Volume 4, Issue 9 | September 2021

Connections

North Dakota State Library

Visit our Website

Your monthly news & updates

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when the North Dakota State Library (NDSL) joins the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide to remind parents, caregivers, and students that signing up for a library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning.

There is nothing more empowering than signing up for your own library card. Through access to technology, media resources, and educational programs, a library card gives students the tools to succeed in the classroom and provides people of all ages opportunities to pursue their dreams and passions.
NDSL, along with libraries everywhere, continues to adapt and expand services to meet the evolving needs of the community.

To sign up for a library card, please visit **http://library.nd.gov/librarycard.html**.

Resources at your fingertips: LibGuides!

LibGuides is an NDSL platform that allows users to explore a wide range of topics. Don't be fooled by the name—these guides are not just for libraries. All users will find helpful tools and resources on all things from Copyright, Digital Projects, Consumer Health, and more!

LibGuides can be accessed directly from **NDSL's website** using either the LibGuides tab at the top of the page or the cloud icon at the bottom of the page.

ChILLin' with ILL

Did you know that there is more to Interlibrary Loan (ILL) than just books?

Here at the ND State Library, our ILL Dept. is also busy requesting DVDs, audiobooks, CDs, and journal articles. We will request these items from anywhere in the USA at no charge to you. You are only responsible for the postage to return these materials back to the ND State Library.

If you have any ILL requests or questions, please contact our ILL Department at **ndslill@nd.gov** or 701-328-3252.

MANGO

Speak like a Pirate

Mark your calendars - September 19th is International Talk Like a Pirate Day! Master the lingo of these seafarin' swashbucklers with Mango Languages. All you need is a library card from the State Library or your local public library to access Mango's Pirate course to begin learning today.

Mango Languages has over 70 world language courses to choose from. Visit the State Library's Online Resources page to access this and many other databases at http://library.nd.gov/onlineresources.html.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at statelib@nd.gov or 701-328-4622 / 1-800-472-2104.

State Employee Book Discussions

The North Dakota State Library has been leading monthly book discussions with state employees for about a year. We have led discussions on topics of leadership, change in the workplace and adaptation to change, as well as diversity, inclusion, and equality. From the discussions we have had so far, the conversations have been engaging and thoughtful.

Since we are conducting these book discussions over Teams, we can reach out across the state. Our book discussions are open for all participants to engage openly as much or as little as they feel comfortable with sharing. If you haven't participated in a book club, we would encourage you to join us for our book discussions. Even if you have not finished reading the book, please attend the discussion. You still have something to add to the conversation.

For those who would like to sign up, registration can be found through the PeopleSoft portal under Learning. You can find the registration by searching "ND State Library Book Discussions." Once registered, we will send a copy of the book to you through inside mail or mail it to your home. You can also pick it up at the State Library or use our curbside service.

When you are ready to return a book discussion book, there are several options. You can send it back through inside mail, you can drop it off at the State Library either in one of our book drops or in person, or you can mail it back.

If you have any questions about our book discussions, please feel free to reach out to Al Peterson at **alpeterson@nd.gov** or 701-328-4661.

New Items Available at the North Dakota State Library

New Fiction Books

New Nonfiction Books

New Fiction E-Books

New Nonfiction E-Books

New Fiction E-Audiobooks

New Nonfiction E-Audiobooks

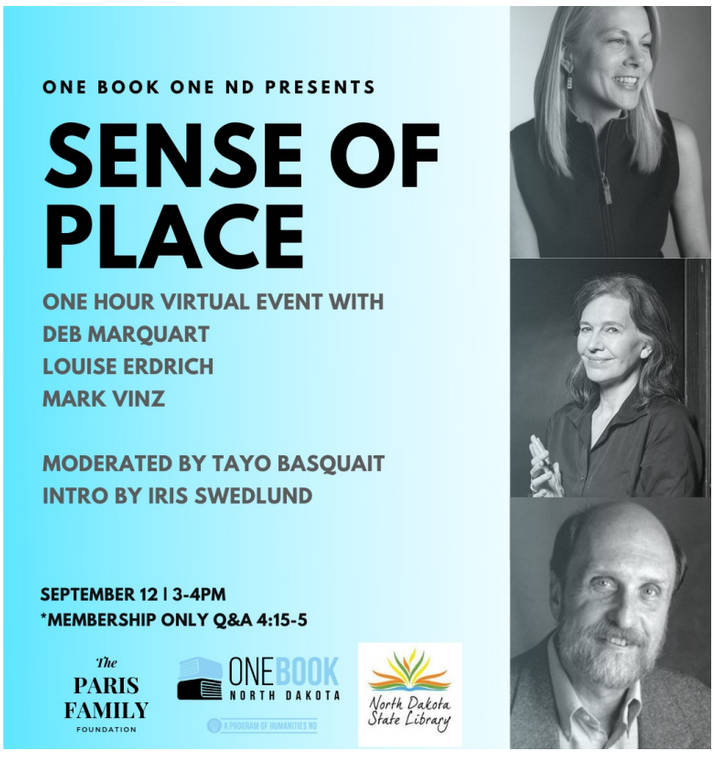
Most Popular Universal Class Courses in August 2021

Are you looking for a continuing education course or would you like to learn a new hobby or skill? With over 500 courses to choose from, Universal Class has something for everyone! The following are the most popular courses in July 2021.

- Accounting & Bookkeeping 101 for Everyone
- Excel 2019
- Abnormal Psychology 101
- Writing Basics 101
- Candle Making 101
- Administrative Assistant 101
- Dealing with Difficult People
- Watercolor Painting 101
- Microsoft Word 2019
- Screenwriting 101

To access Universal Class, all you need is a library card from the State Library or your local public library. Start learning today at https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com.

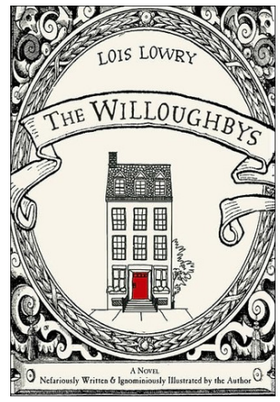
If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the State Library at 701-328-4622 or statelib@nd.gov.



Book Review

The Willoughbys by Lois Lowry

Reviewed by Shari Mosser



The Willoughbys by Lois Lowry. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York. ©2008.

“I'm your father, and that sweet woman that you insulted with your rude birth is Mother. If you need love, I beg you, find it elsewhere.”

We found *The Willoughbys* after the movie debuted on Netflix in late April of this year. The movie is zany and held the attention of my kids quite well. However, I then found out it is based on a book “nefariously written and ignominiously illustrated” by the Newbery-winning Lois Lowry. The children and I started reading it, but only my 6-year-old daughter and I kept going. This book is vastly different from her more serious historical fiction and dystopian literature. The bio from the book jacket illustrates this quite well as it states Lowry was “influenced in her childhood by a mother who insisted on surrounding her with books instead of roller skates and jump ropes. Lois Lowry grew up lacking fresh air and exercise but with a keen understanding of plot, character, and setting. Every morning she opened the front door hoping to find an orphaned infant in a wicker basket. Alas, her hopes were always dashed and her dreams thwarted. She compensates by writing books.”

Perhaps her keen understanding of plot, character, and setting influences the parodies of many familiar childhood tropes. These old-fashioned children are actively trying to become orphans. Meanwhile, their parents are openly trying to ditch their children. The novel almost becomes a competition to see which group will outlast the other and achieve their own happy ending. *Spoiler alert – they both win!

The Willoughbys also has a great deal of long/advanced vocabulary words, such as Fortuitous, Irascible, Obsequious, et cetera. Lowry’s explanation of Odious versus Odoriferous was delightful, even if I had to explain it many times to the child. In my estimation, this book is definitely better than the movie, and it was a joy to share.

The Willoughbys is available in multiple formats at the North Dakota State Library.

Connections is a monthly publication of the North Dakota State Library, a Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

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This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library.

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No Select