SFXcellent Books

OUR WINNERS:

Child/Teen Category

Beastly Bionics by Jennifer Swanson
recommended by Amelia Krueger
“This book teaches about inventions that are inspired by animals.”

Adult Category

All is Grace: God of Mystery and Time by Henri Boulad
recommended by Cory Sorio
“This book is an enlightening and thought-provoking exposition on time: the concept of past, present and eternity; the unity of wisdom, creation, history and eschatology; and the continuous outpouring of Divine grace in the redemptive gift of time.

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
recommended by Bob Ronan
“Bryan’s life story and his amazing success in obtaining justice for men on death row inspired me to renew my efforts to abolish the death penalty in Missouri and the US.”

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L’Engle
recommended by Sarah MacLean
“This book is a catalyst to think about what you would do for family, good v. evil, science v. theology, and what it means to mature emotionally.

Washington Black by Esi Edugyan
recommended by Jody Craig
“This extremely well-written book provides a previously unknown view into slavery and attitudes about it outside the US in the early 1800s.”

A Piano in the Pyrenees by Tony Hawks
recommended by Megan Martinez
“This book filled a need for me — something light-hearted and fun to distract me from the serious, stressful time we’re experiencing (and I also learned a bit about France!”

Centennial by James Michener
recommended by Norma Spear
“A well-researched, unvarnished historical fiction about our country.

Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell
recommended by Stephanie Hudson
“A book about recent real-life events that suggests ‘if only people had talked to strangers differently, perhaps the outcomes would have been different.’”

A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon
recommended by Rachel MacLean
“Rachel’s favorite book...which has led to good discussions about being confident and comfortable with the things you like, even if your peer group does not like that particular thing.”
The Alice Network by Kate Quinn recommended by Karen Stigers
“The story of unsung heroes — the network of brave women who worked as spies during WWI and never receive the recognition they so richly deserved.”

The Evening and the Morning by Ken Follett recommended by Cathy Daly
“Escape into another time in history (the end of the Dark Ages into early Middle Ages), and I think you will find characters whose lives are filled with hard work, love, intrigue, suffering, and survival.”

I am Rosa Parks by Brad Meltzer recommended by Sarah Krueger
“I love this book. It is part of a series of biographies and they are very interesting.”

The Warehouse by Rob Hart recommended by Jody Craig
“This is a story of a near-future dystopian world where online shopping has taken control of nearly every aspect of life, with fairly horrifying results.”

The Choice: Embrace the Possible by Eva Edith Eger recommended by John Gioia
“This book gives me hope that I can overcome any difficult situation; I can remain stuck by focusing on all the bad or take action and focus on the many blessings and positive things in my life and the world.”

The Jane Austen Society by Natalie Jenner recommended by Stephanie Hudson
“Set in England after WWI in Jane Austen’s hometown of Chawtan, this book is about how a group of readers of Jane Austen’s books forms to save her original home.”

Trinity by Leon Uris
Galway Bay by Mary Pat Kelly recommended by Megan Martinez
“Trinity is one of my all-time favorites. Both of these books make me feel more connected to my Irish roots and taught me so much about Irish history.”

Eleanor Roosevelt: A Spiritual Biography by Harold Ivan Smith recommended by Karen Stigers
“This book explores Eleanor’s religious beliefs and how they drove her life of giving and advocacy for the ‘least of us’ in many cases — a portrait of a woman guided by her faith.”

The Puppy Place series by Ellen Miles recommended by Sarah Krueger
“I love dogs and these books are fictional stories that teach a lot of facts on different breeds; you also learn ways to do dog training.”

KEEP READING!