In this month’s selection, a true story of the Radium Girls is the true story of that still holds true a precedent in labor law. The Radium Girls by Kate Moore tells the story of a factory workers who found themselves sickening from radiation poisoning. Their legal case set a precedent in labor law.

**Power in the Panels: A Graphic Novel Group**
Next Meeting: May 9, 7 p.m., Stryker Center
What We’re Reading: Threadbare by Anne Elizabeth Moore
Power in the Panels is a group for graphic novel enthusiasts (18+, please) who want to read and talk about independent graphic novels. This month’s selection delves into the rise of fast fashion and the social issues surrounding this trend.

**Real People/Real Stories: A Nonfiction Book Group**
Next Meeting: May 17, 2 p.m., Stryker Center
What We’re Reading: The Radium Girls by Kate Moore
Real People/Real Stories focuses on nonfiction books in the areas of history, biography, science, and nature. The Radium Girls is the true story of female factory workers who found themselves sickening from radiation poisoning. Their legal case set a precedent in labor law that still holds true today.

**Novel Ideas: A Contemporary Fiction and Nonfiction Book Group**
Next Meeting: May 21, 2 p.m., James City County Library
What We’re Reading: Gardens of Consolation by Parisa Reza
Novel Ideas is an exploration of classic and contemporary fiction and nonfiction. In this month’s selection, a peasant couple tries to raise their son in the turbulent world of Tehran’s revolutionary 20th century.
Featured Events for Kids

Celebrate Children’s Book Week
5/3, 6:30 p.m. | Williamsburg Library
Come help us celebrate the wonderful world of children’s literature with a storyline and craft.

STEAM Saturdays: Animal Adventures
5/19, 1-4 p.m., James City County Library
Our May STEAM Saturday is all about animal adventures -- we'll have experts from both the Virginia Living Museum and the Virginia Aquarium visit, as well as interactive STEAM activities and science-related art projects.

Welcome Summer
5/26, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., James City County Library
Welcome summer in the James City County Library's backyard! Come play in the sand, try your hand at cornhole, kick a beachball around, or draw at the picnic table.

Check out all this month’s great kids events and more at www.wrl.org/kids.

Featured Events for Teens

May the Fourth Trivia
5/4, 5-6 p.m. | Williamsburg Library
Join us for Star Wars trivia and prizes -- and may the force be with you this May the Fourth!

Teen Advisory Group
5/3, 6 p.m. | Williamsburg Library
Share your ideas for teen services and programs.

Anime Movie & Craft
5/15, 5:30-8 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Join us for the award-winning Tale of Princess Kaguya (PG) and to create paper lanterns. Ages 12-18.

Teen Writing Lounge
5/20, 2-3:30 p.m., James City County Library
Enjoy writing exercises and fun prompts for inspiration and practice. Beginners and experienced writers welcome.

Check out all this month’s great teen events and more at www.wrl.org/teens.

Featured Events for Adults

Solar Power in Williamsburg
5/17, 7 p.m. | James City County Library
Interested in going solar? Join Aaron Sutch from Solar United Neighbors of Virginia to learn the facts about solar power. He will explain the benefits of solar, how it works, and how to get started, then answer your questions.

Dewey Decibel Concert Series
Various Dates, 7:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Mark your calendars for the amazing performances we have coming up this month. Join us on 5/4 for Muriel Anderson, with special guest harp-guitarist Matt Thomas. Next up, mandolin/vocalist Steve Smith and Nashville guitarist/vocalist Tim May take the stage on 5/18. Finally, Virginia Symphony’s ‘Celebrations’ Brass Ensemble will perform on 5/23. Check www.wrl.org/dewey for ticket info. This series is sponsored by the Friends of WRL Foundation.

Day of Dance
5/13, 2 p.m. | Williamsburg Library
Dance studios from around Williamsburg will perform for you on Mother’s Day. Come enjoy different styles of dance from ballet to Irish step.

Getaway Cafe: Impressionist Artists and Their Gardens
5/18, 2 p.m. | James City County Library
Celebrate gardens and how Impressionist artists portray them in this program for adults with early memory loss and their care partners.

Bike Maintenance
5/20, 2 p.m., Williamsburg Library
For National Bike Month, certified bike mechanic Doug Backman will offer tips to keep your bike in tip-top shape.

Penniman: Virginia’s Own Ghost City
5/26, 2 p.m. | James City County Library
Author Rosemary Thornton will talk about her popular book and the lost city of Penniman, Virginia. Penniman was the site of a DuPont munitions plant that produced artillery shells during World War I. At its peak, it had 15,000 inhabitants, but when the war ended, so did the town.

Find all of this month’s library programs & classes at www.wrl.org/events.

Author Profile: Sharyn McCrumb

Although she started her career writing mysteries (Sick of Shadows), and recently updated The Canterbury Tales with NASCAR pilgrims (St. Dale), Sharyn McCrumb is best known for her Ballad novels. She is a storyteller, often drawing on her own family’s history for her timeless tales of good and evil, while her ability to create a firm sense of her Appalachian setting adds a special dimension to her writing.

The hills and valleys of Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee play as important a role in her fiction as the human characters do. McCrumb’s people have a deep-seated love of their land, which at times brings them into conflict with the interests and desires of contemporary culture. There are crimes committed in the Ballad novels, but McCrumb is less interested in solving a mystery than in exploring how culture and long-past events influence her characters. Music is an essential piece of McCrumb’s novels, which she constructs along the lines of traditional Appalachian ballads. Just as they often do in those ballads, ghosts make appearances, sometimes for good and sometimes for ill. The ability of some of McCrumb’s characters to see, at least dimly, into both the future and the past brings an air of magical realism to the stories.

Through her affection for her characters, an abiding interest in the music and stories of the mountains, and an unsentimental perspective on human nature, McCrumb continues the heritage of the balladeers who recorded oral histories in their art. For a good introduction to the Ballad novels, try The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter or The Ballad of Frankie Silver. While the Ballad stories include recurring characters, the books do not connect in a series.

Sharyn McCrumb will be speaking at the Williamsburg Library Theatre on June 2 at 7 pm.

This article is adapted from a piece written by Barry Trott for the readers’ resource NovelList, which is available at www.wrl.org/find.

Harry Potter Escape Room

Recover your ticket for the Hogwarts Express, or you’ll miss the ride of a lifetime! Escape Rooms are a popular new activity in which participants are faced with a series of puzzles they must complete in a set amount of time, and WRL is getting in on the fun this May 12 with a special Harry Potter-themed Escape Room experience. Teens ages 13-18 can use fan knowledge and teamwork to find their ticket for the Hogwarts Express before the clock runs out. Some of the puzzles will require them to unlock padlocks, use a decoder, and search around the room for items that contain clues -- all while the clock is ticking!

We’ll be sending teams of six through the Escape Room at 30 minute intervals from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Williamsburg Library, and we’ll have Harry Potter movies running in the Theatre to keep you entertained as you wait. Participants can register as a group or be paired up with other groups as needed. All registration takes place the day of the event -- call 757-259-4000 with questions.

Find all of this month’s library programs & classes at www.wrl.org/events.