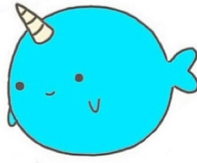


NedTalks

Ned the Narwhal

SCRIPT@CSS.EDU

"Hey Ned! I'm a sophomore student and I've always been interested in volunteering, but I don't know where to look! What should I do?"



"Hey Ned. Everytime my roommate cooks she sets off the fire alarm. Should I tell her to stop cooking? How do I help her?"

Hello friend! Volunteering is a great way to show community! And it can help creatures like me and my friends if you're cleaning up garbage in the ocean! I have a volunteer friend who found their opportunities through Circle K on campus; they are always welcoming new members and would love to get an email from you! But if you're looking for a one time volunteer opportunity, there are plenty of places around town who would appreciate your help! You could contact the zoo or the food pantry or even Solvay Hospice House. They are always looking for volunteers and could probably provide more information if you just ask!

Hey there friend! Your roommate sounds like she needs help. It's sweet of you to be concerned for her cooking and safety, way to show community! One possible solution would be to offer to help her when she is cooking by making sure the stove fan is on or the windows are open. Another possible solution would be to suggest microwave meals or non-cooking meals like salads or sandwiches.

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The story follows A'isha's life as she grows up married to the Prophet and how she finds her place within the marriage, the community, and religious world. Though many obstacles come her way, A'isha is able to overcome them, becoming one of the most important women in Islam.

Though this novel contains many true historical people and events, readers must keep in mind that it is still fiction and is merely a story. Nonetheless, it is a great way to start to learn a little about the history of Islam, but one should not base their entire knowledge of Islam just on this one novel. I also encourage readers to go out and learn more about Islam from even more historically accurate sources.

Published in February of 2015, Kristin Hannah's "The Nightingale" is this week's last recommendation. Hannah is an American novelist best known for her novels "Winter Garden," "The Great Alone," and "The Nightingale." She has earned numerous awards for her writing, and three of her novels have been made into films. In addition to this week's recommendation, I would encourage readers to check out more of her work.

"The Nightingale" is a story of two sisters living in France during World War II. The story begins with Vianne Mauriac who must say goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for war. Vianne's and her young daughter's lives change even more dramatically; however, when Germany invades France, and a German captain takes over her house. Living with the enemy proves to be extremely dangerous, and Vianne is forced to make impossible decisions in order to keep her daughter safe.

The story then shifts to 18-year-old Isabelle, Vianne's sister, who falls deeply in love with Gaëtan, a rebellious partisan who believes in fighting Nazis from within France. Gaëtan, however, is not the person Isabelle thought he was, leaving her with some big decisions to make.

If you enjoy the book, also keep a lookout for the new film that is to be produced by Melanie Laurent which is based off of the book; it is expected in December of 2021.

With midterms quickly approaching, stress levels are sure to be high. I recommend taking some time off from schoolwork and getting outside or picking up a good book.

Melinda Rydberg is a senior biochemistry major looking to go into biochemistry research. In her free time, Melinda likes to read a variety of books – everything from historical fiction to poetry. Feel free to contact her with any questions and/or comments about good books you have read recently.