

Marblehead League Book Discussion Group 1/24/2022

1. "Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland" (2020) by Patrick Radden Keefe- Our reader found this fascinating exploration of the "troubles" in Northern Ireland, the IRA, Boston, Boston College connection.
2. "The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race" (2021) by Walter Isaacson The story of the woman who won the Nobel prize for her CRISPER gene editing research; also covers biotech, patents and potential uses of RNA technology. The author incorporates how gene editing technology works as an easily understood part of the narrative. Very readable and highly recommended!
3. "Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth, and the Trials of American Democracy" (2022) by Jamie Raskin Congressman Raskin was the lead lawyer in Donald Trumps impeachment trial, despite having to deal with losing his son to suicide.
4. "Black Prophetic Fire" (2015) by Cornell West examines eight individuals who played important parts in the struggle for rights for Black Americans. The author discusses how in different periods of their lives, they worked within the status quo. Each was also transformed by their prophetic vision which brought charisma grounded in the integrity of purpose.
5. "The People's Constitution: 200 Years, 27 Amendments, and the Promise of a More Perfect Union "(2021) by John F. Kowal and Wilfred U. Codrington III The authors identify four waves of changes to the Constitution: 1) founding era, when the bill of Rights was added (1700-1804) 2) Reconstruction era when the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments were added 3) Early 20th Century Gilded Age, prohibition instituted plus the changed in Senator selection to be elected 4) Civil Rights Era. Discussion of the politics behind the changes was particularly interesting to ur reader.
6. "There Is Nothing For You Here: Finding Opportunity in the Twenty-First Century" (2021) by Fiona Hill Ms. Hill describes growing up very poor in the poor coal mining district of England, and her route to Harvard then to Washington DC. She served in the Trump administration as Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Europe and Russia at the US National Security Council. She testified in the first impeachment of Donald Trump. She offers important insights about the rise of populism centered around the poor and forgotten, from her observations on Russia, the US and England.
7. "All About Me!: My Remarkable Life in Show Business" (2021) by Mel Brooks A light - hearted look at his life, the power of laughter. A good antidote to heavier nonfiction.

8. "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants" (2015) by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Our reader called Kimmerer a contemporary Thoreau, with a view of nature that is integrated into the essence of being. The author is a scientist and a native American, and the combination is poetry and balm to the soul.
9. "Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know" (2021) by Adam Grant The author discusses the importance of keeping an open mind, and how to not get locked into a set of beliefs. Helpful insights for conversations with others in this turbulent time.
10. Recommended movies with Sidney Poitier who died recently
- "In the Heat of the Night"
 - "A Raisin in the Sun"
 - "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"
 - "To Sir with Love"
11. Netflix movie: "Don't Look Up"