

YouthREAD 2023

Grades 4-6
Book Selection

Community
READ!

CATERPILLAR SUMMER

Written by Gillian McDunn

Cat is the glue holding her family together, caring for her younger brother, Chicken, while their mom works long hours. But even the strongest glue sometimes struggles to hold. When Cat and Chicken spend three weeks on an island with grandparents they've never met before, Cat not only learns to love her newfound family, but she also learns to let others help care for her brother.

Join our CommunityREAD by reading and sharing this book, then enrich the experience with these questions and activities.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Mom writes books about Caterpillar and Chicken. How is Cat like Caterpillar? How is she different? How does Cat feel about Caterpillar?
- When Mom calls Cat “the glue,” what does she mean? What do you think about Cat taking on this responsibility?
- How would you describe Cat's relationship with her grandparents, Macon and Lily? How would you describe her mom's relationship with them?
- Cat and Chicken try new foods when they are on Gingerbread Island with their grandparents. Are there any foods that you associate with certain places or certain people?
- What do you think about John Harvey when Cat first meets him? Does your opinion of him change by the end of the book?

These questions, activities, and more can be found at the publisher's website:
<https://www.bloomsbury.com/media/gmqdu2p2/caterpillar-summer-reading-guide.pdf>

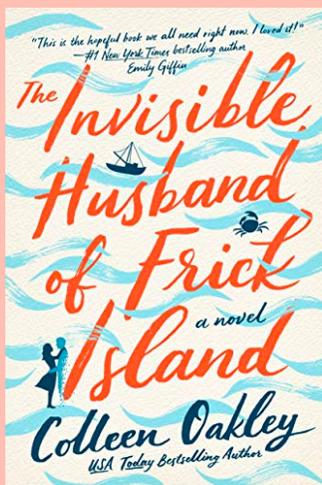
ACTIVITIES

- Cat and Chicken live in San Francisco. Gingerbread Island is based on Topsail Island in North Carolina. Use Google Maps or Google Earth to locate San Francisco and Topsail Island. What are some differences you notice between these two places?
- Cat and Harriet spend a memorable day at Dawson's Mini Golf. Create your own mini golf course with cups for holes. You can mark the tee-off spot with non-marking tape and, for an extra challenge, add obstacles that players will need to putt around. Dawson's Mini Golf has some outrageous themes, so you can also try adding themes to your course.
- Cat enters a fishing contest. If you were going to make a contest, what would it be for? Would there be prizes? What kind of rules would you need to have? Make a poster to advertise your contest.
- Imagine that you are creating a travel brochure for visitors to Gingerbread Island. Using information from *Caterpillar Summer*, describe the different activities and destinations. On one side, draw a map of Gingerbread Island. Be sure to label the fishing pier, sea turtle nesting sites, the miniature golf course, the library, the playground, Willis General, and Miss Sunshine's ice cream shop.

Share what you did with the library on Facebook (facebook.com/FHCPL) or Instagram (@FHCPL).

WHAT IS COMMUNITYREAD?

CommunityREAD is a month-long community event that encourages reading and discussion. Each year, a different CommunityREAD book is chosen, along with a selection of YouthREAD books that explore similar topics and themes for younger readers.



The 2023 CommunityREAD book is *The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* by Colleen Oakley. The author will present at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts on April 6, 2023.

2023 YOUTHREAD TITLES

- PreK-Grade 1: *We Forgot Brock!* by Carter Goodrich
- Grades 2-3: *High and Dry* by Eric Walters
- Grades 4-6: *Caterpillar Summer* by Gillian McDunn
- Grades 7-8: *The Line Tender* by Kate Allen
- Grades 9-12: *We Were Liars* by e. lockhart