

Library Lines
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Love them or hate them, birthdays happen to everyone. Even famous people. This month, George Clooney, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Bono, Adele, Janet Jackson, and many more will all celebrate one more trip around the sun. At the Kirkland Town Library, authors are our favorite celebrities and we’re going to start celebrating their birthdays starting in May! The front desk of the library will showcase the birthday boys and girls every week. This month’s birthdays include those of children’s book icons J.M. Barrie and Frank Baum, as well as Nora Ephron, Gary Paulson, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Providing you a list of every author with a May birthday would be exhausting for all of us, so I will share just a few highlights. If you’re really curious, a quick Google search will provide you a substantive list, but for now, here are three of our favorites.

Laura Hilderbrand’s *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* (1999) is the remarkable true story of the horse that beat the odds to become a racing icon. Follow his journey from untrainable to winning races ridden by half-blind, half crippled boxer turned jockey, Red Pollard. If you love reading the book, you should also check out the movie! Hildebrand was born on May 15, 1967.

Speaking of iconic, Joseph Heller’s *Catch-22* (1961) is also available at the library. Serving as a commentary on the absurdity and chaos of war, the novel is set during WWII and follows Captain John Yossarian during his time as a U.S. Army Forces B-25 bombardier. The characters try to maintain their sanity while fulfilling their duties in order to return home. This is a perfect choice for those who have heard the common phrase “it’s a catch 22” but never knew where it originated! Heller was born on May 1, 1923.

Jodi Picoult, author of *My Sister’s Keeper* (2004), *The Tenth Circle* (2006), and nearly 30 other novels, also makes the list of authors celebrating May birthdays. Her novel, *Nineteen Minutes* (2007), will be on display this month. It follows the aftermath of a school shooting that shatters a quiet New Hampshire town. From the book jacket, the author asks her audience to consider what it means to be different in our society, who has the right to judge someone else, and whether people really are who they seem to be. Picoult was born on May 19, 1966.

May won’t be the only month we’ll be covering! We’re doing all twelve. So if your favorite author isn’t included during the month’s celebration, chances are you’ll see their titles on display soon. If you want a sneak preview, the titles you may find in the month of June could be *1984*, *Fall of Giants*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, and *A Man Called Ove*, among many others. If you want to find out the birthdates of these authors you’ll have to swing by the Kirkland Town Library to find out. As a June birthday myself, I’m especially looking forward to the featured authors next month. Stop by during your birthday month to find authors with whom you might share a birthday!