



Questions & 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?

This is our sixth year conducting a Common Read.

What is this year's Common Read book?

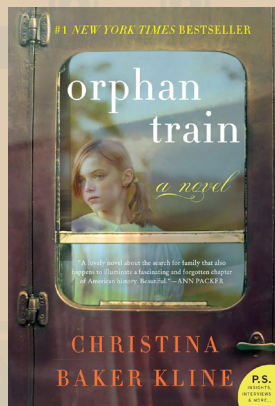
This year's Common Read Book is "The Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline.

Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by pure luck. Would they be adopted by a kind and loving family, or would they face a childhood and adolescence of hard labor and servitude?

As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was one such child, sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future a world away. Returning east later in life, Vivian leads a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine, the memories of her upbringing rendered a hazy blur. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past.

Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer knows that a community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping her out of juvenile hall. But as Molly helps Vivian sort through her keepsakes and possessions, she discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they appear. A Penobscot Indian who has spent her youth in and out of foster homes, Molly is also an outsider being raised by strangers, and she, too, has unanswered questions about the past.

Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, Orphan Train is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of second chances, and unexpected friendship.



How can I get a copy of the book?

The library has purchased a number of copies of the paperback edition. We will also have audio books, e-books and large print books. 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 branches or participate in a book club or other organization reading the novel. Copies are also available for purchase at each branch.

Will the author, Christina Baker Kline, come to Tangipahoa Parish?

Yes. We have scheduled Christina to visit our Hammond Branch on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

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 the book – upheaval and resilience, of second chances, and unexpected friendship.
3. To foster a sense of community by bringing people together through literature.

What are the dates of the Common Read?

The library will begin Celebrating the Written Word with the Common Read is now underway and will continue until May, 2024. Throughout the year, there will be programs and activities tied to the book's theme.

Can I start reading the book and be part of the Common Read after the October kickoff?

You can start today. The Common Read will last through the year. There will be many opportunities to discuss the book throughout the year.

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