

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 from the list, including the selection required for a particular course.

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 the 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 annotated book with you to campus at the start of the fall term.**

Electronic texts are permissible. Feel free to read a translated work in the original language. 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. For assistance, you can also email [caustin@deerfield.edu](mailto:caustin@deerfield.edu).

### Required Book

**English 300 American Literature Courses**  
**English 300 American Studies**

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. **The Great Gatsby**  
 Selected readings to be provided for enrolled students.

### Choose Three

- Abdurraqib, Hanif. **They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us** The music critic and poet explores issues of personal and collective identity, all through the lens of music.
- Akbar, Kaveh. **Martyr** A terminally ill painter living her final days in a Brooklyn museum gallery might just guide Cyrus Shams to an understanding of loss.
- Ashbery, John. **Selected Poems.** The Heritage Award-winning Deerfield graduate's selection of his own best poems.
- Beams, Clare. **The Illness Lesson** In 19--century New England, a new school for girls has sinister effects on its students.
- Bennett, Brit. **The Vanishing Half.** Explore what happens to identical twins when one decides to pass as white and the other does not.
- Bradley, David. **The Chaneyville Incident** An African American historian learns about his father and himself in uncovering the mystery of a shocking incident.
- Butler, Octavia. **The Parable of the Sower** The imagined, unstable future in this novel has become our threatening present.
- Cunningham, Vinson. **Great Expectations: A Novel** An idealistic Black man comes of age while serving in a presidential campaign.
- Davidson, Ash. **Damnation Springs** Judge for yourself the delicate balance a logging community must strike between preserving and cutting old-growth forests in Northern California.
- Diaz, Hernan. **Trust** Just when you think you've found the truth behind a financier's empire, another perspective emerges again—and again.
- Edugyan, Esi. **Washington Black** Science and a hot-air balloon carry a young enslaved person from Barbados to the realm of discovery.
- Egan, Timothy. **Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher** Explore the life and photographic work of Edward S. Curtis, who preserved Native American culture on film.
- Erdrich, Louise. **The Night Watchman** A Chippewa couple on the Turtle Mountain Reservation fights to prevent the government from dispossessing the people living on land they call their own.
- Everett, Percival. **James** In this retelling of **Huckleberry Finn**, Everett turns the tables on Mark Twain and takes the reader down the Mississippi with Huck as the second fiddle.
- Ferrara, America. **American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures** Prominent citizens, including actors, politicians, and more, discuss growing up in America as immigrants or children of immigrants.
- Ginsberg, Allen. **Howl and Other Poems** Meet the Beat poet who helped define a movement.
- Graham, Jorie. **From the New World** These poems contend with consciousness, memory, imperialism, and art.
- Grann, David. **Killers of the Flower Moon** Who was killing Osage Indians and drilling oil wells on their land?
- Greer, Andrew Sean. **Less** A struggling novelist attends an array of literary events, all to avoid his ex-boyfriend's wedding.
- Haigh, Jennifer. **Heat and Light** A small Pennsylvania town wrestles with the various costs of fracking for natural gas.
- Harding, Paul. **This Other Eden** In what one critic called "a testament to love," Harding recreates an alternate history of a mixed-race community on a island off Maine.
- Haruf, Kent. **Plainsong** An unlikely combination of people find wisdom and grace together in Holt, Colorado.
- Hass, Robert. **The Apple Trees at Olema: New and Selected Poems** Hass focuses this selection on the Northern California landscape and on human experience.
- Irving, John. **A Prayer for Owen Meany** Fate and faith intertwine in this bildungsroman about two friends growing up in a small New Hampshire town much like Exeter.
- Ko, Lisa. **The Leavers** A Chinese immigrant goes missing, leaving her 11-year-old son behind. Follow their stories from both perspectives.
- Kolbert, Elizabeth. **Field Notes from a Catastrophe** Reading these dispatches may alter your sense of climate change.
- Lalami, Laila. **The Moor's Account** Might there be other perspectives on the exploration and exploitation of New World? This imagined memoir of the first black explorer, a once-enslaved Moor, in North America offers a new possibility.

Maclean, Norman. **A River Runs Through It and Collected Stories** Maclean tells the story of his family and fly fishing, of bar fights and bait fishermen, of a Montana "with the dew still on it."

Malcolm X. **The Autobiography of Malcolm X** Follow the turbulent life of this famous man, from his rough youth through prison and conversion to Islam and into his leadership period.

McBride, James. **The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store** Chicken Hill in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, finds its strength in the bonds an integrated community builds to protect one of their own.

McCann, Colum. **Let the Great World Spin** Philippe Petit's high-wire walk between the Twin Towers in 1974 begins a series of events that weave lives together in moments of love and loss.

McPhee, John. **Levels of the Game** Arthur Ashe struggles to overcome prejudice directed against Black tennis players.

Orange, Tommy. **Wandering Stars** The traumas of the past and struggles of the present cannot break the hopes of Native Americans, who might "get above the weight and carry on."

Otsuka, Julie. **The Buddha in the Attic** Japanese "picture brides" adapt to an unwelcoming America.

Patchett, Ann. **Tom Lake** Hearing the story of their mother's stage romance of long ago allows three daughters to reframe their own lives.

Perry, Imani. **South to America** An Alabama native, now a Princeton scholar, heads southward to look at the region's history (and the nation's) with unsparing eyes.

Plath, Sylvia. **The Bell Jar** After graduating from college, Esther Greenwood works in New York as an editor. As her life becomes more complex, her grasp on reality diminishes.

Poe, Edgar Allan. **Selected Stories** Poe penetrates his haunted and obsessed characters' secrets.

Potok, Chaim. **My Name is Asher Lev** A Jewish artist struggles with the demands of faith and art.

Powers, Richard. **The Overstory** Interlocking stories over a 100-year span reveal the power of trees and the human bonds with them.

Rankine, Claudia. **Citizen** Using the lyric essay form, Rankine engages with contemporary American racial politics from Trayvon Martin to Michael Brown.

Reid, Kiley. **Such a Fun Age** Race and class clash in this cautionary tale about a babysitter's place in an affluent family's circle.

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.

Sharma, Akhil. **Family Life** Grief, dislocation, and discrimination threaten immigrants in Queens, but one young man's resilience helps to restore the family.

Shipstead, Maggie. **The Great Circle** Join Marian Graves's amazing adventure as she attempts to circumnavigate the world by flying over both poles.

Smith, Clint. **How the Word Is Passed** The stories of slavery's legacy unfold all around the contemporary landscape

Steinbeck, John. **The Grapes of Wrath** Follow the Joad family from the Oklahoma Dust Bowl to California—the paradise that supposedly would end their problems.

Talty, Morgan. **Night of the Living Rez** Through these stories, find insights into the perseverance of the Penobscots striving to survive in a Maine community.

Ward, Jesmyn. **Sing, Unburied, Sing** This family road trip through a ravaged southern landscape will haunt you.

Washington, Bryan. **Memorial** Mike and Benson's relationship is tested when Mike's mother comes to visit, only for her to be left with Benson when Mike flies to Osaka to take care of his estranged father.

Watson, Bruce. **Freedom Summer** White and black college students risk their lives to advance civil rights in Mississippi.

Wiggins, Marianne. **The Properties of Thirst** Lives inside and outside a WW II Japanese internment camp intersect in California's Owen Valley.

Wilkerson, Isabel. **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** Learn about the ways in which the caste system has shaped America, resulting in a complex hierarchy that continues today.

Wilson, Kevin. **Nothing to See Here** Caring for the twins of an old friend from boarding school, Lillian unexpectedly finds inspiration in children's special abilities