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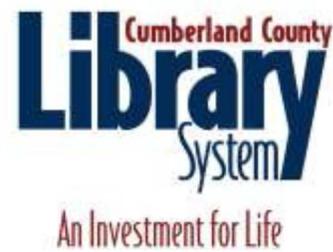
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Summer Read 2015: Living a Good Life to the Very End

Read bestselling author Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*

Cumberland County, PA - The Cumberland County Library System and neighboring [Central PA library systems](#) are teaming up with [Aligning Forces for Quality - South Central PA](#) and WITF's [Transforming Health](#) to present a "Summer Read." Through September, the public is invited to visit their local library to borrow and read *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande; then participate in discussions of the book with their friends, family and library-sponsored book discussion groups.

The book's author, practicing surgeon Atul Gawande, challenges readers to consider how we want to die, how we want our loved ones to be treated at the end of their lives, and what role the medical community should play in providing care to the dying. Many older adults have a good idea about how and where they prefer to die, and who they want to make decisions for them if necessary. But these preferences seldom match reality, often due to the conflicting interests of families, nursing homes, hospitals, and doctors.

Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience, providing "not a good death, but a good life to the very end."

The "Summer Read" campaign will culminate with a series of community screenings of the PBS documentary *FRONTLINE: Being Mortal*. Special screening events will be held in locations throughout Central PA and will feature select clips from the documentary followed by a panel discussion and an opportunity to connect with local palliative care resources.

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"The Summer Read" is a PA Forward Health Literacy initiative of the participating libraries.

PA Forward: Health Literacy –We envision a Pennsylvania with *active citizens* able to manage their own and their family's WELL-BEING, empowered to be EFFECTIVE PARTNERS with their healthcare providers, and *living* longer, more productive lives.

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