

BOOK CLUB REPORT – April 17, 2018

Christina Baker Kline, author of A Piece of the World, takes us on an interesting journey into the artist, Andrew Wyeth, and his world-famous painting titled, Christina's World. This novel is written from the viewpoint of the woman in the painting (Wyeth's muse for 20 years) and tells a story of how the painting came to be his and her legacy. Christina is tied to her house by health and circumstance. She comes from the line of Hathorne, the presiding judge in the Salem Witch Trials. It's been told that the witches of Salem eventually put a curse on her family and they eventually fled the area to try to build a new life. It's a well-written story that combines truth with fiction. It's a tragic tale of a woman with a fierce intelligence but a stubborn nature that often makes choices in her life that are detrimental to her and to those around her. She is cursed with a disease that no one could diagnose and so no cure could be offered. As she ages she is less and less able to move around. She refuses a wheel chair and instead crawls on her belly to the neighbors for coffee. She finds the love of her life in Walton, who eventually leaves her without marrying her, for another woman more suited to his wealthy background. She never gets rid of the anger for the abandonment. As a result, she manipulates her brother Al into spending the rest of his life living with her instead of having a wife and a life. They end up in a house with no running water or electricity that eventually breaks down around them, rather like their lives. It could be said that the only happiness she had were the years she spent as Wyeth's muse. The author did an amazing job of character development and as a result the reader is drawn totally into the story. The group decided it wasn't a depressing story as much as a tragic one, but a fascinating read. Eleven members rated it as 8.2/10. The next meeting will be held on May 15, 2018 and the book is Hag-Seed by Margaret Atwood.