



## Beat the Doldrums Bookmark Contest

At the library, we love books. Did you know that we also love bookmarks? From old receipts to ornately design metal plates, we love a trusty bookmark.

Something we love even more is when patrons come together to help us make cool things for the library. So that's why for the month of January, we're combining it all and having a VBDL bookmark contest!

Starting on January 3, download the template page [here](#), or pick it up from your local VBDL branch! Design a bookmark inspired by nature and return the template page to the library. All entries are due by the end of the day on Saturday, January 27.

*But that's just the beginning of it!*

Starting Thursday, February 1, and ending Wednesday, February 7, the bookmark designs will be posted on VBDL's Facebook pages and it's up to you to vote for your favorite bookmark! To vote, simply "like" the bookmark you want to win.

Whichever bookmark gets the most votes will be printed and distributed to all the VBDL branches so you can have a new trusty bookmark!

So start designing and remember to vote for your favorite!



### Rules

- Be inspired by nature.
- Use markers, crayons, pencils, pens, paints, etc. Please no 3D materials (like feathers, puffy paint, leaves, etc.)
- All ages are welcome.
- Write your name and contact information on the submission sheet, but not on the bookmark.
- Winner will be chosen by popular vote on Facebook.

# 1000 Hours Outside

At VBDL, our goal for 2024 is to spend more time outside, whether that's in our own Van Buren county or elsewhere. We hope you'll join us for some adventures outdoors!

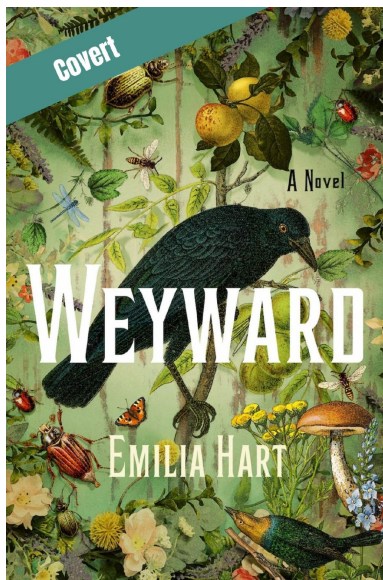
1000 Hours Outside is a challenge created by a Michigan mom who saw that kids were spending more time in front of the screen instead of being outside exploring their world. The Van Buren District Library want to help families and individuals experience the great outdoors with our programming this year to help get those precious minutes outside to add up to hours. Check our [calendar](#) to see what each branch has going on, or check out a book and read it in the park, or download an audiobook and listen while going for a walk.

Interested in the original 1000 Hours Outside challenge? Find more information at [1000 Hours Outside's website](#) and find ideas on activities, track your hours, and discover others trying to reach the goal of 1000 hours outside!

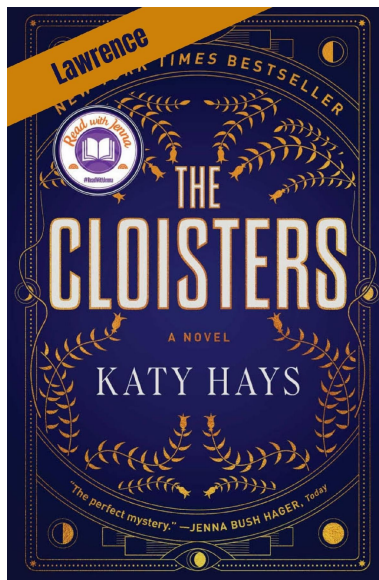
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## Van Buren Book Clubs!

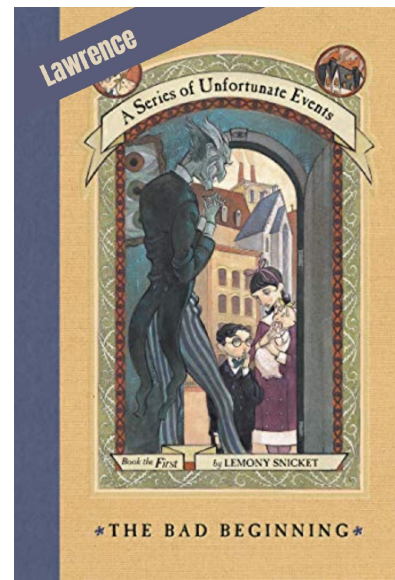
Want to read more books in 2024? Try joining one of VBDL's book clubs!



Covert's Cover to Cover book club is reading Emilia Hart's *Weyward*. A tale of magical realism, *Weyward* follows three women over the centuries and their resilience against the world. Join them on Monday, January 22 at 5:30pm to discuss this magical and emotional tale.



The Lawrence Lunch Bunch book club will be delving into *The Cloisters* by Katy Hays. A mysterious story of obsession and pursuit of power. Join them on Wednesday, January 17 at 1pm to find out what happens in this fortune-telling thriller.



Between the Lines at the Lawrence branch is a supported book group with a weekly read-out-loud and project for adults who do not read. Currently, Between the Lines is working on *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket, a beloved gothic series following the unfortunate lives of the Baudelaire orphans. Join them each Wednesday at 12:45pm.

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