Library Rolls Out Red Carpet for Annual Winter Reading Challenge

Mid-Continent Public Library Celebrates ‘Read to Reel’ During 2017 Competition

Independence, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is pleased to announce the return of its annual Winter Reading Challenge—a competition developed by the Library to encourage leisure reading among adults. The theme of this year’s Challenge is Read to Reel, and the Library is encouraging participants to explore this idea by reading books that have been made into movies and watching their counterparts in film.

“Winter Reading Challenge is the perfect opportunity for adults to take a moment to themselves, especially after the holiday chaos, and reconnect with the timeless hobby of reading for pleasure,” said Amy Fisher, MCPL Information and Reader Services Manager. “This year’s theme of Read to Reel offers another dimension to the Challenge—allowing participants to connect with two different perspectives of the same narrative. We invite all local adults to join us in the 2017 Winter Reading Challenge and to answer the age-old question: which is better? The book or the movie?”

Signup for the 2017 Winter Reading Challenge opened on January 1, and participants may begin logging books on January 15. Those who complete at least five books during the Challenge, which ends March 15, will earn a limited-edition Winter Reading Challenge mug and the chance to win exclusive prizes from B&B Theatres, including a year of free movies. In addition to independent reading, MCPL is promoting community engagement during the Challenge by hosting film and book discussions, as well as other Read to Reel-themed events at its branches.

For those who want to join in the conversation without leaving the comfort of their cozy reading nooks, the Library will be hosting several virtual discussions on its Winter Reading Challenge Facebook page (http://bit.ly/2017WRC), including one on Sunday, February 26 in celebration of the 89th Academy Awards. MCPL moderators will lead a dialogue about books, movies, Oscar predictions, and give a digital toast to the winners.

Additionally, film critic and enthusiast Robert Butler will host in-branch screenings and discussions of Murder on the Orient Express, The Hundred-Foot Journey, Mr. and Mrs. Bridge, Winter’s Bone, and The Big Sleep during February and March at various MCPL locations as part of the Winter Reading Challenge. More in-person events include a Premiere Event on January 17, a Red Carpet event on February 24, and a Read to Reel Trivia Night on March 3 during which teams of six will compete for prizes.
For a full list of recommended Winter Reading Challenge reads hand-picked by Library staff, or to sign up for the 2017 Winter Reading Challenge and to register for programs, visit mymcpl.org/WinterReading.

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Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and four Library-To-Go locations and serving over 792,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a **2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner**. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.