I cannot count how many times I have heard people say, “The book was so much better than the movie.” Even though I often find myself saying the same thing, I still enjoy watching a film based on a book I read. I have compiled a list of six movies that will be in theaters August through November that your book club might consider reading before the movie is released. Personally, I am looking forward to the movie *Brooklyn* since it was one my favorite books last year. I am also looking forward to reading the other books on this list in preparation for the upcoming films. For your convenience, I included the approximate date of release and some information on the actors to be cast in major roles in the films. Here are the titles for your review:

**Dark Places** by Gillian Flynn (Fiction)
After witnessing the murder of her mother and sisters, seven-year-old Libby Day testifies against her brother Ben, but twenty-five years later she tries to profit from her tragic history and admit that her story might not have been accurate. The movie opens August 7, 2015 and will star Charlize Theron, Tye Sheridan, and Chloe Grace Moretz.

**Afternoon Book Club** will discuss *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng on July 28, 2015 at 1 PM. **Note earlier time**

**A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail** by Bill Bryson (Nonfiction)
Traces the author’s adventurous trek along the Appalachian Trail past its natural pleasures, human eccentrics, and offbeat comforts. The movie opens September 2, 2015 and will star Mary Steenburgen, Robert Redford, Emma Thompson, and Nick Nolte.

**Black Mass: the Irish Mob, the FBI, and a Devil's Deal** by Dick Lehr and Gerard O'Neill (Nonfiction)
Explores the relationship between FBI agent John Connolly and Irish mob boss James “Whitey” Bulger, chronicling a corrupt arrangement of information, racketeering, and murder. The movie opens September 18, 2015 and will star Johnny Depp, Dakota Johnson, and Kevin Bacon.

**Frankenstein** by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Fiction)
When Victor Frankenstein, a brilliant scientist, tries to create life in his laboratory, the result is an ugly monster. Instantly feared by all who see him, the hated monster is driven into the countryside. Never given a chance at friendship or human companionship, the monster plots a terrible revenge. The movie opens November 25, 2015 and will star Daniel Radcliffe and James McAvoy.

**Brooklyn** by Colm Tóibín (Fiction)
Leaving her home in post-World War II Ireland to work as a bookkeeper in Brooklyn, Eilis Lacey discovers a new romance in America with a charming blond Italian man before devastating news threatens her happiness. The movie opens November 6, 2015 and will star Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, and Michael Zegen.

**The Martian** by Andy Weir (Fiction)
Stranded on Mars by a dust storm that compromised his space suit and forced his crew to leave him behind, astronaut Watney struggles to survive in spite of minimal supplies and harsh environmental challenges that test his ingenuity in unique ways. The movie opens October 2, 2015 and will star Matt Damon, Jeff Daniels, Kristen Wiig, and Jessica Chastain.

-Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian
Hurricane Katrina: 10 Years Later

August 29, 2015 will mark the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina making landfall in New Orleans, Louisiana. Hurricane Katrina was one of the five deadliest hurricanes to impact the United States, with over 1,800 people killed. It was also one of the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history with $108 billion in damages. The storm is currently ranked as the third most intense in the United States. Many books both fiction and non-fiction were written about Hurricane Katrina. Here is a sampling of titles that your book club may wish to consider for its next book club selection.

**Zeitoun** by Dave Eggers
Chronicles the tribulations of Syrian-born painting contractor Abdulrahman Zeitoun, who, while aiding in rescue efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, was inexplicably arrested by military personnel and swept into a bureaucratic maelstrom of civil injustices.

**Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm Ravaged Hospital** by Sheri Fink
Reconstructs five days at Memorial Medical Center after Hurricane Katrina destroyed its generators to reveal how caregivers were forced to make life-and-death decisions without essential resources. Winner of the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award for Non-Fiction.

**City of Refuge** by Tom Piazza
Recaptures the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath through the stories of two families - one black, one white - who are driven from their homes by floodwaters and spend days as evacuees in shelters and on the road, finally ending up in Houston and Chicago, where they try to piece together temporary lives while waiting to see what the future holds.

**Salvage the Bones** by Jesmyn Ward
Enduring a hardscrabble existence as the children of alcoholic and absent parents, four siblings from a coastal Mississippi town prepare their meager stores for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina while struggling with such challenges as a teen pregnancy and a dying litter of prize pups. Winner of the 2011 National Book Award for fiction.

**The Beach Trees** by Karen White
Julie Holt's little sister disappeared when Julie was twelve, never to be found. It was a loss that slowly eroded the family bonds she once relied on. As an adult with a prestigious job in the arts, Julie meets a struggling artist who reminds her so much of her sister, she can't help feeling protective. It is a friendship that begins a long and painful process of healing for Julie, leading her to a house on the Gulf Coast, ravaged by hurricane Katrina, and to stories of family that take her deep into the past.

Best of the Year So Far...

It is hard to believe but we are halfway through 2015. At this time many different lists are coming out with the Best Books of 2015 so far. Here is a sampling of the books from the lists that I feel would be great for book club discussions:

**The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah - Reunited when the elder's husband is sent to fight in World War II, French sisters Vianne and Isabelle find their bond as well as their respective beliefs tested by a world that changes in horrific ways.

**The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins - Obsessively watching a breakfasting couple every day to escape the pain of her losses, Rachel witnesses a shocking event that inextricably entangles her in the lives of strangers.

**In the Unlikely Event** by Judy Blume - A novel inspired by a series of passenger airplane crashes that occurred in 1951 and 1952 New Jersey reimagines the impact of the tragedies on three generations of families, friends and strangers.

**Saint Mazie** by Jami Attenberg - Running a Jazz Age movie theater that is transformed by Prohibition and the Great Depression, Mazie Phillips reflects on her poverty-stricken youth and converts the theater into a shelter in ways that reverberate nearly a century later.

**Orhan's Inheritance** by Aline Ohanesian - Inheriting the family rug dynasty when his eccentric grandfather is found dead, Orhan struggles with will stipulations that leave the family estate to a stranger who holds secrets from the final years of the Ottoman Empire.

The complete lists can be found at the following sites:
Amazon's Best Books of the Year so Far
http://tinyurl.com/qjbuw35

Book Page's - Your top 10 books of 2015 (so far!)

All summaries are from the publishers.

- Evelyn Herschkowitz, Readers' Services Librarian