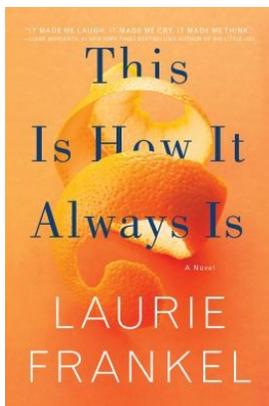


# Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

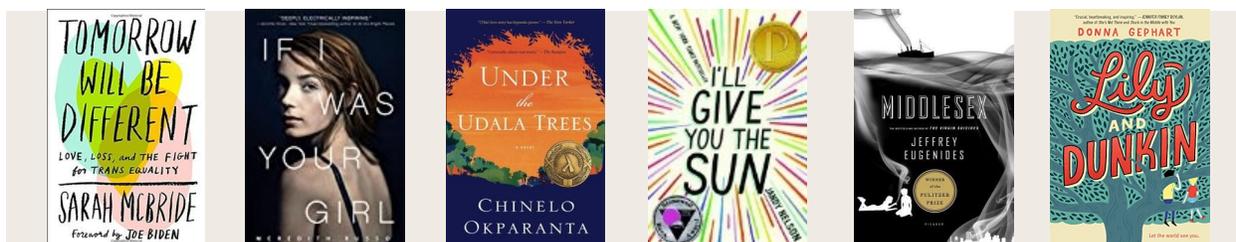
August 27, 2018

## Biography:



Laurie Frankel is the bestselling, award-winning writer of three novels. Her writing has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *People Magazine*, *Lit Hub*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and other publications. All three of her novels have been optioned for film or TV. The author was inspired to write, *This Is How It Always Is*, by her own child who was born a boy but now identifies as a girl. She was recently named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Seattle where she lives with her family and makes good soup. (Adapted from the author's website.)

## Similar Resources:



## Discussion Questions:

1. How do the epigraphs help prepare the reader for the many crossroads the Walsh/Adams family will have to face? What about the first word of the novel, "but"?
2. In what ways does the book tackle typical definitions of boys and girls, men and women? Did it change your view of gender and identity as you read? In what ways are we as a society trapped in gender stereotypes? Are young boys more constrained by gender stereotypes than young girls?
3. What is the difference between tolerance and acceptance? Acceptance and celebration? Discuss how language, down to the pronouns we use, affects the way we interact with people different from ourselves.
4. When Rosie feels guilt for forcing Roo to move, Carmelo tells her, "Parents choose one kid over another all the time." Do you agree with this statement?
5. When comforting Poppy, Ben says, "Fitting in and being normal doesn't exist." How does the novel continuously challenge the idea of "normal"?
6. In the penultimate, fairy tale chapter, the witch tells Grumwald that he must share his story, that "story is the best magic there is." What is the importance of sharing stories? Do secrets have their place as well, or do you agree that "secrets make everyone alone"? (From <http://http://www.lauriefrankel.net>)