



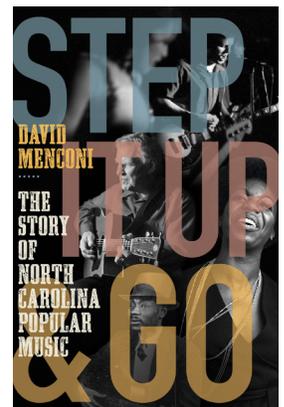
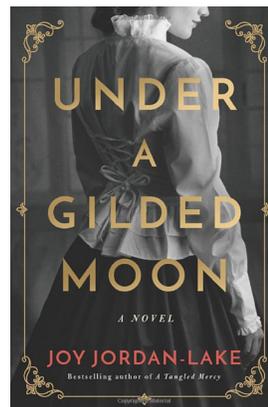
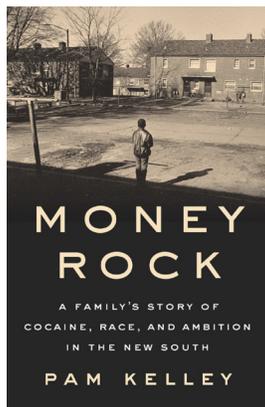
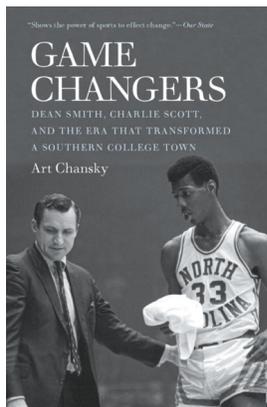
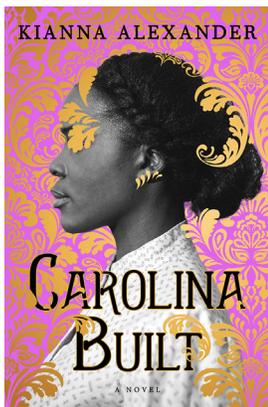
NORTH CAROLINA READS | READING SCHEDULE & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

North Carolina Humanities' 2023 statewide book club, North Carolina Reads, features five books that explore issues of racial, social, and gender equality and the history and culture of North Carolina.

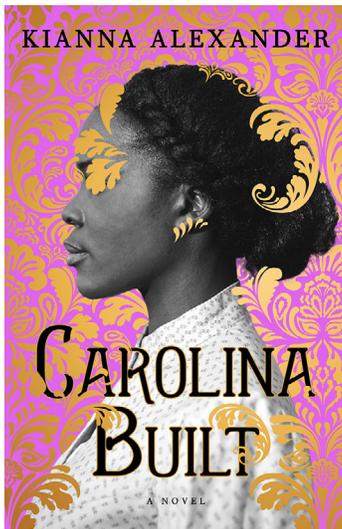
North Carolina Humanities hopes these stories encourage engaging, productive conversation among participants. At the heart of North Carolina Reads is North Carolina Humanities' desire to connect communities through shared reading experiences.

As part of North Carolina Reads, North Carolina Humanities is hosting monthly book club events where participants will hear from guest speakers, including book authors and topic experts, and have a chance to ask questions about the month's book.

Here, we offer a reading schedule and provide sample discussion questions to ask yourself and talk with others about as you read. For ideas on how to plan a book club discussion event, please view our companion Program Guide.



FEBRUARY 2023



Carolina Built

BY KIANNA ALEXANDER

READING SCHEDULE

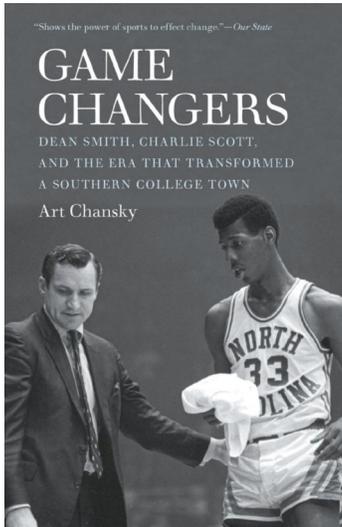
February 1-8pages 1-112
February 9-15.....pages 113-202
February 16-22pages 203-305

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- After Josephine Leary was emancipated in 1865, she began her life as a newlywed in Edenton, North Carolina and quickly focused on building her and her family's legacy. Why is the idea of creating a legacy, especially one based on financial security and independence, important to Josephine?
- How does the novel explore the intersection of race and social class, specifically in terms of Josephine and Sweetie purchasing land, building a house, and opening a business?
- What is the importance of exploring the themes of family and motherhood in the book? What parenting practices of Josephine's might have set her apart from other mothers of her time?
- Josephine delivers a presentation on social roles of the modern woman at the Edenton Ladies Auxiliary meeting. What are the reactions of the meeting attendees to Josephine's presentation, and how do those reactions highlight the differences in expectations for women in the 1860s?
- The author details the development of a friendship between Josephine and Rosa. What do you think about their relationship?
- Throughout the book, Josephine and Sweetie experience several instances of racism and injustice. What do you think about Josephine's reactions to these situations?
- After reading this book, did you come away with a greater understanding of what this particular time and place in history was like through Josephine's experiences as imagined in the novel?
- What lessons can you apply from Josephine's experiences to your own life?

Questions adapted from Simon and Schuster

MARCH 2023



Game Changers: Dean Smith, Charlie Scott, and the Era That Transformed a Southern College Town

BY ART CHANSKY

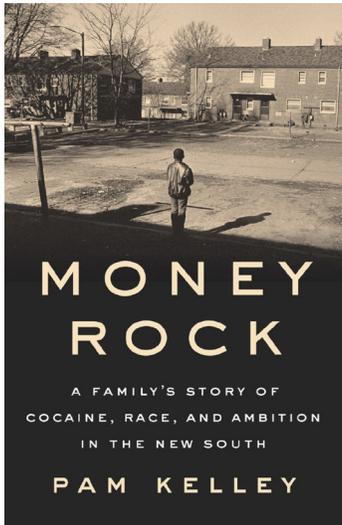
READING SCHEDULE

March 1-8	pages 1-40
March 9-15.....	pages 41-85
March 16-22	pages 86-125
March 23-27.....	pages 126-172

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In what ways did Dean Smith's and Charlie Scott's experiences before they arrived at UNC Chapel Hill shape and influence their respective lives?
- In Chapter Two "The Truth About Chapel Hill" the author notes that, "The University of North Carolina's reputation as a progressive institution originated in many places and was closely linked to Chapel Hill's standing as a liberal college town." To what extent was this an accurate/inaccurate perception in the 1950s and 1960s?
- How did Dean Smith and Charlie Scott overcome personal and professional challenges they faced both on and off the court?
- What were Dean Smith's and Charlie Scott's individual and collective achievements during their time together at UNC Chapel Hill? After? What do you think was the most significant achievement and why?
- In what ways were UNC Chapel Hill, the town of Chapel Hill, and collegiate athletics transformed by Dean Smith and Charlie Scott?

APRIL 2023



Money Rock: A Family's Story of Cocaine, Race, and Ambition in the New South

BY PAM KELLEY

READING SCHEDULE

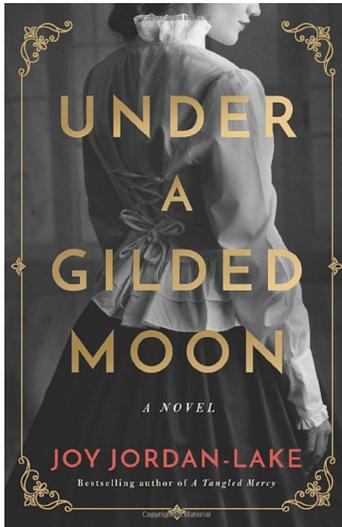
April 1-7	pages 1-71
April 8-14	pages 73-129
April 15-21	pages 131-185
April 22-25	pages 187-268

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Describe Belton Lamont Platt's early life and adolescence growing up in Charlotte. How were Belton's experiences similar to and different from his mother, Carrie's, experiences? How were they different to his own children's experiences growing up in Charlotte a generation later?
- What historical factors, practices, and policies influenced Charlotte's economic and social development since the Civil War? How did these factors shape the city of Charlotte and its residents' lives?
- What were the implications of cocaine culture and the sale of cocaine on the United States, and on North Carolina, from the drug's introduction in the early 20th century through the 1990s?
- How did Belton's experiences in the state and federal prison system change his life?
- What are the larger social and economic implications of the criminal court system and mass incarceration? Consider Belton's trial and sentencing with "Maximum Bob" and Judge Shirley Fulton's courtroom experiences from Chapter 14 "Sentencing a Generation".
- What is the intersection between affordable housing and economic mobility?



MAY 2023



Under a Gilded Moon

BY JOY JORDAN-LAKE

READING SCHEDULE

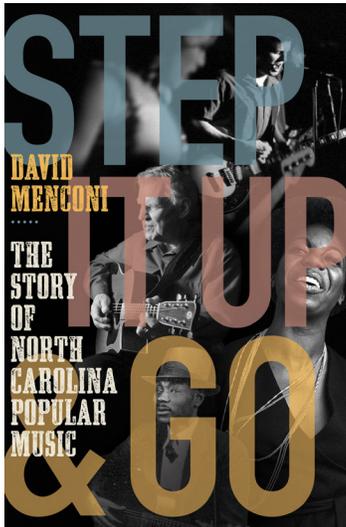
May 1-7.....	pages 1-102
May 8-14.....	pages 103-196
May 15-21.....	pages 197-297
May 22-31.....	pages 298-391

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What cultural elements are often associated with Appalachia and Western North Carolina? How are these cultural elements viewed by various characters throughout the book?
- As evidenced in the book, how was the economy transformed in the decades following the Civil War? Consider impacts of railroad construction, labor practices, tourism, etc.
- Compare and contrast the lives of the various characters in the book. How are their experiences illustrative of the economic inequality characteristic of the Gilded Age?
- What are some examples of cultural debates highlighted in the book? How did these cultural debates reinforce and/or challenge the social order?
- What were the various reactions to immigration and immigrants in the novel?
- How were women's roles changing during the Gilded Age?



JUNE 2023



Step It Up and Go: The Story of North Carolina Popular Music

BY DAVID MENCONI

READING SCHEDULE

June 1-8.....	pages 1-75
June 9-16	pages 76-142
June 17-23	pages 143-216
June 24-30	pages 217-286

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- North Carolina has a national reputation as a musical state. What are the various kinds of music you can find throughout the state? Is there a particular style of music or musician you associate with North Carolina?
- What factors contributed to the development of so many different styles and genres of music in North Carolina?
- How does North Carolina music reflect cultural and social influences over time?
- What kinds of contributions did artists in North Carolina make in their musical careers?
- Why do some songs and artists remain relevant and popular across generations?
- What is your favorite North Carolina music genre, artist, or song?



NORTH CAROLINA READS

Reading Schedule & Discussion Questions

Please note that selected books are intended for readers 18 and over and may not be suitable for some audiences.

Any views, findings, conclusions, opinions, or recommendations expressed by our partners and participants do not necessarily represent those of North Carolina Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Through public humanities programs and grantmaking, North Carolina Humanities connects North Carolinians with cultural experiences that spur dialogue, deepen human connections, and inspire community. North Carolina Humanities is a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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