

ENGLISH BOOK CLUB



WHY JOIN OUR ENGLISH BOOK CLUB:

Do you have enough opportunities to speak in English and to improve your vocabulary and pronunciation? Do you need extra motivation to read in English? Would you like to meet up every week with others? Join this unique English Book Club for a new, positive, life-enhancing experience! Spend your valuable time doing something you love every week, immersing yourself in an English literature book club.

We'll help you to actively use your English by discussing an interesting book.

We'll provide you with extra motivation to read and allow you to speak in English with other people who love books – discovering different opinions, ideas and the background to the book!

SCHEDULED MEETINGS (18.30 – 20.00)

Tuesday 6th June

Tuesday 13th June

Tuesday 20th June

Tuesday 4th July

MEMPHIS

by Tara Stringfellow



Summer 1995: Ten-year-old Joan, her mother, and her younger sister flee her father's explosive temper and seek refuge at her mother's ancestral home in Memphis. This is not the first time violence has altered the course of the family's trajectory. Half a century earlier, Joan's grandfather built this majestic house in the historic Black neighborhood of Douglass—only to be lynched days after becoming the first Black detective in the city. Joan tries to settle into her new life, but family secrets cast a longer shadow than any of them expected.

As she grows up, Joan finds relief in her artwork, painting portraits of the community in Memphis. One of her subjects is their enigmatic neighbor Miss Dawn, who claims to know something about curses, and whose stories about the past help Joan see how her passion, imagination, and relentless hope are, in fact, the continuation of a long matrilineal tradition. Joan begins to understand that her mother, her mother's mother, and the mothers before them persevered, made impossible choices, and put their dreams on hold so that her life would not have to be defined by loss and anger—that the sole instrument she needs for healing is her paintbrush.

Unfolding over seventy years through a chorus of unforgettable voices that move back and forth in time, *Memphis* paints an indelible portrait of inheritance, celebrating the full complexity of what we pass down, in a family and as a country: brutality and justice, faith and forgiveness, sacrifice and love.

Minimum level of English required: Upper Intermediate