

**D38 students need to be in school full time, five days a week**

Online and hybrid learning are huge failures for most students. D38 students are struggling without many vital things associated with school—sports, dances, clubs, drama, normal face-to-face conversations and in-person interactions. Students desperately need human interaction in-person. Studies show excessive screen time is harmful on many levels, including developmentally.

The president’s top medical advisor, Dr. Scott Atlas MD, has said the isolation is doing more lasting damage than the disease itself. Dr. Atlas stated, “We are the only country of our peer nations who are so hysterical about reopening schools. We seem to be

the only country willing to sacrifice our children out of fear.”

CDC Director Robert Redfield, MD, stated a child is six to 13 times more likely to die from influenza than from COVID-19, and school closures have led to significant public health problems for the nation’s children, including worsening mental health. “We need to reopen the schools with the understanding the virus is still here. We owe it to the nation’s children to take every action possible.”

It is impossible to make schools 100% “safe.” This is an arbitrary and unreasonable standard. Living has risks—a car accident, lightning strike, disease, or other things. The focus must be the students and their academic, social, physical, and mental health. Counselors locally have noted spiraling depression, substance

abuse and other indicators the mental health of students locally is bad and getting worse every week.

- [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) › health › covid-teenagers-mental-health
- <https://www.sharp.com/health-news/teen-isolation-and-suicide-prevention-during-a-pandemic.cfm>

Focus 100% on getting students into in-school instruction five days/week.

Instead of focusing on long-range planning, the No. 1 focus of the D38 School Board and leadership should be getting all students back into physical school buildings and resuming all normal school activities immediately.

**Scott Saunders**  
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*Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore*

**Make a resolution to read some classics**

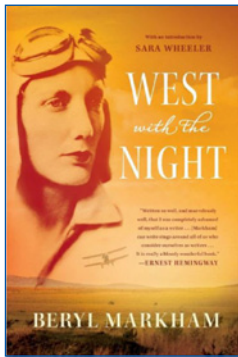
*By the staff at Covered Treasures*  
“Classic’—a book which people praise and don’t read.”—Mark Twain

Don’t let that be you! These not-to-be-missed classics are great whether you are reading them for the first time or re-reading them.

**West with the Night**

*By Beryl Markham (North Point Press) \$16*

This underappreciated classic deserves the same acclaim as the work of her contemporaries Ernest Hemingway, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and Isak Dinesen. In fact, Hemingway said, “Markham can write rings around all of us who consider ourselves as writers. ... It is really a bloody wonderful book.” Beryl and her father moved to Kenya when she was a girl. She would spend most of her life in East Africa as an adventurer, a racehorse trainer, and an aviatrix. She became the first person to fly nonstop from Europe to America and the first woman to fly solo east to west across the Atlantic. Hers was indisputably a life full of adventure and beauty.



**Watership Down**

*By Richard Adams (Simon & Schuster) \$19.99*

One of the most beloved novels of all time, this award-winning timeless classic is set in England. A tale of adventure, courage, and survival, it follows a band of rabbits as they journey forth through the trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**

*By Betty Smith (Harper Perennial), \$16.99*

From the moment she entered the world, Francie Nolan needed to be made of stern stuff. Growing up in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn demanded fortitude, precocity, and strength of spirit. Betty Smith created a rich classic that cuts right to the heart of life.

**The Count of Monte Cristo**

*By Alexandre Dumas (Oxford University Press) \$13.95*

A timeless tale of endurance, courage, and revenge, this is one of the best-loved novels of all time. Thrown in prison for a crime he did not commit, Edmond Dantes learns of a great treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and becomes determined not only to escape but to unearth the treasure and use it to plot revenge. Dumas was inspired by a real-life case of wrongful imprisonment when writing his epic tale.

**Travels with Charley in Search of America**

*By John Steinbeck (Penguin Classics), \$15*

In 1960, John Steinbeck, with his dog, Charley, embarked on a journey across America. He felt that he might have lost touch with the country, with its speech, the smell of its grass and trees, its color and quality of light, the pulse of its people. The result is a self-portrait of a man who never wrote an explicit autobiography.

**O Pioneers!**

*By Willa Cather (Penguin Classics) \$10*

Cather’s masterpiece faithfully conveys the sharp physical realities and mythic sweep of the transformation of the American frontier and the people who settled it. A story of people who do not claim a land so much as they submit to it and, in the process, become greater than they were.

**The Once and Future King**

*By T.H. White (Ace Books) \$9.99*

This legendary story has enchanted readers for generations. Once upon a time, a young boy was tutored by a magician named Merlyn in preparation for a future in which he would ally himself with the greatest knights, love a legendary queen, and unite a country dedicated to chivalrous values. A future that would see him crowned and known for all time as Arthur, King of the Britons.

**Atlas Shrugged**

*By Ayn Rand (Signet) \$9.99*

Larger-than-life heroes and villains, towering questions of good and evil—this is Ayn Rand’s magnum opus. It is a mystery story, not about the murder of a man’s body, but about the murder and rebirth of man’s spirit. This is the book that has made Rand not only one of the most popular novelists of modern times, but also one of its most influential and controversial thinkers.

**To Kill a Mockingbird**

*By Harper Lee (Harper Perennial) \$15.99*

No classics list would be complete without Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork of honor and injustice in the deep South. A gripping, heart-wrenching tale seen through the eyes of a young girl as her father, a crusading local lawyer, risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

Until next month, happy reading.

*The staff at Covered Treasures can be contacted at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).*

*December Library Events*

**Library continues curbside service**

*By Harriet Halbig*

In keeping with El Paso County Health authorities continuing at a risk level of red for the coronavirus, the Pikes Peak Library District is now open by reservation only for computer, copier, or printer use.

Face coverings are required of all patrons and staff.

While in the library, patrons are limited to the computer and printer area. All other areas are closed until further notice, including the stacks and the meeting rooms.

All programs including literacy and math tutoring are suspended until further notice.

Curbside service remains available to pick up your items on hold. Please call 488-2370 in advance so that your materials can be ready when you arrive. Alternately, you can text from your car when you arrive, and we will bring the items outside.

Hours of service are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Please see our website ([ppld.org](http://ppld.org)) for a wide variety of virtual programs including yoga, story time, and book groups. There is a new story time and toddler time each week, and previous sessions are available for viewing.

Please access our catalog for book recommendations and offerings of titles to be placed on hold for curbside pickup.

Materials can be returned to the outdoor book

drop on the north side of the building and will be quarantined for 24 hours before processing.

No donated materials can be accepted at this time as the Friends Book Store is inaccessible.

We hope to be able to welcome you back in the near future.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District

facilities will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

For updated information on services available, please see our website.

*Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).*

*High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)*

**Local winter wildlife**

*By Janet Sellers*

Our area was once home to many red or gold foxes that helped keep down vermin around the woods and our suburbs, and we always felt lucky to see them dash about, especially beautiful running over snow-covered meadows. Foxes can hear a mouse walking along under 3 feet of snow, and they can gauge pouncing on their prey, diving head-first into snow and coming up lucky with their mouse dinner. It is a sight to behold. Sadly, due to a mange outbreak,



**Left:** A fox is poised mid-air to pounce on a mouse or other hapless rodent under the snow. They use the Earth’s magnetic field and their large ears for catching the sound waves to estimate the subnivean location, then jump and pounce at the sweet spot, hopefully catching their dinner. *Painting by Janet Sellers*