



Austen Palooza November 17 - December 16

Jane Austen, Regency novelist extraordinaire, turns 250 on December 16, 2025. Why exactly are we excited about this? Is it because her most well-known work, *Pride & Prejudice*, has never been out of print? Is it because her biting wit and social commentary still resounds with modern audiences? Are State Library employees just hard-core book nerds who get excited about random things? Perhaps all of the above? Regardless of the reason, Jane Austen's birthday is coming up, and we are going to celebrate!

Please join us for events in the month leading up to Jane Austen's birthday.

Wednesday, November 19 (2:00 PM)

["From Page to Prestige: Why Jane Austen Still Matters" - Monica Struck](#)

Join this session to learn more about Jane Austen's life, works, and most importantly, why we are still celebrating her over 200 years after her death.

Monday, December 1 (12:00 PM)

["Spill the Tea: Jane Austen Discussion"](#)

Bring your lunch and your favorite hot beverage and join us in talking about all things Austen. Go to <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24528680264726?p=fHIKFIpHbDNuJenZGZ> to join the discussion on December 1.

Monday, December 1 (7:00 PM)

["Refusing Mr. Collins: Courtship and Conduct in *Pride and Prejudice*" - Sarah Faulkner](#)

Join our guest speaker, Sarah Faulkner, to learn more about one of the more memorable proposals in *Pride & Prejudice*.

Tuesday, December 16 (7:00 PM)

[Online Trivia](#)

Celebrate Jane Austen's birthday with us with some trivia! Pre-existing knowledge of Jane Austen is not required. Come to learn and have fun!

The fun doesn't need to end with our live events. Throughout the month preceding December 16, keep an eye out for Jane Austen related posts on the State Library social media accounts. You can participate in the State Library's Jane Austen reading challenge on Beanstack. And things just wouldn't be complete without a poll on your favorite Jane Austen books/movies. We hope that you will join in some (or all!) of our Austen Palooza shenanigans.

[Austen Palooza](#)



New Podcast Episodes

Episode 31: [George Seamon](#), State Librarian, South Dakota State Library. 22 minutes.

Episode 32: [Wendy Wendt](#), Director of the Grand Forks Public Library. 24 minutes.

Episode 33: [Paul Olson](#), Superintendent of North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind. 28 minutes.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.

North Dakota Memories

- Bethel Lutheran Church fiftieth anniversary, 1909-1959
- Faith Lutheran Congregation dedication, 1961
- Rosseland Lutheran Church cornerstone and dedication, 1958
- Spring Creek Lutheran Church re-dedication, 1977



Political Prairie Fire

- Expected Drive on Birdzell is Begun by League
- Frazier Special Train Schedule
- IVA Fighting Squad Touring North Dakota
- Minnie Nielson for N.D. Superintendent of Public Instruction ad, 1918
- Nobody Bosses "Bill" Langer
- Nonpartisan League ticket, N.D., April 1916
- NPL candidates, May 1916
- Townley's Record at Beach



- Brinsmade Centennial Community Cookbook, 1889-1989

Digital Horizons

Book Club Kits

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

Do you currently host a book club? If not, are you interested in starting one? There are a variety of title options available through the North Dakota State Library! And now they are easier to browse through in our new NDSL [Book Club Kit LibGuide](#). To find the kits, first select the LibGuides button on the upper right-hand corner of NDSL's homepage (<https://www.library.nd.gov/>). Then, click "OK" about entering a new website. Last, select NDSL Kits on the LibGuides page. The STEM Kits can also be found under the NDSL Kits category.



A Little About the Book Club Kit LibGuide

1. The Overview breaks down books into categories: Adults, Children and Teens, as well as a variety of genres.
2. All titles can also be found on the left-hand side.
3. Each entry gives a summary of the book, target audience, genre(s), reviews, a Reserve Today! option (which links to Polaris), FAQ about the kits, what the kit contains, and a copy of the discussion questions. Some Book Club LibGuide pages also contain an interview with the author or about an event related to the book, or a book trailer.

How the Book Club Kits Work

Checkout of Book Club Kits operates the same way as STEM Kits. Each are requested through Polaris and then checked out for up to eight weeks. North Dakota State Library pays for them to be shipped to the user; the user pays for the kits to be shipped back. Kits can also be picked up and dropped off at NDSL Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. (Please let NDSL staff know if you plan to pick up your kit. Patron Services' phone number is 701-328-4622.) Anyone with a North Dakota library card may check out book club kits.



Each book club kit includes ten copies of the book, a discussion guide, and a sign in sheet.

Keep Coming Back to See New Offerings

NDSL currently has 15 middle and high school titles just waiting to show up and be processed! They will be on the LibGuide as they become available.

Happy reading!

Learn More

Basic English Speaking Skills

Self Paced, Online Class

[+ Join this Course](#)

North Dakota State Library

16

Lessons

65

Exams & Assignments

7

Hours average time

0.7

CEUs

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Submitted by AI Peterson

Universal Class offers several courses geared towards English as a Second Language (ESL).

"Basic English Speaking Skills" is a meticulously crafted course that provides a 360-degree learning experience. Blending vocabulary with core language structures, this course stands out, offering rich visuals, cutting-edge external resources, and immersive multimedia, ensuring a multi-sensory grasp of the English language. This 16-lesson course enhances your English-speaking skills, elevating you from the fundamentals to fluency.

The English language, while beautiful and vast, can be a complex maze for many. Whether you're someone who's embracing English as an additional language or a native speaker aiming to refine your writing skills, a robust understanding of grammar is pivotal. Grammar forms the backbone of any language, dictating how we organize our thoughts, convey our emotions, and articulate our ideas. *ESL English Basic Writing Skills* explores the foundational aspects of English grammar. You'll navigate the intricacies of sentence structure, the nuances of writing basics, and the core components of English—nouns, verbs, prepositions, adjectives, and adverbs. There's also a four level *ESL English Grammar Skills* course that delves deeper into learning the fundamentals of the English language.

There is even a 20-lesson course for people who are interested in teaching English as a second language. *Teaching Grammar to ESL Students* offers a deep dive into the methodologies, strategies, and pedagogical secrets that form the foundation of effective ESL instruction. Equip yourself with the tools, insights, and confidence that will not only enrich your teaching journey but also light the path of linguistic discovery for your students.

As always, Universal Class courses are self-paced and taken at your convenience on your own time. These courses can be found in the *Language Arts* category.

Universal Class

Book Club Kit

"First Test" by Tamora Pierce

Ten years after knighthood training was opened to both males and females, no girl has been brave enough to try. But knighthood is Keladry's one true desire, and so she steps forward to put herself to the test. Up against the traditional hazing of pages and a grueling schedule, Kel faces one roadblock that seems insurmountable: Lord Wyldon, the training master of pages and squires. He is absolutely against girls becoming knights. So while he is forced to train her, Wyldon puts her on a probationary trial period that no male page has ever had to endure. Further set apart from her fellow trainees, Kel's path to knighthood is now that much harder. But she is determined to try, and she's making friends in the most unlikely places. One thing is for sure, Kel is not a girl to underestimate.



This kit was featured in the Library Kits Unboxed series. View it now at <https://bit.ly/NDSDKitsUnboxed>.

Reserve This Kit

New Items At The ND State Library

E-Magazines



HGTV; Us; Prevention; National Geographic; Real Simple



Soap Opera Digest; Gardens Illustrated; Birds & Blooms; Eco Kids Planet; How It Works

Fiction Books



"The Passengers on the Hankyu Line" by Hiro Arikawa; "End Game" by Jeffrey Archer; "The Killing Stones" by Ann Cleeves; "Circle of Days" by Ken Follett; "In the Time of Five Pumpkins" by Alexander McCall Smith



"Unexpected Amish Protectors" by Jo Ann Brown; "Calder Strong" by Janet Dailey; "So Happy Together" by Olivia Worley; "Southern by Design" by Grace Helena Walz; "Desolation Creek" by William W. Johnstone



"Designed with Love" by Tracie Peterson; "To Save the Man" by John Sayles; "Hidden Hero" by Robert Vaughan; "Room on the Sea" by André Aciman; "Saving the Rancher" by Tanya Agler



"Final Approach" by Lynette Eason; "Murder by Cheesecake" by Rachel Ekstrom Courage; "A Hidden Hope" by Suzanne Woods Fisher; "Photograph" by Brian Freeman; "The First Light of Dawn" by Jefferson Glass



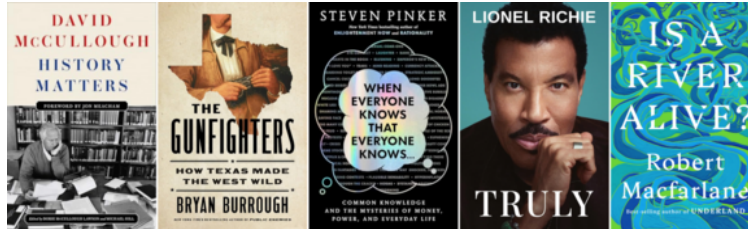
"Overdue" by Stephanie Perkins; "Buckeye" by Patrick Ryan; "Hunting for a Husband" by Mindy Steele; "Notes on Infinity" by Austin Taylor; "These Blue Mountains" by Sarah Poudin Thomas

Book Club Kits



"The Liars Society" by Alyson Gerber; "Fresh Start" by Gale Galligan; "The Do-Over" by Lynn Painter; "Rez Ball" by Byron Graves; "The Knowledge Seeker" by Rae Knightly

Nonfiction Books



"History Matters" by David McCullough; "The Gunfighters" by Bryan Burrough; "When Everyone Knows That Everyone Knows" by Steven Pinker; "Truly" by Lionel Richie; "Is A River Alive?" by Robert Macfarlane

Fiction E-Audiobooks



"The Perfect Hosts" by Heather Gudenkauf; "Forget You Saw Her" by Noelle W. Ihli; "The Same Backward as Forward" by Jennifer Lynn Barnes; "We Fell Apart" by e. lockhart; "And to All a Good Bite" by David Rosenfelt



"The Widow" by John Grisham; "Good Spirits" by B.K. Borison; "It's Different This Time" by Joss Richard; "Secrets of the Purple Pearl" by Kate McKinnon; "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Partypooper" by Jeff Kinney



"A Guardian and a Thief" by Megha Majumdar; "Boleyn Traitor" by Philippa Gregory; "The Intruder" by Freida McFadden; "Revolve" by Bal Khabra; "The Everlasting" by Alix E. Harrow



"The Library of Lost Girls" by Kristen Pippis; "The Dysfunctional Family's Guide to Murder" by Kate Emery; "Reel Love" by Addie Woolridge; "The Scammer" by Tiffany D. Jackson; "And the River Drags Her Down" by Jihyun Yun

Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



"The Art of Spending Money" by Morgan Houzel; "Last Rites" by Ozzy Osbourne; "Told You So" by Mayci Neely; "Vagabond" by Tim Curry; "The Genius Bat" by Yossi Yovel

Fiction E-Books



"The Girl With Stars in Her Eyes" by Xio Axelrod; "Bad Bachelor" by Stefanie London; "King Sorrow" by Joe Hill; "the Sisters Café" by Carolyn Brown; "Enjoy the View" by Sarah Morgenthaler



"The Devouring Light" by Kat Ellis; "Through Each Tomorrow" by Gabrielle Meyer; "Prowl" by Colleen Coble; "Cursed Daughters" by Oyinkan Braithwaite; "The Black Wolf" by Louise Penny



"Once More Upon a Time" by Roshani Chokshi; "The Picasso Heist" by James Patterson & Howard Roughan; "A Scar in the Bone" by Sophie Jordan; "Sugar and Spite" by M.C. Beaton; "The Proving Ground" by Michael Connelly



"Right Where We Belong" by Farrah Penn; "Remain" by Nicholas Sparks & M. Night Shyamalan; "Gone Before Goodbye" by Reese Witherspoon & Harlan Coben; "Mercy" by Patricia Ward; "King of the Neuro Verse" by Idris Goodwin

Nonfiction E-Books



"That's a Great Question, I'd Love to Tell You" by Elyse Myers; "5 Very Good Reasons to Punch a Dolphin in the Mouth (And Other Useful Guides)" by The Oatmeal; "The Essential Recipes" by Ree Drummond; "High Protein" by Gina Homolka; "The Zorg" by Siddharth Kara

Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

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www.library.nd.gov

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of Connections, please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.

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