

CELEBRATING THE WRITTEN WORD

A COMMON READ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is a Common Read?

A Common Read is when a large group of people read the same book at the same time and then have discussions about that book. The discussions can be in book clubs, classrooms, or gatherings in the library.

Is this the first time the Tangipahoa Parish Library is conducting a Common Read?

Yes it is. This is something we have wanted to sponsor for some time. Southeastern Louisiana University has Common Reads and they have been very successful.

What is this year's Common Read book?

The book is *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*, by Tom Franklin. A powerful and resonant novel, *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* tells the riveting story of two boyhood friends, torn apart by circumstance, who are brought together again by a terrible crime in a small Mississippi town. An extraordinary novel that seamlessly blends elements of crime and Southern literary fiction.

How can I get a copy of *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*?

The library has purchased a number of copies of the paperback edition. Many of these will be cataloged for our branches, and cataloged for totes that will be loaned out to book clubs, senior centers, classrooms at schools, etc. People may check the book out from one of our libraries, borrow a copy from the tote that will be loaned to the Hammond Regional Arts Center, or participate in a book club or other organization reading the novel.

Who else will be part of the Common Read?

Copies of the book will be given to community leaders for them to read and to encourage others to get the book and read. These community leaders include the Parish Council, Parish President, mayors and city councils, and civic organizations.

What is the object of the Common Read?

The object is three-fold:

1. To encourage reading.
2. To stimulate dialogue about the themes in this novel—racism, abuse/domestic violence, and bullying.
3. To foster a sense of community by bringing people together through literature.

What are the dates of the Common Read?

The library plans to begin Celebrating the Written Word on Monday, May 1. It will tie into our Summer Reading Program for adults which also begins in early May. The Hammond Regional Arts Center will begin focusing on this program after May 10.

Is *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* author Tom Franklin coming to Tangipahoa Parish?

Yes! On Friday, October 20, the Tangipahoa Parish Library will host author Tom Franklin at its Ponchatoula Branch at 7 p.m. Mr. Franklin will speak about the book, read, and autograph copies for those who attend. Then on Saturday, October 21, the Hammond Regional Arts Center will host Tom Franklin at its Gallery on Thomas Street. He will speak and sign copies of books brought by those who attend. Tentative time for this has been set at 10 a.m. Following the program with Mr. Franklin, there will be a program for those interested in writing and publishing their work.



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