all expressed the same sentiment... 'How did we get so lucky!'