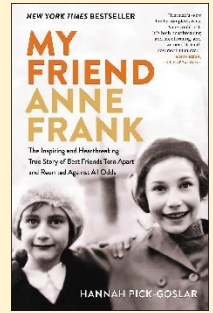




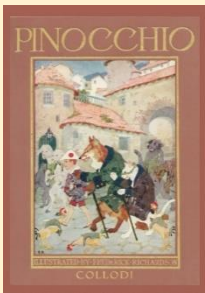
My friend Anne Frank: the inspiring and heartbreaking true story of best friends torn apart and reunited against all odds by Hannah Pick-Goslar

Arriving in Amsterdam with her parents in 1933, German-speaking five-year-old Hannah Goslar is enrolled in the local Montessori school. Her classmates, of course, are Dutch speaking with the exception of a dark-haired girl named Anne, who also had recently moved there with her family from Berlin. Hannah Goslar and Anne Frank become close friends; Anne's family will be frequent visitors to the Goslar home Friday evenings to celebrate Shabbat, the weekly Jewish Sabbath meal.



Although Anne Frank is a significant presence in this book and in Hannah's life, this memoir is really about Hannah herself. She describes warm childhood memories, and then how she was affected by the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands and the eventual removal of the Jewish population. Her story of experiencing the Holocaust as a young teen, recovering, and starting a new life was expertly written with the assistance of Dina Kraft, a Tel-Aviv based journalist. Dina knew that Hannah had traveled throughout her life in order to give lectures about the Holocaust, speaking as one of the last remaining survivors. She grasped the urgency of getting her story in print while there was still time. This remarkable memoir, just published in June of 2023, moved me with Hannah's recollections and the strength of her character, and I felt privileged to make her acquaintance in these pages. ~Nancy Arevalo~

Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi



You may have felt turned off from reading this book due to the dismal rumors of it being dark and unsuitable for children, choosing instead to view the Disney-fied telling of this classic story. Having now read the original Pinocchio, I find this assumption flawed. Certainly there are some dark moments as with all children's fairy tales from the past, Pinocchio being hanged, turned into a donkey, and eaten by fishes to name a few instances. However, the lessons that come from these scary events are clearly meant for children. Sure, a realistic boy would never meet a talking fox and a cat who would tempt him to skip school, yet the temptation of skipping school is very real, and the consequences that follow - Pinocchio being abducted and robbed - are also very real.

The scary events in this story use fantasy elements to soften the harsh reality of evil and the consequences of one's bad actions for its young audience. Rather than wanting to frighten children into obedience, Collodi seeks to help children understand why the rules they must obey are for their own protection. A great read even for an adult, I enjoyed hearing the tale as I had never heard before and found myself surprised by all the hidden morals of this wonderful, occasionally intense text. ~Anna Sobczak~

Answered prayers: the unfinished novel by Truman Capote

In the late 1960's and early 70's Truman Capote was one of the most famous authors in the world. His celebrity opened all kinds of doors until he found himself living among the jet-set super wealthy. But as much as Truman savored the camaraderie he had with his coterie of swans, the richest and most beautiful women in Manhattan, this is the book that rent all those friendships asunder.

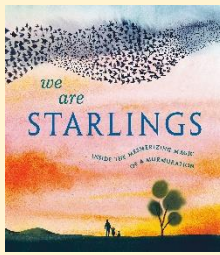
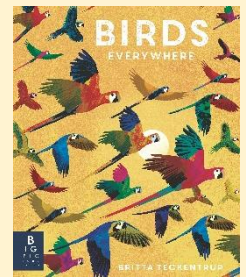


Originally published in Esquire in 1975 as a series of chapters, this is the work that shot Truman's reputation in the foot. Among these debauched short stories is the infamous La Côte Basque 1965, which may have been indirectly responsible for the suicide of socialite Ann Woodward. This book of scandalous tales is not for the faint of heart. Imagine sitting in the fanciest restaurant in the world and you hear the people in the next booth exchanging some of the most salacious gossip you've ever heard. That is what reading this book is like. It is a tantalizing, barely-anonymized collection of gossip airing out the dirty laundry of every last Kennedy, Rockefeller, and Vanderbilt. Like eating an entire box of bonbons in one sitting, reading this book is a decadent experience that will leave you slightly hating yourself afterwards until you've fully digested it. ~Jay Robillard~ ****Happy September 30th birthday to staff favorite author Truman Capote****

Birds everywhere by Britta Teckentrup

This nonfiction picture book is full of information and fun facts about birds of all kinds. Every two-page spread covers a different topic: What is a bird? Where do birds live? How do birds fly? The illustrations are colorful and quirky and include a wide variety of birds both familiar and unusual. Pair this with the picture book *We Are Starlings* for a delightful nature lesson.

~Sue Daniels~

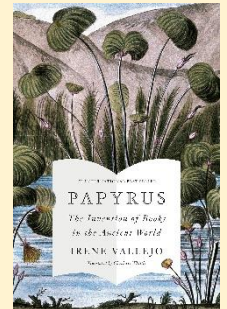


We are starlings: Inside the mesmerizing magic of a murmuration by Robert Furrow and Donna Jo Napoli and Marc Martin.

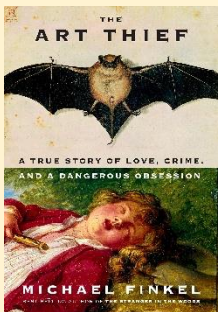
Murmuration is the term for a massive flock of starlings flying together, swooping and turning, making formations, and protecting one another. It is a stunning sight to see and this picture book describes the phenomenon with brief, somewhat poetic sentences and lovely watercolor illustrations. Beautiful and informative! ~Sue Daniels~

Papyrus: The invention of books in the ancient world by Irene Vallejo

“Libri Faciunt Labra.” Books make lips. This striking remark is used in the novel to describe how Greeks viewed books as a gateway into the oratory arts, forming its readers to be excellent speakers and communicators. Yet it also explains why books are as valuable in today’s world as they were in the past as they also provide voices from the past through the very lips of their authors. Voices that so easily could have been lost in the times when books were as delicate as sheets of ice in spring. This text tells not only how books came to be, but how readers, scholars, booksellers, and librarians banded together to make them what they are today—invaluable sources of knowledge and ideas that influence our society today. ~Anna Sobczak~



The art thief: a true story of love crime, and a dangerous obsession by Michael Finkel



The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession, is the unbelievable account of Stephane Breitwieser, the most prolific art thief of all time. While great works of art have been stolen over the centuries, what I think makes this story unique is the motivation of the thief. This is a criminal with a passion for beautiful works of art. He only takes pieces that "stir him emotionally". He kept every piece he took so he could be surrounded by things he loved. With his girlfriend as his lookout, he became more and more brazen as they hopscotched across Europe, pilfering from museums as well as auction houses. Eventually, though, his passion turns to addiction and he inevitably makes a move that proves his downfall. This is a fast-paced, exciting read and like every good mystery, has a shocking twist at the end. If you enjoyed *The*

Map Thief by Michael Blanding, this will be right up your alley. ~Mary Hartwig~

Hallowe'en party by Agatha Christie

Disclaimer: Although this novel serves as the inspiration for the newest installment in Kenneth Branagh’s Poirot movie series, you would be forgiven for not immediately recognizing it. While Branagh’s new movie *A Haunting in Venice* takes place at a crumbling palazzo, the original Christie story centers on a quaint English village.

Mystery author Ariadne Oliver has been staying at Woodleigh Common and finds herself assisting with preparations for the children’s Halloween party. During a conversation about Mrs. Oliver’s books, thirteen-year-old Joyce Reynolds brags that she once witnessed a murder. No one believes her, of course—it must be another one of Joyce’s colorful fabrications, another tall tale. But when Joyce is discovered drowned in the bobbing-for-apples tub at the end of the party, it seems her story wasn’t so far-fetched after all. Horrified by the brutal nature of the crime, Mrs. Oliver enlists the help of her dear friend Hercule Poirot. In order to solve Joyce’s murder, Poirot must first deduce which crime Joyce saw. As he digs through the history of Woodleigh Common, he finds a treasure trove of murders and missing people, any of which Joyce might have witnessed. With barely any evidence other than neighborhood gossip and his own intuition, Poirot will be pushing his little gray cells to their limits if he is to solve the crime. But if someone has already killed twice before, what’s stopping them from doing it again? ~Jay Robillard~

