

2020

Reading Challenge for Adults

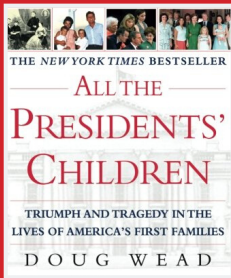
Suggested Reading List*

* This list is for ideas only. Chosen book should fit the theme, but no specific titles are required to participate in the reading challenge. Please enjoy!

C.H.
BOOTH
LIBRARY

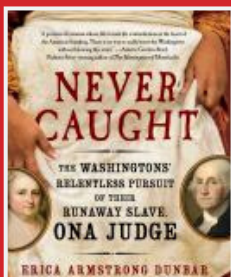
February: Presidential Reads

We are honoring February's holidays by suggesting you read a book about a president, their families, or life in the White House.



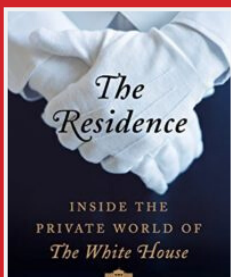
All the Presidents' Children by Doug Wead

This survey covers the lives of many presidential children, from John Quincy Adams to Amy Carter.



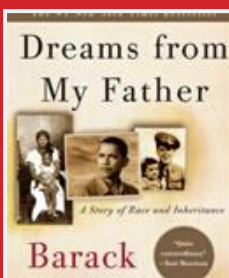
Never Caught by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

The United States has had a tension since even before its founding; a new land of opportunity, but only for some. Men crafting documents of freedom, while owning people. This book celebrates Ona Judge, who seized her own freedom from George Washington—who in turn never stopped trying to reclaim her.



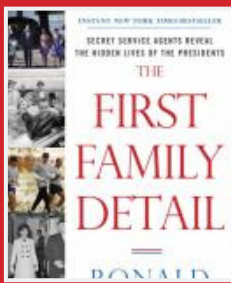
The Residence by Kate Andersen Brower

A small army makes the White House run, and who sees the true character of people more than the cooks, servers, and gardeners who work for them? Drawn from hundreds of hours of interviews of the staff of the White House from the 1960s to the 2000s, get a peek "inside the private world of the White House."



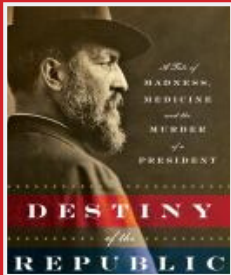
Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama

In 1995, Barack Obama was a writer and law professor in his mid-30s, with little evidence of the presidential about him. His memoir traces his roots; it doesn't prophesy his future



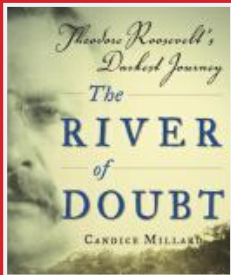
The First Family Detail by Ronald Kessler

No man is a hero to his valet (Il n'y a pas de grand homme pour son valet-de-chambre)—Madame de Cornuel



Destiny of the Republic by Candice Millard

This book is considered one of the best presidential biographies ever written. Learn about a man who was shot just a few months into his term and died of infection and incompetence a few months after that.



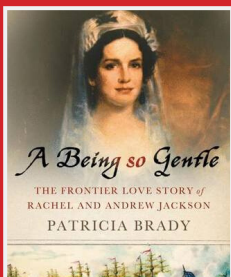
The River of Doubt by Candice Millard

What do presidents do when they get voted out of office? If they're Teddy Roosevelt, they go on a super dangerous expedition to the Amazon.



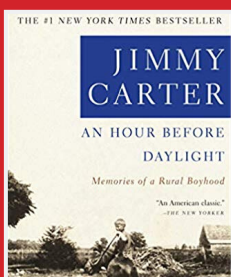
These Few Precious Days by C. Andersen

There's no end of books about the short presidency and life of JFK, but few are more emotional and intimate than this one.



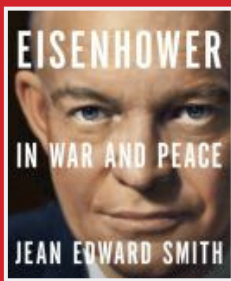
A Being So Gentle by Patricia Brady

The gruff Andrew Jackson was madly in love with his wife, and few presidential spouses were as subject to the bad press she receive—press which Jackson blamed for her health problems.



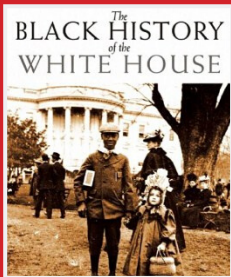
An Hour Before Daylight by Jimmy Carter

Read in his own words about his very modest childhood in pre-Civil Rights rural Georgia.



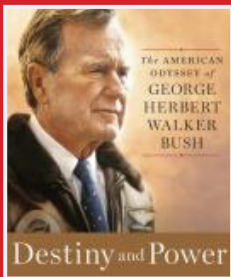
Eisenhower in War and Peace by J. E. Smith

A warrior knows best the value of peace, and President Eisenhower was no exception. Learn more about this oddly often-underrated president.



The Black History of the White House

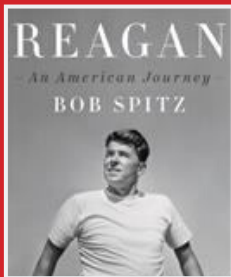
From the enslaved workers who built it, to the people who staffed it, to the artists, leaders, and intellectuals who were visitors, here's a different perspective on the White House by Clarence Lusane.



Destiny and Power by Jon Meacham

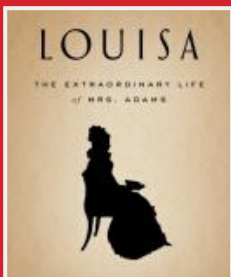
Biographers and their critics often clash over what is preferable: distance from the subject or can a close relationship add value to creating a life on the page? Most people agree at least that a personal look is more readable!

See if you agree.



Reagan an American Journey by Bob Spitz

This is an absorbing, richly detailed, chronicle of the full arc of Ronald Reagan's epic life: the Hollywood years and the transition to politics.



Louisa by Louisa Thomas

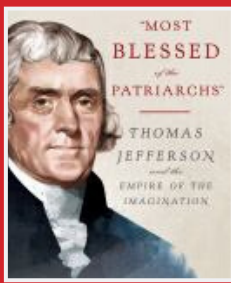
Born in London to an American father and a British mother on the eve of the Revolutionary War, Louisa Catherine Johnson was raised in circumstances very different from the New England upbringing of the future president John Quincy Adams, whose life had been dedicated to public service from the earliest age.



First Women by Kate Andersen Brower

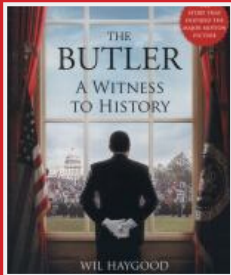
One of the most underestimated positions in the world, the First Lady must be many things: an inspiring leader with a forward-thinking agenda of her own; a savvy politician, skilled at navigating the treacherous rapids of Washington; a wife and mother operating under constant scrutiny; and an able CEO responsible for the smooth operation of countless services and special events at the White House.

Annotations adapted from publisher, Amazon.com, BookRags.com, BN.com, Publisher's Weekly, & NY Times Book Review.



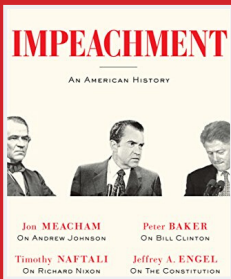
Most Blessed of the Patriarchs

Known for her research on the Hemings family, here Annette Gordon-Reed takes a full look at Thomas Jefferson.



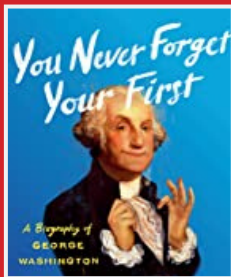
The Butler by Wil Haygood

The story of Eugene Allen—a White House butler who served eight presidents over the course of thirty-four years! Allen served tea and supervised buffets while also witnessing some of the most momentous decisions made during the second half of the twentieth century, and lived to do what once seemed impossible—vote for a fellow Black man for president.



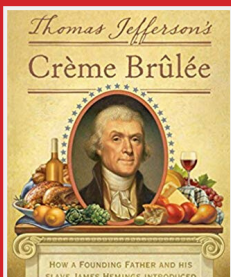
Impeachment: An American History

Obviously in the news now, but this book looks back to the impeachments of Bill Clinton, Andrew Johnson, and (almost) Richard Nixon



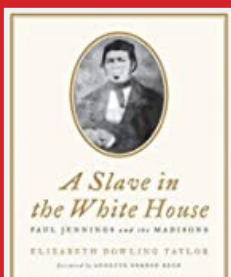
You Never Forget Your First by Alexis Coe

An obviously lighthearted look at the first president.



Thomas Jefferson's Crème Brûlée

Here Thomas J. Craughwell tells of how Jefferson's years in Paris—including specifically bringing Sally Hemings' brother James to France to be trained as a chef—changed dining culture in the United States.



A Slave in the White House: Paul Jennings

People hear much about the slaveholding status of Washington and Jefferson, but in this book by Elizabeth Dowling Taylor, we learn the story of Paul Jennings, who was once enslaved by James Madison.