

Education & Libraries + ESO

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ESO CORNER

Book Recommendation with a GFWC Connection!

I received this quarter's book recommendation from a couple of members, so I wanted to pass it along in case it is new to you. I enjoy receiving comments of friends about the books they have read so when I need a new one - I can trust their opinions when looking for a new read. This book has a loose connection to GFWC. So, we will feature it and hope others will share their thoughts on it using our GFWC Facebook page.

If you have not yet joined our private Facebook group - please consider doing so. It is "GFWC ESO Book Club". You will have to answer a few simple questions for admittance.

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1990. Law enforcement ranger Valerie Boren-Odell arrives at Horseshoe Bend National Park seeking a quiet place to raise her son. But no sooner has Valerie reported for duty than a teenage hiker goes missing and the long-hidden burial site of three children is discovered in a cave. Val's quest to uncover the truth wins an ally among the Choctaw Nation's Tribal Police but soon collides with the deadly legacy of the land itself.

1909. Eleven-year-old Olive Radley knows that her stepfather is a threat to the two Choctaw girls boarded in their home. When the older girl disappears, Ollie flees, taking six-year-old Nessa with her. Together they begin a perilous journey to the remote Winding Stair Mountains, the territory of outlaws, treasure hunters, and desperate men. Along the way, they form an unlikely band with other children struggling to get by on their own.

In this gripping novel, Lisa Wingate traces the story of children abandoned by the law and the battle to see justice done. Amid times of deep conflict over who owns the land and its riches, Ollie and Val each leave behind one life in search of another.

Reading can have many benefits, including:

- Improving vocabulary and communication skills
- Enhancing creative ability
- Helping to understand the world around you
- Reducing stress
- Improving sleep quality
- Lowering blood pressure



Education and Libraries

Gear up for the end of the year!

It's hard to believe it is already December! That means our club year is coming to an end. I am looking forward to receiving your Education and Libraries Award Entries as well as ESO (if your state does those separately).

For ESO, it is the number of books read and how many club members participated. There are no hours to record as this is not a volunteer project. It is a structural reading program, which is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. As soon as chairman have recorded everything, you can order your ESO certificates from the GFWC Marketplace to distribute to members.

Please be sure to meet the deadline for submission of March 15, 2025.

A new project for 2025?

We are always looking to freshen up our projects – so here are a few ideas that may be new to your club.

- Promote DEAR: Drop Everything and Read – taking pictures of people in the community reading such as the mayor, firefighter, dog walker
- Start a pen pal program between high school students and a 4th grade class
- Plan a community Children's Tea Reading Party
- Work with a 5th grade class to write a storybook and bind it
- Be sure you belong to a book club

Affiliate Spotlight



In this issue, let's see how our club can support one of our Affiliates and do a project for Education and Libraries – a win win!

GFWC and UNICEF USA can work together to provide community-based schools, both in-person and remote learning support and other programs. UNICEF has helped tens of millions of out-of-school children continue their education, reaching more and more children every year. Learning poverty has deepened in recent years. Well over half of children in low- and middle-income countries leave primary school unable to read and understand a simple story. When children are not in school, their health and well-being suffers. In many parts of the world, school is where children get health care, immunizations and their one nutritious meal of the day. Girls who are not in school are often forced into early marriage.

"Shop for a Cause" to provide educational materials for children around the world. Prepare educational items for display and donate them to a local school.

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