

# LIT PICKS

## A curated selection of the Web's literary tidbits

*Lit Picks* is our DC Public Library Foundation insider's guide to the literary pieces we're reading, liking and sharing. We hope you enjoy our look at some of the best and most interesting items the Web has to offer on books, reading and life. In light of the intersection of Black History Month and the current political climate, this edition of *Lit Picks* will center around themes of hope and tolerance. Let's dive in!

## #BlackGirlMagic: Young Readers Becoming Leaders

These young Black bibliophiles are paving the way towards a more hopeful future.



One year ago, Marley Dias emerged as the brilliant elementary-school activist with an inclusive mission to revolutionize children's books. Frustrated by her school books which largely featured stories about "white boys and dogs," Dias initiated the #1000BlackGirlBooks book drive, collecting and donating children's books that feature Black girls as the lead character. Fast forward to one year later, Marley Dias is adding author to her list of accomplishments. Earlier this month, [Scholastic](#) announced plans to publish an activism book by the young reader who aims to spread her message of "diversity, inclusion and social action."

Another impressive little lady making a literary splash is four-year-old Daliyah Marie Arana from Gainesville, GA. The skilled reader and local library regular was recently recognized as "[Librarian for the Day](#)" by Librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden, for reading more than 1,000 books before kindergarten. Daliyah, pictured right, looks ready to take office one day!



Marley and Daliyah are perfect examples of why it's so important to [sing, talk and read](#) to your baby because it's never too early to learn how to read and make positive change in the world.

## Upcoming Events At The MLK Library (Before We Close For Modernization!)

As many of you may already know, the historic Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library will close for a three-year long modernization on March 4, 2017. [Click here](#) to learn more about public and private closing activities at the central library, and we hope you will join us for the below private events in support of the DC Public Library Foundation.

### ALB Rock the Stacks - Friday February 24, 7 PM

Love local music? Love DC Public Library? Then Rock the Stacks is the event for you.

**ALB: Rock The Stacks** is a local music festival throughout the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library featuring live performances by iconic D.C. bands such as

*Live Music Featuring: Fort Knox Five • Benjy Ferree  
Warm Sun • Rob Myers (of Thievery Corp.) • Elmapi  
Super Silver Haze • Boat Burning • Small Doses +  
ALB All-Stars • Elmapi • Furniteur • Sitali + Juju*

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**ROCK THE STACKS**  
LIVE. LOUD. LIBRARY.

**7PM to 10PM • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library**

**Live Screen Printing • Cupcakes • Cocktails!**

dc public library  
foundation

[dcplf.org/rockthestacks](http://dcplf.org/rockthestacks)

The evening will also include interactive art by artist/designer Leigh-Ann Friedel, live screen printing by Soul & Ink, and signature cocktails, beer and snacks by Room 11, District Distilling Co, DC Brau and Cake Love. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

The ALB: Rock the Stacks project is a tribute to an awe-inspiring D.C. original, Annie Lou Bayly Berman. In tribute to Annie Lou's love of music and libraries and Washington, DC -- and to her talent for tossing together all of the above to see what magic could be created -- this project brings together her beloved D.C. musicians in support of the DC Public Library.

## Story Time Gala Reception - Thursday, March 16, 6:30 PM

Feel passionate about children's literacy in the District and love great cocktails and bites by some of D.C.'s best chefs and bartenders? Then the Story Time Gala Reception is the event for you.



~ A Book is a Dream ~

Join the DC Public Library Foundation Board for a magical evening in support of the critical children's programs at DC Public Library. This dreamy event will feature deliciously creative food and drink from D.C.'s leading culinary minds (including [DC](#)

[Semifinalists for the 2017 James Beard Awards](#) Derek Brown and JP Fetherston from Columbia Room), scenes from your favorite children's stories, as well as performances by local artists.

[Click here to RSVP](#) and learn about opportunities to Sponsor and Host.

## Relevant Reads That Are Not 1984

For women who need a little inspiration these days, *Huffington Post* has assembled a list of [books about fictional and non-fictional heroines who #Persisted](#). Of course this list would be incomplete without Coretta Scott King's [My Life, My Love, My Legacy](#). The diverse compilation features novels about the female experience in many different parts of the world at varying points in history. Azar Nafisi's [Reading Lolita in Tehran](#) addresses female oppression during the 1979 Revolution in Iran while [Hidden Figures](#) by Margot Lee Shetterly speaks to the all-too-recent history of institutionalized racism and sexism in the US government. All of these incredible female authors demonstrate the resilience of women of all colors and backgrounds, and empower us to keep fighting for equal rights.





To celebrate the contributions of refugees in this country, *NY Times Book Review* has created a list of [25 Great Books by Refugees in America](#). Diversity is one of America's most unique and precious strengths. These tales of persecution appeal to our deep rooted sense of humanity and remind us of America's role as a sacred refuge. The 2015 DC Reads pick, [The Beautiful Things](#)

[That Heaven Bears](#) by Dinaw Mengestu details the experience of Ethiopian immigrants in Washington, DC as the early wave of gentrification was locally displacing Logan Circle residents. Other works from this list depict haunting tales of fleeing Nazi Germany, Cambodian labor camps and other dangerous regimes.

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