

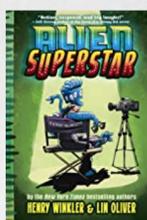
THE PRATT-THOMAS FAMILY 2020 REVIEW OF BOOKS

Aaron (10 years old)

Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano. You learn in the first pages that young Edward is the only survivor of a plane crash. Flipping back and forth between pre-flight and Edward's life after, this one is an amazing page turner for kids and adults alike.



Alien Superstar by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver. Yes, by the Fonz. The first in a great graphic novel series about a 13 year old alien who finds himself in Hollywood.



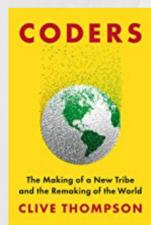
March (The Trilogy) by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell. What a great read, a graphic novel account of Congressman Lewis's story.



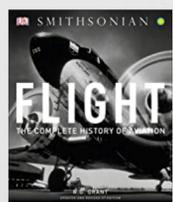
The Totally Unscientific Study of the Search for Human Happiness by Paula Poundstone. Need we say more?



Leo (15 years old)



Coders: The Making of a New Tribe and the Remaking of the World by Clive Thompson. This fantastic book gives us a backstage view of coders, the people who are making our world today. A good read for our world today.



Flight: The Complete History of Aviation by R.G. Grant. Great pictures and amazing information for anyone who loves planes (or is dreaming about the time when we travelled all the time!).



Compass South by Hope Larson. A good balance to hefty high school tomes, this graphic novel series is another to add to the list.

Liisa

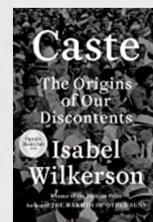
The Library of the Unwritten by A. J. Hackwith. What if all unfinished stories ended up in a library, and that library was in hell? An engaging read about the librarian of the Unwritten Wing.



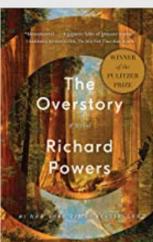
The Lost Shtetl by Max Gross. Received an advanced copy of this now-released book about a shtetl that somehow got overlooked, surviving World War II. And then was found. So good!



Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson. This goes in the "must read" pile. Engaging and lyrically written, comparing the Indian caste system and US society.



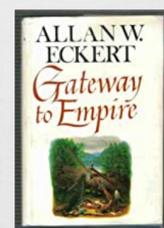
The Overstory by Richard Powers. If you like forests and nature, you will love this novel. And it is really true about trees being connected: the scientist whom Powers bases one of his characters is coming out with her own book next year.



Steve



The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present by David Treuer. This fascinating history examines land seizures, political posturing, and the legal maneuvers that form an often-overlooked part of our history.



Gateway to Empire by Allan W. Eckert. Another in the series that includes last year's pick, *The Frontiersman*, this volume covers Illinois from 1763 to 1816.



The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates. It's one thing to read about slavery in history books. It is an entirely other thing to read a novel that brings that history to life. Not a light read. But a good one.

We may not be able to send bookmarks in the mail this year, but we didn't want to lose the tradition. We hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday and that these book ideas come in handy this year and beyond!