

## A Kite for Moon

by Jane Yolen and  
Heidi E.Y. Stemple,  
illustrated by  
Matt Phelan

reviewed by Sonya  
Vanderveen Feddema

As a young boy flies his kite on a beach, he looks up and notices that Moon is sad. He runs along the beach, trying to get closer so he can give Moon a hug. But it's impossible. Moon is too far away. Undaunted, the boy launches his kite up and away, hoping it will reach Moon. In the days ahead, he sends more kites. Some fall to the ground; others disappear into the sky. As the years pass, Moon waxes and wanes, worries about peace on the earth, and watches the boy grow up. Illustrator Matt Phelan's tender paintings complement mother-daughter authors Jane Yolen and Heidi E.Y. Stemple's charming tale of a boy who fulfills his childhood aspiration. (Zonderkidz)

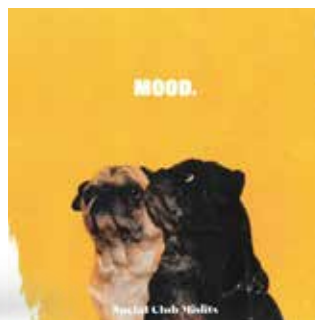


## The Nickel Boys

by Colson Whitehead

reviewed by Kristy Quist

When idealistic achiever and fledgling civil rights activist Elwood Curtis hitchhikes to his first college class in the early 1960s, the car that picks him up turns out to be stolen, and in a moment, all his dreams for the future are shot. He is sent to Nickel Academy and discovers the heinous realities of being a person of color there. Alternating passages narrate Elwood's life as an adult trying to come to terms with his traumatic youth. Based on a real-life Florida reform school, Whitehead's novel outlines the many ways Jim Crow laws made it almost impossible for African Americans to succeed. Savage behavior and profanity plus history and gripping prose make this short novel a devastating but worthwhile read. (Doubleday)



## Mood

by Social Club Misfits

reviewed by Matthew Cooke

The new five-track EP *Mood* from Social Club Misfits feels like an emotional roller-coaster by design. The South Florida rap duo of Marty Mar and Fern tracks the feelings surrounding their recent taste of success and asks: Do we trust God through every mood? Ultimately, *Mood* aims to share the promise of God's perseverance through all the ups and downs. In the songs "Everything" and "Up," the rappers take us flying high. Even in moments of confidence, the pair yearns to stay grounded and dependent on God. The worshipful final cut, "So Our God Came to Us," featuring Jung Youth, welcomes us into the full scope of emotional valleys. Wherever God may lead the listener, *Mood* is worth the trip. (Capital Christian Music Group)



## Les Misérables

reviewed by Lorilee Craker

As a fan of *Les Mis*, the musical, I wondered how a song-free six-hour miniseries would go. Plenty of terrible things happen, yet a golden thread of redemptive hope runs throughout. Viewers lean in for one of the most deeply Christian scenes in all of literature: Valjean (Dominic West) finds post-incarceration rescue and shelter in the home of a bishop whose mercy sets him on the path to redemption. Standouts include West, Lily Collins as a harrowing Fantine, David Owelowo as the seething Inspector Javert, and Erin Kellyman, whose raw, tender Eponine should win an Emmy. Themes of human rights, poverty, sacrificial love, and spiritual awakening and redemption simmer throughout the series, making it ideal fodder for personal reflection or even group discussion. (BBC/PBS)

### The Lowdown

**Formative Words:** *Shades of Light*, a spiritual formation novel from *Sensible Shoes* author Sharon Garlough Brown, will be released Aug. 8. (InterVarsity)

**Spidey Swings Again:** *Spider-Man: Far From Home* picks up after the events of *Avengers: Endgame*, swinging into theaters July 2. (Marvel)

**Monster Show:** For fans of the Netflix megahit *Stranger Things*, the long wait is over July 4 as the show's third season drops in all its gory glory. (Netflix)