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April 2023 Newsletter

TIME FOR SOME FUN READING!

Book reviews for the whole family

Social media reading groups are exploding with requests from moms seeking advice on summer vacation books. Most students have mandatory school reading lists, but moms still want to offer their kids, especially their reluctant readers, a few non-classics—something to read for fun. To help, I've added reviews on my website of dozens of clean MG and YA books. Check them out for ideas and share them with your friends. I've also included a link to my Goodreads page, where I've reviewed hundreds of books you might like to read poolside or on a sandy beach.



[Middle Grade book reviews](#)

[Young Adult book reviews](#)

[Goodreads adult book reviews](#)

Please let me know what you're reading; I'm always looking for something new. The last awesome book I read was *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.



HELPING UGA STUDENTS...

Build Strong Writing Skills

Marvin and I are thrilled to support UGA's Center for Writing with a monetary donation that will help expand its reach beyond Department of English students to every UGA student. If all goes according to the Center director's business plan, satellite locations soon will be

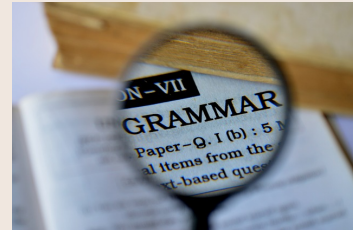
popping up across campus in dorms and centralized classrooms. Tutors, free to students, will staff these sites to answer writing questions and proof essays. This fall, the Center will be renamed for us.

If you know a UGA student who might appreciate the opportunity to enhance their writing skills, please direct them to the basement of Park Hall, the Center's current hub. And if you'd like to donate, please [email me](#).

GRAMMAR TIPS

Sale vs Sell

Spring is the time when houses go on the market and retailers discount their winter wares. If you're thinking about advertising a product, ensure you know the difference between **sale** and **sell** before painting your sign. **Sell** is a verb where goods are exchanged for money. **Sale** is a noun referring to the transaction itself.



Correct examples:

This house is for **sale**.

I'd like to **sell** this gently used puffer jacket.

The garage **sale** is at the corner house.



Following are my ratings of the books I read in February and March.

Follow me on [Goodreads](#) to view how I've ranked books since 2010.

Lessons in Chemistry, Bonnie Garmus ██████

Truth & Forgiveness, Pat Nichols ██████

The Case for Easter, Lee Strobel ██████

God's Messy Family, Jacob Armstrong ██████

Good Boundaries and Goodbyes, Lysa TerKeurst ██████

Demon Copperhead, Barbara Kingsolver ██████

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, Gabrielle Zevin ██████

Albert Smith's Culinary Capers series, Steve Higgs ██████

The Sisters, Mary S. Lovell ██████

The Prince Warriors series, Priscilla Shirer (MG) ██████

Ezra's Story, Sherry Burton (MG) ██████

WHO KNEW PRISCILLA SHIRER WRITES MG BOOKS?

The Prince Warriors series

I've taken several of Priscilla Shirer's classes, read her hard-hitting *The Resolution of Women*, and watched her talented performance in *Overcomer*; but I never dreamed she'd written fiction, much less a powerful Christian series for middle graders. I stumbled upon the [Prince](#)

[Warriors boxed set](#), co-written with Gina Detwiler, while looking for a gift for my nephew.

In this epic four-book series, a group of friends discovers an alternate realm called Ahoratos that features eye-opening versions of heaven and hell. They find themselves battling evil in both Ahoratos and back on Earth with armor given to them by a mentor with amazing powers. The series is based on the scriptural passage in Ephesians 6:10-18 about using the armor of God to fight the devil's schemes. These page-turners blend scriptural messages with everyday challenges through high adventure in a fantasy world. They are appropriate for both boys and girls.



DONNA NAJJAR'S

Vanishing Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

Last year after my knee surgery, my friend, Donna Najjar, brought me a couple dozen of these mouth-watering cookies. I finally wrangled the recipe from her and thought you might enjoy baking them, too.

1 stick plus 6 tbsps butter, softened
3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar.
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp salt
3 cups old-fashioned oats, uncooked
1 cup raisins

Heat oven to 350°F. In large bowl, beat butter and sugars on medium speed of electric mixer until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Add combined flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt; mix well. Add oats and raisins; mix well.

Drop dough by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until light golden brown. Cool 1 minute on cookie sheets, then remove to wire rack. Cool completely. Store tightly covered.

MAKES 4 DOZEN

Quick Links

[The Demons Among Us Book Trailer](#)

[The Demons Among Us on Amazon](#)

[Order autographed copies](#)

[Storyteller Squad blogs](#)

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