

# Short and Sweet



# Book Club

## Brookfield Public Library

2022 Calendar

Books are available at the Circulation Desk one month before the meeting date.

Please see bookmark insert each month for that title's selected stories.

**Thursday, January 13, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*The Secret Lives of Church Ladies*

Deesha Philyaw

Philyaw explores the raw and tender places where Black women and girls dare to follow their desires and pursue a momentary reprieve from being good. The nine stories in this collection feature four generations of characters grappling with who they want to be in the world, caught as they are between the church's double standards and their own needs and passions. (West Virginia University Press)

**Thursday, February 10, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*The Best Short Stories of O. Henry*

O. Henry

The final selection of stories in this collection offers for the reader's delight those tales honored almost unanimously by anthologists and those that represent, in variety and balance, the best work of America's favorite storyteller. They are tales in his most mellow, humorous, and ironic moods. They give the full range and flavor of the man born William Sydney Porter but known throughout the world as O. Henry, one of the great masters of the short story. (Modern Library)

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*The Necklace and Other Stories*

Guy de Maupassant

Guy de Maupassant is considered not only one of the greatest short story writers in all of French literature but also a pioneer of psychological realism and modernism who helped define the form. This collection takes readers from marriage, family, and the quotidian details of life to the disasters of war and nationalism, then to the gothic and beyond, allowing us to appreciate Maupassant in an idiom that matches our own times. *The Necklace and Other Stories* enables us to appreciate Maupassant as the progenitor of the modern short story and as a writer vastly ahead of his time. (Liveright)

**Thursday, April 14, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*The Collected Short Stories*

Jeffrey Archer

Surprise endings are the stock-in-trade of prolific novelist Archer. These stories, culled from his three previous collections, contain many a good yarn in plots that feature numerous trial scenes, business dealings and complicated domestic relationships. Clever and entertaining. (Publishers Weekly)

**Thursday, May 12, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*The Office of Historical Corrections*

Danielle Evans

Evans brings her usual wit and keen eye to her latest collection, which offers stories that explore the complexity of human emotions and relationships. While every story offers a discrete narrative, recurring themes of pain, loss, fear, and failed relationships give the collection a sense of unity. This is a timely, entertaining collection from a talented writer who isn't afraid to take chances. (Publishers Weekly)

**Thursday, June 9, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*Hitting a Straight Lick With a Crooked Stick*

Zora Neale Hurston

Twenty-one of Hurston's short stories are gathered together for the first time, most focused on life in Harlem during its renaissance period. The stories trace her literary development and the adjustments she shared with others of the Great Migration. Throughout, Hurston draws insightful and humorous contrasts between southern and northern cultures, small-town and big-city life, and the ties and disconnects between country and urban folk. With biting wit, Hurston gets to the heart of the human condition through the circuitous path of her characters. (Booklist)

**Thursday, July 14, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*The Moment of Tenderness*

Madeleine L'Engle

Beginning with autobiographical works, the collection moves toward more plotted narratives, closing with several ambitious tales that occasionally lead into supernatural or speculative territory. Unswerving throughout is L'Engle's mastery of mood-setting language and her depiction of the complexity of human relationships. (Publishers Weekly)

**Thursday, August 11, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*Close Range: Wyoming Stories*

Annie Proulx

These stories share as their theme and setting the state of Wyoming, a wild and scouring place of endless wind that delivers storms, droughts, and floods of biblical intensity. Most of the confrontations Proulx enacts are timeless in their elementariness, but others portray the soul-shriveling difficulties inherent in trying to make a living in this land of stone and cold as beef profits fall, a family-owned gas station goes under when an old highway is abandoned for an expressway, and an influx of Hollywood types and other prosperous outsiders wanting to play cowboy and cowgirl turns ranches into theme parks. But Proulx always returns to the basics: earth and family, lust and survival. (Booklist)

**Thursday, September 8, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*Excuse Me While I Disappear*

Joanna Scott

This latest collection of short stories by Scott contains gems evocative of another time or place. The strongest stories spring from the author's European travel experiences, which sparked her fascination with ancient lives and their relationship to books and reading. Other stories focus on the history of unnamed European places and local accounts of villagers' experiences in unnamed 20th-century wars. Of interest to readers who enjoy short stories, particularly those who are interested in the history of Europe and the history of bookmaking and literacy. (Publishers Weekly)

**Thursday, October 6, 2022\***

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

**\*Please note date change.**

*Hits & Misses: Stories*

Simon Rich

Rich has been called one of the funniest writers in America, and that's a fair assessment. Just check out this collection of comic pieces. Rich is a nimble writer, able to whip up a side-splittingly funny moment out of the simplest ingredients and to sustain a remarkable level of hilarity from one story to another. Great fun. (Booklist)

**Thursday, November 10, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*A House Is a Body*

Shruti Swamy

Swamy writes with a cool precision that draws the reader into her debut collection. Eleven of the twelve stories have simple descriptive titles that belie the works' complexity, and the plots unspool in lovely lucid prose that has a poetic omniscience. Swamy is off to a strong start. (Publishers Weekly)

**Thursday, December 8, 2022**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*England and Other Stories*

Graham Swift

Swift's characters, primarily male and ranging from boys to old men, offer piquant testimony about the shock of abrupt change—galvanizing moments that affirm or explode quintessentially English mores. Swift illuminates loneliness and self-sufficiency along with the complexities of family, marriage, and friendship. Swift's stories are impeccably crafted and traditional in style, some are wise celebrations of love and contentment, yet in every tale, emotional intricacies, steely critiques, honed compassion, and wily humor run hot with irony and protest. (Booklist)

