

# Happy New Year!

## 18 for 2018 ARL Reading Challenge

2017 has been another page-turner of a year. In 2017, I started a new series, re-read an old one from my childhood, and turned the pages of a countless number of children's books. I completed the ARL 2017 reading challenge and read some wonderful books along the way. In February for a book by an African American author, I read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. This book is now among my all-time favorite books. In June for a self-help book for personal growth, I read *Worry-Free Living: Trading Anxiety for Peace* by Joyce Meyer. This book definitely put life into perspective for me. In December for the first book in a teen series, I read *Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25* by Richard Paul Evans. I attended a conference in Utah and received a signed copy of this book directly from the author. I would highly recommend this book and the entire seven book series. With strong, likeable characters, genuinely realistic and frightening villains and "high energy" tension, Michael Vey is a series that will resonate with youths and adults alike. My favorite children's book of 2017 is *Alan's Big Scary Teeth* by Jarvis. Alan has a very big (not-so-scary) secret that the other jungle animals must not discover.

I enjoyed the 2017 reading challenge so much that I have decided to challenge you all once again in 2018. Albemarle Regional Library invites you to join our "18 for 2018" Reading Challenge, starting January 1 and ending December 31, 2018. This challenge encourages you to push yourself and read six more books than

what I challenged you to read in 2017. This challenge includes 18 different reading prompts that you can read at your leisure and in no particular order. Stop by any ARL location and the librarians will be happy to assist you in finding books that fit the reading prompts. I am eager to start this list! I hope you will join me on this new reading adventure in 2018.

### 18 for 2018 ARL Reading Challenge

1. A book with a number in the title
2. A book based on a myth or fairy tale
3. A Pulitzer-Prize winning book
4. A book you loved as a child
5. A book by an author from a country that you would like to visit
6. A book with a season, month, or day of the week in the title
7. A book that has a movie based on it (and you haven't seen it yet)
8. A western
9. A book published in the year you were born
10. A graphic novel that does not feature superheroes
11. A juvenile fiction book
12. A non-fiction book related to one of your hobbies
13. A book about time travel
14. A book by two or more authors
15. A book from a celebrity book club
16. A book that involves a bookstore or library
17. A book that's more than 500 pages
18. A book published in 2018

