

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, **one** of which is designated. **Three** other choices from the list are left to you to make when and as you wish.

You may read the books in any order and at any time; however, we recommend you choose and enjoy one book in June, choose and enjoy a second and third in July, and **then complete the required reading for your grade level or senior elective in August. You must bring the required book with you to campus at the start of the fall term.**

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. He will help you resolve the difficulty.

June

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.

Akhtar, Ayad. **Homeland Elegies**. An insightful novel about Muslim immigrants and their families experiencing post-2016 America.

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.

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.

Cusk, Rachel. **Outline**. This inventive novel is the first in a trilogy that follows a British novelist's experience of being a woman in the world of contemporary literature.

El Akkad, Omar. **What Strange Paradise** A lonely girl on a Greek island decides to protect a refugee boy pursued by the authorities.

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.

Galgut, Damon. **The Promise** A white family struggles to come to terms with the new realities of post-apartheid South Africa.

Greengrass, Jessie. **The High House**. As the climate crisis worsens, three people live in an isolated coastal house.

Hall, Steven. **The Raw Shark Texts** Why can't Eric Sanderson remember his past? What is the shark that seems to be pursuing him?

Hargrave, Kiran Millwood. **The Mercies**. Historical fiction and witchcraft intertwine in this novel about a Norwegian village where all the men have died.

Kleeman, Alexandra. **Something New Under the Sun** As California struggles with drought and wildfires, a shadowy corporation sells a brand of water that is having strange effect

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

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.

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

Mbue, Imbolo. **How Beautiful We Were** An African community takes on a multinational oil company poisoning the water and land.

Millet, Lydia. **A Children's Bible** While their parents party on vacation, a group of young people confront the reality of climate change and social breakdown.

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

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

Yu, Charles. **Interior Chinatown** Willis Wu wants to be more than a prop or a type in the screenplay that reveals his life.

July

- Calvino, Italo. **Invisible Cities**. In beautiful prose, Calvino's Marco Polo explores philosophical positions and describes imaginary cities.
- 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.
- Engel, Patricia. **Infinite Country** Colombian immigrants in the United States struggle against the forces aligned against them.
- Erdrich, Louise. **Tracks** Native Americans in North Dakota struggle to sustain tribal land, life, and trust.
- Evaristo, Bernardine. **Girl, Woman, Other**. Follow the lives of a dozen characters in contemporary Britain.
- Ferrante, Elena. **My Brilliant Friend**. First in a quartet of novels tracking a friendship between two women in Naples.
- Gyasi, Yaa. **Transcendent Kingdom**. A Ghanaian family tries to draw upon new roots in Alabama.
- Krakauer, Jon. **Missoula** A journalist exposes the truth about the manner in which one college handled sexual assaults on campus.
- O'Farrell, Maggie. **Hamnet**. This novel set during the plague years in England will whet your appetite for fiction about Shakespeare.
- 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.
- Robinson, Kim Stanley. **The Ministry for the Future**. Experience the effects of climate change and consider some solutions.
- Rooney, Sally. **Normal People** Two young people from the same Irish town experience the complexities of friendship.
- 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.
- 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 20th century.
- Wray, John. **Godsend** A California woman seeking purpose goes to Afghanistan and finds herself unprepared for life as a jihadist.

August

Art of Political Argument:
Black Women's Writing:
Central Questions:
Creative Nonfiction Workshop:
Future Shock:
Growing Up Girl:
Matters of Perspective:
Mystery, Madness, and Lies:
Myth Reborn:
New York Stories:
Poetry Now:
River and Rock:
Writing on the Edge:

Selected readings to be provided for enrolled students.
Butler, Octavia. **Kindred**
Spiegelman, Art. **The Complete Maus**
Taussig, Rebekah. **Sitting Pretty**
St. John Mandel, Emily. **Station Eleven**
Alcott, Louisa May. **Little Women, Part 1**
Nottage, Lynn. **Intimate Apparel**
Christie, Agatha. **Witness for the Prosecution & Other Stories**
Fry, Stephen. **Mythos**
Nottage, Lynn. **Intimate Apparel**
Longenbach, James. **The Art of the Poetic Line**
Fedarko, Kevin. **The Emerald Mile**
Grise, Virginia. **Blu**

