

# South West SPOTLIGHT

There are so many fantastic stories in the South West District. We want to share some of them with you!

## Booklovers Unite

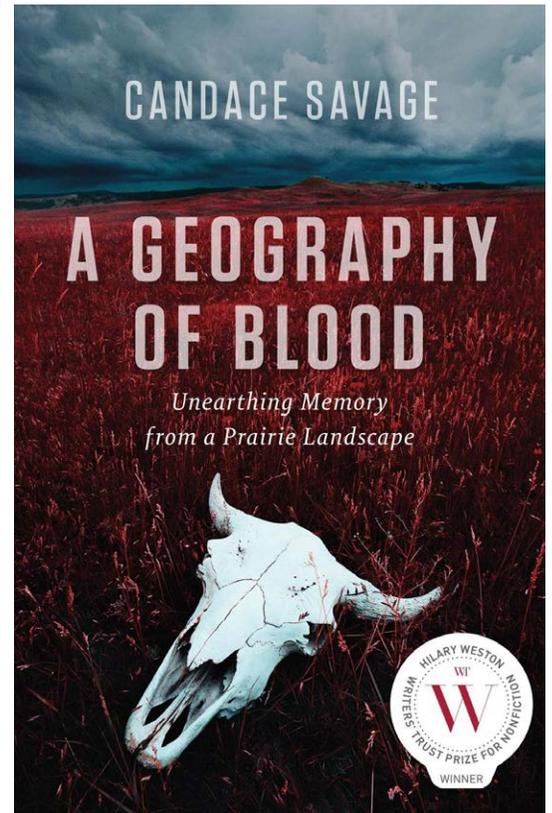
Starting a book club is easy. You need people who like books.

"A friend of mine once recommended a book to a few people, and now she has a book club," chuckled Amanda Farnel, Saskatchewan Festival of Words Operations Coordinator and co-coordinator of a well thought out book club.

The [Saskatchewan Festival of Words](#) and the Moose Jaw Public Library have a partnership that promotes Canadian authors who have attended, or will attend, their summer festival.

"It is an opportunity for us to connect to our readers, and our readers to connect with each other," noted Farnel. She added that book clubs based out of libraries - like the one she co-hosts with the Moose Jaw Public Library - are special because they are in a public venue. As a result, anyone can attend, and it is a great way to get out into the community and engage in thoughtful conversation.

In February, the Festival of Words book club is reading *A Geography of Blood*, by [Candace Savage](#) a Saskatchewan author. They have chosen this book for a specific reason. It is the fourth year in a row, Saskatchewan readers, libraries, book clubs, and literary enthusiasts alike are preparing to journey together throughout the pages of a book as part of the [One Book, One Province](#) literary adventure, which includes an author



tour. The book chosen for 2020 is *A Geography of Blood*.

"We chose this book for February to encourage people to read Savage's book in advance of her tour dates. By exploring it at our book club first, we might be more knowledgeable and have questions to take to her and be more engaged in her presentation."

As the co-host of the monthly book club, the Festival of Words or the Library ensures there are a handful of questions prepared for discussion. However,

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participants are also invited to explore their own ideas from the books and come up with their own questions.

A tip for book club leaders is to have at least five questions ready for discussion.

"We usually only get through one or so because the conversation just keeps going," noted Farnel. It is important that the conversation stay on the topic of the book and that participants are open to listening to other's opinions and perspectives.

"Candace's book is really important because it is talking about the history of our province from the perspective of someone who is dealing with learning about colonization as well," she said. "She has a really accessible point of view."

Their next meeting date is **Thursday, February 27, 2020, 2:30 pm** in the South Room at the [Moose Jaw Public Library](#). For more info, call the library at 306-692-2787.

## MARCH 2020

**Come together with your local library and booklovers across the province to read *A Geography of Blood* by Candace Savage.**

**Join the fun. Start a book club in your community.**

Here is a short list of questions that could be asked at any book club, regardless of the content:

1. What did you think of the main character?
2. Was there someone in the story that you related to the most?
3. What did you think about the ending?
4. Is the book like other novels or authors that you have recently read?
5. Was there a part of the story that you just couldn't wrap your head around?

### **One Book, One Province Tour Dates for South West Saskatchewan. Reading and Discussions.**

- **Tuesday, March 10, 2020**  
7:00 pm. Moose Jaw Public Library
- **Tuesday, March 24, 2020**  
2:00 pm. Grand Coteau Heritage & Culture Centre
- **Wednesday, March 25, 2020**  
Assiniboia Public Library

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