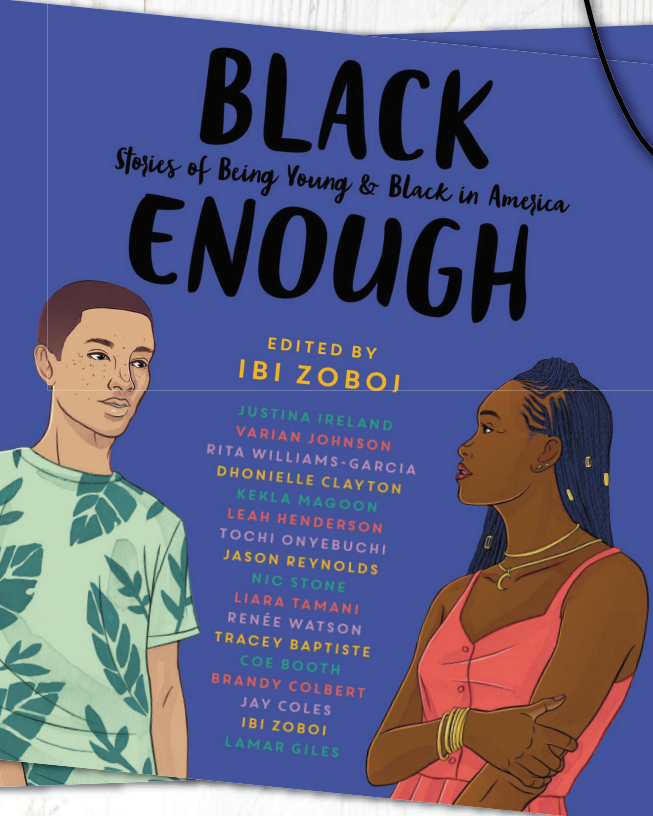


Book Club Companion: *Meet Me in Mississippi*

Meeting Planning Guide for Readers of *The Gone Dead*



Discover. Read. Share.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB

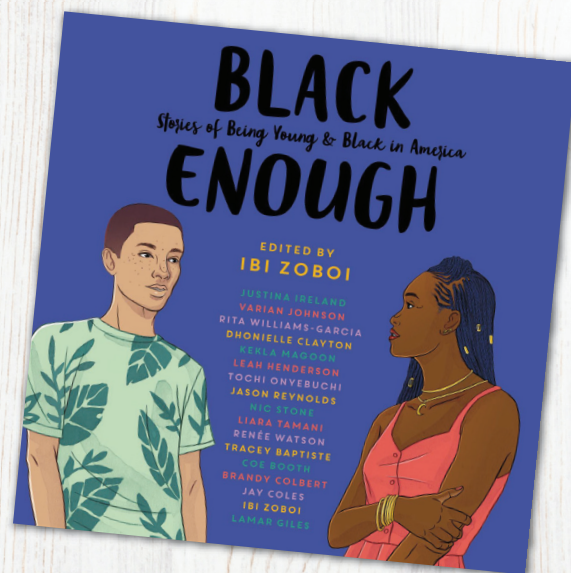
The hoopla catalog provides endless options to enhance your in-person book club meeting. From cookbooks to stories and music to movies, check out our Book Club Companion to this season's Spotlight Selection, *The Gone Dead*, to tread into the American South—a land equal in wonder and secrets.

#OWNVOICES

In *The Gone Dead*, during the chapter where Billie's mother is coming to the end of her days, she tells Billie, "You're going to need to be tough." Billie was just 19, and would soon head out into the world more independently than when she had Mom to rely on. The scene goes on...

"You'll never be white enough or black enough for some people," says her mother, continuing on to express the sentiment she and Billie's father shared: "We didn't want it to be a burden. We wanted it to be beautiful, and it was."

Spend the first few moments of your book club meeting getting into Billie's frame of mind that day—learning a little more about what it is like to be young and black in America with this essential audiobook collection of stories edited by National Book Award finalist Ibi Zoboi. ***Black Enough*** features some of the most acclaimed bestselling black authors writing for teens today, and the captivating collection shares that...



Black is...sisters navigating their relationship at summer camp in Portland, Oregon, as written by Renée Watson.

Black is...three friends walking back from the community pool talking about nothing and everything, in a story by Jason Reynolds.

Black is...Nic Stone's high-class beauty dating a boy of whom her momma would never approve.

Black is...two girls kissing in Justina Ireland's story set in Maryland.

Black is urban and rural, wealthy and poor, mixed race, immigrants, and more—because there are countless ways to be black enough.

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVIE NIGHTS

Does your book club like to meet up outside their regular discussions? Why not further the theme of the Civil Rights Movement woven into Billie's father's legacy with these thought-provoking films on hoopla? From history-based fiction to documentaries, there's much to discover in this collection: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/6578>.



THE BLUES

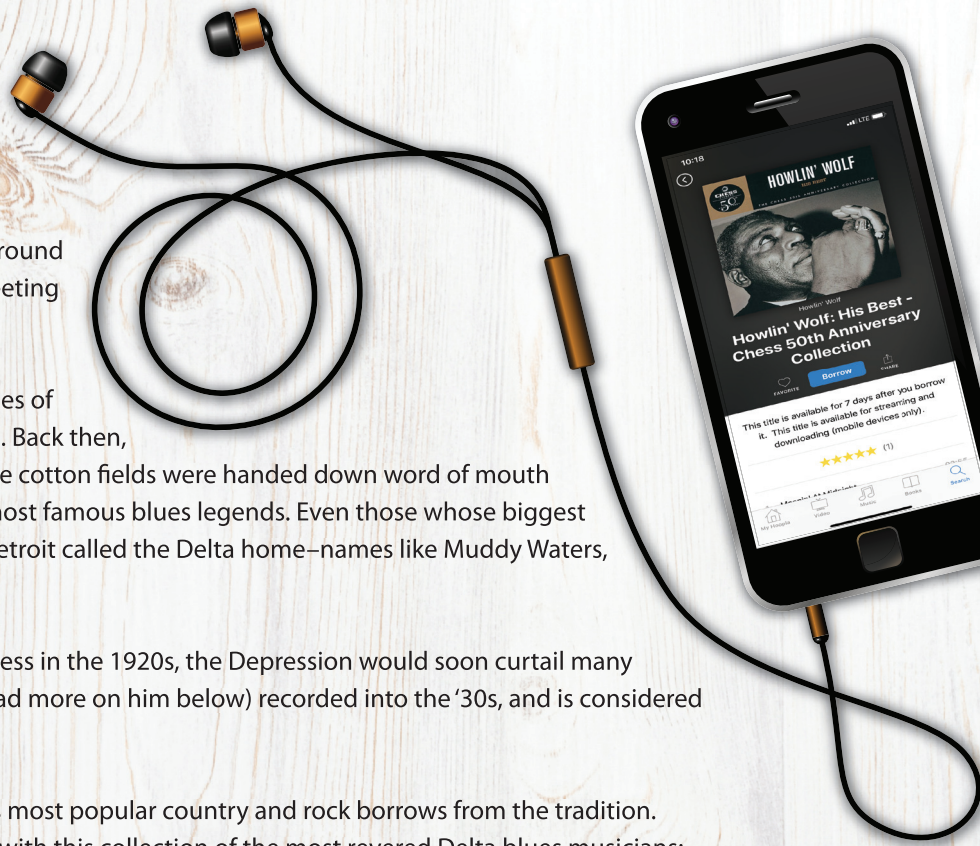
More famous blues musicians hailed from the Mississippi Delta than any other region—or even state—combined. Fitting, then, that no other background music would be more fitting for your book club meeting than some good old Delta blues.

Today the Delta holds birthplace homes, gravestones of legends, and sites where musical history was made. Back then, sharecropper songs born by those knee-deep in the cotton fields were handed down word of mouth to inspire the musicians who would become the most famous blues legends. Even those whose biggest hits happened when they made it to Chicago or Detroit called the Delta home—names like Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, and Howlin' Wolf.

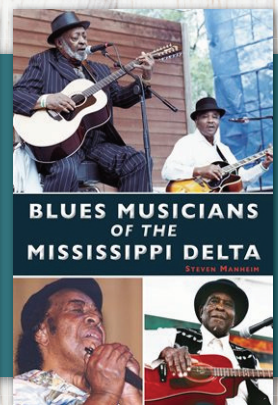
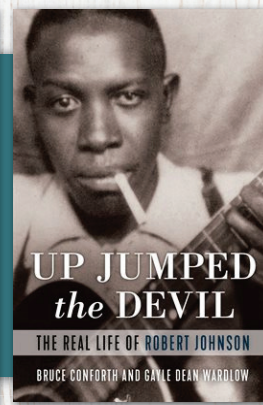
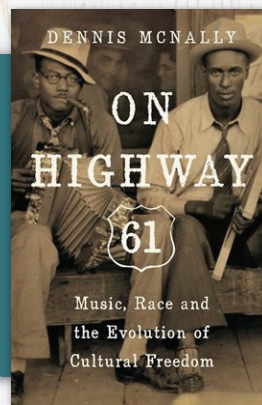
While Delta blues enjoyed a short commercial success in the 1920s, the Depression would soon curtail many artists' opportunities to record. Robert Johnson (read more on him below) recorded into the '30s, and is considered by many to be the last of the Delta's blues "greats".

Delta blues lives on in the music it inspired—today's most popular country and rock borrows from the tradition. For now, sit back and relax into yesterday's sounds with this collection of the most revered Delta blues musicians:

<https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/6593>.



Further Reading: Fascinated by the Delta setting of *The Gone With the Wind*, but want your next read to be a little more musical? Check out these picks chronicling the lives of groundbreaking blues musicians who played right on through Mississippi—up and down the famed Highway 61.



On Highway 61

"*On Highway 61* is America's most iconic stretch of asphalt, a vital artery of blues, stories and dreamers. Dennis McNally charts that sacred ground from Congo Square to the Canadian border, riding shotgun with Mark Twain, Robert Johnson and Bob Dylan in this gripping, new history of race, revolutionary expression and a nation busy being born at every mile." —David Fricke, *Rolling Stone*

Up Jumped the Devil

"This is the book the blues world has been waiting for. Authored by two uniquely qualified scholars following years of extensive interviews and exhaustive research, the result is fascinating, important, and factual, without agenda or embellished narrative...It is in my view a far more moving account than many others that have been obscured by so much fantasy. It's a can't-put-it-down kind of book—an exciting, great read." —Rory Block, celebrated acoustic blues guitarist/singer and five-time Blues Music Award winner

Reading time all booked up? Flip through this photo eBook with your club instead—***Blues Musicians of the Mississippi Delta*** Just released this June, enjoy this photojournalistic anthology of the blues by award-winning photographer Steven Manheim. The Mississippi Delta blues run as deep and mysterious as the land from where the music originates. Blues legends B.B. King, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, Sonny Boy Williamson, and countless other greats came from this region. The Delta blues, born as work songs in Mississippi cotton fields, was played on city street corners and in rural juke joints. With the Great Migration of African Americans in the 20th century, the Delta blues also made its way from Mississippi to Chicago and remains an important chapter in American music. This book contains images of these important performers and the rich Delta landscapes that influenced them.

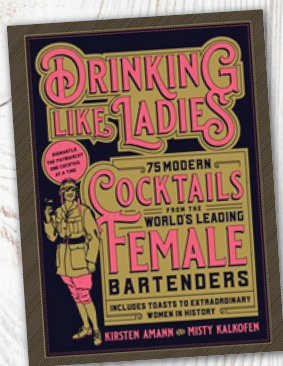
SOUTHERN SPREAD

Savories of the South—Mmmm Mmmm Mississippi (and Beyond!)

Among the foods that made Mississippi famous, you're most likely to hear all about the delicious merits of Mississippi Mud Pie, Soul Food, Oysters, Gulf Shrimp, BBQ, and Blue Crab. Click through this collection of Southern cookbooks that'll help you bring a little bit of the region's cuisine right on home to your own book club meeting: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/6580>.



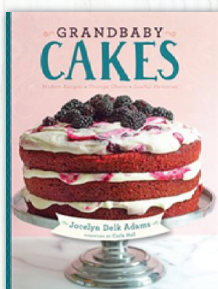
Beverages with Billie—For Those Who Like a Lil' Whiskey* with Their Water...



Drinking Like Ladies features 75 modern cocktails by female bartenders for extraordinary women, and we'd consider Billie one...let's toast to her!

In Chapter Two—the chapter fully devoted to whiskey—you'll find a recipe for the Step by Step. It was developed by bartender Abigail Gullo of Compere Lapin in New Orleans and is named for "The Ruby Bridges Suite." Not only does this drink evoke civil rights hero Ruby Bridges, but it's the perfect choice to pair with *The Gone Dead!* It includes Billie's favorite spirit and stirs the spirit of her writer and poet father, as "The Ruby Bridges Suite" is a real-life spoken word, musical, and choir piece that was inspired by Ruby's courageous steps! Bartender Gullo recommends garnishing with thyme, which since ancient Greece has symbolized bravery.

*Have members who prefer to skip the spirits? Make sure there's something for everyone by borrowing *Lemonade with Zest*. These 40 thirst-quenching recipes are sure to be refreshing—even if the day you hold your meeting is as sweltering as a Mississippi summer!



Down Home Desserts—Love to Bake? Make Something Grand!

Since food writer Jocelyn Delk Adams founded her popular recipe blog *Grandbaby Cakes*, she's been putting fresh twists on old favorites. As a child, Adams and her family would routinely embark on the ten-hour journey from their home in Chicago to Winona, Mississippi. There, she would watch her grandmother, nicknamed Big Mama, bake melt-in-your-mouth desserts. From tree-picked fruit to farm-fresh eggs and fresh-churned butter, Big Mama used what was available to invent original treats. *Grandbaby Cakes* is Adams's love note to Big Mama and her family, thanking those who came before and passing on to you 50 brilliant cakes.



Book Clubbers Who Meet for Brunch—Satisfy That Sweet Tooth!

Acclaimed cookbook author Patty Pinner's *Sweet Mornings* compiles 125 of her favorite sweet and savory breakfast and brunch recipes. In a Q&A on her publisher's site (agatepublishing.com), Patty notes that though she now resides in Michigan, her family has southern roots between Mississippi, Tennessee, and New Orleans. She noted, "As I recall, the first 'southern' breakfast that I ate was my aunt Frances's...I had never had a breakfast like Aunt Frances's—it included eggs, bacon strips...fried apples, a berry cobbler, and various home-canned fruit preserves. Before that, I had only heard about the magnitude and diversity of a country breakfast...Now, I was actually living, eating, and enjoying the wonders of one."