Reading Guide:
*New England Bound: Slavery and Colonization in Early America*
By Wendy Warren (2016)

1. Many people are unfamiliar with the early history of slavery in the United States, particularly in New England. What did you learn from this book that was new to you? How will you think differently about the history of slavery after reading it?

2. *New England Bound* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in history, which tends to favor works of American history that are carefully researched, written in an accessible voice, and that address subjects of interest to the general reader. How do you think *New England Bound* measures up to these criteria, and against other books we have read? Would you give it a Pulitzer?

3. Several recent Book Club choices this year focused on the 1600s in what would become the United States. Has your perspective on this period of American history changed? How?

4. One goal of this book was to tell the stories of people in early New England who had previously gone unnoticed by historians. Whose stories were most memorable to you in this book?

5. What is the most important information or perspective you will take away from this book? Do you think it matches the author’s intentions?

6. Would you recommend this book to others? Who do you think the ideal reader for this book would be?

7. What other resources on the subject would you recommend to someone who wanted more on the subject?
Author Biography

Professor Wendy Warren specializes in the history of colonial North America and the early modern Atlantic World. She received her PhD in history from Yale University, and joined the Princeton history department after holding a junior research fellowship at Christ Church College, Oxford University. Warren’s first book, New England Bound: Slavery and Colonization in Early America, won the Organization of American Historians’ 2017 Merle Curti Social History Prize and was a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize. She has also published in the Journal of American History, the William and Mary Quarterly, and Slavery and Abolition, among other venues.

If you liked New England Bound, you may enjoy these other books (descriptions courtesy of Amazon.com):

A Tale of Two Plantations: Slave Life and Labor in Jamaica and Virginia by Richard S. Dunn (2014)
By tracking the enslaved populations on Jamaica’s Mesopotamia estate and Virginia’s Mount Airy plantation in minute detail, Richard S. Dunn explores major themes in the history of slavery through the experiences of particular people and their social networks. His meticulous research, considered analysis, and unparalleled authority on the subject have set a new benchmark for histories of Anglo-American slavery.

In this wide-ranging account, Robert DuPlessis examines globally sourced textiles that helped create new economies and societies in the early modern world. This deeply researched history of cloth and clothing offers new insights into trade patterns, consumer demand and sartorial cultures that emerged across the Atlantic world between the mid-seventeenth and late-eighteenth centuries.

In New York Burning, historian Jill Lepore recounts dramatic events of 1741, when ten fires blazed across Manhattan and panicked whites suspected it to be the work of a slave uprising on a rampage. In the end, thirteen black men were burned at the stake, seventeen were hanged, and more than 100 black men and women were thrown into a dungeon beneath City Hall. Exploring the political and social climate of the times, Lepore dramatically shows how, in a city rife with state intrigue and terror, the threat of black rebellion united the white political pluralities in a frenzy of racial fear and violence.

“The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret”: George Washington, Slavery and the Enslaved Community at Mount Vernon by Mary V. Thompson (2019)
Mary V. Thompson begins with an examination of George and Martha Washington as slave owners. Along the way, she considers the relationship between Washington’s military career and his style of plantation management and relates the many ways slaves rebelled against their condition. The book closes with Washington’s attempts to reconcile being a slave owner with the changes in his thinking on slavery and race, ending in his decision to grant his slaves freedom in his will.