

## Expanding knowledge



Herald photo by Duane Nollen

OHS Librarian Patricia Erkenbrack talks about some books for young readers while Oskaloosa Public Library Director William Ottens and William Penn Librarian Julie Hansen look on Tuesday evening during a presentation at the OHS library. The librarians recommended additional books about slavery and the Civil War to enhance people's experience reading "Twelve Years A Slave."

# Some more books to read

## *Librarians suggest books about slavery, Civil War*

BY DUANE NOLLEN  
The Oskaloosa Herald

OSKALOOSA — If you are reading "Twelve Years a Slave" with the Mahaska Reads

program or would like to learn more about slavery and the Civil War, local librarians have selected 10 books to expand your knowledge of the era.

Oskaloosa Public Library Director William Ottens, William Penn University Librarian Julie Hansen and Oskaloosa High School Librarian Patricia Erkenbrack presented the books at a discussion held in the OHS library Tuesday evening.

"We put together a short list of titles that have stuck with

us as librarians through the years," Ottens said.

Ottens presented three fiction books. The first one was "Beloved," by Toni Morrison.

The book poses the question: How far would you go to protect your children?, Ottens said. The main character "murdered one of her children rather than have her child sold back into slavery," he said.

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