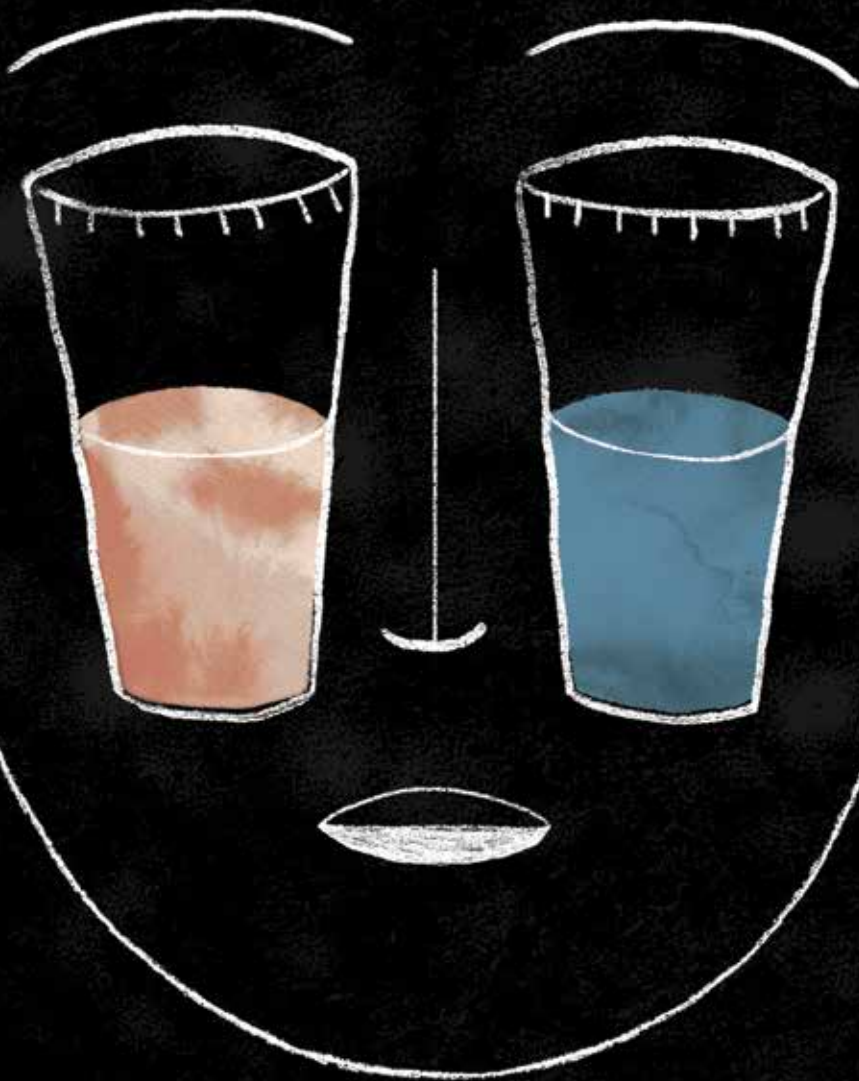


ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK 2019

What the Eyes Don't See

READER'S GUIDE



Nonfiction © 2018 OneWorld

By Mona Hanna-Attisha

WHAT IF EVERYONE READ THE SAME BOOK AT THE SAME TIME, THEN CAME TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT IT?

When we read a great book, we can't wait to share the experience with others. That's one of the joys of reading. In this spirit, Maryland Humanities created One Maryland One Book to bring together diverse people in communities across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book.

Now in its twelfth year, One Maryland One Book remains Maryland's only statewide community reading program. Each year, the selection process is guided by a common theme. The theme for 2019 is "Nature."

The Maryland Center for the Book at Maryland Humanities partners with public libraries, high schools, colleges and universities, museums, bookstores, correctional facilities, and other organizations to bring book-centered discussions and other related events to communities across Maryland. But One Maryland One Book is not just about reading or literature; it is also about bringing people together for meaningful dialogue.

The book selected for 2019 is *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City* by Mona Hanna-Attisha.

GRAB YOUR COPY

Find a copy of *What the Eyes Don't See* at your local library or bookstore and get reading! What if a copy of *What the Eyes Don't See* finds you? If you're out and about, you might find copies of the book in unexpected places. Our Wandering Books can be found in a myriad of public spaces from bus stops to doctors' offices to coffee shops. If you find a copy, it's yours for a short time. Register the book online so

we can see how far it travels (instructions are included inside the book). Read it, review it, and then leave it somewhere for someone else to find and enjoy.

REACH OUT

Each year, more than 15,000 Marylanders read the One Maryland One Book selection. How many of those people are your friends or family? How many are perfect strangers you sit next to on the train or stand in line with at the grocery store? Use the book to jumpstart a meaningful conversation with an old friend or to make a new one.

PULL UP A CHAIR

We invite you to join Maryland Humanities and thousands of other Marylanders at one of the many book discussions and related events happening around the state from mid-September to mid-November, including the author tour. To find One Maryland One Book programs in your area, go to www.onemarylandonebook.org and click on Events.

For all the latest information, "like" or follow us:

 [facebook.com/MDCenterfortheBook](https://www.facebook.com/MDCenterfortheBook)

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Look for Mona Hanna-Attisha at several venues in the fall, including the Baltimore Book Festival on Saturday, November 2.

Artwork and Design by SPUR

ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK 2019 WELCOME LETTER



Thank you for joining Maryland Humanities for the twelfth year of One Maryland One Book, our state's largest reading and discussion program. Since 2008, readers across Maryland have embraced our annual tradition of bringing people together through the reading of one book selected by members of Maryland's literary community. Each year we explore the power of literature through discussions and events across the state. Whether it's in a friend's home for a book club, at libraries, in high school or university classrooms, at senior centers, or in correctional facilities, thousands of Marylanders connect in their communities to read our chosen book. This shared experience lies at the heart of One Maryland One Book. Whether you read with us every year or are new to the program, welcome!

This year's book offers a cautionary tale of what happens when safeguards to protect the public are placed in jeopardy through the breakdown of bureaucratic and democratic processes and how we as individuals can take an active role in ensuring the safety of our communities. When we see a crisis arise, it's often a reflex to say to ourselves, "That could never happen here." What many of us have come to realize in recent years is that no community is immune, and sometimes we must fight to ensure the best outcomes. Pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, along with others in Flint, saw the great risk to children (and adults) when high levels of lead contaminated the system following the city's change in water source. Their willingness to sacrifice personal and professional safety may have halted lifelong adverse effects on the children of Flint and, quite possibly, saved an entire city.

We encourage you to pick up a copy of *What the Eyes Don't See* and join the conversation at one of our many public discussion programs across the state. A program of the Maryland Center for the Book at Maryland Humanities, One Maryland One Book is made possible each year through the generosity of our sponsors and community partners. We greatly thank them for their support. Find out how you can get involved at www.onemarylandonebook.org.

Please join us!

Cynthia Raposo, Board Chair
Phoebe Stein, Executive Director

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha is a pediatrician, professor, and public health advocate who spearheaded efforts to reveal, publicize, and fix Flint, Michigan's water crisis. She knew that the only way to stop the lead poisoning would be to present undeniable proof on a national platform.

Her persistence paid off: the city switched the water back to its original source and President Barack Obama declared a federal emergency. She has since been called to testify twice before the United States Congress, was awarded the Freedom of Expression Courage Award by PEN America, and was named one of *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World."

A passionate activist, Dr. Hanna-Attisha created the Pediatric Public Health Initiative, a model program to mitigate the impact of the Flint water crisis. As founder and director of this organization, she combines community and clinical programs, childhood health policy and advocacy, and robust evaluation to give Flint children a better chance at future success.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Flint was already a troubled city in 2014 when the state of Michigan—in the name of austerity—shifted the source of its water supply from Lake Huron to the Flint River. Soon after, citizens began complaining about the water that flowed from their taps—but officials rebuffed them, insisting that the water was fine. Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, a pediatrician at the city's public hospital, took state officials at their word and encouraged the parents and children in her care to continue drinking the water—after all, it was American tap water, blessed with the state's seal of approval.

But a conversation at a cookout with an old friend, leaked documents from an environmental inspector, and the activism of a concerned mother raised red flags about lead—a neurotoxin whose irreversible effects fall most heavily on children. Even as circumstantial evidence

mounted and protests grew, Dr. Mona knew that the only thing that could stop the lead poisoning was undeniable *proof*—and that to get it she'd have to enter the fight of her life.

What the Eyes Don't See is the inspiring story of how Dr. Mona—accompanied by an idiosyncratic team of researchers, parents, friends, and community leaders—proved that Flint's kids were exposed to lead and then fought her own government and a brutal backlash to expose the truth to the world. Paced like a scientific thriller, this book is a riveting, beautifully rendered account of a shameful disaster that became a tale of hope, the story of a city on the ropes that came together to fight for justice, self-determination, and the right to build a better world for their—and all of our—children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Dr. Mona talks a lot about her family and Iraqi culture. Both are very important to her. What did you learn about her culture? What aspects of your culture and family are important to you?
- Had you heard about the water crisis in Washington, DC, prior to reading this book? How did the lack of adequate political representation in both Washington, DC, and Flint influence how the water crises were managed?
- What does the situation in Flint reveal about the measures set up to protect public health and safety?
- The book included quite a bit about the history of housing and labor in Michigan. Both remain relevant national topics of discussion today (affordable housing, minimum wage, access to healthcare, etc.). What about housing and labor practices has changed since the early days of General Motors and what has not?
- Dr. Mona describes herself as the last piece in a puzzle in revealing the Flint water crisis. What do you think about that description? How did serendipity play a role in exposing the crisis? How did Dr. Mona's friendships, prior education and training, teamwork and professional network, with Elin, medical, community and political leaders, Marc Edwards, and others play a role?
- Do you think access to clean, safe water is a human right?
- Have you kept up with what's happening in Flint? Do you feel things will ever be fully resolved? Should Flint residents receive some form of compensation?
- Do you know anything about the safety of the water in your community?
- Could what happened in Flint happen in another city or town?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Each year we hope that your participation in One Maryland One Book inspires continued exploration of the themes and topics examined in the selected book. This year's selection offers an excellent opportunity to explore America's systems of protection against threats to personal and environmental health. The following list of books, movies, and podcasts might be of interest after reading *What the Eyes Don't See*. While we include suggested age groups for the readings, they are just a guide. Feel free to choose based on your interests. We encourage you to continue your exploration!

ADULT FICTION

Happiness by Aminatta Forna

The urban fox population is skyrocketing, thanks to the ample supply of rodents and food waste found in cities. Grieving expatriates Jean, an American scientist, and Atilla, a Ghanaian physician, forge a relationship propelled by Jean's research on the London foxes.

The River by Peter Heller

When a pair of college students, outdoorsmen both, set out on a canoe trip along Canada's remote Maskwa River, their idyll is upended by an out of control wildfire and the discovery of a severely injured woman. *Call of the Wild* meets *Deliverance* in this gripping tale of survival pitting man vs. nature as well as man vs. man.

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

Dellarobia Turnbow sees fire on the mountain, which turns out to be a million monarch butterflies, deviating from their normal migration to Mexico to rest instead in Tennessee on land slated for development. The monarchs' appearance is attributed to everything from climate change to divine intervention while conflict arises between environmentalists, scientists, and local folks who all want a piece of the action.

Bearskin by James McLaughlin

On the run, Rice Moore takes a job as a caretaker on a nature preserve in the mountains of Virginia, only to find that the majestic but isolated Appalachians hide as much danger as the desolate Arizona desert and the drug cartel he is evading.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

The remote marshes of North Carolina offer shelter and sustenance to Kya, aka "Marsh Girl," who is abandoned by her family, shunned by the townspeople, and accused of murder. Part legal drama, part coming of age tale, this is a love story of the rich and beautiful natural world of the Outer Banks.

Disappearing Earth by Julia Phillips

Russia's volcanic peninsula of Kamchatka is the setting for this brilliantly structured thriller about the abduction of two little Russian sisters. Suspicion falls on the indigenous peoples but despite ethnic tension, the key to the girls' fate lies in the interconnected stories of both native and Russian women living in this far flung corner of northern Asia.

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

Haenyeo is the term for a Korean female islander who harvests seafood by diving up to 50 feet deep into cold coastal waters while holding her breath. Young-sook, now an old woman, is a *haenyeo* who tells her story through flashbacks revealing a life scarred by the politics of colonialism and war yet also one filled with love for her family and the unbreakable bond with the sea and the matriarchal culture it created on the island.

Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

The perfect storm created by the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl drought, and misguided farming practices devastated the agriculture industry of the southern plains states while destroying the livelihood of impoverished farm workers. Steinbeck's research included time in work camps, drawing on his experiences to portray the discrimination, injustice, and degradation suffered by the migrant workers.

Gold Fame Citrus by Claire Vaye Watkins

A decades-long drought ravages the western United States, and the desirable people have been evacuated to wetter climes, leaving "Mohavs" trapped behind a government-imposed border in a lawless free-for-all. Luz and Ray travel across the parched wasteland to reach a settlement rumored to have a water supply, but they find it also includes a dangerously charismatic leader.

ADULT NONFICTION

American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West by Nate Blakeslee

Blakeslee chronicles the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone in 1995 and closely follows the story of female wolf O-Six. As Blakeslee tracks O-Six's movements through the Lamar Valley of Wyoming and surrounding areas, he examines the lives of other wolves in and around the park. Included is an examination of the long and ongoing back and forth of listing and delisting the wolf on the federal list of protected species.

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson

Determined to hike the entire, 2,100 mile Appalachian Trail, Bryson sets out with a buddy from Iowa, backpacks full of gear, little hiking experience, and the desire to get to know his native country again. The history of the trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine, is interspersed with comical encounters and an assortment of interesting and eccentric characters they meet along the way. *A Walk in the Woods* has become a travel literature classic.

The Chesapeake Table: Your Guide to Eating Local by Renee Brooks Catacalos

Ready to support our local farmers and fishermen whose efforts supply us with an array of fruits, vegetables, grains, and animal food from land and sea? Catacalos makes it easy by explaining the benefits of eating local and offering suggestions for shopping, eating, and even enjoying the "liquid harvests" from area farm-based distilleries, wineries, and breweries.

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

Silent Spring is widely considered to be one of the landmark books of the Twentieth Century. First published in 1962, it sounded a warning to the environmental and human dangers of indiscriminate use of pesticides, spurring revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. Carson's passion for the future of our planet was instrumental in launching the environmental movement.

The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy by Anna Clark

Detroit-based journalist Anna Clark chronicles the poisoning of the Flint, Michigan water after the state government switched the city's water source. The new source caused corrosion to the city's aging pipes and complaints by the mostly poor and African American residents were repeatedly ignored and dismissed. After 18 months of activism the state finally admitted the water was poisonous. During that time thousands were exposed to lead and 12 people died. *Poisoned City* is a compelling account of environmental activism.

Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry edited by Camille Dungy

Dungy's anthology brings together a collection of poetry from African American poets and their views on the natural world, ranging in time from slavery to the present day.

The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit by Michael Finkel

Why did 20 year-old Christopher Knight disappear into the woods for almost 30 years? How did he survive the brutally cold winters in Maine without freezing or starving to death? After he was caught breaking into a camp cabin, Christopher revealed his survival methods during extensive interviews with the author. This is a gripping, thorough account of Christopher's life choices and survival in the woods.

Forest Bathing Retreat: Finding Wholeness in the Company of Trees by Hannah Fries

Inspired by the Japanese concept of *shinrin-yoku*, or forest bathing, poet Hannah Fries invites readers to bask in the company of trees, wherever and whenever you can find them. Guided mindfulness exercises along with inspirational writing from poets, naturalists, artists, scientists, and thinkers throughout the centuries and across culture set you on a path to experience nature with soothing messages and stunning photography.

Lab Girl by Hope Jahren

Lab Girl is a beautifully written memoir about Jahren's life as a woman scientist and her love for the natural world. She details not only her scientific endeavors but also adventures with her lab partner to the North Pole, back roads of Florida, and Ireland's countryside. Funny and poignant, Jahren asks her readers to become aware of plant life.

Adapt: How Humans Are Tapping Into Nature's Secrets to Design and Build a Better Future by Amina Khan

Los Angeles Times science writer Khan shares fascinating examples of how we can use nature to solve many of our current challenges. From studying ant colonies and termite mounds to cuttlefish, scientists are working on innovative solutions in a world with limited resources. Conversational and engaging, *Adapt* fully explores the science behind nature's amazing abilities.

The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert

Five cataclysmic natural disasters have each resulted in massive extinction of life forms on planet Earth; think meteors, glaciers, dinosaurs. In this Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Kolbert lays out a case for the next mass extinction, this one triggered by mankind.

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

In 1992, Christopher McCandless gave away most of his possessions, including \$25,000, abandoned his car, and went off the grid. He hitchhiked to Alaska and ventured into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley leaving behind his worried parents and sister. Four months later his body was discovered by a hunter. Krakauer uses recovered journals to piece together Christopher's pilgrimage and gain insight into his final days.

Unbowed: A Memoir by Wangari Matthai

Wangari Maathai tells her story as a political activist, feminist, environmentalist, and single mother of three living in Kenya. Growing up in a rural village where most girls were uneducated, she was determined to make a difference. Wangari goes on to earn degrees in the United States, becoming the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a PhD, and is the winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize.

Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island by Earl Swift

Spending almost two years living with the people of Tangier Island, Virginia gave Earl Swift insight into the people and their ways. He went crabbing and oystering with watermen, learning about its history and traditions, and listening to the islanders' concerns about their future. This 1.3 square mile island in the Chesapeake Bay is just several feet above sea level and is poised to completely disappear in the near future. It's a cautionary tale of the very real impact of climate change.

Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

Tara Westover grew up living off the grid in rural Idaho, the youngest daughter of a survivalist family who eschewed formal education and whose medical care came from her mother's knowledge of herbalism. Westover's memoir recalls how the circumstances of her neglected, sometimes violent childhood nestled in the majestic beauty of the Rocky Mountains led her to choose an adult life as an historian and author.

TEENS

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans by Don Brown

This powerful graphic novel revisits one of the most devastating disasters in American history—one that was both natural and manmade. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina pushed the limits of each individual that stood in its path across the Gulf Coast. Using both his art and words, Don Brown shows how the courageous people of New Orleans, Louisiana selflessly helped each other.

Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi

Nailer is a young scavenger, living in a dystopian, futuristic version of America's Gulf Coast region. He works to survive in a world plagued by environmental disaster. His luck is soon to change when he stumbles upon the find of a lifetime...an exquisite clipper ship and its beautiful and wealthy owner, Nita. Now he must choose between salvaging all he can of the ship or rescuing her.

Dry by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman

A calamitous California drought puts restrictions not only on how much water you can use, but how much you have to drink. Alyssa Morrow's world turns upside down when the taps shut off completely. She is forced to make impossible decisions not only for herself, but for her parents and brother in order for them to survive.

CHILDREN

Where's Rodney by Carmen Bogan, Floyd Cooper (Illustrator)

Rodney doesn't want to sit still and he definitely doesn't want to be inside. He wants to be outside with the birds, bugs, and dogs. When he gets to take a field trip to a real park he is amazed by what he sees and feels more at home than ever before.

Wild Robot by Peter Brown

Robot Roz arrives on an island inhabited by wildlife after her crate washes up on shore. She develops a bond with an orphaned gosling right away but fitting in with the island's other animal inhabitants will prove to be more difficult. Roz begins to figure out how to function and communicate in her new surroundings while seemingly forming a new type of family.

Chomp by Carl Hiaasen

Animals have always been a part of Wahoo Cray's life—because he lives in a zoo. When his father takes a job with a reality TV show called *Expedition Survival!* there is no lack of wildlife drama. Wahoo must keep up with the surrounding nature, his father's temper, the show's half-witted star, and a new friend Tuna who has family drama of her own.

Alabama Moon by Watt Key

A secluded life in the wilderness with his father is the only life that Moon has ever known. When his father dies, Moon sets course for Alaska to find others like himself. Soon he finds that the world he spent his entire life hiding from is unavoidable, and he must adapt to these new surroundings and confront them.

Up From the Sea by Leza Lowitz

A novel-in-verse about the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March 2011. Kai is a teen boy living in a coastal village that is destroyed by the devastation. Everything and everyone that he knew is now gone, and he must start over on his own. After being offered a trip to NYC, Kai has the chance to connect his experiences with others who went through 9/11.



Bayou Magic by Jewel Parker Rhodes

Maddy is the youngest of five sisters, and this year it's her turn to spend the summer in the bayou. After some initial hesitation she learns to love her new surroundings and discovers parts of her family, herself, and the Deep South that she doesn't expect. Set in the wake of the Gulf oil spill, Maddy knows that she must help save this new world that she has grown so attached to.

Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet by April Pulley Sayre

An ode to our home and the nature that surrounds us on this planet. The author shows us with brilliant visuals just how much the Earth provides for us.

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

The classic tale of why it is so important to care about nature and being an advocate for our earth. The Lorax is wise and carries a warning against taking earth's natural beauty for granted.

MUSIC

Nature Sounds (Spotify playlist)

<https://open.spotify.com/user/spotify/playlist/37i9dQZF1DX4PP3DA4J0N8?si=h2W5MrIhSluFMb0x5mmzXw>

Let the sounds of stream, forest and ocean, flora and fauna take you out of your environment and into a new setting.

FILMS

Beasts of the Southern Wild (2012, 93 minutes, rated PG-13)

When a storm threatens the area of the Louisiana bayou called "The Bathtub," even the most thought-out plans (or some magical realism) won't keep the area intact. Young Quvenzhané Wallis received an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Hushpuppy in this moving film.

Before the Flood (2016, 96 minutes, rated PG)

Hollywood heavyweights, including narrator Leonardo DiCaprio, put their talents behind this documentary that both explains climate change and attempts to put forth solutions to rectify it.

Earth: One Amazing Day (2017, 95 minutes, rated G)

This BBC production, narrated by Robert Redford, follows the globe from sunrise to sunset in a variety of locations and biomes.

Gringo Trails (2013, 79 minutes, unrated)

A documentary about tourism to our most delicate ecosystems, and how such areas as the Amazon and the Thai jungles have been affected both positively and negatively.

Planet Earth and Planet Earth II

The original BBC series and its sequel have used up-to-the-minute technology and photography to look deeply at each of the seven biomes of the Earth. The series have received multiple awards, while David Attenborough's voice has become synonymous with natural history knowledge.

PODCASTS

Human Nature

<https://humanaturepodcast.org/episodes/>

"Real stories about where humans and our habitat meet" is the tagline of this long-running podcast from Wyoming Public Media.

Living Planet

<https://www.dw.com/en/living-planet-environment-stories-from-around-the-world/a-19385797>

From Germany, this weekly podcast shares an environmental story or interview from around the world.

Pod Save the People

<https://crooked.com/podcast/flint-lead-beyond/>

Hear an interview between this year's author Mona Hanna-Attisha and popular podcaster/activist DeRay McKesson regarding the Flint, Michigan water crisis.





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