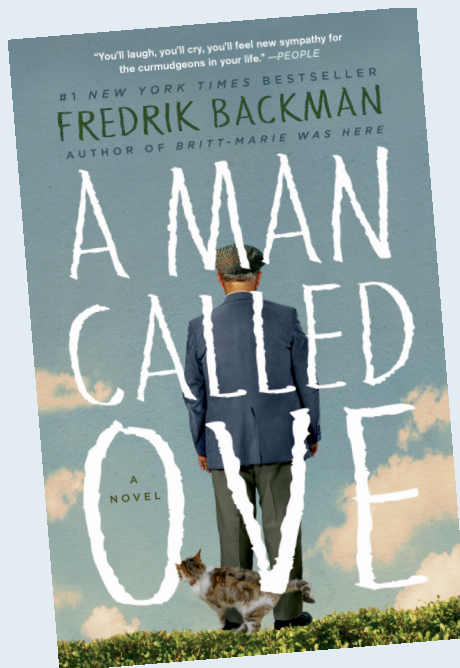




Read Together
Palm Beach County
One Book, One Community

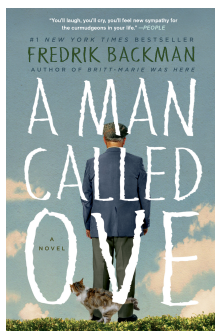
Events & Discussion Guide



Read Together Palm Beach County

PURPOSE: The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County is working to involve thousands of adults throughout Palm Beach County in reading the same book at the same time. This community reading campaign will entice adults who can read, but often don't, to get involved in the habit of reading again. It will also promote community dialogue and engagement as citizens gather together to discuss key themes.

HISTORY: Based on the success of similar campaigns in Seattle and Chicago, the Campaign Coordinating Committee conducted Read Together Palm Beach County biannually in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. In each campaign, thousands of adults read and discussed with great enthusiasm the chosen community book: *Fahrenheit 451*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, *The Book Thief*, *Last Train to Paradise*, *The Language of Flowers* and *The Light in the Ruins*.



2017



2002



2004



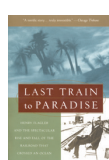
2006



2008



2010



2012



2014



2016

THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN: Building on the excitement, momentum and success of the 2016 campaign, the Literacy Coalition and the Read Together Committee determined to coordinate the initiative annually. Moving the initiative to the fall serves as the official kick-off to the Literacy Coalition event season.

PARTICIPANTS: Community members, businesses, libraries, chambers of commerce, municipalities, local book clubs, neighborhood associations and many other groups.

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Read Together Partners



Copies of the book will be available at your local library.
Beginning in mid-October, copies will also be available for a
\$10 donation at the following businesses:



-SPOILER ALERT-

Discussion Guide

About This Guide

In order to provide reading groups with the most informed and thought-provoking questions possible, it is necessary to reveal important aspects of the plot of this book—as well as the ending. If you have not finished reading *A Man called Ove*, we respectfully suggest that you may want to wait before reviewing this guide.

About This Book

Ove is getting older. He's the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People in Ove's neighborhood call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." But behind Ove's cranky exterior lies a story and a sadness.

When an accident-prone young couple with two young daughters moves in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox one November morning, overturning his well-ordered routine, it is the spark in a surprising, enlivening chain of events—featuring unkempt cats, unexpected friendships, arrogant bureaucrats, several trips to the hospital, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul.

Swept along in the tide, Ove is forced to change and learn to understand his neighbors and the modern times into which he has been grudgingly dragged. But as his neighbors learn more about the reasons behind Ove's grumpy façade, they must also band together to protect each other and their neighborhood in a struggle that will leave no one, including Ove, unchanged.

-SPOILER ALERT-

Questions & Answers

- How does the opening scene, in which Ove attempts to purchase a computer, succinctly express the main points of Ove's ongoing battle with the stupidities of the modern world?
- Ove loves things that have a purpose, that are useful. How does this worldview fail him when he believes himself to be useless? How is he convinced that he can still be useful?
- As readers, we get to know Ove slowly, with his past only being revealed piece by piece. What surprised you about Ove's past? Why do you think the author revealed Ove's past the way that he did?
- We all know our own grumpy old men. How do Ove's core values lead him to appear as such a cranky old coot, when he is in fact nothing of the sort? Which of these values do you agree or disagree with?
- Although Ove has some major "disagreements" with the way the world turned out, there are some undeniable advantages to the modernization he finds so hollow. How do these advantages improve Ove's life, even if he can't admit it?
- Parveneh's perspective on life, as radically different from Ove's as it is, eventually succeeds in breaking Ove out of his shell, even if she can't change his feelings about Saabs. How does her brash, extroverted attitude manage to somehow be both rude and helpful?

-SPOILER ALERT-

Questions & Answers

- Ove strives to be “as little unlike his father as possible.” Although this emulation provides much of the strength that helps Ove persevere through a difficult life, it also has some disadvantages. What are some ways that Ove grows into a new way of thinking over the course of the book?
- What are some of the ways that Ove grows into a new way of thinking over the course of the book? Ove is a believer in the value of routine. How can following a routine be both comforting and stultifying? How can we balance routine and spontaneity? Should we? Or is there sense in eating sausage and potatoes your whole life?
- The truism “it takes a village to raise a child” has some resonance with *A Man Called Ove*. How does the eclectic cast of posers, suits, deadbeats, and teens each help Ove in their own way?
- Although we all identify with Ove to some extent, especially by the end of the story, we certainly also have our differences with him. Which of the supporting cast (Parveneh, Jimmy, the Lanky One, Anita) did you find yourself identifying with most?
- What did you make of Ove’s ongoing battle with the bureaucracies that persist in getting in his way? Is Ove’s true fight with the various ruling bodies, or are they stand-ins, scapegoats, for something else?

-SPOILER ALERT-

Questions & Answers

- On page 113, after a younger Ove punches Tom, the author reflects: “A time like that comes for all men, when they choose what sort of men they want to be.” Do you agree with this sentiment, especially in this context? How does the book deal with varying ideas of masculinity?
- On page 246, the author muses that when people don’t share sorrow, it can drive them apart. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
- What do you think of Ove’s relationship with the mangy cat he adopts? What does the cat allow him to express that he couldn’t otherwise say?
- On Ove and Sonja’s trip to Spain, Ove spends his time helping the locals and fixing things. How does Ove the “hero” compare and contrast to his behavior in the rest of the book? Is that Ove’s true personality?
- Ove and Sonja’s love story is one of the most affecting, tender parts of the book. What is the key to their romance? Why do they fit so well together?
- Saab? Volvo? BMW? Scania?

About the Author

Fredrik Backman

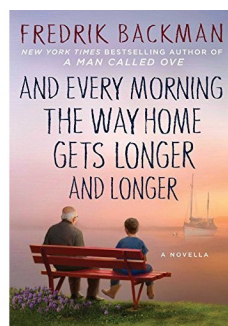
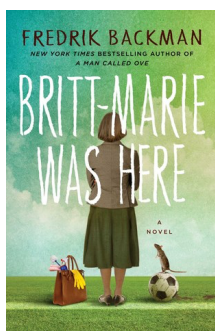
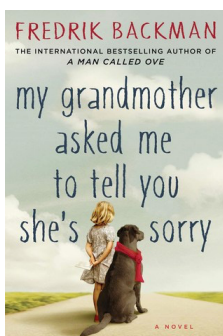


Fredrik Backman (b. 1981), made his literary debut in 2012 with the global sensation *A Man Called Ove*. Wickedly funny, touching and wise, Fredrik Backman's novels are odysseys of the ordinary man and woman, and stunningly moving tales of everyday courage. To date Fredrik Backman has written four highly acclaimed novels, one heartfelt novella about life and love, and one non-fiction book about parenthood. His books have sold more than 8 million copies in 44 languages and the film adaptation of *A Man Called Ove* was nominated for two Academy Awards.

Fredrik Backman is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Man Called Ove*, *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry*, *Britt-Marie Was Here*, *Beartown*, *Us Against You*, as well as a novella, *And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer*.

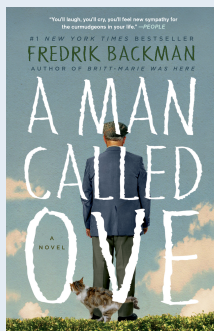
His books are published in more than 35 countries. He lives in Stockholm, Sweden, with his wife and two children.

Other Titles by Frederik Backman:



The Book, the Movie

and the future!



A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door.

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon, the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him the bitter neighbor from hell, but must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time?

Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations. - Good Reads

A Man Called Ove has sold more than 2.8 million copies worldwide, making the book one of Sweden's most popular literary exports since Stieg Larsson's thriller *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*.

Fredrik Backman's debut novel became an international sensation following its 2012 publication, hitting No 1 on the *New York Times* Bestseller List and remaining on the list for a consecutive 77 weeks.

A Man Called Ove was nominated for two Academy Awards earlier this year and was the highest-grossing foreign language film in the United States in 2016. In addition, the film was awarded best comedy at the European Film Awards in 2016.

A September 10, 2017 *Variety* magazine article reveals Tom Hanks is attached to star in *A Man Called Ove* the remake. Hanks will also produce along with his producing partner Gary Goetzman through their Playtone production banner. Rita Wilson will also produce along with Fredrik Wikstrom Nicastro for his Nordic major SF Studios. "This story about love, tolerance and hope amplifies the qualities in movies that are hallmarks of the classic films we know and love," said Wilson.

Books & Bites

Fika is often translated as "a coffee and cake break." Fika is a concept, a state of mind, an attitude and an important part of Swedish culture. It means making time for friends and colleagues to share a cup of coffee (or tea) and a little something to eat.

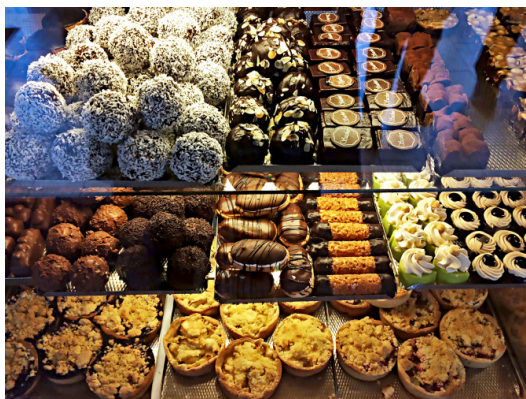
Fika cannot be experienced at your desk by yourself. Even the mighty Volvo plant stops for fika. It is important to make time to stop and socialize: to take a pause. It refreshes the brain and strengthens relationships.

Fika can be a verb. Swedes will say to each other, "Let's go and fika!" Exactly what you eat during fika is not really important. The food is incidental to the companionship, the socializing and catching up with friends and colleagues. Often fika is enjoyed by candlelight, even if it is in an office or the corner of a factory. It's all about slowing down and finding time for friends and colleagues.

Wherever you live, give fika a try. You can never be too busy for fika!

Information courtesy of www.SwedishFood.com

Businesses throughout the county are embracing the true essence of The Read Together campaign and are offering opportunities to Fika! Gather your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers for time of socializing and book discussions.



*Small snacks and pastries often enjoyed as part of fika.
Courtesy of www.onthefoodietrail.com*

Join us for a fika!



401 S Dixie Hwy Ste. 3, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Bring your copy of *A Man Called Ove* to Johan's Joe anytime on Mondays in October and November and enjoy complimentary in-house coffee & treat. Walk-in book discussions will be from 2:00-4:00 PM. Don't have a copy of the book? No worries. You may obtain a copy for a \$10 donation to the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.



Participating Locations:

525 US 1, North Palm Beach, FL 33408

13897 Wellington Trace, Wellington, FL 33414

2215 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33407

6775 West Indiantown Rd, Jupiter, FL 33458

Gardens Mall, 3101 PGA Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens 33410

Bring your copy of *A Man Called Ove* to a participating Park Avenue BBQ Grille location between 2:00 and 4:00 PM on Thursdays in October and November and enjoy complimentary coffee & cake. Don't have a copy of the book? No worries. You may obtain a copy for a \$10 donation to the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.



Participating locations throughout Palm Beach County.
We are proud to once again partner with Starbucks in the
Read Together Palm Beach County campaign.
Visit www.LiteracyPBC.org for updates and events!

Events

Tuesday, October 10-November 30, 2017

Palm Springs Public Library

217 Cypress Lane

Palm Springs, FL 33461

Throughout the campaign participate in our online discussion through Twitter! Use @BookClubPSPL www.vpsfl.org

Sunday, October 22, 2017 2:00 PM

Film Presentation: A Man Called Ove

A Read Together Palm Beach County Special Event

Mandel Public Library Auditorium

411 Clematis St, West Palm Beach, 33401

Come see the film version of *A Man Called Ove*, the wildly popular novel by Fredrik Backman. *A Man Called Ove* received an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film and is Certified Fresh by Rotten Tomatoes. www.wpb.org/mycitylibrary/

Thursday, October 26, 2017 6:30 PM

Riviera Beach Public Library

600 West Blue Heron Blvd

Riviera Beach, FL 33404

The Riviera Beach Public Library will host an *A Man Called Ove* book discussion (60 minutes). Preregister: 561-814-0155

Friday, October 27, 2017 2:00 PM

Glades Road Branch - Palm Beach County Library System

20701 95th Avenue South

Boca Raton, FL 33498

The Glades Road Branch will host an *A Man Called Ove* book discussion (60 minutes). Preregister. www.pbclibrary.org

Monday, October 30, 2017 2:00 PM

Johan's Joe

401 S Dixie Hwy Ste. 3, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Read Together committee member, Mandel Public Library's "Book Goddess" will lead a book discussion of *A Man Called Ove*. Bring your book and enjoy a complimentary fika: a cup of in-house coffee and a treat.

Tuesday, October 31, 2017 10:00 AM

Palm Springs Public Library

217 Cypress Lane Palm Springs, FL 33461

The language of our favorite Muppet! We can't promise you will cook like the Swedish Chef, but we can help you master his language using Mango (our language learning software).

www.vpsfl.org

Thursday, November 2, 2017 1:45 PM

Paint Your Own Swedish Dala Horse!

A Read Together Palm Beach County Special Program Mandel Public Library Hibiscus Room

411 Clematis St, West Palm Beach, 33401

We're celebrating all things Swedish! The Dala horse is the quintessential Swedish craft and you can paint one at the Mandel Public Library! Dala horses are usually brightly colored, often red, and decorated in slightly different styles by region. You can emulate the tradition or create an original. Registration required.

www.wpb.org/mycitylibrary/

Getting together with colleagues, friends or your book club to discuss the book? Email us at info@LiteracyPBC.org and let us know how you're embracing the campaign! Pictures and narratives are always welcome!

Saturday, November 4, 2017 2:00 PM

West Boynton Branch- Palm Beach County Library System
9451 Jog Rd, Boynton Beach, FL 33437

The West Boynton Beach Branch will host *A Man Called Ove* book discussion in the library program room. www.pbclibrary.org

Monday, November 6, 2017 10:00 AM

City of Boynton Beach Library
208 Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach, 33435

The City Library of Boynton Beach will host *A Man Called Ove* book discussion in the library program room. www.boyntonlibrary.org

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 2:00 PM

Gardens Branch - Palm Beach County Library System
11303 Campus Drive
Palm Beach Gardens, 33410

The Gardens Branch will host an *A Man Called Ove* book discussion (60 minutes). Preregister: 561-626-6133. www.pbclibrary.org

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 4:00 PM

Palm Beach Sings: Mamma Mia
Palm Springs Public Library
217 Cypress Lane
Palm Springs, FL 33461

The Palm Springs Public Library will host a movie and sing-a-long in honor of ABBA, Sweden's international sensation. www.vpsfl.org

Thursday, November 9, 2017 3:00 PM

Palm Springs Public Library
217 Cypress Lane
Palm Springs, FL 33461

Coffee & Classics: The Palm Springs Public Library will host a book discussion on the classic Swedish novel, *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren. www.vpsfl.org

Thursday, November 9, 2017 6:00 PM

Norton Museum of Art “Art After Dark”
1451 S Olive Ave, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

The Norton Museum of Art will be spreading the word about Read Together Palm Beach County during the museum’s “Art After Dark” event on Thursday evening, November 9. The Literacy Coalition’s CEO Kristin Calder will speak about the Coalition’s mission, programs, and the power of Read Together to bring a community closer in a memorable way. The Norton is giving docent-led talks this evening on “Color and Emotion.” Perhaps we’ll discover our Read Together selection’s own emotive color! The “Art After Dark” event begins at 6 p.m. Admission is free, as is daily admission to the Norton during its renovations.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 6:30 PM

Stage Reading of *A Man Called Ove* and audience discussion
201 Clematis St, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

The Literacy Coalition and Palm Beach Dramaworks present a stage reading from an excerpt of *A Man Called Ove* followed by a "book club" style audience discussion with a moderator. Doors open at 6:30, program begins at 7:00 p.m. Seating is limited. Beginning October 10, reserve a ticket online with a \$5 donation to support literacy at www.LiteracyPBC.org.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 6:00 PM
Main Library - Palm Beach County Library System
3650 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach 33406

The Main Library will host an *A Man Called Ove* book discussion (60 minutes). Preregister: 561-233-2600. www.pbclibrary.org

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Palm Springs Public Library
217 Cypress Lane
Palm Springs, FL 33461

The Palm Springs Public Library will host a Staff Picks Book Discussion: *A Man Called Ove*. www.vpsfl.org

Thursday, November 16, 2017 2:00 PM
Gardens Branch - Palm Beach County Library System
11303 Campus Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, 33410

Come see the film version of *A Man Called Ove*, the wildly popular novel by Fredrik Backman. *A Man Called Ove* received an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film and is Certified Fresh by Rotten Tomatoes. Preregister: 561-626-6133. www.pbclibrary.org

Thursday, November 16, 2017 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM
Palm Springs Public Library
217 Cypress Lane
Palm Springs, FL 33461

The Adult Coloring Club will host an event featuring the Swedish coloring book *Blomstermandala* (Twilight Garden). www.vpsfl.org

Remember to bring your copy of *A Man Called Ove* to one of our restaurant partners during the months of October and November for a treat. Please see page 11 for details.

Thursday, November 16, 2017 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

North Palm Beach Library

303 Anchorage Dr

North Palm Beach, FL 33408

The North Palm Beach Library will host a film screening and discussion of *A Man Called Ove*. Cookies and Coffee will be provided.

Tuesday, November 21, 2017 6:00 PM

Main Library - Palm Beach County Library System

3650 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach 33406

Come see the film version of *A Man Called Ove*, the wildly popular novel by Fredrik Backman. *A Man Called Ove* received an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film and is Certified Fresh by Rotten Tomatoes. Preregister:

561-233-2600. www.pbclibrary.org

Tuesday, November 28, 2017 6:00 PM

Palm Springs Public Library

217 Cypress Lane

Palm Springs, FL 33461

A Taste of Sweden! Join us for a sampling of Swedish delicacies.

Preregister at events@vpslibrary.net. www.vpsfl.org

Tuesday, November 28, 2017 6:30 PM

Palm Springs Public Library

217 Cypress Lane

Palm Springs, FL 33461

Cultural Tapestry Series Presents: Nordic Holiday Traditions. Find out what Santa Lucia, Trolls and Elves have in common.

www.vpsfl.org

2017 Read Together Palm Beach County

Book Selection Committee:

Laurie Gildan, Chair, Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
Dr. Rob Gingras, Palm Beach State College
Sharon Hill, Literacy Coalition Board Member
Lynn Kalber, Editor and Writer
Esther Labovick, Labovick Law Group
Tina Maura, Mandel Public Library
Deborah Nix, Retired Educator
Tom Streit, Akerman LLP
Christina Wood, Freelance Writer & Editor

Campaign Committee:

Sharon Hill, Chair, Literacy Coalition Board Member
Aurora Arthay, Palm Beach County Library
Lisa Hathaway, Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach
Craig Clark, Boynton Beach City Library
Mim Harrison, Levenger Press
Lynn Kalber, Editor and Writer
Carol Rose, *The Palm Beach Post*
Christina Wood, Freelance Writer & Editor

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Founding President

Gale G. Howden

Chief Executive Officer

Kristin Calder

** Past President*

Please join us...

Read Together Palm Beach County Finale

Saturday, December 2, 2017 12:30 PM

Location TBA

Visit www.LiteracyPBC.org for more details

Mission

The mission of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County is to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy.

Blume Literacy Center
on the Brenda & C.P. Medore Campus
3651 Quantum Blvd.
Boynton Beach, FL 33426
561-279-9103
www.LiteracyPBC.org



LiteracyPBC