While each passing day brings us closer to the warmth of spring, there's nothing like a cold winter day to snuggle up with a good book. Enjoy these latest selections, and let us know what you're reading.

**The Secret Life of Clams: The Mysteries and Magic of Our Favorite Shellfish** by Anthony D. Fredericks (YCP Author)

Behold the clam, humble bivalve of ancient lineage. Until I began reading this book, I never gave much thought to how much this simple creature had infiltrated our daily lives. There is the obvious – food and cookbooks. But there is also art – think Botticelli’s “Birth of Venus”; furniture – as a carved decorative motif; vocabulary – clam up, clammy hands; currency – wampum or an expression of dollars, like 50 clams; and literature – Mrs. Hussey’s chowder pots in “Moby Dick.” Fredericks covers the gamut of all there is to know about clams in a conversational, informative manner, ranging over biological, ecological, economical, cultural, gustatorial, and whimsical fields. After reading this book, I can now correctly pronounce *geoduck* (it’s not how it looks, kind of like *quinoa*). ~ Roberta Rishel

**City of Bones** by Cassandra Clare

Cassandra Clare creates a world that is so easy to be believable, because we are too ‘mundane’ to see it. I really loved this book. I instantly fell in love with the story and most of the characters. I recommend it to anyone and everyone that loves to read books with tons of action and a hint of romance. It is one of the best books out there with insanely detailed descriptions ~ Courtney Hengel

**Rebel Belle** by Rachel Hawkins

This book was pretty interesting. It took a while for me to get into it, but I thought it was really well written. I will say it is extremely action packed, and you’ll be unable to put it down after you learn what is going on during the first half of the book. I recommend it to girls because this read is geared toward girls. ~ Courtney Hengel
The Circle by Dave Eggers

Imagine a world where one internet company gathers and controls information about everyone and everything. In this unsettling story, the Circle company has combined nearly all online transactions – email, search, social media, photos, mobile apps, payments – through its Unified Operating System. You need only one account, one password, one online identity. The Circle’s motto, “All that happens will be known,” inspires the sharing of all things personal, all stored in the Cloud. As the Orwellian Big Brother establishes itself, full transparency reigns and privacy is considered selfish, even criminal. Although the story’s setting is post-Google, the similarities to Google and its mission “to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible” are eerie. This novel will make you want to unplug all your devices and live off the grid -- while you still can. ~ Beth Jacoby

The Other Typist by Suzanne Rindell

This one is great! A little unassuming story that gets better the longer you read it. The author establishes a distinct voice immediately and clearly describes her main character (who is evolving constantly) throughout. It is a well told story that leads the reader exactly where the reader expects to go but when you get there it is not what you expected. Then again maybe it is…that’s part of the hook of this book. One of the best books I’ve read in months. ~ Paul Doutrich

Polio: An American Story by David M. Oshinsky

Part thriller, part mystery; tons of intrigue, lots of backstabbing, edge-of-your-seat drama, and a mesmerizing and engaging chronicle highlight Polio: An American Story (the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in History). Those of us of a certain age will well remember this era of American history and the author wonderfully captures both the anxiety and fears that rippled through the country during the 1950s. This is a gripping narrative that effectively catalogues both the terror of polio and the compelling (and very newsworthy) race to discover an effective cure. In so many ways, this is historiography at its finest - a paean to exquisite storytelling, magnetic biographies and enthralling investigations that will result in a few sleepless nights. (Trust me - you won’t be able to put the book down). ~ Tony Fredericks

The Circle by Dave Eggers

Imagine a world where one internet company gathers and controls information about everyone and everything. In this unsettling story, the Circle company has combined nearly all online transactions – email, search, social media, photos, mobile apps, payments – through its Unified Operating System. You need only one account, one password, one online identity. The Circle’s motto, “All that happens will be known,” inspires the sharing of all things personal, all stored in the Cloud. As the Orwellian Big Brother establishes itself, full transparency reigns and privacy is considered selfish, even criminal. Although the story’s setting is post-Google, the similarities to Google and its mission “to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible” are eerie. This novel will make you want to unplug all your devices and live off the grid -- while you still can. ~ Beth Jacoby

Like Schmidt Library on Facebook to learn interesting tidbits and keep up with the latest library news.

The next What We’re Reading will be published in April. Please submit your brief reviews to bjacoby@ycp.edu by March 27.