

Reading remains one of life's great pleasures and an important means of broadening our horizons of knowledge and experience. This list includes books of diverse cultural perspectives for readers with varying interests and abilities. Enjoy your reading discoveries. All students must read **FOUR** books, **two** of which are designated. **Two** other choices from the list are left to you. The community read and your two other choices are for you to read over the summer. **The course-designated title should be read prior to beginning your English class. For students taking English during the fall term, this will mean reading all four books over the summer.** Bring the required reading books with you when you return. Electronic texts are permissible. If, for any reason, you cannot obtain the required book online or from your local bookstore or library, please call Deerfield's Campus Store (Hitchcock House) at 413-774-1513 to arrange a shipment. You can also email [caustin@deerfield.edu](mailto:caustin@deerfield.edu). He will help you resolve the difficulty.

**Community Read**Stevenson, Bryan. **Just Mercy****English 600 Electives**

Central Questions:

Eugenides, Jeffrey. **Middlesex**

Classics in Translation:

Moore, Alan. **Watchmen**

Future Shock:

Mandel, Emily St. John. **Station Eleven**

Mystery, Madness and Lies:

Christie, Agatha. **Witness for the Prosecution & Other Stories**

New York Stories:

Nottage, Lynn. **Intimate Apparel**

Off the Shelf:

Any back issue of **Lapham's Quarterly** (Instructions will follow in August.)

The Poem Is You:

Burt, Stephen. **Sixty Contemporary American Poems and How to Read Them**

Slavery's Literary Legacy:

Whitehead, Colson. **The Nickel Boys**

Adichie, Chimamanda. **Half of a Yellow Sun** In post-colonial Nigeria, three children of different backgrounds experience the ravages of civil war and relief of union.

Alexie, Sherman. **Indian Killer** An Indian serial killer seeking retribution for the white man's crimes against his people also must come to terms with his own past.

Barr, Damian. **You Will Be Safe Here** Two mothers in South Africa—a century apart—commit to saving their sons from the forces confining the boys.

Burgess, Anthony. **A Clockwork Orange** Alex, the teenager from Hell, having committed unspeakable mayhem in a bleak England, is 'programmed' by the state to sin no more.

Camus, Albert. **The Plague** Still timely, this existential novel studies the human condition and its meaning in the face of a deadly virus that sweeps through Algiers.

Danticat, Edwidge. **The Dew Breaker** A Haitian woman traveling to Florida from New York with her father learns the truth about his life and work in Haiti under the Duvalier dictatorship.

Davies, Peter Ho. **The Fortunes** Chinese American families strive to repair lives fractured or frayed by their immigrant experiences.

Ellison, Ralph. **Invisible Man** Nameless, yet real, Ellison's African-American protagonist journeys from the rural South to Harlem, discovering himself and his invisibility.

Erpenbeck, Jenny. **Go, Went, Gone** A retired classics professor in Germany finds a new field of study that awakens his compassion—the plight of African refugees in Europe.

Finnegan, William. **Barbarian Days** Surf your way around the world and toward a writing life.

Forna, Aminatta. **Happiness** London becomes the backdrop for an unexpected connection between an American tracking urban foxes and a Ghanaian psychiatrist exploring trauma treatments.

Hill, Nathan. **The Nix** This surreal social satire targets American cultural trends from the 1960s hippies to the 2017 hipsters.

Hobbs, Jeff. **The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace** An Ivy League student's shining path of success ends in dark corners.

Howarth, Paul. **Only Killers and Thieves** If you enjoy westerns, you may find this tale of the Australian outback fascinating.

Hudes, Quiara Alegría. **Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue** Follow Elliot's return to peacetime after serving in Iraq as Hudes, who will visit campus in January 2021, begins her trilogy of award-winning plays focused on the Puerto Rican veteran and his family.

Kolbert, Elizabeth. **The Sixth Extinction** Kolbert's reporting may alter the way you see climate change.

Krakauer, Jon. **Missoula** A journalist exposes the truth about the manner in which one college handled sexual assaults on campus.

Lalami, Laila. **The Other Americans** The murder of an immigrant in California strains a family's bonds and reveals the divisions in the nation's culture.

Levy, Andrea. **Small Island** In the wake of World War II, Jamaicans immigrate to Great Britain only to find the empire for which they fought does not easily embrace newcomers.

Macdonald, Helen. **H is for Hawk** Wrought by grief her father's death a woman finds relief in the fierce grace of a goshawk.

McCann, Colum. **Let the Great World Spin** Philippe Petit's high-wire walk between the Twin Towers binds the lives of an unlikely set of New Yorkers.

Mouawad, Wajdi. **Birds of a Kind.** Contemplate the nature of identity with this new set play amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Nelson, Maggie. **The Argonauts** A celebrated prose writer confronts gender through literature, philosophy, and personal narrative.

Okparanta, Chinelo. **Happiness, Like Water** Whether in their native Nigeria or new homes in the United States, these strong men and women draw on their cultural bonds.

Phillips, Julia. **Disappearing Earth** The mystery of two girls who go missing in Kamchatka unfolds through the voices of a number of women whose lives are altered by the disappearances.

Rooney, Sally. **Normal People** Two young people from the same Irish town experience the complexities of friendship.

Rotner Sakamoto, Pamela. **Midnight in Broad Daylight** Follow the members of a Japanese-American family caught on two sides of the Pacific during WWII as they struggle to make sense of duty, honor, and patriotism.

Savich, Zach. **Diving Makes the Water Deep** A young poet's memoir of illness and poetry is full of wisdom and life.

Shamsie, Kamila. **Burnt Shadows** The effects of the partition of India reverberate and climax following 9/11.

Smith, Dominic. **The Last Painting of Sara de Vos** Might a valuable Dutch painting actually be the work of an expert forger? An art historian answers that question.

Smith, Zadie. **On Beauty** Race, class, and gender clash on a college campus where life's complications—and beauty—ultimately emerge. A nice companion to E.M. Forster's **Howards End**.

Solnit, Rebecca. **Men Explain Things to Me** Brilliant and sometimes comic essays on the gender wars.

Towles, Amor. **A Gentleman in Moscow** Reside with Count Rostov, who spends 30 eventful years under house arrest inside the Metropol Hotel as the world outside spins forward.

Urea, Luís Alberto. **The House of Broken Angels** A Mexican-American family celebrates its history during a memorable weekend.

Vanhoecker, Mark. **Skyfaring: A Pilot's Journey** From the cockpit of a jumbo jet at 36,000 feet, experience the world.

Vásquez, Juan Gabriel. **The Sound of Things Falling** Confront the startling stories behind the heartbreaking violence of the drug wars in Colombia.

Verghese, Abraham. **Cutting for Stone** You'll be swept into this riveting tale about two generations of Indian doctors working in Ethiopia through tumultuous times.

Wilkerson, Isabel. **The Warmth of Other Suns** Recounting the lives of three families, Wilkerson traces the great migration northward by African Americans through the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Wray, John. **Godsend** Searching for a greater purpose, a California woman goes to Afghanistan and finds herself unprepared for life as a jihadist.