

Welcome to Wilmette Reads!

This year, we invite you to celebrate the power of retellings. From Greek mythology to classics to folklore, retellings transform familiar tales through genre, time, place, gender, perspective, and more. By reworking these well-loved stories and viewing them through a fresh and dynamic lens, we are better able to understand and appreciate timeless themes. We are excited to explore how storytelling can evolve, connecting us both as readers and as a community.

After registering, choose four or more activities from the list below and reward yourself with a sticker when complete.

- Attend a Wilmette Reads program
- Read *This Motherless Land*
- Read a recommended retelling
- Read a book of your choice
- Review any book of your choosing in person or online
- Ask for a personalized book suggestion via our webform
- Make something old new again in The Studio

Discussion Questions

Do you believe Funke when she says, "She was her own worst enemy; her biggest oppressor was in the mirror"? To what extent were the characters' lives defined by their own choices versus the choices of others?

How do Funke and Liv's sense of identity and belonging shift as the places they call home change throughout the novel?

What roles do privilege and prejudice play throughout the characters' lives?

What parallels can you draw between Mansfield Park and *This Motherless Land*?

How can a retelling expand or change our view of the original story and its characters?

In what ways do modern retellings allow authors to restore voice and agency to the perspectives that were overlooked or ignored in the original story?

Bring your completed log to the Adult Services Desk by February 15 to claim your finishing prize.

Wilmette Reads Events

Retellings Book Chat

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 7-8pm, Auditorium R

Join us and discuss your favorite retellings and adaptations from literature and beyond.

Make an Upcycled Book Page Flower Wreath

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 10am-12pm, Auditorium R

This Motherless Land Book Discussion

Thursday, Jan. 22, 11am-12pm, Auditorium R

This Motherless Land Book Discussion

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 7-8pm, Virtual R

Recommended Retellings

Call Me Ishmaelle by Xiaolu Guo

Cinder House by Freya Marske

Hag-Seed by Margaret Atwood

City on Fire by Don Winslow

Worth Fighting For by Jesse Q. Sutanto

House of Names by Colm Tóibín

The Family Chao by Lan Samantha Chang



Programs marked with an R require registration.

Register for programs and find more information at:

wilmettelibrary.info/wilmettreads

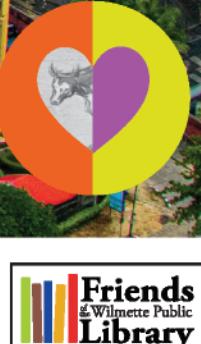


Wilmette Reads 2026

Reading and Activity Log

Adults & Teens

December 15, 2025 – February 15, 2026



Wilmette Reads is funded by the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library

Activity Log 2026

Bring your completed log to the Adult Services desk by February 15 to claim your finishing prize.

Name:

Email:

Sticker
Here!

Sign up for Wilmette Reads
& get your 2026 enamel pin!

Activity 2:

Activity 3:

Activity 4:

Activity 5:



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