

## Revised Calendar

### Doris Betts Book Group 2021/22 Selections

Meeting time: 11 AM on the last Tuesday of every month

#### September 28, 2021

**"The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek"** by Kim Michelle Richardson

Led by Martha Adcox

The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scrap for everything—everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Troublesome's got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter.

#### October 26, 2021

**"Great Expectations"** by Charles Dickens

Led by Cindy Schmidt

Great Expectations follows the childhood and young adult years of Pip a blacksmith's apprentice in a country village. He suddenly comes into a large fortune (his great expectations) from a mysterious benefactor and moves to London where he enters high society.

This selection should offer opportunities to consider themes and to think about parallels with our times. An additional benefit, of course, is the ease of finding a copy!

#### November 30, 2021

This month, let's dedicate ourselves to the enjoyment of our group's namesake, Doris Betts. From the many choices, I suggest,

**"Souls Raised From the Dead"** by Doris Betts

This is the story of an extended family of diverse characters struggling to cope with the terminal illness of a beloved child. With profound feeling, with a humor both delicate and robust, Doris Betts gives us a family richly varied and real.

Led by

When researching, I came across this link to the many tributes to Doris Betts, both as a writer and as a teacher. They are moving and rich - I think you will enjoy these celebrations of a life very well-lived.

<https://southwritlarge.com/articles/tribute-to-doris-betts/>

#### December 28, 2021

**Suggestions??**

Seems like a winter tale would be welcome here - could even be a Christmas story if someone has a favorite to recommend.

#### January 25, 2022

### **“Things Fall Apart” Chinua Achebe**

Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, “Things Fall Apart” explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions.

### **February 22, 2022**

**“Snake Pitt”** poetry by Joanna Barnett

Blanche has suggested a very interesting option: Let’s join together to view the Netflix documentary, “Crip Camp”, about a summer camp for differently-abled young people. Along with this, we will be reading a book of poetry entitled “Snake Pit” written by one of Blanche and Charlie’s young friends, Joanna Barnett. She writes movingly about her felt experience navigating the world in a wheelchair. As we consider a range of social justice issues, life in our world as someone differently-abled is an area that invites us to learn more - particularly from the perspective of those affected.

Here is a link to a Youtube video of her reading some of her work at a poetry slam in Austin, Texas. [https://youtu.be/oDMXtkB\\_KE](https://youtu.be/oDMXtkB_KE)

Blanche will be acquiring several copies of “Snake Pit” for us to pass around. More to come when they are available.

### **March 29, 2022**

**“Pastoral Song”** James Rebanks

Led by

Pastoral Song tells how rural landscapes around the world were brought close to collapse, and the age-old rhythms of work, weather, community and wild things were lost. This elegy from the northern fells of England is also a song of hope: of how, guided by the past, one farmer began to salvage a tiny corner that was now his.

### **April 26, 2022**

**“The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency”** by Alexander McCall Smith

Led by Martha Adcox

Precious Ramotswa has only just set up shop as Botswana's No.1 (and only) lady detective when she is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter. However, the case that tugs at her heart, and lands her in danger, is a missing eleven-year-old boy, who may have been snatched by witchdoctors.

**Let’s think about suggestions for -**

May 31, 2022

June 28, 2022

July 26, 2022

August 30, 2022