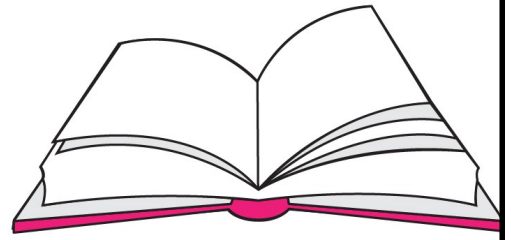


# PALMETTO LITERACY COUNCIL



**July 2021**



## ***From the Director***

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce that we are starting an Adult Literacy Program at Patrick Mobile Home Park, 2000 Highway 15 in Myrtle Beach. Most of the adults there speak English and just want to learn to read better and improve their comprehension. These students may be tutored in small groups (2-4 per group, in the same reading level) or individually. Barb Patrick is a very giving person and I look forward to working with her.

An open house will be held on **Tuesday, July 6 at 6:30** in the Patrick Mobile Home Park office garage. I'll need 2-3 people to help with getting paperwork completed and someone to help with screening to determine grade level of reading. Please leave a message on the office phone (843) 945-9278 or email [palmettoliteracycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:palmettoliteracycouncil@gmail.com) if you are willing to help out. Tutoring for the Patrick Mobile Home Park Adult Literacy Program will most likely be completed at Chapin Memorial Library. These folks work full-time and with the "season" this year being as popular as it is, we will need to work around some interesting schedules, I'm sure.

We continue to reach out to our community to let them know we are here. If you know anyone who is willing to give one hour, twice a week, please

send them our way. I will be giving Our Volunteer Orientation and Training on Zoom, **Tuesday July 13 at 6pm.**

Thank you to everyone who is vaccinated for COVID. The libraries are fully open, but we are recommending everyone continue to wear a mask, unless your student and you are fully vaccinated. The Delta variant of COVID is easier to get and more lethal so we still have to be careful. Wearing a mask is a great way to model for your students to stay safe.

Enjoy your 4th of July holiday. Please stay healthy and safe!

Dodi

***Dodi Hodges, Ph.D.***  
***Executive Director***

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**Palmetto Literacy Council**  
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**Myrtle Beach, SC 29577**

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email [info@palmettoliteracy.org](mailto:info@palmettoliteracy.org) and put  
**UNSUBSCRIBE NEWSLETTER** in the subject line.



**Volunteer Liaisons:** Polly Putorti is our Conway area liaison and Linda Murphy is our Socastee area liaison.

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**Shout Out:** Thank you to **Bobbie Lipman**, grant writer extraordinaire! We were funded through the Ocean View Foundation.

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### Online Auction

Our first Online Auction Fundraiser raised over \$400. Rock on Stephanie Southworth! The first time out is always the most difficult. We have the “bugs” identified and expect the next auction will be even better.

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### Smile.Amazon.com

At the end of every quarter, plus 3 weeks, we get a small percentage of purchases made through smile.amazon.com. We want to also thank those of you who have designated us as your charity of choice on Amazon. Once you have designated your charity of choice, Palmetto Literacy Council, then you make any purchases you would normally make on Amazon, through the smile.amazon.com website. Amazon does not charge you extra and sends us a percentage of their profit on the items to us. Please sign up and make your Amazon purchases through smile.amazon.com to help us help our community.

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### PLC BOOK LOVERS BOOK CLUB

Do you enjoy reading and discussing books with other bibliophiles? Then you might like to join the PLC Book Lovers Book Club. Patricia D’Ascoli will be organizing this monthly book club and would love to hear from those who are interested. Proposed format: Each month the group will meet in one of the member’s homes. The member who is hosting that month will choose the book to read. Book clubs are a fun way to share your reading experiences with others! Tentative start date September.

Contact Patricia [patricia@palmettoliteracy.org](mailto:patricia@palmettoliteracy.org)

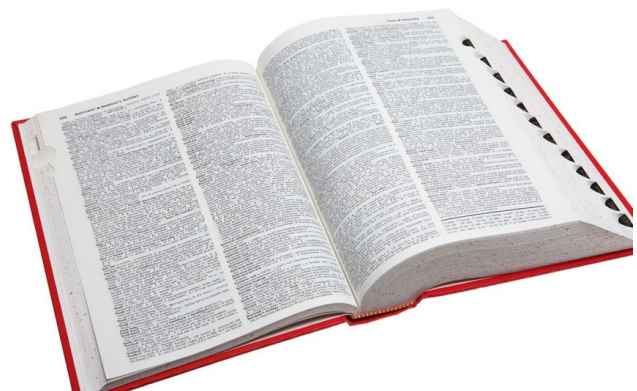
### The Logophile

Preston L. McKever-Floyd



Southern summers provide us with many and varied skiescapes and light shows; not the least of which are rainstorms and/or thunderstorms. There many who are fearful, while many are aficionados of both, and there is accompanying vocabulary. Those who enjoy sitting on the porch during an afternoon rainstorm are *pluvio-philos* (from the Latin: *pluvial*, rain and *phile*, a slang word employed to describe “a lover of something”). Those who fear rain, more prevalent than one might think, are *pluviophobic* or *ombrophobic* (from the Latin: *ombros*, rainstorm and *phobos*, “fear or aversion”).

Many among us are fascinated with or can be said to enjoy the experience of lightning and thunder. Ones so oriented is called a *ceraunophiles* (from the Greek “keraunos,” “lightning” or “thunderbolt” and the Latin *phile*, lover of). Conversely, those who fear or hate lightning or thunder are referred to as *ceraunophobic*. So, if you do not enjoy rainstorms or thunderstorms, please enjoy and use the vocabulary.



## Book of the Month: *Under the Magnolias* by T.I. Lowe

Reviewed by Patricia D'Ascoli

In May I had the pleasure of meeting local author T.I. Lowe whose novel *Under the Magnolias* was recently published. Lowe, who lives in Loris, was signing copies of her book at Bookends, a used bookstore in North Myrtle Beach, and I was delighted to have her sign my copy. The novel came highly recommended by Vicki Baty, who owns Bookends, as an excellent example of “gritty Southern fiction.” I was intrigued by this description. Before embarking on my reading journey, I felt compelled to look up the word grit. The definition is: “unyielding courage in the face of hardship or danger.”

It took only a few pages to see that the narrator, Austin Foster, exemplifies this trait as she sets the stage for the story of a family in trouble. A family with dark secrets. A family that has suffered great loss. The Fosters survive only because of Austin’s strength and commitment to a job no teenager should be tasked with—taking care of six siblings after their mother dies giving birth to twins. But the children are not Austin’s only burden; in the face of her father’s mental illness, she must also ensure that their tobacco farm continues to operate.

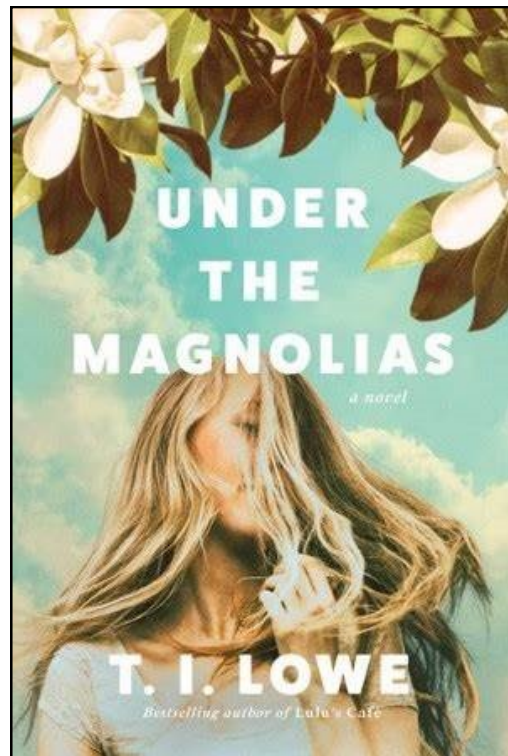
The novel takes place during the 1980s in Magnolia, South Carolina, a sleepy little Southern town. The Fosters are a quirky bunch—their mother named them all after cities she hoped to visit: Boston (Boss), Phoenix (Peg), Austin (Ox), twins Charlotte and Raleigh and twins Knoxville (Knox) and Nashville (Nash). The patriarch, David Foster—both a minister and a farmer—is a loving father who is ultimately diagnosed with bi-polar disorder.

Magnolia is peopled by many interesting characters, who are all members of Dave Foster’s congregation. “A fortune teller accused of being a witch doctor; an ex-con with a glass eye; an atheist believer with a Polish accent; the town’s undertaker whose sexual orientation was questionable; the town floozy with a penchant for blue eye shadow; a poor farming family with way too many kids and a madman leading them.” These townspeople all have important roles to play in the lives of the Fosters throughout the narrative.

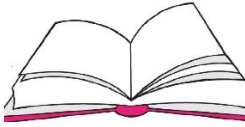
And what would gritty Southern fiction be without an ill-fated love story? Such is the case in *Under the Magnolias*—Austin happens to fall for Vance Cumberland, the mayor’s son. Although Vance falls for her as well, their romantic drama is fraught with uncertainty. Their worlds are far apart; their paths divergent. This sweet tender love story floats in and around the angst and loneliness and fear Austin and her siblings experience as they cling tight to one another while trying to survive life with a mentally unstable father.

The novel is a compelling coming of age story—we feel Austin’s sorrow and longing and anger too, and wonder at her ability to hold the family together, tending to others’ needs at the expense of her own. We applaud her tenacity, but we don’t always agree with her decisions. But she is, after all, a young woman trying to find her place in a world far more complicated than any she might have imagined for herself.

So yes, *Under the Magnolias* is indeed gritty Southern fiction. Put it on your summer reading list or choose it for your book club. You won’t be disappointed.

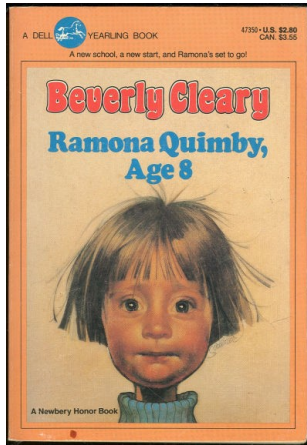


# SUMMER BINGO!

| Complete a Task Row, Column, or Diagonal Row                                       |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Write a letter to someone famous or a list of questions you would like to ask them | Write down the text features you know and explain what they do to help you read | Write a poem about a character from a story you read with your tutor               | Create a menu for your <u>own</u> restaurant                                     | Create a social media type post of a book you loved this year (send to PLC or give to your tutor) |
| Write a letter to your favorite teacher/tutor                                      | Create a poster that advertises a book you enjoyed                              | Create a character trait web about you   | Using your name, create an acrostic poem that describes you                      | Write a journal entry, "If I was the King/Queen of a country ... "                                |
| Create a story board/comic strip of a fiction story you read                       | Using the title, create an acrostic poem describing a book with your tutor      |  | Draw the characters in a book you enjoyed, write a short caption describing them | Compare and Contrast a character in your favorite story and you                                   |
| Make a poster of events in your life   | Write a story that includes a crime and how the crime is solved                 | Illustrate a story you have written, include a book cover                          | Design a poster about how to prepare for a hurricane                             | Write a letter to your tutor or Dr. Hodges about what you are looking forward to this summer      |
| Write a rap song for a story you read  | Create a timeline using events from a story                                     | Create a non-fiction story in a story board or comic strip                         | Write a short play (include characters, problem and resolution)                  | Write a rhyming poem about school or tutoring   |

Looking for some math activities for fun! <https://nrich.maths.org/primary>





## To Beverly Cleary, With Love Carla Taylor

I was an asthmatic child and recess was tough. All my peers wanted to run around chasing each other for the 30 minutes we were given outside each day. I wanted to do the same, but I knew from experience that if I ran around outside for 30 minutes, I would be in the nurse's office wheezing, trying to catch my breath for the remainder of the day. So instead of standing around watching all my friends have fun without me, I began going to the school library during recess. The school librarian, who was also my next door neighbor, used that time to introduce me to a variety of children's books, some I read, others I skimmed, and then I came across a book titled *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*, by Beverly Cleary. Being introduced to Ramona Quimby via Beverly Cleary changed the way I approached reading. It was no longer something to do because I was told to do it. Instead, reading became something I wanted to do because it was fun.

Beverly Cleary, who was born in 1916, created the character of Ramona in the 1950's, but *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*, was written in 1981. I was 9 and it was totally relatable. "Ramona made a face, 'Mother, do you have to say that every single morning?' she asked in exasperation." (Cleary) What made Ramona so relatable was that as an 8 year old, she said out loud what many of us were thinking. She said what she was thinking to her parents, sister, teachers, friends, neighbors, etc. and just like in real life, she suffered the consequences of her words and actions. There were definitely lessons to be learned from what Ramona experienced, and Beverly Cleary conveyed those lessons from the point of view of a little girl who was working her way through the anxieties and insecurities of childhood.

Beverly Cleary's "Ramona" books carried me through elementary school. As I became a tween, another author, Judy Blume, began to speak to me. But I wasn't done with the works of

Beverly Cleary, and I came across her books *Fifteen*, *Sister of the Bride*, and *Jean and Johnny*. These books were written in the 1950's and 60's and although the references were dated, the characters could have been any teen girl I knew during the 80s. That was the beauty of Beverly Cleary's writing. She spoke to the human experience of growing up—about wanting to be liked and accepted regardless of race or socio-economic status. Her storytelling spoke to my heart and helped to ease the transitions that we all go through as we become adults.

Beverly Cleary died on March 25, 2021. She lived to be 104 years old and was an active author until 1999. From the tributes that have been bestowed upon her before and after her death, I know that I am just one of millions of fans who owe her love and gratitude for the books that inspired countless hours of reading and rereading during a very influential time of our lives. So thank you Beverly Cleary for your skill and imagination. I will always sing your praises in an effort to introduce you to another generation of readers who can turn to your books for reassurance.



## Chapin Memorial Library TAILS AND TALES ALL AGES ARE WELCOME

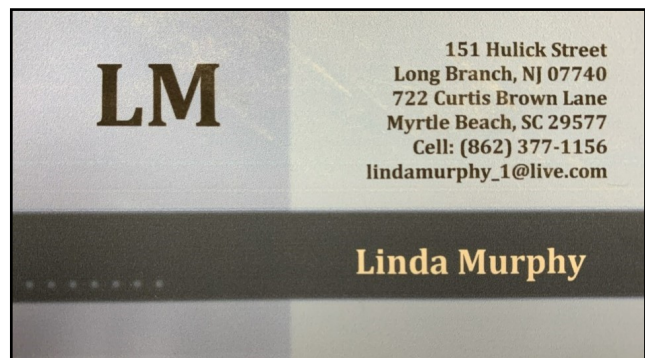
Participate by completing 10 books or activities and fill in the game board on the back of a postcard found at the library or at the Palmetto Literacy Council office. Return your completed game board to Chapin Library by AUGUST 13, 2021. Additional game boards can be printed from [chapinlibrary.org](http://chapinlibrary.org) or picked up at the library. The virtual event schedule can be found at [chapinlibrary.org/calendar](http://chapinlibrary.org/calendar) and on Facebook at Chapin Library Myrtle Beach.

## Partners, Community Supporters & Donors

CHAPIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY – Our Home Library  
HORRY COUNTY LIBRARIES: Aynor, Bucksport, Carolina Forest, Conway,  
Green Sea, Loris, North Myrtle Beach, Socastee, Little River, and Surfside Beach  
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY – Service Learning Program  
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY – Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
A FATHER'S PLACE – Conway and Myrtle Beach  
HORRY COUNTY SCHOOLS – Adult Education  
RISEN CHRIST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY – Myrtle Beach  
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***Become a Member of Palmetto Literacy Council***

***Individual membership: \$25 per year***

***Business membership: \$50 per year***

***Business card included in the newsletter and on the website***