



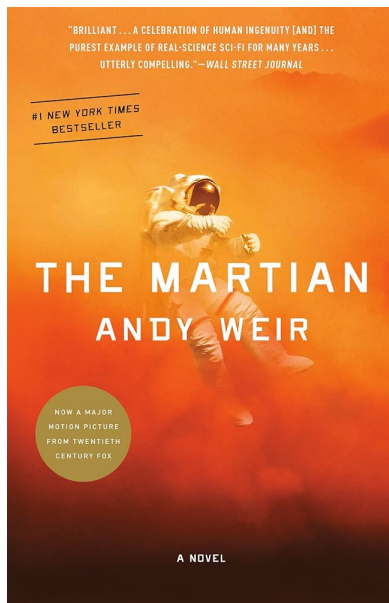
Prison Reading Groups
25 years
1999-2024

Book Talk

The Martian

by Andy Weir

Number of pages: 416



When a sandstorm hits the Mars base of the Aries 3 mission, the crew evacuate. Engineer Mark Watney is hit by debris and left behind by his team, believed to be dead. Mark survives the storm and when he is discovered to be alive, he and NASA find themselves in a race against time. How long will Mark be able to keep himself alive as the only man on a dead planet? Will NASA be able to get to him before he runs out of food?

We recommend this book if you enjoyed *Project Hail Mary* by the same author, or *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Mark Watney does not give up when confronted with the overwhelming likelihood of his own death?
2. Is sci-fi a genre of book you normally read? If not, how did you find it and would you read another?

3. Which of the characters did you relate to the most?

4. The Western world has a long history of colonising different lands and peoples. Do you think space exploration can be considered an extension of such colonisation?

5. At the end of the novel, do you think Watney goes back to space?