

January 2019

Here's to a New Year Full of
Potential



January 21st is Squirrel Appreciation Day

Nope, we're not kidding. Alongside National Granola Bar Day and National Hugging Day. Why is this important? Because it's a very eye-catching way to tell you about [the new page on our website](#) that's dedicated to daily, weekly, and monthly observances and celebrations. It's a great resource if you're looking for some ideas for book displays, events, or just wanted to get ahead of some topics to highlight on social media to drive more eyes to your post (remember to use those hashtags). Get those photography books out on June 29th for National Camera Day. Have a themed storytime on March 11th for National Johnny Appleseed Day. Have workshops for entrepreneurs on the first week of May for Small Business Week.



Library of Things

We've been working for a while now to bolster libraries' offerings of books, audiobooks, and DVDs. But we hope you've noticed the things that can be offered to patrons that don't fall into those categories. Jump Start Early Literacy Kits that include toys, games, books, CDs, and activities to spark a child's love of reading. Maker Kits that have hands-on learning activities like drawing 3D objects and building circuits. BiFolkal Remembering Kits that have objects, DVDs, and activities to jog a person's memory about past experiences. Baking Pan Kits that save patrons money and allow them to practice their culinary skills. Even the newly added VR headsets that are currently completing their test runs at libraries. All of these are designed to add more value to the library card in patrons' hands and more value to your libraries. We've just started adding these to some rotating collections, too. This allows you to show off the fact that your library is more than just a building with books (though you've got that, too). Take a look at the items in our [Library of Things page](#) and let us know what you'd like to see at your library.



The Trailblazer

It's been a while since we last sent out an issue of the *Pathfinder*. That's largely due to the fact that we've been busy preparing the *Trailblazer* to hit the road again. For those of you that might not be familiar, the *Trailblazer* is our long-form paper newsletter that gets sent out to libraries, their boards, other library systems, partner organizations, and even New York State representatives. We just got them out in the mail and on the van delivery. It's packed full of information we collect from the member libraries, the correctional facility libraries, and from the System. If you'd like to take a look at it on a screen, [check it out on our website](#).

Past Newsletters



The New Lake Champlain LibGuide

Have you seen Champ? (No, we're not counting that time you saw the mascot at a Vermont Lake Monsters ballgame.) Learn all about the the mysterious water creature and its legend that date back to Iroquois and Abenaki lore along with plenty of other monsters of the region on [our new libguide](#). Not in the mood for monsters? Take a look at all the

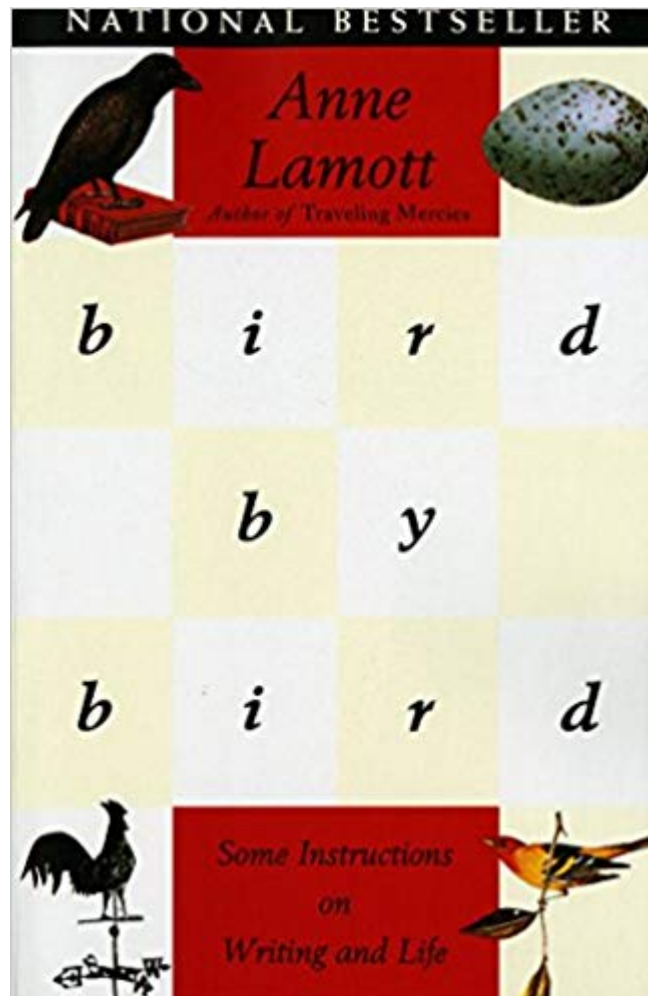
area guides and more information the guide has to offer.

Lake Champlain Region LibGuide



New Book Club in a Bag Kits

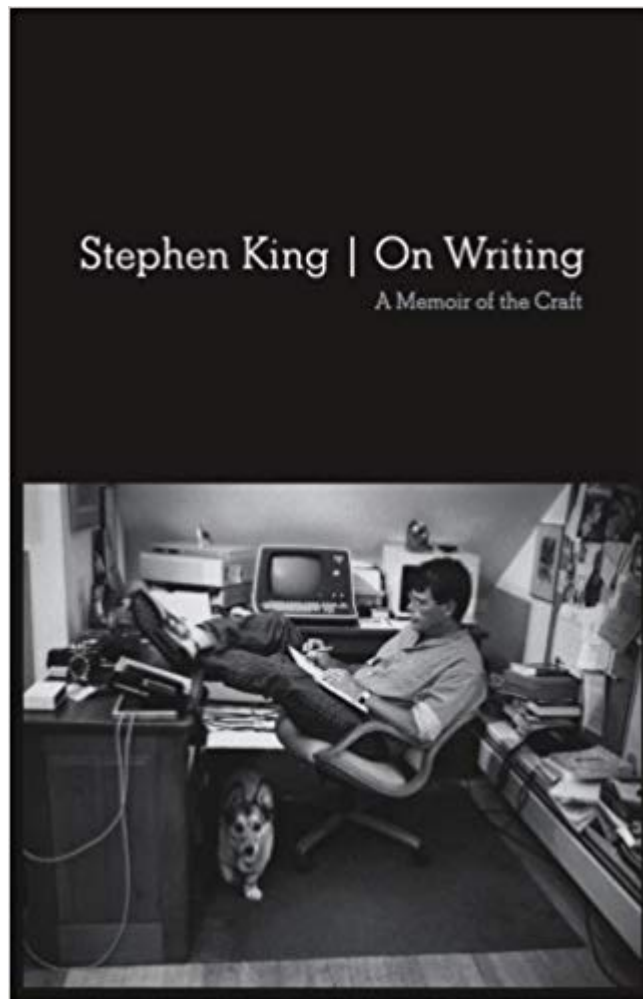
Book Club in a Bag kits include 12 copies of a title packed with discussion guides to make book clubs easy. Want one sent to your library? Email [David](#) to schedule.



[Bird by Bird](#)

with discussion guide and writing exercises

Anne Lamott



[On Writing](#)

with discussion guide and writing exercises

Steven King

"Beautifully written and utterly gorgeous, DAYTRIPPER completely blew me away."
— Gerard Way
(*Umbrella Academy*,
My Chemical Romance)

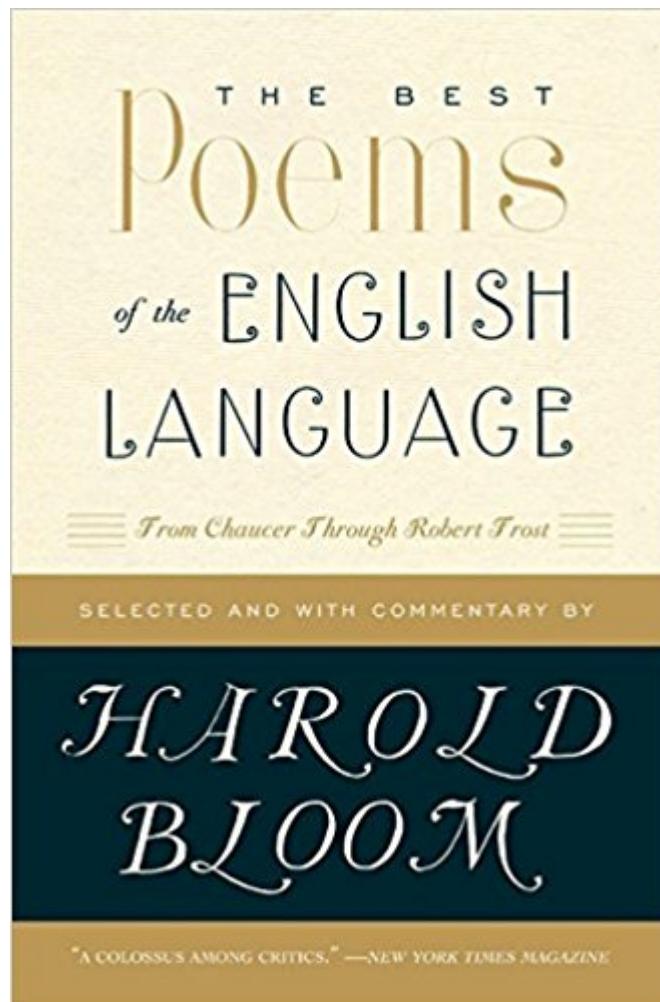


Introduction by Craig Thompson (*Blankets*)

[Daytripper](#)

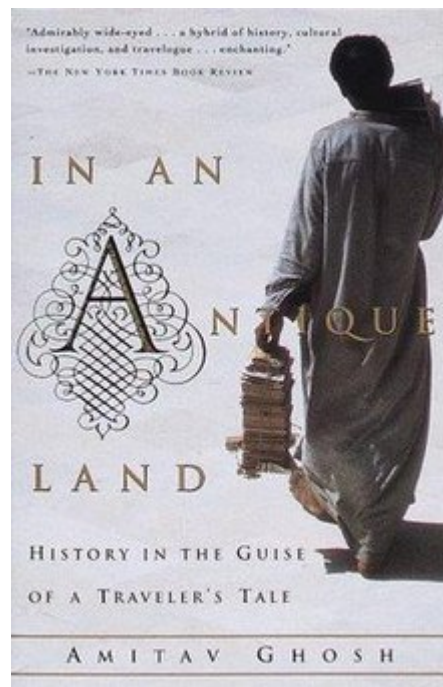
with discussion guide

Fabio Moon & Gabriel Ba



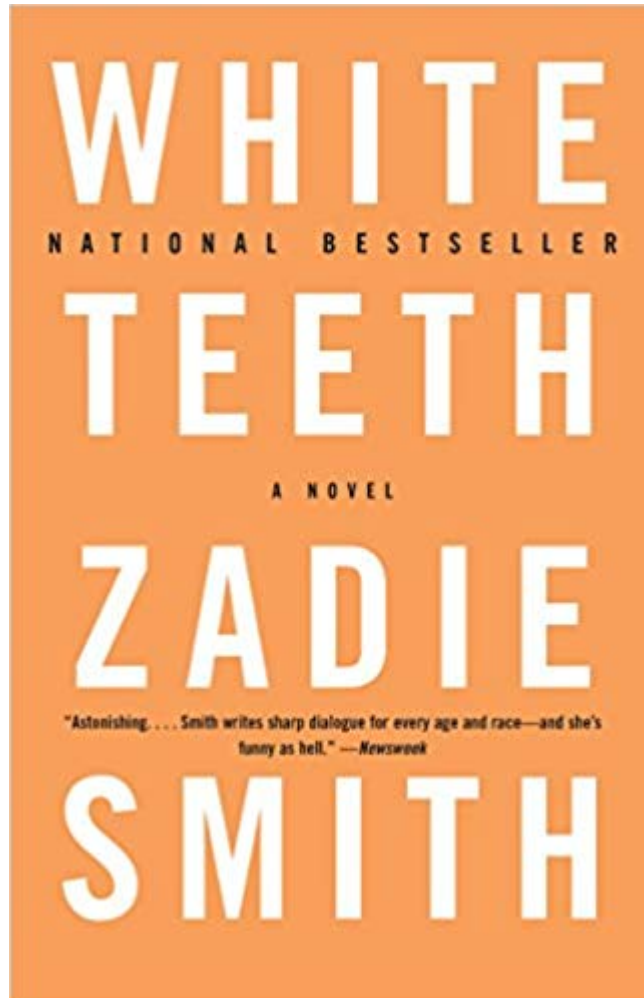
[The Best Poems of the English Language](#)
with discussion guide

Harold Bloom



[In an Antique Land](#)
with discussion guide

Amitav Ghosh



[White Teeth](#)
with discussion guide

Zadie Smith

“Tomorrow, is the first blank page of a 365
page book. Write a good one.”

– Brad Paisley

Share Something

Don't be shy! The Pathfinder is meant to share useful information across member libraries in a timely and condensed manner, but doesn't replace the Trailblazer, which is meant to share stories from around the System. Do you have something to contribute to the Pathfinder? Contact [David Fuller](#) and it could be in our next issue.



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