

Manlius Library's lights are off and doors are closed for now, and while we wholeheartedly miss our patrons, don't let the darkened interior fool you into thinking that the energetic and dedicated staff of the Manlius Library have "gone dark." Self-isolation does not equal work hibernation. Books and movies will continue to be ordered and waiting for you when the doors reopen, programs are being planned, help resources are being gathered and maintained. This current period also allows us time to reflect, so that we can do better going forward—always with the goal to better serve you. Yet despite the loads of work and learning that can be done in "self-isolation," the gleam in our eyes can't quite be contained. We have a wonderful opportunity to better familiarize ourselves with collections and services that we can offer you.

For example, finding myself with a chunk of time to read, I grabbed an advanced copy of a print book that will be coming out in May (I'll refrain from mentioning the title for now). The publisher tells me that this is going to be "a big deal." How nice to get ahead of the curve, right? Fifty pages into the book and I had to set it down. I rarely, rarely set a book aside, and yet I did for this one. The book involved an isolated boarding school with some suspect people. I am sure the mystery was going to be compelling and normally, I love a dark, gothic mystery—but not today. With our crazy unsettled times, I really needed to read something that didn't throw me into the wilds of Pennsylvania with something dark lurking around the bend. I will save that battle for another day.

So, I needed a back up plan. I needed fresh air. I needed to see the spring flowers blooming. Libby to the rescue! I downloaded *A Good Neighborhood* by Therese Anne Fowler as an audiobook and took off for a very long walk. The story centers on two families that share a common property line in a North Carolina neighborhood. Property lines can be a touchy subject, offering good reading fodder. Whole poems have been dedicated to good fences and countries have gone to war over property lines. So much of our identity is tied up with the neighborhood that we choose to locate ourselves in and our role within that neighborhood.

I haven't finished this audiobook yet, but I look forward to my walks with it. The story is told from multiple points of view and asks what it means to be a good neighbor, especially if you are unlike your neighbors in every way. There are themes of star-crossed young love, racism, class and the promise of twisted ending that you won't see coming. While this book isn't one of sunshine and unicorns, *A Good Neighborhood* is filled with characters that we, ourselves might know in our own neighborhoods and feels like time well spent.