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Glendale Library, Arts & Culture



Full Descriptions of Titles in the Collection —Fall 2019

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101 Great American Poems edited by The American Poetry & Literacy Project

Focusing on popular verse from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, this treasury of great American poems offers a taste of the nation's rich poetic legacy. Selected for both popularity and literary quality, the compilation includes Robert Frost's "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening," Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing," and Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Concord Hymn," as well as poems by Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, T. S. Eliot, Marianne Moore, and many other notables. Poetry. 80 pages

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

In his first book for young adults, bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, the book chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy. Poignant drawings by acclaimed artist Ellen Forney reflect Junior's art. 2007 National Book Award winner. Fiction. Young Adult. 229 pages

The Abstinence Teacher by Tom Perrotta

A controversy on the soccer field pushes Ruth Ramsey, the human sexuality teacher at the local high school, and Tim Mason, a member of an evangelical Christian church that doesn't approve of Ruth's style of teaching, to actually talk to each other. Adversaries in a small-town culture war, they are forced to take each other at something other than face value. Fiction. 358 pages

The Age of Dreaming by Nina Revoyr

Jun Nakayama was a silent film star in the early days of Hollywood, but by 1964, he is living in complete obscurity—until a young writer, Nick Bellinger, reveals that he has written a screenplay with Nakayama in mind. Jun is intrigued by the possibility of returning to movies, but he begins to worry that someone might delve too deeply into the past and uncover the events that led to the abrupt end of his career in 1922. These events include the changing racial tides in California and the unsolved murder of his favorite director, Ashley Bennett Tyler. Fiction. 327 pages

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

This inspirational fable is a charming tale of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who dreams of a treasure in Egypt and leaves Spain to follow his dream. Reaching Egypt, Santiago has a fateful encounter with an alchemist who offers the traveler self-enlightenment and spiritual understanding. Magical, wise and gentle, this is a memorable read. Fiction. 197 pages

Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood

Margaret Atwood takes us back in time and into the life and mind of Grace Marks, who has been convicted for her involvement in the vicious murders of her employer and his housekeeper and mistress. Some believe Grace is innocent; others think her evil or insane. Dr. Simon Jordan, an up-and-coming expert in the burgeoning field of mental illness, is engaged by a group of reformers and spiritualists to investigate. Atwood mines the often convoluted relationships between men and women and between the affluent and those without position in this captivating and disturbing novel. Fiction. 468 pages

The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

Two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption. Fiction. 560 pages

All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion by Fannie Flagg

Mrs. Sookie Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing and perhaps traveling with her husband, Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her mother, the formidable Lenore Simmons Krackenberry. Lenore may be a lot of fun for other people, but is, for the most part, an overbearing presence for her daughter. Then one day, quite by accident, Sookie discovers a secret about her mother's past that knocks her for a loop and suddenly calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future. Fiction. 475 pages (large print edition).

All Over but the Shoutin' by Rick Bragg

When Bragg won the Pulitzer Prize in 1996 he decided to take a long look at his life. He never forgot his mother's many sacrifices to protect and provide for her three sons against the backdrop of a dirt-poor Southern existence with a drunken, abusive father who came and went from their lives. Biography & Memoir. 329 pages

All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE for Teens 2015**

Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school--both teetering on the edge--it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the 'natural wonders' of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another. Young Adult Fiction. 326 pages

All the Gallant Men: An American Sailor's Firsthand Account of Pearl Harbor by Donald Stratton

In this extraordinary never-before-told eyewitness account of the Pearl Harbor attack—the only memoir ever written by a survivor of the USS *Arizona*—ninety-four-year-old veteran Donald Stratton finally shares his unforgettable personal tale of bravery and survival on December 7, 1941, his harrowing recovery, and his inspiring determination to return to the fight. Biography and Memoir. 306 pages.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

A blind French girl on the run from the German occupation and a German orphan-turned-Resistance tracker struggle with their respective beliefs after meeting on the Brittany coast in the midst of World War II. 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Historical Fiction. 531 pages

The Almost Moon by Alice Sebold

For years Helen Knightly has given her life to others: to her haunted mother, to her enigmatic father, to her husband and now grown children. When she finally crosses a terrible boundary, her life comes rushing in at her in a way she never could have imagined. Unfolding over the next 24 hours, this searing, fast-paced novel explores the complex ties between mothers and daughters, wives and lovers, the meaning of devotion, and the line between love and hate. Fiction. 291 pages

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

A tour-de-force by rising indy comics star Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. Finalist for Young People's Literature; Winner, 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album; Winner, 2007 Michael L. Printz Award. Graphic Novel. Young Adult. 233 pages

An American Marriage by Tayari Jones

Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit. Though fiercely independent, Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. As Roy's time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After five years, Roy's conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together. This stirring love story is a profoundly insightful look into the hearts and minds of three people who are at once bound and separated by forces beyond their control. Fiction. 317 pages

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

"Ten..." Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island mansion off the Devon coast by a mysterious "U.N. Owen." "Nine..." At dinner a recorded message accuses each of them in turn of having a guilty secret, and by the end of the night one of the guests is dead. "Eight..." Stranded by a violent storm, and haunted by a nursery rhyme counting down one by one...one by one they begin to die. "Seven..." Who among them is the killer and will any of them survive? Mystery. 300 pages

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

"Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood," writes Frank McCourt in this memoir of his own childhood. Colorfully and painfully told, often with great humor. 1997 Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography; 1996 National Book Critics Circle Award. Biography & Memoir. 363 pages

Arcadia by Lauren Groff

In the fields of western New York State in the 1970s, a few dozen idealists set out to live off the land, founding what would become a commune centered on the grounds of a decaying mansion called Arcadia House. Arcadia follows this romantic, rollicking, and tragic utopian dream from its hopeful start through its heyday and after. Arcadia's inhabitants include Handy, a musician and the group's charismatic leader; Astrid, a midwife; Abe, a master carpenter; Hannah, a baker and historian; and Abe and Hannah's only child, the book's protagonist, Bit, who is born soon after the commune is created. Fiction. 298 pages

The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro

Almost twenty-five years after the infamous art heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum—still the largest unsolved art theft in history—one of the stolen Degas paintings is delivered to the Boston studio of a young artist. Claire Roth has entered into a Faustian bargain with a powerful gallery owner by agreeing to forge the Degas in exchange for a one-woman show in his renowned gallery. But as she begins her work, she starts to suspect that this long-missing masterpiece—the very one that had been hanging at the Gardner for one hundred years—may itself be a forgery. *The Art Forger* is a thrilling novel about seeing—and not seeing—the secrets that lie beneath the canvas.. Fiction. 384 pages.

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker

When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be...until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago, to a Burmese woman they have never heard of. Intent on solving the mystery and coming to terms with her father's past, Julia decides to travel to the village where the woman lived. There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion that will reaffirm the reader's belief in the power of love to move mountains. Fiction. 394 pages

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2015**

Those looking for a cheerful read will enjoy this story of Enzo, a lab/terrier mix who narrates this story of his life with his best friend, race car driver Denny Swift. Love, despair, redemption and danger all mix in this delightful read with a dog who teaches people how to be human. Fiction. 321 pages

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

Faulkner drafted this story, broken into 59 separate monologues by 15 characters, in six weeks. Addie Bundren was promised that she would be buried with her family in the town of Jefferson, Mississippi. The tale of the arrival and journey of her body on its way to be buried is told without narrative or character description. Classic Fiction. 267 pages

Astonish Me by Maggie Shipstead

For years Joan has been trying to forget her past, to find peace and satisfaction in her role as wife and mother. Few in her drowsy California suburb know her thrilling history: as a young American ballerina in Paris, she fell into a doomed, passionate romance with Soviet dance superstar Arslan Rusakov. After playing a leading role in his celebrated defection, Joan bowed out of the spotlight for good, heartbroken by Arslan and humbled by her own modest career. But when her son turns out to be a ballet prodigy, Joan is pulled back into a world she thought she'd left behind—a world of dangerous secrets, of Arslan, and of longing for what will always be just out of reach. Fiction. 253 pages

The Atomic Weight of Love by Elizabeth J. Church

A fascinating account of Meridian Wallace, a science-minded woman who falls in love with a brilliant man working on big things—in this case, the atomic bomb. She puts her dreams on hold in service to his, sure that it's only temporary and in these years meets other women who have done the same. Suddenly, it seems as if she has just faded into the background of her own life. Then the catalyst—a young man, both hippie and Vietnam veteran, who introduces her to many things, freedoms born of the era, and there is indecision. Ultimately Meridian reclaims herself, takes her identities over all those years and patches them together into a new and meaningful life. Woven throughout are interesting facts about human-like bird behavior and historical anecdotes, so while Meridian's story—a reflection of the changing role of women between the 1940's and 1970's—is the centerpiece, there are many other treasures along the way. Fiction. 368 pages

Austenland by Shannon Hale

Jane is a young New York woman who can never seem to find the right man—perhaps because of her secret obsession with Mr. Darcy, as played by Colin Firth in the BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. When a wealthy relative bequeaths her a trip to an English resort catering to Austen-obsessed women, however, Jane's fantasies of meeting the perfect Regency-era gentleman suddenly become more real than she ever could have imagined. Is this total immersion in a fake Austenland enough to make Jane kick the Austen obsession for good, or could all her dreams actually culminate in a Mr. Darcy of her own? Fiction. 196 pages.

The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin

A fictionalized account of the life of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, wife of aviator Charles Lindbergh and an accomplished pilot in her own right. In the years that follow their headline-making wedding, despite her own major achievements, Anne is viewed merely as the aviator's wife. The fairy-tale life she once longed for brings heartbreak and hardships, ultimately pushing her to reconcile her need for love and her desire for independence, and to embrace, at last, life's infinite possibilities for change and happiness. Fiction. 402 pages

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Sijie Dal

At the height of Mao's infamous Cultural Revolution, two boys are among hundreds of thousands exiled to the countryside for "re-education." The narrator and his best friend, Luo, guilty of being the sons of doctors, find themselves in a remote village, where their meager distractions include a violin and the beautiful daughter of the local tailor. It is when the two discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation that their re-education takes its most surprising turn. Fiction. 184 pages

The Barbarian Nurseries by Hector Tobar -- **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2013**

Los Angeles Times journalist Tobar presents an original story of modern Southern California. Maureen and Scott Torres-Thompson live with their children in upscale Laguna Rancho Estates. After they disappear, live-in maid Araceli takes their two boys on a journey through sprawling Los Angeles to locate their grandfather. When Scott and Maureen finally return, they are devastated to learn that their boys are missing with an undocumented Mexican nanny and make a call that changes all their lives forever. Fiction. 422 pages

Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship by Gregory Boyle

In a nation deeply divided and plagued by poverty and violence, *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins. Sergio, arrested at nine, in a gang by twelve, and serving time shortly thereafter, now works with the substance-abuse team at Homeboy to help others find sobriety. Jamal, abandoned by his family when he tried to attend school at age seven, gradually finds forgiveness for his schizophrenic mother. New father Cuco, who never knew his own dad, thinks of a daily adventure on which to take his four-year-old son. These former gang members uplift the soul and reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness. Biography and Memoir. 210 pages

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

Growing up in rural Kentucky, Marietta Greer had two goals: avoid getting pregnant and escape Kentucky. Headed west in an old Volkswagen she finds herself in Arizona with a baby, literally dropped into her arms in Oklahoma, and a car that has run out of gas. In Tucson she finds friendship and a home with other exiles. Kingsolver's first novel is a story of fear, flight and the meaning of home. Fiction. 232 pages

Beautiful Ruins by Jess Walter

The story begins in 1962. On a rocky patch of the sun-drenched Italian coastline, a young innkeeper, chest-deep in daydreams, looks out over the incandescent waters of the Ligurian Sea and spies an apparition: a tall, thin woman, a vision in white, approaching him on a boat. She is an actress, he soon learns, an American starlet, and she is dying. And the story begins again today, half a world away, when an elderly Italian man shows up on a movie studio's back lot, searching for the mysterious woman he last saw at his hotel decades earlier. What unfolds is a dazzling, yet deeply human, roller coaster of a novel, spanning 50 years and nearly as many lives. Fiction. 337 pages

Becoming by Michelle Obama

A work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Biography and Memoir. 426 pages

The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie King

In 1915, Sherlock Holmes is retired and quietly engaged in the study of honeybees in Sussex when a young woman literally stumbles onto him on the Sussex Downs. Fifteen years old, gawky, egotistical, and recently orphaned, the young Mary Russell displays an intellect to impress even Sherlock Holmes. Under his reluctant tutelage, this very modern, twentieth-century woman proves a deft protégée and a fitting partner for the Victorian detective. They are soon called to Wales to help Scotland Yard find the kidnapped daughter of an American senator, a case of international significance with clues that dip deep into Holmes's past. Mystery. 347 pages

Bee Season by Myla Goldberg

Eliza Naumann, a seemingly unremarkable nine-year-old, expects never to fit into her gifted family: her autodidact father, Saul, absorbed in his study of Jewish mysticism; her brother, Aaron, the vessel of his father's spiritual ambitions; and her brilliant but distant lawyer-mom, Miriam. But when Eliza sweeps her school and district spelling bees in quick succession, Saul takes it as a sign that she is destined for greatness. As she rises from classroom obscurity to the blinding lights and outsized expectations of the National Bee, Eliza's small pains and large joys are finely wrought and deeply felt. Not merely a coming-of-age story, Goldberg's first novel delicately examines the unraveling fabric of one family. Fiction. 275 pages

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

A ragtag group takes over an embassy in an unnamed South American country just as a soprano is about to launch into song and entertain the embassy's guest of honor, a Japanese industrialist. Based loosely on a real event, this magical novel has hostages and terrorists bonding in the most civilized ways. Fiction. 318 pages

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

A vulnerable young girl wins a dream assignment on a big-time New York fashion magazine and finds herself plunged into a nightmare. An autobiographical account of Plath's own mental breakdown and suicide attempt, *The Bell Jar* is more than a confessional novel, it is a comic but painful statement of what happens to a woman's aspirations in a society that refuses to take them seriously... a society that expects electroshock to cure the despair of a sensitive, questioning young artist whose search for identity becomes a terrifying descent toward madness. Classic Fiction. 264 pages

Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan

Pino Lella wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. He's a normal Italian teenager—obsessed with music, food, and girls—but his days of innocence are numbered. When his family home in Milan is destroyed by Allied bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior. In an attempt to protect him, Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier—a move they think will keep him out of combat. But after Pino is injured, he is recruited at the tender age of eighteen to become the personal driver for Adolf Hitler's left hand in Italy, General Hans Leyers, one of the Third Reich's most mysterious and powerful commanders. Now, with the opportunity to spy for the Allies inside the German High Command, Pino endures the horrors of the war and the Nazi occupation by fighting in secret, his courage bolstered by his love for Anna and for the life he dreams they will one day share. Based on a true story. Fiction. 513 pages

Bettyville by George Hodgman

"The idea of a cultured gay man leaving New York City to care for his aging mother in Paris, Missouri, is already funny, and George Hodgman reaps that humor with great charm. But then he plunges deep, examining the warm yet fraught relationship between mother and son with profound insight and understanding." —Alison Bechdel, author of *Fun Home* Biography & Memoir. 278 pages

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Septys

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life -- until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive? Young Adult Historical Fiction. 352 pages

Between Them: Remembering My Parents by Richard Ford

A stirring narrative of memory and parental love, Richard Ford tells of his mother, Edna, a feisty Catholic girl with a difficult past, and his father, Parker, a sweet-natured soft-spoken traveling salesman, both born at the turn of the twentieth century in rural Arkansas. For Ford, the questions of what his parents dreamed of and how they loved each other and him became a striking portrait of American life in the mid-century. With his celebrated candor, wit, and intelligence, the award-winning storyteller and creator of the iconic Frank Bascombe delivers an unforgettable exploration of memory, intimacy, and love. Biography and Memoir.

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? *Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. 2015 National Book Award Winner for Nonfiction. Biography & Memoir. 176 pages

Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty

Follows three mothers, each at a crossroads, and their potential involvement in a riot at a school trivia night that leaves one parent dead in what appears to be a tragic accident, but which evidence shows might have been premeditated. Fiction. 492 pages.

The Birth House by Ami McKay

An arresting portrait of the struggles that women faced for control of their own bodies, *The Birth House* is the story of Dora Rare, the first daughter in five generations of Rares. As apprentice to the outspoken Acadian midwife Miss Babineau, Dora learns to assist the women of an isolated Nova Scotian village through infertility, difficult labors, breech births, unwanted pregnancies, and unfulfilling sex lives. Historical Fiction. 385 pages

The Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant

Blending fiction and fact and set in tumultuous 15th century Florence, this is the story of a young upper-class woman constrained by the society of the day. A historical romance lush with storylines about art and conspiracy, this is a seductive and imaginative novel. Historical Fiction. 403 pages

Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood

Iris Chase has been waiting fifty years to reveal what led to her sister's suicide. This saga, a novel within a novel, tells the story of a well-to-do Canadian family haunted by family problems and secrets. Grand storytelling on a grand level. Fiction. 521 pages

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell

Believing that spontaneous decisions are just as valid as methodically planned ones, Gladwell's bestselling book gives examples of successful spontaneous thinking from music, medicine and advertising. Entertaining and thought-provoking ideas from an author who asks the reader to look at how we use our own intuition. Nonfiction. 296 pages

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife. A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity, Toni Morrison's virtuosic first novel asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender with the subtlety and grace that have always characterized her writing. Fiction. 205 pages

The Body in the Library by Agatha Christie

It's seven in the morning. The Bantrys wake to find the body of a young woman in their library. She is wearing an evening dress and heavy makeup, which is now smeared across her cheeks. But who is she? How did she get there? And what is the connection with another dead girl, whose charred remains are later discovered in an abandoned quarry? The respectable Bantrys invite Miss Marple to solve the mystery . . . before tongues start to wag. Mystery. 207 pages

Bonesetter's Daughter by Amy Tan

Divided into three parts, this is the story of two Chinese women: Ruth, a self-sufficient Chinese-American woman with relationship problems and her mother LuLing, who has dementia, and is forgetting the family history. Reading the story is like looking into a carved ivory ball that has other balls within and the book reminds us that the memory keeps and sometimes hides. Fiction. 353 pages

The Book of Unknown Americans by Cristina Henríquez

When fifteen-year-old Maribel Rivera sustains a terrible injury, the Riveras leave behind a comfortable life in Mexico and risk everything to come to the United States so that Maribel can have the care she needs. Once they arrive, it's not long before Maribel attracts the attention of Mayor Toro, the son of one of their new neighbors, who sees a kindred spirit in this beautiful, damaged outsider. Their love story sets in motion events that will have profound repercussions for everyone involved. Fiction. 289 pages

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Set during World War II in Germany, the novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature, 2007. Fiction. Young Adult. 552 pages

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. *Born a Crime* is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life. Biography and Memoir. 288 pages

Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World by Michael Pollan

A journalist focuses on the relationship between humans and four everyday plants--the apple, the tulip, the potato and marijuana. Plant and human history commingle in this surprising and engaging book. Nonfiction. 271 pages

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

by Daniel James Brown

It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Nonfiction. 404 pages

Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness by Susannah Cahalan

When twenty-four-year-old Susannah Cahalan woke up alone in a hospital room, strapped to her bed and unable to move or speak, she had no memory of how she'd gotten there. Days earlier, she had been on the threshold of a new, adult life: at the beginning of her first serious relationship and a promising career at a major New York newspaper. Now she was labeled violent, psychotic, a flight risk. What happened? Susannah tells the astonishing true story of her descent into madness, her family's inspiring faith in her, and the lifesaving diagnosis that nearly didn't happen. Biography and Memoir. 288 pages

The Bride Test by Helen Hoang

Khai Diep has no feelings. Well, he feels irritation when people move his things or contentment when ledgers balance down to the penny, but not big, important emotions—like grief. And love. He thinks he's defective. His family knows better—that his autism means he just processes emotions differently. When he steadfastly avoids relationships, his mother takes matters into her own hands and returns to Vietnam to find him the perfect bride.

As a mixed-race girl living in the slums of Ho Chi Minh City, Esme Tran has always felt out of place. When the opportunity arises to come to America and meet a potential husband, she can't turn it down, thinking this could be the break her family needs. Seducing Khai, however, doesn't go as planned. Esme's lessons in love seem to be working...but only on herself. She's hopelessly smitten with a man who's convinced he can never return her affection. With Esme's time in the United States dwindling, Khai is forced to understand he's been wrong all along. And there's more than one way to love. Fiction. 300 pages

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz

Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar’s family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award. Fiction. 339 pages

Brooklyn by Colm Tóibín

Eilis Lacey has come of age in small-town Ireland in the hard years following World War Two. When an Irish priest from Brooklyn offers to sponsor Eilis in America, she decides she must go, leaving her fragile mother and her charismatic sister behind. Eilis finds work in a department store on Fulton Street, and when she least expects it, finds love. Tony, who loves the Dodgers and his big Italian family, slowly wins her over with patient charm. But just as Eilis begins to fall in love, devastating news from Ireland threatens the promise of her future. Fiction. 262 pages.

Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka

This is the second book by our 2007 One Book/One Glendale author. With no central characters, this story of Japanese picture brides who have been matched with Japanese men living in California is narrated by a first-person chorus of women’s voices. Voyaging across the Pacific, meeting the men whom they have never seen, taking up lives that are totally unfamiliar and suffering discrimination—the experiences are mostly bitter, but sometimes sweet. Historical Fiction. 129 pages

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Abducted from his comfortable California home, Buck the Saint Bernard Shepherd mix is sold as a sled dog during the Alaska/Yukon gold rush. Learning to survive the elements and the cruel people who control his life, Buck becomes the lead sled dog and then reverts to his canine roots. Originally published in 1903, this classic continues to be a compelling story and a great read. Classic Fiction. 133 pages

Cane River by Lita Tademy

Four generations of women born into slavery along the Cane River in Louisiana are chronicled in this hundred year family saga. The novel explores the resilient women, the intricate relationships between slaves and slave owners and the provocative issues of class and racism in the African-American community. Vividly told, the novel captures some of the history of the author’s ancestors. Historical Fiction. 418 pages

Cannery Row by John Steinbeck

Reading *Cannery Row* is to experience really great writing. Set during the Great Depression, this slight novel was originally published in 1948. Residents of a Monterey avenue live on the fringe of society—poor, but happy—and coalesce around a marine biologist named Doc. This book just rings with great characters and terrific storytelling. Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize for literature. Classic Fiction. 196 pages

Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant? by Roz Chast

An amazing portrait of two lives at their end and an only child coping as best she can, *Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant* will show the full range of Roz Chast’s talent as cartoonist and storyteller. In her first memoir, Roz Chast brings her signature wit to the topic of aging parents. Memoir (Graphic Novel format). 228 pages

Carrying Albert Home: The Somewhat True Story of a Man, His Wife, and Her Alligator

by Homer Hickam

Elsie Lavender and Homer Hickam Sr. were high school classmates in the West Virginia coalfields, graduating just as the Great Depression began. When Homer asked for her hand, Elsie instead headed to Orlando where she sparked with a dancing actor named Buddy Ebsen (yes, *that* Buddy Ebsen). But when Buddy headed for New York, Elsie’s dreams of a life with him were crushed and eventually she found herself back in the coalfields, married to Homer. Unfulfilled as a miner’s wife, Elsie was reminded of her carefree days in Florida every day because of Buddy’s unusual wedding gift: an alligator named Albert who lived in the only bathroom in their little house. Eventually Homer gave Elsie an ultimatum: “Me or the alligator!” After giving it some thought, Elsie concluded there was only one thing to do—carry Albert home. *Carrying Albert Home* tells the

sweet, funny and sometimes heartbreaking tale of a young couple and their special pet on a crazy 1,000 mile journey. Fiction. 398 pages

Circe by Madeline Miller

In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child - not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring, like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power - the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology, including the Minotaur; Daedalus and his doomed son, Icarus; the murderous Medea; and, of course, wily Odysseus. But there is danger, too, for a woman who stands alone, and Circe unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods, ultimately finding herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians. To protect what she loves most, Circe must summon all her strength and choose, once and for all, whether she belongs with the gods she is born from or the mortals she has come to love. Fiction. 393 pages

Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill by Sonia Purnell

A long over-due tribute to the extraordinary woman who was Winston Churchill's closest confidant, fiercest critic and shrewdest political advisor that captures the intimate dynamic of one of history's most fateful marriages. By Winston Churchill's own admission, victory in the Second World War would have been "impossible without her." A deeply researched account that tells her life story, revealing how she was instrumental in softening FDR's initial dislike of her husband and paving the way for Britain's close relationship with America. It also provides a surprising account of her relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt and their differing approaches to the war effort.. Biography. 448 pages

Cleopatra: A Life by Stacy Schiff

Cleopatra was the last queen of Egypt. Her palace shimmered with onyx, garnets, and gold but was richer still in political and sexual intrigue. Above all else, Cleopatra was a shrewd strategist and an ingenious negotiator. Though her life spanned fewer than 40 years, it reshaped the contours of the ancient world. In a masterly return to the classical sources, Stacy Schiff boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order. Biography & Memoir. 368 pages

The Coincidence of Coconut Cake by Amy E. Reichert

In downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Lou works tirelessly to build her beloved yet struggling French restaurant, Luella's, into a success. She cheerfully balances her demanding business and even more demanding fiancé...until the morning she discovers him in the buff—with an intern. Witty yet gruff British transplant Al is keeping himself employed and entertained by writing scathing reviews of local restaurants in the Milwaukee newspaper under a pseudonym. When an anonymous tip sends him to Luella's, little does he know he's arrived on the worst day of the chef's life. The review practically writes itself: underdone fish, scorched sauce, distracted service—he unleashes his worst. The day that Al's mean-spirited review of Luella's runs, the two cross paths in a pub: Lou drowning her sorrows, and Al celebrating his latest publication. As they chat, Al playfully challenges Lou to show him the best of Milwaukee and she's game—but only if they never discuss work, which Al readily agrees to. As they explore the city's local delicacies and their mutual attraction, Lou's restaurant faces closure, while Al's column gains popularity. It's only a matter of time before the two fall in love...but when the truth comes out, can Lou overlook the past to chase her future? Fiction. 318 pages

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride

This unique and moving story, told by her son, is about a Jewish woman raised in the South who moves to New York, marries twice, to African-American men, and raises 12 children. Poverty and racism cannot mar the great will of Ruth McBride Jordan and her desire to give her children a good life. A terrific book. Biography & Memoir. 291 pages

The Corrections by Jonathan Franzen

This sprawling novel about the Lamberts, a modern American family, contrasts the lives of the Midwestern parents, with their simple values, with their hip and troubled adult children. A tragicomic tour-de-force.

2001 National Book Award. Fiction. 566 pages

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

An autistic teenager, who does not like to be touched and is unable to decipher the emotions of others, tries to solve a mystery. Unusual and understated, this is an insightful story of a boy trying to navigate his own world and the world around him. Fiction. 226 pages

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

In a 1954 Ethiopian hospital twin boys, conjoined at the head, are born to Sister May Joseph Praise, a Carmelite nun from India. Their father, surgeon Thomas Stone, blames the boys for the death of the mother and flees Africa, while the boys remain at the hospital and are raised by doctors. Their lives sculpted by their experiences at the hospital and by growing up in Ethiopia, the boys grow up to eventually meet their father and their own fates. Imbued with an expansive story and a knowledge of medicine (the author is a doctor), this is a riveting saga. Fiction. 667 pages

Dark Places by Gillian Flynn

For a price Libby Day will reconnect with the players that murdered her mother and two sisters in "The Satan Sacrifice of Kinnakee, Kansas." Having testified that her brother Ben was the murderer on that fateful night twenty-five years ago, now she is not so sure as, piece by piece, the unimaginable truth emerges, and Libby finds herself right back where she started--on the run from a killer. Fiction. 349 pages

Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende

16-year-old Eliza Summers, the adopted daughter of British parents, leaves her family in Chile to follow her lover to 1849 Gold Rush California. Disguised as a boy so she can stowaway on a ship, she continues the ruse as she travels throughout the state, seeking her own fortune. This seductive novel has wonderful characters and a true sense of adventure. Historical Fiction. 399 pages

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson

As World War I entered its 10th month in May of 1915, the luxury liner, Lusitania, sailed out of New York harbor bound for Liverpool. Although Germany had declared the seas around Britain to be a war zone, the passengers were not concerned as the Lusitania was the fastest liner then in service and its captain believed in the "gentlemanly strictures of warfare" that kept civilian ships safe from attack. However, Germany was determined to change the rules and Walter Schwieger, captain of the submarine, U-20, was glad to oblige. The result was one of the greatest disasters in history. Nonfiction. 430 pages

Dear Miss Breed: True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II and a Librarian Who Made a Difference by Joanne Oppenheim

In the early 1940's, Clara Breed was the children's librarian at the San Diego Public Library. But she was also friend to dozens of Japanese American children and teens when war broke out in December of 1941. The story of what happened to these American citizens is movingly told through letters that her young friends wrote to Miss Breed during their internment. This remarkable librarian and humanitarian served as a lifeline to these imprisoned young people, and was brave enough to speak out against a shameful chapter in American history. Non-Fiction. 288 pages

Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life by Bill Burnett and Dave Evans

Designers create worlds and solve problems using design thinking. Look around your office or home—at the tablet or smartphone you may be holding or the chair you are sitting in. Everything in our lives was designed by someone. And every design starts with a problem that a designer or team of designers seeks to solve. Bill Burnett and Dave Evans show us how design thinking can help us create a life that is both meaningful and fulfilling, regardless of who or where we are, what we do or have done for a living, or how young or old we are. The same design thinking responsible for amazing technology, products, and spaces can be used to *design and build* your career and your life, a life of fulfillment and joy, constantly creative and productive, one that always holds the possibility of surprise. Non-Fiction. 238 pages

Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley

In this hardboiled story set in post-World War II Los Angeles, African American Easy Rawlins takes on the task of finding a missing woman and, in the process, finds his calling as a private detective. This powerful mystery is also a compelling look at race and gender. First title in the *Easy Rawlins* series. Mystery. 263 pages

Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Erik Larson

The Chicago World's Fair of 1893 was a triumph of imagination that debuted Juicy Fruit Gum, Cracker Jack, Shredded Wheat and more electric lights strung in one place than had ever been seen before. Architect Daniel Burnham brought together some of the nation's greatest architects to build a White City on the fair site. While everyone was focused on the fair, a doctor went on a killing spree—murdering more than 200 people in his own slaughterhouse. Momentum builds and the book balances beauty with terror. Nonfiction. 447 pages

Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron

The charming story of Dewey Readmore Books, the beloved library cat of Spencer, Iowa. Found stuffed into the returned book slot at the Spencer Public Library by library director Vicki Myron, Dewey won her heart, and the hearts of the staff, by pulling himself up and hobbling on frostbitten feet to nudge each of them in a gesture of thanks and love. For the next 19 years, he never stopped charming the people of Spencer. Nonfiction. 297 pages

The Dinner by Herman Koch

It's a summer's evening in Amsterdam, and two couples meet at a fashionable restaurant for dinner. Between mouthfuls of food and over the polite scrapings of cutlery, the conversation remains a gentle hum of polite discourse. But behind the empty words, terrible things need to be said, and with every forced smile and every new course, the knives are being sharpened. Each couple has a 15-year-old son. The two boys are united by their accountability for a single horrific act; an act that has triggered a police investigation and shattered the comfortable, insulated worlds of their families. Fiction. 292 pages

Distant Land of My Father by Bo Caldwell

Her world is turned upside down when World War II intrudes on the life of a young girl growing up in Shanghai with her beautiful mother and wheeler-dealer father. Moving to South Pasadena, the girl forgives her father's personal demons. Vivid descriptions of life in China and a local setting make this a very readable epic story. Historical Fiction. 378 pages

Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America by Beth Macy

A look at the central point of the opioid crisis in the United States. Opioid addiction has been a struggle for Americans for over twenty years. Macy takes the reader through the history of the opioid addiction crisis. From the labs and marketing departments of big pharma to local doctor's offices; wealthy suburbs to distressed small communities in Central Appalachia; from distant cities to once-idyllic farm towns; the spread of opioid addiction follows a tortuous trajectory that illustrates how this crisis has persisted for so long and become so firmly entrenched. Nonfiction. 376 pages

Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff by Rosemary Mahoney

Despite cultural and local traditions that are obstacles to a dream, writer and experienced traveler Mahoney is determined to take a solo rowboat trip down the Nile River. She takes readers with her as she describes the history, heat, crocodiles and prejudice against women. Balanced with this are experiences of goodwill and her reflections on the river travelers who preceded her. Witty and vivid writing. Nonfiction. 273 pages

Dreams of Joy by Lisa See

Sequel to *Shanghai Girls*, this new novel continues the story of sisters May and Pearl and Pearl's daughter Joy. Angry at the secrets withheld from her, a defiant Joy runs away to Shanghai to look for the father she never met and does not recognize the dangers of Red China. Determined to save her, Pearl leaves on her own perilous journey to China. Wonderful storytelling from a favorite book group author. Historical Fiction. 354 pages

Drowning Ruth by Christina Schwarz

In the winter of 1919, a young mother named Mathilda Neumann drowns beneath the ice of a rural Wisconsin lake. The shock of her death dramatically changes the lives of her daughter, troubled sister, and husband. . . . Told in the voices of several of the main characters and skipping back and forth in time, the narrative gradually and tantalizingly reveals the dark family secrets and the unsettling discoveries that lead to the truth of what actually happened the night of the drowning. Historical Fiction. 338 pages

Eats, Shoots & Leaves by Lynne Truss

We all know the basics of punctuation. Or do we? Through sloppy usage and low standards on the Internet, in email, and now text messages, we have made proper punctuation an endangered species. Here, former editor Lynne Truss dares to say, in her delightfully urbane, witty, and very English way, that it is time to look at our commas and semicolons and see them as the wonderful and necessary things they are. Nonfiction. 209 pages

Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

Traces the author's experiences as a child born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, describing her participation in her family's paranoid stockpiling activities and her resolve to educate herself well enough to earn acceptance into a prestigious university and the unfamiliar world beyond. Biography and Memoir. 334 pages

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one. Fiction. 332 pages.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

Told in alternating chapters, this is an unlikely story of the relationship between a French concierge and the precocious 12-year-old who lives in her Paris apartment building. Each hide their true personalities but bring out the best in each other. Much to discuss in this very unique and quietly philosophical story. Fiction. 325 pages

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin is drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers, Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. Ender's two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world, if that world survives. Science Fiction. Young Adult. 324 pages

Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2008**

Originally a Pulitzer Prize-winning *Los Angeles Times* series, this is a true story. Many years after Enrique's mother has left Honduras to find work and send money home, teenage Enrique decides to join her and takes a perilous trip through Mexico to illegally enter the United States. The author risked her own safety, riding on top of speeding trains, to retrace Enrique's journey and report the story. This compelling work of Nonfiction illuminates the controversial topic of immigration and highlights a human tragedy. Nonfiction. 299 pages

Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

A lonely New Englander, his wife and the cousin whom he loves share the tragic consequences of romance gone awry. The cold and barren setting echoes the deeply affecting story, which will keep the reader thinking long after the book is finished. Classic Fiction. 99 pages

Everything Here Is Beautiful by Mira T. Lee

Two Chinese-American sisters—Miranda, the older, responsible one, always her younger sister's protector; Lucia, the headstrong, unpredictable one, whose impulses are huge and, often, life changing. When Lucia starts hearing voices, it is Miranda who must find a way to reach her sister. Lucia impetuously plows ahead, but the bitter constant is that she is, in fact, mentally ill. Lucia lives life on a grand scale, until, inevitably, she crashes to earth. Miranda leaves her own self-contained life in Switzerland to rescue her sister again—but only Lucia can decide whether she wants to be saved. The bonds of sisterly devotion stretch across oceans—but what does it take to break them? Fiction. 358 pages

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

A teenage girl goes missing and is later found to have drowned in a nearby lake, and suddenly a once tight-knit family unravels in unexpected ways. As the daughter of a college professor and his stay-at-home wife in a small Ohio town in the 1970s, Lydia Lee is already unwittingly part of the greater societal changes going on all around her. But Lydia suffers from pressure that has nothing to do with tuning out and turning on. Her father is an American born of first-generation Chinese immigrants, and his ethnicity, and hers, make them conspicuous in any setting. Her mother is white, and their interracial marriage raises eyebrows and some intrusive charges of miscegenation. Fiction. 326 pages

Fall On Your Knees by Ann-Marie MacDonald

This sprawling saga of five generations of a Canadian family from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia is an epic tale of family history and family secrets. Set in the early 20th century and focusing on four sisters and their relationships with each other and their father, this story shifts from a coal mining community to the battlefields of World War I to New York City in the 1920s. Fiction. 508 pages

Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah

Born in 1937 in a Chinese city 1,000 miles north of Shanghai, Adeline Yen Mah was raised in an affluent home during a time of great political and cultural upheaval. This memoir traces the life of Mah, whose mother died in childbirth and who is emotionally abused by her cruel father and Eurasian stepmother. Mah struggles against appalling circumstances and then escapes first to Hong Kong and then to the United States, where she becomes a doctor. Biography & Memoir. 278 pages

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten. Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, *The Fault in Our Stars* is award-winning-author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love. Fiction. Young Adult. 318 pages

A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry

Set in Mumbai, India in 1975 during a period called The Emergency, when the government cracked down on civil liberties during a state of emergency, this is the story of four strangers of diverse backgrounds (a spirited widow, a young student and two tailors) who are thrust together and unexpectedly bond. Compared to a Dickens novel because of its epic sweep and realism, this involving story shows how the human spirit endures, even in difficult times. Fiction. 603 pages

Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

This inspirational book, part melodrama and part parable, weaves together three stories about an 83-year-old maintenance man. Combining stories of the man's early life, death and afterlife, the story is a compelling look at the meaning of life. Fiction. 196 pages

For All the Tea in China: How England Stole the World's Favorite Drink and Changed History by Sarah Rose

In the dramatic story of one of the greatest acts of corporate espionage ever committed, Sarah Rose recounts the fascinating, unlikely circumstances surrounding a turning point in economic history. By the middle of the

19th century, the British East India Company faced the loss of its monopoly on the fantastically lucrative tea trade with China, forcing it to make the drastic decision of sending Scottish botanist Robert Fortune to steal the crop from deep within China and bring it back to British plantations in India. Fortune's danger-filled odyssey reads like adventure fiction, revealing a long-forgotten chapter of the past and the wondrous origins of a seemingly ordinary beverage. Nonfiction. 259 pages

The Friend by Sigrid Nunez

When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with the unwanted dog he has left behind. Her own battle against grief is intensified by the mute suffering of the dog, a huge Great Dane traumatized by the inexplicable disappearance of its master, and by the threat of eviction: dogs are prohibited in her apartment building. While others worry that grief has made her a victim of magical thinking, the woman refuses to be separated from the dog except for brief periods of time. Isolated from the rest of the world, increasingly obsessed with the dog's care, determined to read its mind and fathom its heart, she comes dangerously close to unraveling. But while troubles abound, rich and surprising rewards lie in store for both of them. 2018 National Book Award Winner. Fiction. 224 pages

Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel

Inspired by a long fascination with Galileo, and by the remarkable surviving letters of Galileo's daughter, a cloistered nun, this is a biography unlike any other of Galileo. It also presents a stunning portrait of a person hitherto lost to history, described by her father as "a woman of exquisite mind, singular goodness, and most tenderly attached to me." Nonfiction. 420 pages

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery. Historical Fiction. 480 pages

Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America by Jill Leovy

A kaleidoscopic story of the quintessential, but mostly ignored, American murder—a "ghettoside" killing, one young black man slaying another—and a brilliant and driven cadre of detectives whose creed is to pursue justice for forgotten victims at all costs. *Ghettoside* is a fast-paced narrative of a devastating crime, an intimate portrait of detectives and a community bonded in tragedy, and a surprising new lens into the great subject of why murder happens in our cities—and how the epidemic of killings might yet be stopped. Nonfiction. 366 pages

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

Seventy-seven-year-old John Ames, a preacher in a small Iowa town, gives a mesmerizing account of his own life and family history in the form of a letter to his young son. Written in simple, shimmering prose, this quiet and powerful novel won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Fiction. 247 pages

Girl With A Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier

Forced by economic circumstances to take a maid's job in the house of the Dutch artist Vermeer, young Griet stands as an outsider, observing the tumultuous life of a family in 1664 Holland. When the artist notices her intelligence and sense of color, she secretly becomes his assistant and almost ruins her own reputation. An absorbing and delicate story that gives a real sense of the atmosphere and behavior of that time and place. Historical Fiction. 233 pages

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo by Steig Larsson

The first book of the Millennium trilogy, this absorbing and unsettling mystery is about a muckraking journalist and his unlikely companion, a pierced and tattooed computer hacker, who unravel a complicated and devious family story. Powerful and compelling, this worldwide bestseller has two popular sequels. Mystery. 590 pages

The Giver by Lois Lowry

A 12-year-old boy who lives in a "Utopia," where the lack of painful emotions, disease, hunger and war have been traded for rigid rules and control over everyone, discovers the terrible truth about his community. Compelling and thought-provoking. Good choice for teens, but great discussion for adults. Fiction. Children's. 179 pages

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

The daughter of eccentric and tempestuous parents tells a heart-breaking and page-turning story of growing up in a wildly dysfunctional family. Original and darkly humorous, this is a triumphant autobiography with an author who never claims to be "poor pitiful me." Biography & Memoir. 288 pages

God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy

Told from the perspective of 7-year-old twins, this Indian novel focuses on two tragic events in 1969—the drowning of the twins' cousin and the murder of an Untouchable carpenter. Moving back and forth through time, the author reveals the "small things" that inhabit her characters' lives and furnish the dwellings that cannot protect them. Fiction. 321 pages

The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker

The story of two supernatural creatures who appear mysteriously in 1899 New York. Chava is a golem, a creature made of clay, brought to life by a strange man who dabbles in dark Kabbalistic magic. Ahmad is a jinni, a being of fire, born in the ancient Syrian Desert. Trapped in an old copper flask by a Bedouin wizard centuries ago, he is released accidentally by a tinsmith in a Lower Manhattan shop. Fiction. 486 pages

Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn

On the morning of his fifth wedding anniversary, Nick's wife Amy suddenly disappears. The police immediately suspect Nick. Amy's friends reveal that she was afraid of him, that she kept secrets from him. He swears it isn't true. A police examination of his computer shows strange searches. He says they aren't his. And then there are the persistent calls on his mobile phone. So what really did happen to Nick's beautiful wife? Fiction. 419 pages

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. If Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack, who has already killed Bod's family. 2009 Winner Newbery Medal Award. Fiction. Children's. 313 pages

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

This classic novel captures the spirit of the Jazz Age and all its over-the-top excess that comes crashing down. Self-made and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby, deeply in love with Daisy Buchanan, the girl who marries another man while Gatsby is away, tries to use his wealth to regain Daisy. Crisply written, short and tragic. Classic Fiction. 180 pages

The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw

While making a documentary on the anniversary of D-Day, veteran television reporter Tom Brokaw was flooded with emotion and his own memories of World War II. For the next 15 years he collected memories of people, at home and in the military, who defined the generation who came of age in the Depression and in the War. The 50 reminiscences are engrossing and food for thought about the value of "ordinary people." Nonfiction. 412 pages

Great Short Poems edited by Paul Negri

This anthology of short verse offers poetry lovers an impressive sampling of more than 150 masterpieces spanning over 400 years of English and American literary history. Although short in length (the longest are 24 lines, most 16 lines or less), these poems are long on beauty, power, imagination, and originality. Included are such memorable compositions as John Donne's "Death Be Not Proud," Shakespeare's "When, in Disgrace with Fortune and Men's Eyes," "On His Blindness" by John Milton, William Blake's "The Tyger," Wordsworth's

"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," Byron's "She Walks in Beauty," Shelley's "Ozymandias," as well as works by Alfred Lord Tennyson, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Gerard Manly Hopkins, Amy Lowell, William Butler Yeats, Robert Frost, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Langston Hughes, and many others. Poetry. 54 pages.

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Burrows

During World War II when the island of Guernsey, just south of England, was occupied by Germany, a group of islanders used the ruse of forming a reading club so they could get together. After the war, the story of the Society is told in letters, exchanged by its quirky members and a young writer who wants to know more about their adventures. Wonderfully original. Historical Fiction. 290 pages

Half Broke Horses by Jeannette Walls

Author Walls follows her very popular *The Glass Castle* with this "true life novel" about her spirited, no-nonsense grandmother. Lily Casey Smith helped break horses at the age of six, taught in a frontier town, learned to fly a plane, ran a ranch in Arizona and raised two children—one of them the very memorable mother in *The Glass Castle*. New York Times 10 Best Books 2009. Fiction. 272 pages

The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin

Gretchen Rubin had an epiphany one rainy afternoon. "The days are long, but the years are short," she realized. "Time is passing, and I'm not focusing enough on the things that really matter." In that moment, she decided to dedicate a year to her happiness project. In this lively and compelling account of that year, Rubin carves out her place alongside the authors of bestselling memoirs such as *Julie and Julia*, *The Year of Living Biblically*, and *Eat, Pray, Love*. With humor and insight, she chronicles her adventures during the 12 months she spent test-driving the wisdom of the ages, current scientific research, and lessons from popular culture about how to be happier. Nonfiction. 315 pages

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers

This classic story, which debuted in 1940, is the story of the deaf John Singer and the people he encounters in a 1930s Georgia mill town. Having lost his deaf companion, Singer becomes a confidant to the town's misfits—teenage girl Mick Kelley who dreams of becoming a musician; Benedict Mady Copeland, the town's idealistic African American doctor; Jake Blount, an alcoholic labor organizer; and Biff Branson, the owner of the local café. Despite the feelings of despair, there is a glimmer of hope in this beautifully written and continually appreciated novel. Classic Fiction. 359 pages

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers

Although fiction, this mostly true memoir is about the author's parents' death from cancer and the experiences he has raising his younger brother and running a magazine in San Francisco. Far from being a sentimental tear-jerker written to make money, this is a high octane and honest work that is told in a compelling way. Fiction. 437 pages

Helen of Pasadena by Lian Dolan

Helen Fairchild, who left college to marry a Pasadena socialite and spends her days volunteering, discovers that her "wonderful life" is in jeopardy when her cheating husband is killed at the Rose Parade and she must sell her beautiful home in the Arroyo, get a job, find ways of keeping her son in private school and make her way in the world. This humorous parody of Pasadena is a cheerful book with a happy ending. For everyone who knows Pasadena and for readers who want a good laugh. Fiction. 304 pages

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch watchmaker who became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps, and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century. In World War II she and her family risked their lives to help Jews and underground workers escape from the Nazis, and for their work they were tested in the infamous Nazi death camps. Only Corrie among her family survived to tell the story of how faith ultimately triumphs over evil. Nonfiction. 311 pages

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance

Shares the story of the author's family and upbringing, describing how they moved from poverty to an upwardly mobile clan that included the author, a Yale Law School graduate, while navigating the demands of middle class life and the collective demons of the past. Biography and Memoir. 288 pages

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Follows the misadventures of the last surviving man, Arthur Dent, following the demolition of the planet Earth by a Vogon constructor fleet to make way for a hyperspace bypass. Dent is rescued from Earth's destruction by Ford Prefect, a human-like alien writer for the eccentric, electronic travel guide *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, by hitchhiking onto a passing Vogon spacecraft. Following his rescue, Dent explores the galaxy with Prefect and encounters Trillian, another human who had been taken from Earth prior to its destruction by the President of the Galaxy, the two-headed Zaphod Beeblebrox, and the depressed Marvin, the Paranoid Android. Science Fiction. 216 pages

Honeymoon with My Brother by Franz Wisner

This is the true story of Franz Wisner, a man who thought he had it all—a high profile career and the fiancé of his dreams—when suddenly, his life turned upside down. Just days before they were to be married, his fiancé called off the wedding. His large support network of family and friends decided Franz should have a wedding and a honeymoon anyway, there just wouldn't be a bride at the ceremony, and Franz' travel companion would be his brother, Kurt. The brothers decided to leave their old lives behind them and visited 53 countries for the next two years. Franz recounts this remarkable journey, during which he turned his heartbreak into an opportunity to learn about himself, the world, and the brother he hardly knew. Biography & Memoir. 274 pages

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

When Chinese-American Henry Lee, who has just lost his wife, hears that the belongings of Japanese immigrants who were interned during WWII have been found in the basement of a Seattle hotel, he starts to think about his youth. As the narrative shifts from 1986 to the 1940s he thinks about the Japanese girl he was forbidden to love by his Japanese-hating father and how she and her family were interned. Henry also reflects on how the distance between himself and his father is being duplicated by his distance from his own son. Historical Fiction. 290 pages

The Hours by Michael Cunningham

Three interwoven stories are all connected to Virginia Woolf, her life and her book *Mrs. Dalloway* in this entrancing and original novel. In alternating chapters we see the life and struggles of Ms. Woolf, the life of a 1949 California woman caught in an airless marriage and the life of a 1990s modern Greenwich Village woman who is preparing a party for a dying friend. The author marries the stories together and manages to find the interior lives of each character. 1999 Pulitzer Prize. Fiction. 229 pages

Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson

This much acclaimed book tells the story of two orphaned sisters, Ruth and Lucille, who grow up in a series of homes with increasingly odd relatives (their grandmother, bumbling great aunts and their mother's sister) and struggle their way to adulthood. Loss, love, loneliness and longing permeate this modern classic. Fiction. 219 pages

The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende

A luminous tapestry of three generations of the Trueba family, revealing both triumphs and tragedies. Here is patriarch Esteban, whose wild desires and political machinations are tempered only by his love for his ethereal wife, Clara, a woman touched by an otherworldly hand. Their daughter, Blanca, whose forbidden love for a man Esteban has deemed unworthy infuriates her father, yet will produce his greatest joy: his granddaughter Alba, a beautiful, ambitious girl who will lead the family and their country into a revolutionary future. Fiction. 433 pages

The Hundred Secret Senses by Amy Tan

Focusing on the relationship between two half sisters, Chinese-born Kwan and Chinese-American younger sister Olivia, this story explores a familiar Amy Tan theme—family members at odds with each other. Although

Kwan tries to introduce Olivia to Chinese culture, Olivia resists but discovers that she has absorbed much about Chinese superstitions and spirits. The story climaxes when the sisters travel to the village of their ancestors and learn that more than just ordinary senses are needed to truly experience the world. Fiction. 358 pages

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Every year, 12 boys and 12 girls are chosen to take part in the Hunger Games. Watched by the entire nation, this is action-packed reality TV at its most exciting — and most dangerous. Katniss Everdeen has grown up struggling to save the people close to her. Now she faces the biggest challenge of all — the fight for her life. Winning will make you famous. Losing means certain death. Fiction. Young Adult. 374 pages

The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty

Imagine that your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret, something with the potential to destroy not just the life you built together, but the lives of others as well. Imagine, then, that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive. Cecilia Fitzpatrick has achieved it all; she is an incredibly successful businesswoman, a pillar of her small community, and a devoted wife and mother. Her life is as orderly and spotless as her home. But that letter is about to change everything, and not just for her: Rachel and Tess barely know Cecilia or each other, but they too are about to feel the earth-shattering repercussions of her husband's secret. Fiction. 445 pages

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. Biography & Memoir. 368 pages

I Feel Bad About My Neck by Nora Ephron

A candid, hilarious look at women who are getting older and dealing with the tribulations of maintenance, menopause, empty nests, and life itself. The woman who brought us *When Harry Met Sally . . .*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, and *You've Got Mail*, discusses everything—from how much she hates her purse to how much time she spends attempting to stop the clock: the hair dye, the treadmill, the lotions and creams that promise to slow the aging process but never do. Oh, and she can't stand the way her neck looks. But mostly she speaks frankly and uproariously about life as a woman of a certain age. Nonfiction. 137 pages

I'll Be Gone in the Dark by Michelle McNamara

For more than ten years, a mysterious and violent predator committed fifty sexual assaults in Northern California before moving south, where he perpetrated ten sadistic murders. Then he disappeared, eluding capture by multiple police forces and some of the best detectives in the area. Three decades later, Michelle McNamara, a true crime journalist who created the popular website *TrueCrimeDiary.com*, was determined to find the violent psychopath she called "the Golden State Killer." Michelle pored over police reports, interviewed victims, and embedded herself in the online communities that were as obsessed with the case as she was. Non-Fiction. 368 pages

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Henrietta Lacks, a cancer-stricken African-American woman living in poverty, unknowingly becomes the source of an immortal line of cells whose ability to grow in the laboratory play a role in crucial scientific discoveries. Sympathetically telling the story of Henrietta's life and death, the book takes a look at the medical ethics of scientists and medical companies that made money from Lacks' cells but did not reimburse her family, which continued to live in poverty and poor health. Much to talk about. Biography & Memoir. 369 pages

The Infatuations by Javier Marías

Each day before work María Dolz stops at the same café. There she finds herself drawn to a couple who is also there every morning. Observing their seemingly perfect life helps her escape the listlessness of her own. But when the man is brutally murdered and María approaches the widow to offer her condolences, what began as mere observation turns into an increasingly complicated entanglement. Invited into the widow's home, she meets--and falls in love with--a man who sheds disturbing new light on the crime. As María recounts this story, we are given a murder mystery brilliantly encased in a metaphysical enquiry, a novel that grapples with questions of love and death, chance and coincidence, and above all, with the slippery essence of the truth and how it is told. Fiction. 337 pages

The Interestings by Meg Wolitzer

The summer that Nixon resigns, six teenagers at a summer camp for the arts become inseparable. Decades later the bond remains powerful, but so much else has changed. In *The Interestings*, Wolitzer follows these characters from the height of youth through middle age, as their talents, fortunes, and degrees of satisfaction diverge. Fiction. 538 pages

In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin by Erik Larson

A popular history about William Dodd, the professor who becomes the first ambassador to Hitler's Germany and moves his family to Berlin in 1933. Mild mannered Dodd witnesses the rise of the Third Reich with great alarm, while his daughter is attracted to the parading Nazis and cheering crowds. As Dodd develops some spine and tries to notify the State Department about what is happening in Germany, the coming nightmare is ignored by the American government. Gripping narrative that asks provocative questions. Nonfiction. 448 pages

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

Based on historical events, this story is about the three Mirabal sisters who try to help overthrow a dictatorship in the Dominican Republic and in the process become martyrs for a cause. Known as las mariposas (the butterflies), each sister is different and the characterizations are strong. The story starts slowly and builds to gripping intensity. Historical Fiction. 325 pages

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

What would possess a smart young man, recently graduated from college, to literally walk away from his life and possessions and wander into the wilds of Alaska, where his body was eventually found in 1992? Jon Krakauer, who wrote *Into Thin Air* about climbing Mt. Everest, movingly traces this true story from the young man's childhood to his efforts to survive and then his death. Nonfiction. 207 pages

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

Mountain climbers ascending Mt. Everest confront the worst forces of nature and the selfish inclinations of their fellow climbers. Palpable with the physical effects of climbing to the top of the world, this page-turner is a tragedy waiting to happen. Nonfiction. 332 pages

An Innocent Man by John Grisham

Grisham's first work of Nonfiction reads like one of his novels. A small town Oklahoma baseball hero, down on his luck, is railroaded onto death row for crimes he did not commit. Shocking and enthralling. Nonfiction. 360 pages

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. The novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love. Fiction. 258 pages.

Is This Tomorrow: A Novel by Caroline Leavitt

In 1956, divorced working-mom Ava Lark rents a house with her 12-year-old son, Lewis, in a Boston suburb. Lewis befriends the only other fatherless kids in the neighborhood: Jimmy and Rose. One afternoon, Jimmy goes missing, which alters the life of Ava, Rose, and Lewis. Fiction. 360 pages

The Jane Austen Book Club by Karen Joy Fowler

Five women and one man form a book group that will only read and discuss novels by Jane Austen. As the characters meet monthly, they not only debate the Austen characters and narratives, but also reveal their own lives and feelings. With good company and a happy ending, this is a great book group title. Fiction. 288 pages

The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende

In 1939, as Poland falls under the shadow of the Nazis, young Alma Belasco is sent away to live with a wealthy aunt and uncle in California. Her life is quickly changed when she meets the son of her aunt's gardener, Ichimei Fukuda. Young love blossoms between them, until they are cruelly separated when Ichimei and his family are relocated to a Japanese-American internment camp. Throughout their lifetimes, they manage to reunite again and again, but theirs is a love they are forever forced to hide from the prejudiced eyes of the world. Decades later, Alma is nearing the end of her life and forges a friendship with Irina Bazili—a care worker with her own troubled past—at a nursing home in California. As Irina begins to form a relationship with Alma's grandson, Seth, the pair investigates a series of mysterious gifts and letters sent to Alma in an effort to uncover the secret of Alma's mysterious Japanese lover. Fiction. 336 pages

John Adams by David McCullough

Overshadowed by both Washington and Jefferson, John Adams comes into his own in this wonderfully compelling biography of both the man and his delightful wife and full partner Abigail Adams. Not a history timeline weighted down by too much detail, this vibrantly written work focuses on Adams' role as president and his contributions to the Declaration of Independence and budding American politics and diplomacy. Biography & Memoir. 751 pages

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice. Biography and Memoir. 349 pages

Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, they began to be killed off. One Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, watched as her family was murdered. David Grann revisits a shocking series of crimes in which dozens of people were murdered in cold blood. Non-Fiction. 400 pages

Kindred by Octavia Butler

Dana, a modern African-American woman living in Altadena, California, is about to celebrate her 26th birthday when she is snatched from her home and transported to the Antebellum South where she has been summoned to save a slave-owning white man. As Dana travels back and forth through time she discovers that this man will father a daughter who will become Dana's ancestor. Science Fiction. 287 pages

The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom

In 1790, Lavinia, a seven-year-old Irish orphan with no memory of her past, arrives on a tobacco plantation where she is put to work as an indentured servant with the kitchen house slaves. Though she becomes deeply bonded to her new family, Lavinia is also slowly accepted into the world of the big house, where the master is absent and the mistress battles opium addiction. As time passes she finds herself perilously straddling two very different worlds, and when loyalties are brought into question, dangerous truths are laid bare and lives are at risk. Fiction. 368 pages

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Betrayal and redemption are two powerful themes in this stunning debut novel about a boy named Amir, son of a well-to-do Afghan merchant, who betrays his best friend, the servant boy Hassan. Amir and his father immigrate to America, but Amir cannot forget his friend. Learning that the Taliban have killed Hassan, the now adult Amir returns home to rescue Hassan's son. Great storytelling, surprising plot twists and indelible characters that truly come to life make this a very memorable story. Fiction. 372 pages

The Known World by Edward P. Jones

With its large cast of characters and shifting storylines, this complex book will reward the patient reader. Set twenty years before the Civil War, the novel tells the story of a little known part of the history of slavery—African Americans who owned slaves. 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Historical Fiction. 388 pages

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions, but for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now 18 and emancipated from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a public park, where she plants a small garden of her own. Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. Fiction. 334 pages

The Last Painting of Sarah de Vos by Dominic Smith

In 1631, Sara de Vos is admitted as a master painter to the Guild of St. Luke's in Holland, the first woman to be so recognized. Three hundred years later, only one work attributed to de Vos is known to remain--a haunting winter scene, *At the Edge of a Wood*, which hangs over the bed of a wealthy descendant of the original owner. An Australian grad student, Ellie Shipley, struggling to stay afloat in New York, agrees to paint a forgery of the landscape, a decision that will haunt her. Because now, half a century later, she's curating an exhibit of female Dutch painters, and both versions threaten to arrive. Historical Fiction. 304 pages

Less by Andrew Sean Greer

You are a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the mail: your boyfriend of the past nine years is engaged to someone else. You can't say yes--it would be too awkward--and you can't say no--it would look like defeat. On your desk are a series of invitations to half-baked literary events around the world. QUESTION: How do you arrange to skip town? ANSWER: You accept them all. *What would possibly go wrong?* Arthur Less will almost fall in love in Paris, almost fall to his death in Berlin, barely escape to a Moroccan ski chalet from a Saharan sandstorm, accidentally book himself as the (only) writer-in-residence at a Christian Retreat Center in Southern India, and encounter, on a desert island in the Arabian Sea, the last person on Earth he wants to face. Somewhere in there: he will turn fifty. Through it all, there is his first love. And there is his last. 2018 Pulitzer Prize Winner. Fiction. 272 pages

The Library Book by Susan Orlean -- **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2019**

Chronicles the Los Angeles Public Library fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives; delves into the evolution of libraries across the country and around the world, from their humble beginnings as a metropolitan charitable initiative to their current status as a cornerstone of national identity; brings each department of the library to vivid life through on-the-ground reporting; studies arson and attempts to burn a copy of a book herself; reflects on her own experiences in libraries; and reexamines the case of Harry Peak, the blond-haired actor long suspected of setting fire to the LAPL more than thirty years ago. Non-Fiction. 317 pages

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

After Pi survives a sinking ship in the Pacific Ocean he ends up adrift for 227 days in a large lifeboat that contains a 450-pound Bengal tiger, a skittish zebra, a vicious hyena and a lumbering orangutan. The story of these unlikely castaways sounds ridiculous, but the quirky and original tale is magical and hilarious. Fiction. 326 pages

The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman

After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby. Fiction. 345 pages

Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelley

Manhattan, 1939. New York socialite Caroline Ferriday's biggest problem is resisting the advances of a married actor. Across the Atlantic Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish Catholic teenager, is affected when Germany declares war on Poland. As tensions rise Caroline's interest in aiding the war effort in France grows; she hears about the dire situation at the Ravensbrück all-female concentration camp. Kasia's carefree youth is replaced by a fervor for the Polish resistance movement. Through Ravensbrück-- and the horrific atrocities taking place there told in part by an infamous German surgeon, Herta Oberheuser-- the two women's lives converge in unprecedented ways. Historical Fiction. 502 pages

Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders

February 1862. The Civil War is less than one year old. The fighting has begun in earnest, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. This novel takes place during and after the death of Willie and deals with the president's grief at his loss. The bulk of the novel, which takes place over the course of a single evening, is set in the *bardo*—an intermediate space between life and rebirth. Winner of the 2017 Man Booker Prize. Historical Fiction. 350 pages

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

This dual narrative story of a 16-year-old Nigerian orphan and a well-off couple, whose lives collide when the couple, who might have stayed behind the walls of their vacation resort hotel instead go walking on the beach, pivots on a secret plot point that is a life-changing moment for both the couple and the young woman they meet. Unique and captivating, this book is about refugees, survival, misjudging people and personal responsibility. Timely. Fiction. 271 pages

The Little Paris Bookshop by Meg Wolitzer

Monsieur Perdu calls himself a literary apothecary. From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, he prescribes novels for the hardships of life. Using his intuitive feel for the exact book a reader needs, Perdu mends broken hearts and souls. The only person he can't seem to heal through literature is himself; he's still haunted by heartbreak after his great love disappeared. She left him with only a letter, which he has never opened. After Perdu is finally tempted to read the letter, he hauls anchor and departs on a mission to the south of France, hoping to make peace with his loss and discover the end of the story. Joined by a bestselling but blocked author and a lovelorn Italian chef, Perdu travels along the country's rivers, dispensing his wisdom and his books, showing that the literary world can take the human soul on a journey to heal itself.. Fiction. 408 pages

Little Women by Louisa Mae Alcott

The four March sisters—Amy, Beth, Jo and Meg—live in genteel poverty with their mother Marmee while their father is away during the Civil War. This American classic, a lively portrait of how one family lived in the 19th century, could be paired with a contemporary novel, *March* by Geraldine Brooks, which chronicles the life of Mr. March while he is absent from the family. Good choice for teens. Classic Fiction. 461 pages

Los Angeles Noir edited by Denise Hamilton – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2010**

Glendale author Denise Hamilton updates the classic crime genre with this collection of 17 contemporary noir short stories, each set in a different neighborhood of Los Angeles. The authors, including Michael Connelly, Patt Morrison, Naomi Hirahara and Hamilton herself, each give their special take on modern hardboiled mysteries. Mystery. 348 pages

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

In the late 1800s Caribbean, the humble Florentino falls in love with the beautiful Fermina, whose father wants her to find a better suitor. So Fermina marries a doctor and thinks of herself as “the happiest woman in the world.” After 51 years her husband dies and she finds Florentino pursuing her. A magnificent story of love and how it can overcome all and last a long time. Illusions and reality mix in this great work by the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Fiction. 348 pages

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

After being raped and killed, 14-year-old Susie Salmon keeps watch, from heaven, on her grieving family, her brazen murderer and the police who are trying to solve the crime. This heartbreaking debut novel is a moving exploration of loss. Sweet, touching and an incredible read. Fiction. 328 pages

Loving Frank by Nancy Horan

Both poignant and compelling, this is a fictional account of Frank Lloyd Wright’s affair with Mamah Borthwick Cheney. When Mamah and the architect left their spouses and combined family of nine children to escape to Europe, great scandal ensued. Wright went on to build Taliesin, an inspired house in Wisconsin, for himself and Mamah, but tragedy followed. The book captures Mamah’s moral quandary and how she, an educated woman, felt constrained by the social mores of the times. A nuanced and satisfying read. Historical Fiction. 377 pages

Luckiest Girl Alive by Jessica Knoll

As a teenager at the prestigious Bradley School, Ani FaNelli endured a shocking, public humiliation that left her desperate to reinvent herself. Now, with a glamorous job, expensive wardrobe, and handsome blue blood fiancé, she’s *this close* to living the perfect life she’s worked so hard to achieve. But Ani has a secret. There’s something else buried in her past that still haunts her, something private and painful that threatens to bubble to the surface and destroy everything. The question remains: will breaking her silence destroy all that she has worked for—or, will it at long last, set Ani free? Fiction. 341 pages

Lying Awake by Mark Salzman

Sister John of the Cross, who for many years has been a cloistered Carmelite nun in a Los Angeles convent, begins to experience mystical visions that reignite her religious commitment. When she finds out that the visions may be caused by epilepsy, she must decide what has the greater value—her health or her need to live a richer life. This short, imaginative and moving work has much to discuss. Fiction. 181 pages

Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear

Maisie Dobbs got her start as a maid in an aristocratic London household when she was thirteen. Her employer, suffragette Lady Rowan Compton, soon became her patron, taking the remarkably bright youngster under her wing. Lady Rowan's friend, Maurice Blanche, often retained as an investigator by the European elite, recognized Maisie’s intuitive gifts and helped her earn admission to the prestigious Girton College in Cambridge, where Maisie planned to complete her education.

The outbreak of war changed everything. Maisie trained as a nurse, then left for France to serve at the Front, where she found—and lost—an important part of herself. Ten years after the Armistice, in the spring of 1929, Maisie sets out on her own as a private investigator, one who has learned that coincidences are meaningful, and truth elusive. Her very first case involves suspected infidelity but reveals something very different. Mystery. 320 pages

Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand by Helen Simonson

With his stiff upper lip, widower Major Ernest Pettigrew is the personification of English values and very different from his greedy son. When the son wants to sell a family heirloom, Major Pettigrew finds an ally in the local Pakistani shopkeeper Jamina Ali and friendship turns into romance. The two must then navigate local gossip and prejudice. Stylish, witty and with unforgettable characters. Fiction. 368 pages

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Ove is a grumble Gus of the first degree. Rules are made to be followed, signs are meant to be obeyed, and don’t even get him started about computers and mobile phones. In truth, Ove has been this way his whole life,

but he's gotten worse in the last four years since his wife, Sonia, died, taking with her all the color in a world Ove sees as black-and-white. Ove has decided life without Sonia is not worth living and plans to join her in the next world. But a young couple and their two children (a third is on the way) move in next door, his oldest friend and most feared enemy is about to be forcibly removed to a nursing home, and a street-scarred cat insinuates itself into his life. Suddenly, Ove's suicide plans get delayed as he helps solve neighborly crises large and small. Fiction. 337 pages

March by Geraldine Brooks

Exploring the devastation and moral complexity of the Civil War, this novel re-imagines Mr. March, the father and chaplain who has gone to war in *Little Women*. His early idealism lost, Mr. March presses on to find himself at both at a home he visited in his youth and at a liberated plantation where he is almost killed. Rescued, in the hospital and all but broken man, March revives and returns home, where he finds certainty and stability in fatherhood. 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Historical Fiction. 280 pages

The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman

Growing up on idyllic St. Thomas in the early 1800s, Rachel dreams of life in faraway Paris. Instead she is married off to a widower with three children to save her father's business. When her husband dies suddenly and his handsome, much younger nephew, Frédéric, arrives from France to settle the estate, Rachel seizes her own life story. They begin a defiant, passionate love affair that sparks a scandal that affects all of her family, including her favorite son, who will become one of the greatest artists of France. Historical Fiction. 369 pages

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

Humorist David Sedaris mocks himself and mines life's simple events for some very amusing and caustic observations. Whether writing about overcoming a lisp, trying to master French, his brother's spicy language or learning to play the guitar, the author makes us laugh. Not everything is funny to everybody, but readers with absurd and quirky senses of humor will laugh out loud. Nonfiction. 272 pages

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden

An impoverished young Japanese girl becomes a geisha during the 1930s. This seductive and unique story describes the elaborate and mysterious life of a geisha and is rich with detail. Historical Fiction. 530 pages

The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards

While driving his pregnant wife Norah to the hospital, a snow storm causes Dr. David Henry to instead stop at his own medical clinic, where he delivers two children—a boy and a girl with Down syndrome. Telling his wife that the second child has died, he gives the girl to his nurse to raise. Many years later Norah discovers that her daughter is alive. Sympathetic exploration of how grief can be healed. Fiction. 401 pages

Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: Memoir of Going Home by Rhoda Janzen

Wonderfully funny, for a change, this is a memoir of a woman who gets in a car wreck right after her husband leaves her for a guy he meets on the Internet and saddles her with a big mortgage. She finds herself moving back in with her parents who are Mennonites. A warm, wonderful story from a self-deprecating author who is a good sport about going through life's travails and getting back on her feet. Biography & Memoir. 241 pages

Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

"I was born twice: first, as a baby girl...in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy...in August of 1974." So begins this story of hermaphrodite Calliope Stephanides who becomes the teenage boy Cal and narrates the story of his life that of his Greek family. The author helps readers overcome the initial surprise and become comfortable with different ideas of gender and individuality. 2003 Pulitzer Prize. Fiction. 529 pages

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

As a kid, Jacob formed a special bond with his grandfather over his bizarre tales and photos of levitating girls and invisible boys. Now at 16, he is reeling from the old man's unexpected death. Then Jacob is given a mysterious letter that propels him on a journey to the remote Welsh island where his grandfather grew up. There, he finds the children from the photographs--alive and well--despite the islanders' assertion that all were

killed decades ago. As Jacob begins to unravel more about his grandfather's childhood, he suspects he is being trailed by a monster only he can see. Young Adult Fiction. 352 pages

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

With degrees in medicine and anthropology Dr. Paul Farmer tries to relieve the suffering in “just the kind of places we don't like to think about.” Dividing his time between Haiti (one of most disease-ridden places on earth) and Harvard (the Wall Street of medicine), Dr. Farmer toils to keep people alive. The book also covers the topics of public health and Dr. Farmer's belief that poverty is a huge factor in poor health. Nonfiction. 322 pages

Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan

After a layoff during the Great Recession sidelines his tech career, Clay Jannon takes a job at the titular bookstore in San Francisco and soon realizes that the establishment is a façade for a strange secret. Fiction. 288 pages

My Antonia by Willa Cather

This classic story of Antonia, a spirited immigrant in 19th century Nebraska, is as memorable for its main character as it is for its portrait of pioneer life. Romantic and beautifully written. Classic Fiction. 219 pages

My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor

An instant American icon—the first Hispanic on the U.S. Supreme Court—tells the story of her life before becoming a judge in an inspiring, surprisingly personal memoir. With startling candor and intimacy, Sonia Sotomayor recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a progress that is testament to her extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself. Biography & Memoir. 315 pages

My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante

A modern masterpiece from one of Italy's most acclaimed authors, *My Brilliant Friend* is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted story about two friends, Elena and Lila. Ferrante's inimitable style lends itself perfectly to a meticulous portrait of these two women that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship. The story begins in the 1950s, in a poor but vibrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Naples. Growing up on these tough streets the two girls learn to rely on each other ahead of anyone or anything else. As they grow, as their paths repeatedly diverge and converge, Elena and Lila remain best friends whose respective destinies are reflected and refracted in the other. Through the lives of these two women, Ferrante tells the story of a neighborhood, a city, and a country as it is transformed in ways that, in turn, also transform the relationship between her protagonists, the unforgettable Elena and Lila. Fiction. 331 pages

My Italian Bulldozer by Alexander McCall Smith

Paul Stuart, a renowned food writer, finds himself at loose ends after his longtime girlfriend leaves him for her personal trainer. To cheer him up, Paul's editor, Gloria, encourages him to finish his latest cookbook on-site in Tuscany, hoping that a change of scenery (plus the occasional truffled pasta and glass of red wine) will offer a cure for both heartache and writer's block. But upon Paul's arrival, things don't quite go as planned. A mishap with his rental-car reservation leaves him stranded, until a newfound friend leads him to an intriguing alternative: a bulldozer. With little choice in the matter, Paul accepts the offer, and as he journeys (well, slowly trundles) into the idyllic hillside town of Montalcino, he discovers that the bulldozer may be the least of the surprises that await him. What follows is a delightful romp through the lush sights and flavors of the Tuscan countryside, as Paul encounters a rich cast of characters, including a young American woman who awakens in him something unexpected. Fiction. 232 pages

My Life in France by Julia Child

Bon Appetit! Julia Child's final book (she passed away at the age of 91 in 2004) recalls her love affair with France. Living in France with her much-adored husband Paul from 1948-1954, she experiences the excitement of all things French—culture, cuisine and learning to cook at the celebrated Cordon Bleu cooking school. The six foot two inch Child's gentle stories are spirited and delightful. Nonfiction. 352 pages

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

Right after a newlywed Indian couple moves to Cambridge, Massachusetts, their son is born and, through an odd set of circumstances, is given the name Gogol. As the parents try to navigate American life, second generation Gogol has his own problems trying to fit in and make his way in the world. Beautifully written, comic and tragic, this many layered story has great appeal. Fiction. 291 pages

Native Son: Adapted from the Novel by Richard Wright by Nambi E. Kelley

Suffocating in rat-infested poverty on the South Side of Chicago in the 1930s, 20-year -old Bigger Thomas struggles to find a place for himself in a world whose prejudice has shut him out. After taking a job in a wealthy white man's house, Bigger unwittingly unleashes a series of events that violently and irrevocably seal his fate. Adapted as a play. Fiction. 115 pages

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

Set in late 1990s England, in a parallel universe in which humans are cloned and raised expressly to "donate" their healthy organs and thus eradicate disease from the normal population, this is an epic ethical horror story, told in devastatingly poignant miniature. By age 31, narrator (and clone) Kathy H has spent nearly 12 years as a "carer" to dozens of "donors." Knowing that her number is sure to come up soon, she recounts in excruciating detail the fraught, minute dramas of her happily sheltered childhood and adolescence at Hailsham, an idyllic, isolated school/orphanage where clone-students are encouraged to make art and feel special. Science Fiction. 288 pages

News of the World by Paulette Jiles

It is 1870 and Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through northern Texas, giving live readings to paying audiences hungry for news of the world. An elderly widower who has lived through three wars and fought in two of them, the captain enjoys his rootless, solitary existence. In the aftermath of the Civil War, Captain Kidd, is offered fifty dollars to bring an orphan girl, who was kidnapped and raised by Kiowa raiders, from Wichita Falls back to her family in San Antonio. Explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust. Historical Fiction. 218 pages

Nickel and Dimed: on (Not) Getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich

As relevant now as when it was published, this is a witty and provocative work about jobs, employees and salaries. Author Ehrenreich, who frequently writes on the downside of economics, poses as a worker and takes a variety of minimum wage jobs and tries to eke out a living as a hotel maid, a Wal-Mart associate, a nursing home aide and a house cleaner. This first-hand account will be cause for much discussion. Nonfiction. 230 pages

Night at the Fiestas: Stories by Kirstin Valdez Quade

The deadbeat father of a pregnant teenager tries to transform his life by playing the role of Jesus in a bloody penitential Passion. A young man discovers that his estranged father and a boa constrictor have been squatting in his grandmother's empty house. A lonely retiree new to Santa Fe becomes obsessed with her housekeeper. One girl attempts to uncover the mystery of her cousin's violent past, while another young woman finds herself at an impasse when she is asked to hear her priest's confession. Always hopeful, these stories chart the passions and obligations of family life, exploring themes of race, class, and coming-of-age, as Quade's characters protect, betray, wound, undermine, bolster, define, and, ultimately, save each other. Fiction. 279 pages

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called *Le Cirque des Rêves*, and it is only open at night. But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them both, this is a game in which only one can be left standing. Despite the high stakes, Celia and Marco soon tumble headfirst into love, setting off a domino effect of dangerous consequences, and leaving the lives of everyone, from the performers to the patrons, hanging in the balance. Fiction. 516 pages

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

Two sisters living in Nazi-occupied France during World War II choose different paths to survive the harsh realities of war. One sister must find a way to protect her and her daughter from the Nazis that move into her town while her husband fights for France. The other, younger sister ventures to Paris to join the rebellion and prove her worth. Their stories of love and loss intertwine throughout the novel as they each discover themselves and the strength within them. Fiction. 608 pages

The Ninth Hour by Alice McDermott

On a dim winter afternoon, a young Irish immigrant opens a gas tap in his Brooklyn tenement. He is determined to prove—to the subway bosses who have recently fired him, to his pregnant wife—that “the hours of his life . . . belonged to himself alone.” In the aftermath of the fire that follows, Sister St. Saviour, an aging nun, a Little Nursing Sister of the Sick Poor, appears, unbidden, to direct the way forward for his widow and his unborn child. In Catholic Brooklyn in the early part of the twentieth century, decorum, superstition, and shame collude to erase the man’s brief existence, and yet his suicide, though never spoken of, reverberates through many lives—testing the limits and the demands of love and sacrifice, of forgiveness and forgetfulness, even through multiple generations. Fiction. 247 pages.

Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West by Dorothy Wickenden

In 1916 two spirited, educated (Smith college graduates) and well-bred Eastern women head west to take teaching jobs on the frontier of Colorado. Writing about her grandmother Dorothy and best friend Rosamund, the author uses diaries, letters and memoirs to capture a time and place in transition. The women meet cowboys, ride horses to work and teach children who slog through snow to get to school. An exhilarating story of two intrepid young women. Nonfiction. 286 pages

The Number One Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

More of a leisurely read than a mystery, this gentle story about “traditionally-sized” Precious Ramotswe, Botswana’s first, and maybe only, lady detective is delightful. With sass, great detecting skills and common sense, she solves a variety of cases. Pull up a chair, make a cup of bush tea and enjoy the first in a series. Fiction. 235 pages

The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman

Sussex, England. A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her mother and grandmother. He hasn’t thought of Lettie in decades, and yet as he sits by the pond (a pond that she’d claimed was an ocean) behind the ramshackle old farmhouse where she once lived, the unremembered past comes flooding back. And it is a past too strange, too frightening, too dangerous to have happened to anyone, let alone a small boy. Fiction. 181 pages

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

Thirteen short stories, set in a small town in Maine, are linked together by the character of Olive Kitteridge, a seventh-grade math teacher. Though the stories often pack an emotional wallop, there are also flashes of humor. 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Fiction/Short Stories. 270 pages

On Gold Mountain by Lisa See

Lisa See’s first book is the autobiographical saga of her family, beginning with her Chinese, great-grandfather Fong See, who came to California in 1871 to work on the railroad, and his second wife, Caucasian Lettice Pruett. Taking place over a hundred year period, the book describes the family’s fractured relationships and hard work that brought them success and failure. The final couple depicted in the book is See’s eccentric parents, Richard and Carolyn See. As in her fiction work, it is the women’s stories that are the most powerful. Terrific history that reads like fiction. Nonfiction. 394 pages

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Considered the masterpiece novel by the Nobel Prize for Literature winner, this is the multi-generational story of the Beundia family who found the town of Macondo (a metaphor for Colombia). Told in a non-linear way, full of symbolism and magic and chronicling seven generations of characters, this magnificent work is full of comedy and tragedy. Original and compelling. Fiction. 458 pages

102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers by Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn.

Why and how did some people escape from the World Trade Towers and why did some die? This heart-pounding, meticulous account written by two newspaper reporters is a different approach to a painfully familiar subject. Focuses on the human experience and allows readers to put themselves in the place of the men and women who lived and died. Nonfiction. 322 pages

The One-in-a-Million Boy by Monica Wood

The story of your life never starts at the beginning. Don't they teach you anything at school?

So says 104-year-old Ona to the 11-year-old boy who's been sent to help her out every Saturday morning. As he refills the bird feeders and tidies the garden shed, Ona tells him about her long life, from first love to second chances. Soon she's confessing secrets she has kept hidden for decades. One Saturday, the boy doesn't show up. Ona starts to think he's not so special after all, but then his father arrives on her doorstep, determined to finish his son's good deed. The boy's mother is not so far behind. Ona is set to discover that the world can surprise us at any age, and that sometimes sharing a loss is the only way to find ourselves again. Fiction. 326 pages

The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson

The son of an influential father who runs an orphan work camp, Pak Jun Do rises to prominence using instinctive talents and eventually becomes a professional kidnapper and romantic rival to Kim Jong Il. 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Fiction. 456 pages

The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff

Sixteen-year-old Noa has been cast out in disgrace after becoming pregnant by a Nazi soldier and being forced to give up her baby. She lives above a small rail station, which she cleans in order to earn her keep... When Noa discovers a boxcar containing dozens of Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp, she is reminded of the child that was taken from her. And in a moment that will change the course of her life, she snatches one of the babies and flees into the snowy night. Noa finds refuge with a German circus, but she must learn the flying trapeze act so she can blend in undetected, spurning the resentment of the lead aerialist, Astrid. At first rivals, Noa and Astrid soon forge a powerful bond. But as the facade that protects them proves increasingly tenuous, Noa and Astrid must decide whether their friendship is enough to save one another—or if the secrets that burn between them will destroy everything. Fiction. 368 pages

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline

Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to "aging out" out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance. Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life – answers that will ultimately free them both. Historical Fiction. 273 pages

The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory

Before Henry VII ever considered making Anne Boleyn his wife, her older sister Mary was his mistress. Historical novelist Gregory uses the perspective of this "other Boleyn girl" to reveal the rivalries and intrigues swirling through England. The author's knowledge of history and her ability to make the splendor and turbulence of the times come to life make this an enthralling read. Historical Fiction. 664 pages

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell

Gladwell identifies the qualities of successful people, posing theories about the cultural, family, and idiosyncratic factors that shape high achievers, in a resource that covers such topics as the secrets of software billionaires, why certain cultures are associated with better academic performance, and why the Beatles earned their fame. Nonfiction. 309 pages

Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson

A widower nearing 70 moves to a remote Norway and ruminates on one day in 1948, a day that began as an exhilarating adventure to take some horses from a nearby farm that ends in an abrupt and unexpected way. The interplay between the adult recollecting and child's perspective make this a gripping and original book that will stay with the reader for some time. Fiction. 238 pages

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

Follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young tubercular minister offers to marry and bring her to Japan. So begins a sweeping saga of an exceptional family in exile from its homeland and caught in the indifferent arc of history. Through desperate struggles and hard-won triumphs, its members are bound together by deep roots as they face enduring questions of faith, family, and identity. Multicultural Fiction. 512 pages

Patient H.M. by Luke Dittrich

In 1953, a twenty-seven-year-old factory worker named Henry Molaison—who suffered from severe epilepsy—received a radical new version of the then-common lobotomy, targeting the most mysterious structures in the brain. The operation failed to eliminate Henry's seizures, but it did have an unintended effect: Henry was left profoundly amnesic, unable to create long-term memories. Over the next sixty years, Patient H.M., as Henry was known, became the most studied individual in the history of neuroscience, a human guinea pig who would teach us much of what we know about memory today. Non-Fiction. 480 pages

Paper Towns by John Green

One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life. Then, the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure, and mysteriously disappears. Always an enigma, Margo has now become a mystery. But there are clues. And they're for Q. Young Adult Fiction. 305 pages

Paris for One and Other Stories by Jojo Moyes

Nell is twenty-six and has never been to Paris. She's never even been on a romantic weekend away—to anywhere—before. Traveling abroad isn't really her thing. But when Nell's boyfriend fails to show up for their mini-vacation, she has the opportunity to prove everyone—including herself—wrong. Alone in Paris, Nell finds a version of herself she never knew existed: independent and intrepid. Could this turn out to be the most adventurous weekend of her life? Fiction. 288 pages

Paris Time Capsule by Ella Carey

New York-based photographer Cat Jordan is ready to begin a new life with her successful, button-down boyfriend. But when she learns that she's inherited the estate of a complete stranger—a woman named Isabelle de Florian—her life is turned upside down. Cat arrives in Paris to find that she is now the owner of a perfectly preserved Belle Époque apartment in the ninth arrondissement, and that the Frenchwoman's family knew nothing about this secret estate. Amid these strange developments, Cat is left with burning questions: Who was Isabelle de Florian? And why did she leave the inheritance to Cat instead of her own family? As Cat travels France in search of answers, she feels her grasp on her New York life starting to slip. With long-buried secrets coming to light and an attraction to Isabelle de Florian's grandson growing too intense to ignore, Cat will have to decide what to let go of, and what to claim as her own. Fiction. 274 pages

The Paris Wife by Paula McLain

The Paris Wife captures a remarkable period of time and a love affair between two unforgettable people: Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley. Though deeply in love, the Hemingways are ill prepared for the hard-drinking and fast-living life of Jazz Age Paris, which hardly values traditional notions of family and monogamy.

Surrounded by beautiful women and competing egos, Ernest struggles to find the voice that will earn him a place in history. Hadley, meanwhile, strives to hold on to her sense of self as the demands of life with Ernest grow costly and her roles as wife, friend, and muse become more challenging. Fiction. 335 pages

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender

Eating her birthday cake on her ninth birthday, Rose Edelstein discovers that she has an odd gift: she can literally taste the emotions of whoever prepares her food, giving her unwanted insight into the secret emotional lives of other people. Magical realism in Los Angeles. With plot surprises and interesting characters, this coming-of-age story is both odd and beguiling. Fiction. 292 pages

Peony in Love by Lisa See

Peony, a 15-year-old already betrothed Chinese girl, breaches etiquette when she accidentally sees a man who has entered the family garden. Mirroring a well-known opera called *The Peony Pavilion*, the story tells of a young woman who chafes at social conventions. Like her earlier *Snowflower and the Secret Fan*, Lisa See fills her books with colorful historical details. Historical Fiction. 297 pages

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks

Inspired by a true story of a mysterious codex (Latin for block of wood, but we know it as a modern book with pages) known as the Sarajevo Haggadah. This is a sweeping adventure story about a rare book expert who is hired to restore the codex and eventually discovers its origins and unlocks its mysteries. Spanning time from Medieval Spain (where members of the Inquisition try to burn it), to World War II (where Nazis try to burn it) to the war in Bosnia (where it is again rescued from harm), this is a dazzling and swashbuckling novel. Historical Fiction. 372 pages

The Perfume Collector by Kathleen Tessaro

Newlywed Grace Monroe doesn't fit anyone's expectations of a successful 1950s London socialite, least of all her own. When she receives an unexpected inheritance from a complete stranger, Madame Eva d'Orsey, Grace is drawn to uncover the identity of her mysterious benefactor. Weaving through the decades, from 1920s New York to Monte Carlo, Paris, and London, the story Grace uncovers is that of an extraordinary woman who inspired one of Paris's greatest perfumers. Immortalized in three evocative perfumes, Eva d'Orsey's history will transform Grace's life forever, forcing her to choose between the woman she is expected to be and the person she really is. Fiction. 464 pages

Personal History by Katherine Graham

From a sheltered and wealthy childhood (at boarding school she wore the same dirty sweater over and over because she did not know how to do laundry) to marriage to a formidable and unstable husband who takes the reins of her family business to her own independence as one of the most powerful women in the United States, this is a biography of Katherine Graham. The story of her life is framed by the changing role of women and against the political events in Washington and culminates in her involvement in exposing the Watergate scandal. 1998 Pulitzer Prize. Biography & Memoir. 642 pages

The Piano Teacher by Janice Lee

Plain and clumsy Claire Pendleton escapes spinsterhood and her home in England by marrying a man she does not love and moving to Hong Kong in 1952. Taking a job as a piano teacher with a wealthy Chinese family, she soon begins an affair with their enigmatic British chauffeur. The Japanese invasion of China during World World II reaches out from the past and impacts the present in this suspenseful and poignant story. The author grew up in Hong Kong and has a great eye for detail. Historical Fiction. 328 pages

The Piano Tuner by Daniel Mason

Edgar Drake, a middle-aged, mild-mannered Englishman devoted to his wife and the craft of piano tuning, who has never been out of England takes on a very odd task in 1886. The British War Office, responding to a request from a surgeon-general stationed in Burma, in the far reaches of the Empire, wants his piano tuned. The first half of the novel recounts Drake's journey to Burma and the second half portrays Drake's growing infatuation with the exotic land and particularly with a Burmese woman he meets. Haunting, passionate storytelling. Fiction. 317 pages

Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett

Set in 12th century England this magnificent novel is the story of a prior, his master builder and the community members of the fictional village of Kingsbridge as they struggle to build a cathedral while protecting themselves during the tumultuous time after the death of Henry I. A radical departure from the thrillers he usually writes, Follet has written a great adventure which is not weighted down by the tremendous amount of historical detail. A very big and very satisfying book. Historical Fiction. 973 pages

Plainsong by Kent Haruf

Holt, Colorado, a small town where everyone knows everybody's business before it happens, is home to a group of people brought together by a teacher who makes them interact. Gentle and plainspoken, this is a very satisfying story that relies on vivid characters that bring it to life. Fiction. 301 pages

The Plot Against America by Phillip Roth

In this stunning novel of "alternative history" President Franklin Roosevelt is defeated by Charles Lindbergh in the 1940 election and Lindbergh begins a campaign against Jews. In this atmosphere of religious hatred a Jewish family is divided by those who see the final outcome of the intolerance and those who have been persuaded it is in their best interest. This stunning novel, which is often quite funny, balances personal, domestic and national events and challenges the reader to think about what happens when a government limits religious freedom in the name of national interest. Fiction. 391 pages

The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York by Deborah Blum

Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer Deborah Blum follows New York City's first forensic scientists to discover a fascinating Jazz Age story of chemistry and detection, poison and murder. She draws from highly original research to track the fascinating, perilous days when a pair of forensic scientists, chief medical examiner Charles Norris and toxicologist Alexander Gettler, began their trailblazing chemical detective work, fighting to end an era when untraceable poisons offered an easy path to the perfect crime. Nonfiction. 319 pages

Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Doomed by his own self-righteousness, a Baptist minister's move to the Congo with his family becomes a foolhardy and dangerous venture. With its great background detail, excellent characterizations and biting humor, this is both a compelling family saga and a tragic look at Africa. Fiction. 546 pages

Portrait in Sepia by Isabel Allende

Sequel to *Daughter of Fortune*. Aurora del Valle, the grand-daughter of Eliza Sommers (*Daughter of Fortune's* main character), is born in San Francisco, but kidnapped and taken to Chile where she is raised. The trauma of Aurora's early life haunts her, but she seeks to find her heritage. Authentically evoking nineteenth century California and Chile, Allende presents a portrait rich in colorful characters and a compelling story. Historical Fiction. 304 pages

The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg

New York Times business reporter Charles Duhigg takes us to the thrilling edge of scientific discoveries that explain why habits exist and how they can be changed. With penetrating intelligence and an ability to distill vast amounts of information into engrossing narratives, he brings to life a whole new understanding of human nature and its potential for transformation. Along the way we learn why some people and companies struggle to change, despite years of trying, while others seem to remake themselves overnight. Nonfiction. 371 pages

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the suit of a snobbish gentleman, as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters. Classic Fiction. 435 pages

The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio by Terry Ryan

Introduces Evelyn Ryan, an enterprising woman who kept poverty at bay with wit, poetry, and perfect prose during the "contest era" of the 1950s and 1960s. Standing up to the church, her alcoholic husband, and antiquated ideas about women, Evelyn turned every financial challenge into an opportunity for innovation, all

the while raising her six sons and four daughters with the belief that miracles are an everyday occurrence. Evelyn Ryan's story is told by her daughter Terry with an infectious joy that shows how a winning spirit and sense of humor can triumph over adversity every time. Biography & Memoir. 351 pages

The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

A collection of poetic essays that are philosophical, spiritual, and inspirational. Gibran's musings are divided into 28 chapters covering such sprawling topics as love, marriage, children, giving, eating and drinking, work, joy and sorrow, housing, clothes, buying and selling, crime and punishment, laws, freedom, reason and passion, pain, self-knowledge, teaching, friendship, good and evil, prayer, pleasure, beauty, religion, and death. Published in 1923, it has been translated into more than 20 languages. Nonfiction. 96 pages

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over brainstorming in teams. Although they are often labeled "quiet," it is to introverts that we owe many of the great contributions to society—from van Gogh's sunflowers to the invention of the personal computer. Passionately argued, impressively researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, *Quiet* shows how dramatically we undervalue introverts, and how much we lose in doing so. Nonfiction. 352 pages

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore

As World War I raged across the globe, hundreds of young women toiled away at the radium-dial factories, where they painted clock faces with a mysterious new substance called radium. Assured by their bosses that the luminous material was safe, the women themselves shone brightly in the dark, covered from head to toe with the glowing dust. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" were considered the luckiest alive--until they began to fall mysteriously ill. As the fatal poison of the radium took hold, they found themselves embroiled in one of America's biggest scandals and a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights. *The Radium Girls* explores the strength of extraordinary women in the face of almost impossible circumstances and the astonishing legacy they left behind. Non-Fiction. 496 pages.

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Afar Nafisi

After she resigned from her job as a university professor in Iran, the author invited seven former students to secretly read and discuss great books of Western literature—books that were banned by the government. As the women read and talked they began to share stories of their own lives, the repression they experienced and their small acts of freedom in the face of that repression. Nonfiction. 356 pages

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines--puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win--and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape. Fantasy Fiction. 374 pages.

Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again. It seemed to me I stood by the iron gate leading to the drive and for a while I could not enter, for the way was barred to me." These famous lines begin the classic and mysterious story that still speaks to readers. The central character meets and marries the very rich Maxim de Winter and moves to the fabulous estate of Manderley, which is permeated with the presence of de Winter's first wife Rebecca. A terrific classic, whether reading for the first time or reading again. Classic Fiction. 410 pages

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Dinah, daughter of Jacob and sister of Joseph, and a tribal midwife in Biblical times, assists the women who enter the red tent, the place where they are sequestered during menses and childbirth. Sharing gossip and encouragement, they bring to life the women of the Bible. Historical Fiction. 321 pages

A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick

This Gothic tale, which takes place in 1907, is the story of Ralph Truitt, a man burning with the desire of living a solitary life, who awaits his mail order bride, only to discover that the woman is interested in his wealth. Marrying her anyway, he soon begins to sicken because she is poisoning him. He does not die, but the story unfolds in ways neither the characters nor the readers expect. Fiction. 305 pages

The Rent Collector by Camron Wright

Sang Ly struggles to survive by picking through garbage in Cambodia's largest municipal dump. Under threat of eviction by an embittered old drunk who is charged with collecting rents from the poor of Stung Meanchey, Sang Ly embarks on a desperate journey to save her ailing son from a life of ignorance and poverty. Multicultural Fiction. 271 pages

The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House by Kate Andersen Brower

America's First Families are unknowable in many ways. No one has insight into their true character like the people who serve their meals and make their beds every day. Full of stories and details by turns dramatic, humorous, and heartwarming, *The Residence* reveals daily life in the White House as it is really lived through the voices of the maids, butlers, cooks, florists, doormen, engineers, and others who tend to the needs of the President and First Family. Non-Fiction. 315 pages

Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend by Susan Orlean

Allegedly found in the ruins of a bombed-out dog kennel in France during World War I, then brought to Los Angeles by Lee Duncan, the soldier who found and trained him, by 1927 Rin Tin Tin had become Hollywood's number one box-office star. This is a poignant exploration of the enduring bond between humans and animals. It is also a richly textured history of twentieth-century entertainment and entrepreneurship. It spans ninety years and explores everything from the shift in status of dogs from working farmhands to beloved family members, from the birth of obedience training to the evolution of dog breeding, from the rise of Hollywood to the past and present of dogs in war.

Non-Fiction. 324 pages

Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon to Mars by Nathalia Holt

In the 1940s and 50s, when the newly minted Jet Propulsion Laboratory needed quick-thinking mathematicians to calculate velocities and plot trajectories, they didn't turn to male graduates. Rather, they recruited an elite group of young women who, with only pencil, paper, and mathematical prowess, transformed rocket design, helped bring about the first American satellites, and made the exploration of the solar system possible. For the first time, *Rise of the Rocket Girls* tells the stories of these women--known as "human computers"--who broke the boundaries of both gender and science. Based on extensive research and interviews with all the living members of the team, *Rise of the Rocket Girls* offers a unique perspective on the role of women in science: both where we've been, and the far reaches of space to which we're heading. Non-Fiction. 338 pages

Room by Emma Donoghue

After being abducted a young woman is held captive in a 120 square foot room where her captor forces himself on her and fathers her child. Jack, the 5-year-old child, narrates this story of the captivity, escape and aftermath. Inspired by a similar, true story, *Room* is not sensational, but has elements of discovery and hope. Superb writing. Fiction. 321 pages

The Room by Jonas Karlsson

Bjorn is a compulsive, meticulous bureaucrat who discovers a secret room at the government office where he works--a secret room that no one else in his office will acknowledge. When Bjorn is in his room, what his co-workers see is him standing by the wall and staring off into space looking dazed, relaxed, and decidedly

creepy. Bjorn's bizarre behavior eventually leads his co-workers to try and have him fired, but Bjorn will turn the tables on them with help from his secret room. Fiction. 192 pages

The Round House by Louise Erdrich

When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, 14-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person who destroyed his family. 2012 National Book Award. Fiction. 321 pages

The Rules of Civility by Amor Towles

Set in New York City in 1938, *Rules of Civility* tells the story of a watershed year in the life of an uncompromising 25-year-old named Katey Kontent. Armed with little more than a formidable intellect, a bracing wit, and her own brand of cool nerve, Katey embarks on a journey from a Wall Street secretarial pool through the upper echelons of New York society in search of a brighter future. Fiction. 335 pages

The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama

Just as the Japanese are invading China, a young Chinese man with tuberculosis is sent to a small Japanese village to recuperate. His relationships with the locals bring him to a greater wisdom about love, honor and loss. Historical Fiction. 211 pages

The Sandcastle Girls by Chris Bohjalian – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2014**

World War I is spreading across Europe, and Elizabeth Endicott has volunteered to deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian genocide. In Syria, she becomes friendly with Armen, a young Armenian engineer who has already lost his wife and infant daughter. Flash forward to the present, where we meet Laura Petrosian, a novelist living in suburban New York who has never really given her Armenian heritage much thought. But when an old friend calls, she embarks on a journey back through her family's history that reveals a wrenching secret buried for generations. This spellbinding tale travels between Aleppo, Syria in 1915 and Bronxville, New York in 2012—a historical love story steeped in the author's Armenian heritage. Fiction. 299 pages

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosney

Two stories converge in this remarkable historical novel. In 1942 German occupied Paris Sarah, the daughter of a Jewish family about to be taken by the Nazis, locks her brother in a closet so he is not taken away, but the family wonders if it will be able to return and rescue the young boy. Skipping ahead to 2002 an American journalist, married to a Frenchman, discovers that the apartment where she lives once housed Jews that were deported. When the journalist decides to unravel what happened to the family that once lived there, the history of the boy and the family is discovered. Historical Fiction. 293 pages

Schroder by Amity Gaige

Attending a New England summer camp, young Eric Schroder—a first-generation East German immigrant—adopts the last name Kennedy to more easily fit in, a fateful white lie that will set him on an improbable and ultimately tragic course. --- Eric Schroder brings his daughter, Meadow, to Lake Champlain, Vermont, in an attempt to outrun the authorities amid a heated custody battle with his wife-- who will soon discover that her husband is not who he says he is. Fiction. 272 pages

The Secret History by Donna Tartt

Under the influence of their charismatic classics professor, a group of clever, eccentric misfits at an elite New England college discover a way of thinking and living that is a world away from the humdrum existence of their contemporaries. But when they go beyond the boundaries of normal morality their lives are changed profoundly and forever, and they discover how hard it can be to truly live and how easy it is to kill. Fiction. 559 pages

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Living with her abusive father on a middle-of-nowhere peach farm, 14-year-old Lily yearns for her dead mother. When Lily's only friend, the African-American nanny Rosaleen, is attacked by racists in their 1964 South

Carolina town, the two of them set off on a journey that takes them to the home of three beekeeping sisters, who shelter them and give Lily an optimistic future. Fiction. 302 pages

The Secrets Between Us by Thrity Umrigar

"It isn't the words we speak that make us who we are. Or even the deeds we do. It is the secrets buried in our hearts." Poor and illiterate, Bhima had faithfully worked for the Dubash family, an upper-middle-class Parsi household, for more than twenty years. Yet after courageously speaking the truth about a heinous crime perpetrated against her own family, the devoted servant was cruelly fired. The sting of that dismissal was made more painful coming from Sera Dubash, the temperamental employer who had long been Bhima's only confidante. A woman who has endured despair and loss with stoicism, Bhima must now find some other way to support herself and her granddaughter, Maya. A perceptive novel that evokes the complexities of life in modern India and the harsh realities faced by women born without privilege as they struggle to survive. Multicultural Fiction. 357 pages

The Secrets of Midwives by Sally Hepworth

Neva Bradley, a third-generation midwife, is determined to keep the details surrounding her own pregnancy—including the identity of the baby's father—hidden from her family and co-workers for as long as possible. Her mother, Grace, finds it impossible to let this secret rest. The more Grace prods, the tighter Neva holds to her story, and the more the lifelong differences between private, quiet Neva and open, gregarious Grace strain their relationship. For Floss, Neva's grandmother and a retired midwife, Neva's situation thrusts her back sixty years in time to a secret that eerily mirrors her granddaughter's—one which, if revealed, will have life-changing consequences for them all. As Neva's pregnancy progresses and speculation makes it harder and harder to conceal the truth, Floss wonders if hiding her own truth is ultimately more harmful than telling it. Will these women reveal their secrets and deal with the inevitable consequences? Or are some secrets best kept hidden? Fiction. 326 pages

The Sellout by Paul Beatty

A biting satire about a young man's isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court. Raised in the "agrarian ghetto" of Dickens--improbably smack in the middle of downtown L.A.--the narrator of *The Sellout* resigned himself to the fate of all other middle-class Californians: "to die in the same bedroom you'd grown up in, looking up at the crack in the stucco ceiling that had been there since '68 quake." Raised by a single father, a controversial sociologist at Riverside Community College, he spent his childhood as the subject in psychological studies, classic experiments revised to include a racially-charged twist. He also grew up believing this pioneering work might result in a memoir that would solve their financial woes. But when his father is killed in a shoot out with the police, he realizes there never was a memoir. All that's left is the bill for a drive-thru funeral and some maudlin what-ifs. Fuelled by this injustice and the general disrepair of his down-trodden hometown, he sets out to right another wrong: Dickens has literally been removed from the map to save California further embarrassment. 2016 Man Booker Prize Winner. Fiction. 288 pages

The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes

Follows middle-aged Tony Webster as he reflects on a past he thought was behind him. With his marriage and family and career fallen into an amicable divorce and retirement, he is presented with a mysterious legacy that obliges him to reconsider a variety of things he thought he'd understood all along and to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world. Winner, Man Booker Prize. Fiction. 163 pages

1776 by David McCullough

Historian McCullough captures the turbulent and momentous year of 1776 when American and British politicians struggled to reach a compromise, but eventually were led to war. Presenting well-rounded portraits of George Washington and King George III, the author cuts through mythology to address the personalities and motivations of each man. The book also vividly depicts the dismal conditions the soldiers from both sides endured and explains how a ragtag group of Americans won a war against the world's greatest empire. Enthralling and superbly written. Nonfiction. 386 pages

Shades of Grey by Jasper Fforde

Welcome to Chromatacia, where the societal hierarchy is strictly regulated by one's limited color perception. And Eddie Russet wants to move up. But his plans to leverage his better-than-average red perception and marry into a powerful family are quickly upended. Juggling inviolable rules, sneaky Yellows, and a risky friendship with an intriguing Grey named Jane who shows Eddie that the apparent peace of his world is as much an illusion as color itself, Eddie finds he must reckon with the cruel regime behind this gaily painted façade. Fiction. 390 pages

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

This international bestseller is an original and unusual novel that lures the reader into a magical world. Set in 1950s Barcelona, Spain, young Daniel is taken to a secret library by his father and told to choose a book. The chosen book is by an obscure author whose books are being tracked down and burned by a mysterious stranger. Thus young Daniel grows into adulthood transfixed by the book and all that surrounds it. Compelling reading. Fiction. 486 pages

Shanghai Girls by Lisa See -- **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2009**

Spanning 1937 to 1957, this is the story of sisters Pearl and May whose lives in Shanghai are disrupted by arranged marriages and the Japanese invasion of China and who must immigrate to California. Incarcerated at the Ellis Island-like Angel Island, they then are able to come to Los Angeles Chinatown, where they start new lives. Rich in history and detail, this book is a wonderful exploration of the relationship of two sisters. Historical Fiction. 314 pages

Shakespeare: the World as Stage by Bill Bryson

Considering the hundreds of thousands of words that have been written about Shakespeare, relatively little is known about the man himself. In this addition to the Eminent Lives series, bestselling author Bryson (*The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*) does what he does best: marshaling the usual little facts that others might overlook—for example, that in Shakespeare's day perhaps 40% of women were pregnant when they got married—to paint a portrait of the world in which the Bard lived and prospered. Bryson's curiosity serves him well, as he delves into subjects as diverse as the reliability of the extant images of Shakespeare, a brief history of the theater in England and the continuing debates about whether William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon really wrote Shakespeare's works. Biography & Memoir. 208 pages

The Shipping News by Annie Proulx

Quoyle, a sad sack writer who moves his children and straight-talking aunt back to their ancestral home in Newfoundland, is the central character in this story of a group of people confronting the hard, cold life of an island fishing village. Told with great wit and glorious language, this novel is a page turner. 1994 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction; 1993 National Book Award. Fiction. 337 pages

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward

Jojo and his toddler sister, Kayla, live with their grandparents, Mam and Pop, and the occasional presence of their drug-addicted mother, Leonie, on a farm on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Leonie is simultaneously tormented and comforted by visions of her dead brother, which only come to her when she's high; Mam is dying of cancer; and quiet, steady Pop tries to run the household and teach Jojo how to be a man. When the white father of Leonie's children is released from prison, she packs her kids and a friend into her car and sets out across the state for Parchman farm, the Mississippi State Penitentiary, on a journey rife with danger and promise. Fiction. 320 pages

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

One of the world's great anti-war books. Centering on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know. Classic Fiction. 275 pages

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey

Alaska, 1920: a brutal place to homestead, and especially tough for recent arrivals Jack and Mabel. Childless, they are drifting apart—he breaking under the weight of the work of the farm; she crumbling from loneliness

and despair. In a moment of levity during the season's first snowfall, they build a child out of snow. The next morning the snow child is gone, but they glimpse a young, blonde-haired girl running through the trees. They come to love this little girl, who calls herself Faina, as their own daughter, but in this beautiful, violent place things are rarely as they appear. Fiction. 391 pages

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

Two 19th century Chinese girls, meant to be friends for life, are imprisoned by rigid rules of conduct, which require that their feet be bound. This engrossing and poignant novel, which takes the girls into womanhood, is based on the author's meticulous research. Historical Fiction. 269 pages

The Soloist by Mark Salzman

An emotionally distant one-time cello prodigy is transformed by two events—his involvement as juror in a murder trial and the music lessons he gives to a new student. This spiritual journey by a local author is beautifully written. Fiction. 284 pages

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman

Two cultures clash in this extraordinary story of a Hmong (Laotian) immigrant family with a very ill child and the California doctors who try to care for her. The author of this thought-provoking, beautifully woven story never takes sides. Nonfiction. 341 pages

A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler

"It was a beautiful, breezy, yellow-and-green afternoon. . . ." This is how Abby Whitshank always describes the day she fell in love with Red in July 1959. The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate an indefinable kind of specialness, but like all families, their stories reveal only part of the picture: Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets. From Red's parents, newly arrived in Baltimore in the 1920s, to the grandchildren carrying the Whitshank legacy boisterously into the twenty-first century, here are four generations of lives unfolding in and around the sprawling, lovingly worn house that has always been their anchor. Fiction. 384 pages

State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

The author of *Bel Canto* returns with a plot-twisting and page-turning novel. Dr. Marina Singh, a research assistant for a pharmaceutical company in Minnesota, is sent to Brazil to locate the remains of a fellow worker, who went into the rainforest to find the reclusive Dr. Annick Swenson, who is researching fertility. The author's magnificent descriptions of the flora and fauna are matched by the creative plot and characters. Masterful storytelling. Fiction. 353 pages

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

Examines the collapse of civilization after a deadly flu wipes out most of the world's population. Moving gracefully from the first days of the plague to years before it and decades after, Mandel anchors the story to Arthur Leander, a famous actor who dies of a heart attack while playing King Lear on stage. We see glimpses of Arthur's life years before his passing: his doomed relationship with his first wife, the exploitation of an old friendship, his failings as a father. And then we follow characters whose lives Arthur touched in some way: the paramedic who tried to save him, his second ex-wife and their damaged son, the child actress who joins a traveling theater troupe-cum-orchestra. In this postpandemic time, people live in gas stations and motels, curate museums filled with cell phones and car engines, and treasure tabloids and comic books. One comic book gives the novel its title and encapsulates the longing felt by the survivors for the world they have lost. Science Fiction. 333 pages

The Status of All Things by Liz Fenton

Kate is a thirty-five-year-old woman who is obsessed with social media. So when her fiancé, Max, breaks things off at their rehearsal dinner—to be with Kate's close friend and coworker, no less—she goes straight to Facebook to share it with the world. But something's changed. Suddenly, Kate's real life starts to mirror whatever she writes in her Facebook status. With all the power at her fingertips, and heartbroken and confused over why Max left her, Kate goes back in time to rewrite their history. Kate's two best friends, Jules and Liam,

are the only ones who know the truth. In order to convince them she's really time traveled, Kate offers to use her Facebook status to help improve their lives. But her attempts to help them don't go exactly as planned, and every effort to get Max back seems to only backfire, causing Kate to wonder if it's really possible to change her fate. Fiction. 294 pages

Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson

Based on more than 40 interviews with Jobs conducted over two years, as well as interviews with more than a hundred family members, friends, adversaries, competitors, and colleagues, Isaacson wrote a riveting story of the roller-coaster life and searingly intense personality of a creative entrepreneur whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing. Biography & Memoir. 630 pages

Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail by Malika Oufkir

After living a life of great abundance as friends of the king of Morocco, a family is forced into exile when the father engineers a failed coup against the king. Enduring 20 years of solitude and infested prison cells, the family is finally released. The grim ordeal, told in first person narrative, is a compelling chronicle of how a family survives in spite of the most demeaning life. Biography & Memoir. 293 pages

Stones for Ibarra by Harriet Doerr

Thinking that it will be an idyllic adventure, a San Francisco couple moves to Mexico to re-start a family business. Living without electricity and water in an unfamiliar culture, Sara and Richard experience life in a subtle and surprising way. Great depth of character and setting add to the quiet quality of the book. Fiction. 214 pages

Stones from the River by Ursula Hegi

A perennial outsider because she is a dwarf, Trudy Montag lives in a small German town prior to and after World War II. She exploits her gift for eliciting secrets from people and protects those who show her kindness. Drawing strength and wisdom from her inability to fit into a conformist society, this book is sensitive and rewarding. Fiction. 525 pages

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over--and see everything anew. Fiction. 260 pages

The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg

For the past six months, Arthur Moses's days have looked the same: He tends to his rose garden and to Gordon, his cat, then rides the bus to the cemetery to visit his beloved late wife for lunch. The last thing Arthur would imagine is for one unlikely encounter to utterly transform his life. Eighteen-year-old Maddy Harris is an introspective girl who visits the cemetery to escape the other kids at school. One afternoon she joins Arthur—a gesture that begins a surprising friendship between two lonely souls. Moved by Arthur's kindness and devotion, Maddy gives him the nickname "Truluv." As Arthur's neighbor Lucille moves into their orbit, the unlikely trio band together and, through heartache and hardships, help one another rediscover their own potential to start anew. Fiction. 253 pages

The Storyteller's Secret by Sejal Badani

Nothing prepares Jaya, a New York journalist, for the heartbreak of her third miscarriage and the slow unraveling of her marriage in its wake. Desperate to assuage her deep anguish, she decides to go to India to uncover answers to her family's past. Intoxicated by the sights, smells, and sounds she experiences, Jaya becomes an eager student of the culture. But it is Ravi—her grandmother's former servant and trusted confidant—who reveals the resilience, struggles, secret love, and tragic fall of Jaya's pioneering grandmother during the British occupation. Through her courageous grandmother's arrestingly romantic and heart-wrenching story, Jaya discovers the legacy bequeathed to her and a strength that, until now, she never knew was possible. Multicultural Fiction. 400 pages

Swamplandia by Karen Russell

This wildly inventive story tells the story of the Bigtree family who live in Florida and run a broken down amusement park called Swamplandia. Trying to attract tourists and without a drop of Native American blood, family members dress up as Seminoles and jump into pools of alligators to show off their wrestling skills. A first novel that was selected as one of the best books of the year in 2011. Fiction. 400 pages

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Alan Bradley

It is the summer of 1950—and at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events: A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Then, hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath. For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw. “I wish I could say I was afraid, but I wasn’t. Quite the contrary. This was by far the most interesting thing that had ever happened to me in my entire life.” Mystery. 373 pages

The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen

It is April 1975, and Saigon is in chaos. At his villa, a general of the South Vietnamese army is drinking whiskey and, with the help of his trusted captain, drawing up a list of those who will be given passage aboard the last flights out of the country. The general and his compatriots start a new life in Los Angeles, unaware that one among their number, the captain, is secretly observing and reporting on the group to a higher-up in the Viet Cong. The Sympathizer is the story of this captain: a man brought up by an absent French father and a poor Vietnamese mother, a man who went to university in America, but returned to Vietnam to fight for the Communist cause. A gripping spy novel, an astute exploration of extreme politics, and a moving love story, The Sympathizer explores a life between two worlds and examines the legacy of the Vietnam War in literature, film, and the wars we fight today. 2016 Pulitzer Prize Winner for Fiction. Historical Fiction. 371 pages

A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki

In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there’s only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates’ bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun who’s lived more than a century. A diary is Nao’s only solace—and will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine. Across the Pacific, we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao’s drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future. Fiction. 422 pages

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle

As a pastor working in a neighborhood with the highest concentration of murderous gang activity in Los Angeles, Gregory Boyle created Homeboy Industries nearly 20 years ago as an organization to provide jobs, job training, and encouragement so that young people could work together and learn the mutual respect that comes from collaboration. This collection presents parables about kinship and the sacredness of life drawn from Boyle’s years of working with gangs. Nonfiction. 217 pages

The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

In a remote Chinese mountain village, Li-yan and her family align their lives around the farming of tea. Life goes on as it has for generations--until a stranger appears, bringing the modern world to the lives of the Akha people. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, begins to reject customs that shaped her early life. When she has a baby out of wedlock, she leaves her near an orphanage. While Li-yan leaves her village for an education, a business, and city life, her daughter, Haley, is raised in California by loving adoptive parents. Haley wonders about her origins and Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. Multicultural Fiction. 371 pages

Tell the Wolves I’m Home by Carol Rifka Brunt

There’s only one person who has ever truly understood 14-year-old June Elbus, and that’s her uncle, the renowned painter Finn Weiss. Shy at school and distant from her older sister, June can only be herself in Finn’s company; he is her godfather, confidant, and best friend. So when he dies of a mysterious illness her

mother can barely speak about, June's world is turned upside down. But Finn's death brings a surprise acquaintance into June's life—someone who will help her to heal, and to question what she thinks she knows about Finn, her family, and even her own heart. Fiction. 360 pages

Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table by Ruth Reichl

Former New York Times restaurant critic and editor of now defunct *Gourmet* magazine tells a wry tale of growing up with food. Her stories of family members (her mother could not cook, but their housekeeper was a magician in the kitchen), mentors and the author's own anxieties are filtered through the lens of cooking and eating. Seasoned with glorious descriptions of adventurous meals, this is a unique coming of age story. Biography & Memoir. 282 pages

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Janie Crawford tells the story of her life in a series of flashbacks, which she relates to her friend Phoebe. Sharing the experiences of an African American woman in the early 1900s, Janie describes her quest for fulfillment. The author, a prominent member of the Harlem Renaissance, pioneered the use of dialect long before it was used in *The Help*. Classic Fiction. 286 pages

There There by Tommy Orange

Follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind. Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together after his uncle's death and working at the powwow to honor his memory. Fourteen-year-old Orvil, coming to perform traditional dance for the very first time. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism. Multicultural Fiction. 400 pages

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

A post-colonial novel written by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe in 1958. It is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, one of the first to receive global critical acclaim. The novel follows the life of Okonkwo, an Igbo ("Ibo" in the novel) leader and local wrestling champion in the fictional Nigerian village of Umuofia. The work is split into three parts, the first describing his family and personal history, the customs and society of the Igbo, and the second and third sections introduce the influence of British colonialism and Christian missionaries on the Igbo community. Historical Fiction. 209 pages

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah's voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out why. Young Adult Fiction. 288 pages

The 33: Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in the Chilean Mine, and the Miracle That Set Them Free by Hector Tobar

When the San José mine collapsed outside of Copiapó, Chile, in August 2010, it trapped thirty-three miners beneath thousands of feet of rock for a record-breaking sixty-nine days. After the disaster, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Héctor Tobar received exclusive access to the miners and their tales, and in *Deep Down Dark*, he brings them to haunting, visceral life. We learn what it was like to be imprisoned inside a mountain, understand the horror of being slowly consumed by hunger, and experience the awe of working in such a place—one filled with danger and that often felt alive. A masterwork of narrative journalism and a stirring testament to the power of the human spirit, *Deep Down Dark* captures the profound ways in which the lives of everyone involved in the catastrophe were forever changed. Nonfiction. 336 pages

This is Where I Leave You by Jonathan Tropper

The death of Judd Foxman's father marks the first time that the entire Foxman family—including Judd's mother, brothers, and sister—have been together in years. Conspicuously absent: Judd's wife, Jen, whose 14-month affair with Judd's radio-shock-jock boss has recently become painfully public. Simultaneously mourning

the death of his father and the demise of his marriage, Judd joins the rest of the Foxmans as they reluctantly submit to their patriarch's dying request: to spend the seven days following the funeral together. In the same house. Like a family. Fiction. 339 pages

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

This is the second novel by the author of *The Kite Runner*. Two young Afghan women, both married off to the same middle-aged abusive husband, try to survive in a despotic household while also caught up in the throes of war. Hosseini successfully evokes the interior lives of these two very different women, who are brought together by dire circumstances. Fiction. 372 pages

The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obreht

Remembering childhood stories her grandfather once told her, young physician Natalia becomes convinced that he spent his last days searching for "the deathless man," a vagabond who claimed to be immortal. As Natalia struggles to understand why her grandfather, a deeply rational man would go on such a farfetched journey, she stumbles across a clue that leads her to the extraordinary story of the tiger's wife. Fiction. 353 pages

The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

Imagine meeting your husband, who is naked, in a field when you are six years old. Clare and Henry seem like an ordinary couple, but he is a prisoner of time who travels back and forth from the present to the past. An original love story and dazzling science fiction for non-science fiction readers. Science Fiction. 546 pages

The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference by Malcolm Gladwell

The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate. Gladwell explores and illuminates the tipping point phenomenon, which has changed the way people throughout the world think about selling products and disseminating ideas. Nonfiction. 301 pages

'Tis by Frank McCourt

Following up on his earlier *Angela's Ashes*, McCourt continues the chronicle of his life as he returns to New York after WWII, where he becomes a teacher at a rowdy vocational school. Full of triumphs, tragedies and observations about life, this is a heartwarming book by a favorite author. Biography & Memoir. 367 pages

To Capture What We Cannot Keep by Delia Owens

In February 1887, Caitriona Wallace and Émile Nougier meet in a hot air balloon, floating high above Paris, France--a moment of pure possibility. But back on firm ground, their vastly different social strata become clear. Cait is a widow who because of her precarious financial situation is forced to chaperone two wealthy Scottish charges. Émile is expected to take on the bourgeois stability of his family's business and choose a suitable wife. As the Eiffel Tower rises, a marvel of steel and air and light, the subject of extreme controversy and a symbol of the future, Cait and Émile must decide what their love is worth. Raises probing questions about a woman's place in that world, the overarching reach of class distinctions, and the sacrifices love requires of us all. Historical Fiction. 289 pages

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus--three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though her story explores big themes, Harper Lee chooses to tell it through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up. 1961 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Classic Fiction. 336 pages

The Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2018**

The story of illegal aliens in California, told through the eyes of two very different couples, one well-off Anglos, the other illegal Mexicans living in a canyon. The novel chronicles their relationship against the background of growing hostility between immigrants and natives. Fiction. 355 pages

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Considered very frank when published more than 50 years ago, this story of a girl growing up in the squalor of turn-of-the-century New York is now considered a classic. Francie Nolan, a dreamer like her father and practical like her mother, is like a tree that grows out of the cement and survives the odds. Gentle and memorable, this book appeals to adults and teens. Classic Fiction. 493 pages

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

Writer Mitch Albom saw his former professor Morrie Schwartz on television one night talking about what it was like to be dying of Lou Gehrig's disease. What started as a reunion between student and teacher became the project of a lifetime, an inspirational account of Morrie's outlook on life, gleaned from 16 Tuesdays spent together. Inspirational. Nonfiction. 192 pages

Turn of Mind by Alice LaPlante – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2011**

Once a brilliant orthopedic surgeon who specialized in hands, Dr. Jennifer White retired when she started experiencing the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Now she narrates her own story, sometimes with the precision of her former career and sometimes through the prism of her unreliable mind. When her best friend turns up murdered, with several fingers surgically removed, Dr. White is the prime suspect. The suspense develops in this unusual and page-turning mystery. Fiction. 307 pages

The Tuscan Child by Rhys Bowen

In 1944, British bomber pilot Hugo Langley parachuted from his stricken plane into the verdant fields of German-occupied Tuscany. Badly wounded, he found refuge in a ruined monastery and in the arms of Sofia Bartoli. But the love that kindled between them was shaken by an irreversible betrayal. Nearly thirty years later, Hugo's estranged daughter, Joanna, has returned home to the English countryside to arrange her father's funeral. Among his personal effects is an unopened letter addressed to Sofia. In it is a startling revelation. Still dealing with the emotional wounds of her own personal trauma, Joanna embarks on a healing journey to Tuscany to understand her father's history—and maybe come to understand herself as well. Joanna soon discovers that some would prefer the past be left undisturbed, but she has come too far to let go of her father's secrets now... Historical Fiction. 336 pages

Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri

Eight stories take us from Cambridge and Seattle to India and Thailand as they enter the lives of sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers, daughters and sons, friends and lovers. Unaccustomed Earth is rich with Jhumpa Lahiri's signature gifts: exquisite prose, emotional wisdom, and subtle renderings of the most intricate workings of the heart and mind. Fiction. 333 pages

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand

The story of Louis Zamperini, who grew up as an often incorrigible and always determined youngster in Torrance, ran in the 1936 Olympics and then was shot down in the Pacific during World War II and eventually endured years in Japanese prisoner of war camps. The author's attention to detail and the lure of readers to put themselves in the place of Zamperini make this a very triumphant story. Biography & Memoir. 473 pages

The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett

A novella that celebrates the pleasure of reading. When the Queen in pursuit of her wandering corgis stumbles upon a mobile library, she feels duty bound to borrow a book. Aided by Norman, a young man from the palace kitchen who frequents the library, Bennett describes the Queen's transformation as she discovers the liberating pleasures of the written word. Fiction. 120 pages

Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer

At the core of this book is an appalling double murder committed by two Mormon fundamentalist brothers, Ron and Dan Lafferty, who insist they received a revelation from God commanding them to kill their blameless victims. Beginning with a meticulously researched account of this "divinely inspired" crime, Krakauer constructs a multilayered narrative of messianic delusion, polygamy, and unyielding faith, which is all the more interesting in light of current events involving the Mormon faith. Nonfiction. 399 pages

An Unnecessary Woman by Rabih Alameddine

Aaliya Saleh lives alone in her Beirut apartment, surrounded by stockpiles of books. Godless, fatherless, childless, and divorced, Aaliya is her family's "unnecessary appendage." Every year, she translates a new favorite book into Arabic, then stows it away. The thirty-seven books that Aaliya has translated over her lifetime have never been read—by anyone. In this breathtaking portrait of a reclusive woman's late-life crisis, readers follow Aaliya's digressive mind as it ricochets across visions of past and present Beirut. Colorful musings on literature, philosophy, and art are invaded by memories of the Lebanese Civil War and Aaliya's own volatile past. 2014 National Book Critics Circle Award; 2014 National Book Award Finalist. Fiction. 291 pages

The Vacationers by Emma Straub

For the Posts, a two-week trip to the Balearic island of Mallorca with their extended family and friends is a celebration: Franny and Jim are observing their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary, and their daughter, Sylvia, has graduated from high school. The sunlit island, its mountains and beaches, its tapas and tennis courts, also promise an escape from the tensions simmering at home in Manhattan. But all does not go according to plan: over the course of the vacation, secrets come to light, old and new humiliations are experienced, childhood rivalries resurface, and ancient wounds are exacerbated. This is a story of the sides of ourselves that we choose to show and those we try to conceal, of the ways we tear each other down and build each other up again, and the bonds that ultimately hold us together. Fiction. 294 pages

The Vegetarian by Han Kang

Before the nightmares began, Yeong-hye and her husband lived an ordinary, controlled life. But the dreams—invasive images of blood and brutality—torture her, driving Yeong-hye to purge her mind and renounce eating meat altogether. It's a small act of independence, but it interrupts her marriage and sets into motion an increasingly grotesque chain of events at home. As her husband, her brother-in-law and sister each fight to reassert their control, Yeong-hye obsessively defends the choice that's become sacred to her. Soon their attempts turn desperate, subjecting first her mind, and then her body, to ever more intrusive and perverse violations, sending Yeong-hye spiraling into a dangerous, bizarre estrangement, not only from those closest to her, but also from herself. 2016 Man Booker International Prize Winner. Fiction. 188 pages

A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan

With an unusual cast of characters and a narrative that skips back and forth in time, this novel (which some claim is a collection of short stories) is stunning and compelling both for its subject matter and the way it is written. The main characters are aging rocker Bennie Salazar and Sasha, the troubled young woman who works for him. As the book progresses and lives intersect, the reader learns the intimate details of their lives, but the two characters never do. 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Fiction. 340 pages

Waiting by Ha Jin

Reflecting the changes in Chinese communism from the '60s to the '80s, the novel focuses on Lin Kong, a military doctor who agrees, as his mother is dying, to an arranged marriage. His bride, Shuyu, turns out to be a country woman who looks far older than her 26 years and who has, to Lin's great embarrassment, lotus (bound) feet. While Shuyu remains at Lin's family home in Goose Village, nursing first his mother and then his ailing father, and bearing Lin a daughter, Lin lives far away in an army hospital compound, visiting only once a year. Caught in a loveless marriage, Lin is attracted to a nurse, Manna Wu, an attachment forbidden by communist strictures. According to local Party rules, Lin cannot divorce his wife without her permission until they have been separated for 18 years. 1999 National Book Award Winner; 2000 PEN/Faulkner Winner; 2000 Pulitzer Prize Finalist. Fiction. 340 pages

Water from My Heart by Charles Martin

Charlie Finn had to grow up fast, living alone by age sixteen. Highly intelligent, he earned a life-changing scholarship to Harvard, where he learned how to survive and thrive on the outskirts of privileged society. That skill served him well in the cutthroat business world, as it does in more lucrative but dangerous ventures he now operates off the coast of Miami. Charlie tries to separate relationships from work. But when his choices produce devastating consequences, he sets out to right wrongs, traveling to Central America where he will meet those who have paid for his actions, including a woman and her young daughter. Fiction. 366 pages

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson

Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Wilkinson documents the Great Migration of African Americans who left the South for the North and West. This mesmerizing work tells the story of the migration by focusing on three people, who migrated during the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. Each left their homes for different reasons, but each could not understand or tolerate the South's irrational and devastating racism. This compelling and quite intimate book manages to catch both the sweep of the migration while also highlighting the singular lives of those who lived through it. Nonfiction. 622 pages

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Moving from the present to the past, a 90-year-old man remembers his days as a veterinarian with a Depression-era circus. This original and wonderful story has romance, a very memorable cast of characters and provides a gritty description of circus life that makes readers feel as if they are there. Fiction. 350 pages

The Water Is Wide by Pat Conroy

The well-known author's second book is an autobiographical account of his experiences as a teacher on a small impoverished island off the coast of South Carolina. Teaching students who have never even heard of George Washington, Conroy optimistically reaches out to give them a glimpse into a wider world. This is a funny and touching book. Biography & Memoir. 294 pages

West with the Night by Beryl Markham

West with the Night is the story of Beryl Markham—aviator, racehorse trainer, beauty—and her life in the Kenya of the 1920s and '30s. Biography & Memoir. 293 pages

We the Animals by Justin Torres

Three brothers tear their way through childhood-- smashing tomatoes all over each other, building kites from trash, hiding out when their parents do battle, tiptoeing around the house as their mother sleeps off her graveyard shift. Paps and Ma are from Brooklyn--he's Puerto Rican, she's white--and their love is a serious, dangerous thing that makes and unmakes a family many times. Life in this family is fierce and absorbing, full of chaos and heartbreak and the euphoria of belonging completely to one another. From the intense familial unity felt by a child to the profound alienation he endures as he begins to see the world, this novel reinvents the coming-of-age story. Fiction. 136 pages

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality. What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when the future, no longer a ladder toward your goals in life, flattens out into a perpetual present? What does it mean to have a child, to nurture a new life as another fades away? Memoir. 256 pages

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka -- **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2007**

A Japanese American family is forced to leave their Berkeley home during World War II and is incarcerated in a Utah internment camp. Sparsely told and modest in length, the story is related by each of the four family members. Historical Fiction. 144 pages

Where'd You Go, Bernadette by Maria Semple

When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her. Fiction. 330 pages

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens. Fiction. 384 pages

White Oleander by Janet Fitch

Twelve-year-old Astrid, whose free-spirited mother is convicted of murder, is forced to become a foster child in three very different Los Angeles homes. With sensitive characterizations and spot-on locale descriptions, this is also a very provocative portrait of people in need. Fiction. 446 pages

White Teeth by Zadie Smith

Hapless Archibald Jones fights alongside Bengali Muslim Samad Iqbal in the English Army during World War II, and the two develop an unlikely bond that intensifies when Samad relocates to Archie's native London. Smith traces the trajectory of their friendship through marriage, parenthood, and the shared disappointments of poverty and deflated dreams, widening the scope of her novel to include a cast of vibrant characters. A remarkable examination of the immigrant's experience in a postcolonial world. Fiction. 448 pages

White Tiger by Aravind Adiga

A fast-moving and darkly comic novel set in India, this is the story of a chauffeur who murders his employer and then tries to justify it by recounting his transformation from hard-working boy to killer. Contrasting the rich and poor of India, where many are often sacrificed for the elite few, this sharp satire is hilarious. Fiction. 288 pages

Who Moved My Cheese? by Spencer Johnson

The author of *The One Minute Manager* offers a parable about change, why we resist it and how we can accomplish it. This brief story about two mice and two humans who live in a maze offers ideas about how we can get motivated to make changes in our lives. Although directed at a business audience, the book can also be used as a resource for personal change. Nonfiction. 95 pages

Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West by Gregory Maguire

This magical story of the Land of Oz, before and up to the time Dorothy arrives, tells the story of Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch of the West. Born with green skin and huge teeth, she turns out to be a character we never knew, one with spirit, panache and intelligence. Fiction. Fantasy. 409 pages

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed

At 22, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. Her mother was dead, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the impulsive decision to hike the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State and to do it alone. Nonfiction. 315 pages

The Windfall by Diksha Basu

For the past thirty years, Mr. and Mrs. Jha's lives have been defined by cramped spaces, cut corners, gossipy neighbors, and the small dramas of stolen yoga pants and stale marriages. They thought they'd settled

comfortably into their golden years, pleased with their son's acceptance into an American business school. But then Mr. Jha comes into an enormous and unexpected sum of money, and moves his wife from their housing complex in East Delhi to the super-rich side of town, where he becomes eager to fit in as a man of status: skinny ties, hired guards, shoe-polishing machines, and all. illuminates with warmth and heart the precariousness of social status, the fragility of pride, and, above all, the human drive to build and share a home. Even the rich, it turns out, need to belong somewhere. Multicultural Fiction. 318 pages

The Winter People by Jennifer McMahon

In West Hall, Vermont, some secrets never die.... In 1908 Sara Harrison Shea was found dead in the field behind her house just months after the tragic death of her daughter, Gertie. Now, in present day, Ruthie lives in Sara's farmhouse with her mother, Alice, and her younger sister, Fawn. When Ruthie wakes up one morning to find that Alice has vanished without a trace, she is startled to find a copy of Sara Harrison Shea's diary hidden beneath the floorboards of her mother's bedroom. Ruthie is not the only person who's desperately looking for someone that they've lost... but she may be the only one who can stop history from repeating itself.... Fiction. 382 pages

The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck

Set at the end of World War II, in a crumbling Bavarian castle that once played host to all of German high society, a powerful and propulsive story of three widows whose lives and fates become intertwined—an affecting, shocking, and ultimately redemptive novel. Historical Fiction. 368 pages

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. The book begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. Fiction. Children's. 315 pages

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl

by Timothy Egan

The dust storms that terrorized America's High Plains in the darkest years of the Depression were like nothing ever seen before or since, and the stories of the people that held on have never been fully told. Pulitzer Prizewinning New York Times journalist and author Timothy Egan follows a half-dozen families and their communities through the rise and fall of the region, going from sod homes to new framed houses to huddling in basements with the windows sealed by damp sheets in a futile effort to keep the dust out. Egan tells a story of endurance and heroism against the backdrop of the Great Depression. Nonfiction. 340 pages

The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion

Writers Joan Didion and her husband John Gregory Dunne were a couple well known for their innovative books and solid marriage. When Dunne died of a heart attack, just after the two had returned from the hospital where their only child was lying in a coma, Didion tries to make sense of a world where little makes sense. This memoir is how one woman tries to get a grip on the unthinkable. 2005 National Book Award. Biography & Memoir. 227 pages

Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of the fateful year of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition. As death reaches into every household and villagers turn from prayers to murderous witch-hunting, Anna must find the strength to confront the disintegration of her community and the lure of illicit love. As she struggles to survive and grow, a year of catastrophe becomes instead *annus mirabilis*, a "year of wonders." Historical Fiction. 308 pages

Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, longtime New Orleans residents Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun are cast into an unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water. In the days after the storm, Abdulrahman traveled the flooded streets in a secondhand canoe, passing on supplies and helping those he could. A week later, on September 6, 2005, Zeitoun abruptly disappeared—arrested and accused of being an agent of Al Qaeda. Nonfiction. 337 pages

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman

Cool-headed and clever Warsaw Zookeeper Jan Zabinski and his wife Antonina sheltered Jews and war resisters by hiding them in bombed out animal cages, and in their own house, in World War II Poland. Antonina's quiet, but knowing, personality and great kinship with animals highlight this marvelous true story. Sympathetic and quietly humorous, this marvelous work is a special treat for animal lovers. Nonfiction. 368 pages

Zorro by Isabel Allende

Popular author Isabel Allende traces and fictionalizes the life of the California legend and folk hero *Zorro*, who fought for the underdog despite his privileged upbringing. Born o de la Vega in Alta California and educated in Spain, the main character transforms from callow youth to Zorro, his dashing alter ego who is a hero with some flaws. History and fiction mix in this colorful (duels at dawn, evil villains, beautiful damsels in distress), witty and very readable novel. Historical Fiction. 416 pages