

New Madison Library Book Club  
Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

August 2012 Selection: **Coastliners** by Joanne Harris

Discussion Questions:

1. What explains Mado Prasteau's return to Les Salants? How does she earn a living? How would you describe her relationships with her mother and father?
2. The festival of Sainte-Marine-de-la-Mer is one of the traditional religious celebrations of the village of Les Salants. What happens when Mado makes eye contact with her father during the shoreside ritual?
3. How would you describe Jean-Claude Brismand's relationship with Mado? What does he offer her in exchange for her father's land? What is his connection to Adrienne Prasteau? Did you find him a sympathetic character? Why or why not?
4. What does the attempted rescue of the Eleanore reveal about tensions between La Houssinière and Les Salants? How do the Bastonnet and Guénolé families respond? How do the Salannais feel toward Mado after this?
5. Who is Rouget/Richard Flynn? How does Mado first become acquainted with him? What questionable behavior does she catch him involved in? How does he help the people of Les Salants?
6. Analyze some of the complicated sibling relationships in *Coastliners*. Focus on P'titJean and GrosJean Prasteau, and Mado and Adrienne Prasteau.
7. How does the Saint's return lead the villagers of Les Salants to build the artificial reef? How does the appearance of new sand reanimate its inhabitants? What other positive developments occur in the village as a result of the changing coastline?
8. How does the threat of the oil spill galvanize the Salannais? What transformation in the villagers is evident at second festival of Sainte-Marine-de-la-Mer? What Black Tide eventually turns up on the beaches of Les Salants? How is this benign Black Tide accomplished?