



## BOOK DISCUSSION KITS

*Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler - In this timely and uplifting journey, the bestselling author of "Walking the Bible" searches for the man at the heart of the world's three monotheistic religions -- and today's deadliest conflicts.

*Abundance: a novel of Marie Antoinette* by Sena Jeter Naslund - Marie Antoinette lived a brief--but astounding--life. She rebelled against the formality and rigid protocol of the court; an outsider who became the target of a revolution that ultimately decided her fate.

*After This* by Alice McDermott - This novel of a middle-class American family, in the middle decades of the twentieth century, captures the social, political, and spiritual upheavals of their changing world.

*Ahab's Wife, or the Star-Gazer* by Sena Jeter Naslund - Inspired by a brief passage in Melville's *Moby-Dick*, this tale of 19th century America explores the strong-willed woman who loved Captain Ahab.

*Aindreas the Messenger: Louisville, Ky, 1855* by Gerald McDaniel - Aindreas is a young Irish-Catholic boy living in gaudy, grubby Louisville in 1855, a city where being Irish, Catholic, German or black usually means trouble.

*Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood - The fictionalized account of one of the most notorious women of the nineteenth century who was convicted of murdering her employer and his mistress.

*All Over But the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg - A dirt-poor Southern boy grows up to be a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, mainly due to the strength and determination of his remarkable mother.

*All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren - Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this classic is generally regarded as the finest novel ever written on American politics. It is the story of Willie Stark, a back-country lawyer whose idealism is overcome by his lust for power.

*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy - The National Book Award-winning story of three friends who set out in 1949 to cross the Rio Grande in search of the cowboy life.

*American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves* by Susan Cheever - A portrait of five Concord, Massachusetts writers whose works were at the center of mid-nineteenth-century American thought and literature evaluates.

*Angela's Ashes: A Memoir* by Frank McCourt - The Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir of childhood in the slums of Limerick, Ireland, told with humor, compassion and forgiveness.

*Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner - A Pulitzer Prize-winning story recounting the lives of four generations living in the American West.

*Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver - A vivid tale of a young woman rediscovering that which makes her life whole when she returns home to take care of her aging father.



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*At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon - A warm and humorous look at everyday life of a rector and parishioners in a charming southern village.

*At Play in the Fields of the Lord* by Peter Matthiessen - A moral thriller set in the South American jungle follows the conflict between a missionary and a mercenary.

*Atonement* by Ian McEwan - On a hot summer day in 1935, a young girl witnesses a moment's flirtation between her older sister and the son of a servant, bringing about a crime that will change all their lives.

*The Audacity of Hope* by Barak Obama - The junior senator from Illinois and future U.S. President calls for a return to America's original ideals and revealing how they can address such issues as globalization and the function of religion in public life.

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcolm X - The classic collaboration of Alex Haley and Malcolm X that tells the truth about race and racism.

*The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by Ernest Gaines - A novel in the guise of the tape-recorded recollections of a black woman who has lived 110 years, and has been both a slave and a witness to the black militancy of the 1960's.

*The Autobiography of My Mother* by Jamaica Kincaid - A fictional chronicle of a woman obsessed with piecing together the story of the mother she never knew.

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin - The story of a woman, unhappy with her indifferent husband and family, who gives in to her adulterous desires regardless of Victorian religious and social pressures.

*Away* by Amy Bloom - Arriving in America alone after her family is destroyed in a Russian pogrom, Lillian Leyb receives word that her daughter Sophie might still be alive and embarks on a risky odyssey that takes her from New York's Lower East Side to Siberia.

*Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie - Two hapless city boys are exiled to a remote village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution where they discover a hidden stash of Western classics.

*Bastard Out of Carolina* by Dorothy Allison - A young illegitimate girl grows up in the south of the 1950's forming poignant relationships with the indomitable women in her family.

*The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver - Taylor Greer leaves poor rural Kentucky in a '55 Volkswagen and ends up in Tucson Arizona, "inheriting" a 3-year-old American Indian girl along the way.

*Bee Season* by Myla Goldberg - An ordinary girl with an exceptional gift for spelling embarks on the "spelling bee" circuit, where her quirky family will collide with the harsh realities of life.



*The Beet Queen* by Louise Erdrich - A family saga of two orphans who find refuge with their aunt in a North Dakota town.

*Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett - A celebrated American soprano has just finished a recital in the home of the vice-president of a poor South American country when terrorists burst in, taking the international guests hostage.

*Big Stone Gap* by Adriana Trigiani - A 35-year-old pharmacist and self-proclaimed spinster of a small Virginia village discovers a skeleton in her family's formerly tidy closet that completely unravels her quiet, conventional life.

*The Birth of Venus* by Sarah Dunant - A novel of turbulent 15th-century Florence, a lavish city besieged by plague, threat of invasion and religious turmoil, where a young noblewoman must navigate her way into womanhood.

*The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood - Winner of the Booker Prize, this brilliant novel within a novel tells the story of two sisters as a romance, a mystery and a fantasy all combined.

*Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy B. Tyson - In this outstanding personal history, Tyson, a professor of African-American studies who's white, unflinchingly examines the civil rights struggle in the South.

*The Body Project: an Intimate History of American Girls* by Joan Jacobs Brumberg - An examination of how teenage girls have come to view their bodies as a projection of their worth.

*The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad - Norwegian journalist Seierstad dons the burkha to live with a bookseller's family in post-Taliban Afghanistan, revealing intimate details of women's lives.

*Bound Feet and Western Dress* by Pang-Mei Chang - In this exquisite memoir, Chang Yui, the daughter of a distinguished Chinese family, recreates her exceptional life for her American-born grandniece.

*Breath, Eyes, Memory* by Edwidge Danticat - A novel of both the poverty and richness of Haitian family life told by a poor Haitian woman, reunited with the mother she never knew, and the family bonds that extend beyond generations.

*The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder - In this Pulitzer Prize winning classic, a bridge collapses in eighteenth-century Peru and five die. Who were they? And what cosmic ironies led them to their fate?

*A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking - Where did the universe come from? How and why did it begin? Will it come to an end, and if so, how? Hawking attempts to answer these questions using a minimum of technical jargon.



*Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck - A timeless American classic. Cannery Row is only a few blocks long, but the story it harbors is suffused with warmth, understanding and a great fund of human values

*Carrie* by Stephen King - The Master of Horror's debut novel, *Carrie* is the story of a misunderstood high school girl, her extraordinary telekinetic powers, and her violent rampage of revenge.

*Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson - As private detective Jackson Brodie investigates three cold cases, startling connections and discoveries emerge and Jackson finds himself inextricably caught up in his clients' lives.

*Changing Planes* by Ursula Le Guin - From the Grand Mistress of speculative fiction comes *A Gulliver's Travels* for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that is deeply thought provoking and heartbreakingly poignant.

*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens - Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of past, present and future in the Victorian story of the meaning of redemption and benevolence.

*The Church of Dead Girls* by Stephen Dobyns - This is a literary horror tale about a formerly sleepy small town in which the crucial distinction between public and private life is dissolving as suspicion spreads like a toxin.

*Clay's Quilt* by Silas House - Orphaned at age four, Clay Sizemore is taken in by the residents of a small Appalachian mining town. As he grows, his substitute family helps him find his true family roots.

*Cloud Chamber* by Michael Dorris - The saga of an American immigrant family from their roots in 19th century Ireland to life in present-day Montana.

*Cloudsplitter* by Russell Banks - Narrated by the son of the abolitionist John Brown, this work of fiction recreates the fractured political and social landscape of pre-Civil War America.

*The Club Dumas* by Arturo Perez-Reverte - In this intellectual thriller a rare-book specialist, called in to authenticate a Dumas manuscript, is drawn into a web of mystery.

*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier - A National Book Award winning Civil War story of a wounded soldier's journey away from war and back home to his sweetheart.

*The Color of Water: a Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride - An inspirational memoir of growing up in an interracial family headed by a white Jewish mother.

*Colored People: a Memoir* by Henry Louis Gates - A rich and touching memoir of growing up in West Virginia in the 1950's by a celebrated scholar, writer and Harvard professor.



*A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole - A Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of a mother and son voicing insights and injunctions regarding their lives in back alley New Orleans.

*The Covenant with Black America* by Tavis Smiley - A collection of essays that plot a course for African Americans to improve their circumstances in areas ranging from health and education to crime reduction and financial well-being.

*Crow Lake* by Mary Lawson - Orphaned young, Kate Morrison was her older brother Matt's protégée, her fascination for pond life fed by his passionate interest in the natural world. Now a zoologist, she can identify organisms under a microscope but seems blind to the state of her own emotional life.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon - Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, a mathematically-gifted, autistic teenager investigates the murder of a neighbor's dog, meanwhile uncovering family secrets.

*Dancing at the Rascal Fair* by Ivan Doig - The tale of the settlement of the frontier between 1890 and 1919 told through the lives of a young Scotsman and his friend who homestead in the Two Medicine Country.

*Delta Wedding* by Eudora Welty - Set in 1923 on a Mississippi delta plantation, this vivid and charming portrait of a large southern family is shown through the Fairchilds as they prepare for their daughter's wedding.

*The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson - The true tale of two men: the brilliant architect behind the legendary Chicago 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death.

*Digging to America* by Anne Tyler - Two families, who would otherwise never have come together, meet by chance at the Baltimore airport, each awaiting the arrival of an

adopted infant daughter from Korea. A penetrating light on the American way as seen from two perspectives.

*The Ditchdigger's Daughters: a Black Family's Astonishing Success Story* by Yvonne S. Thornton - The memoir of a prominent physician who recalls growing up as one of five daughters in a black family headed by a determined father.

*The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells - A tale of four southern women and their daughters who find identity and acceptance through their lifelong friendships.

*The Dollmaker* by Harriette Arnow - A story of a strong Southern woman determined to hold onto her dreams of a rural family life while uprooted to Detroit during World War II.

*Dreamers of the Day* by Mary Doria Russell - Agnes Shanklin at 40 decides to take a trip to Egypt and the Middle East. Her social status puts her in contact with members of the post World War I Cairo Peace Conference who designated the boundaries of many of the Middle Eastern countries of today.



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*Dreams from My Father: a Story of Race and Inheritance* by Barack Obama - The son of an African father and white American mother discusses his childhood in Hawaii, his struggle to find his identity as an African American, and his life's accomplishments.

*Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* by David Sedaris - A collection of whimsical essays that inhabits Sedaris' deliriously twisted domain of hilarious childhood dramas infused with melancholy and the gulf of misunderstanding that exists between family members.

*Drinking Coffee Elsewhere* by Z.Z. Packer - This debut collection of short stories dealing with black men and women, mostly young and urban. treats listeners to the richness of highly developed characters and leads them to some intriguing scenarios.

*Dubliners* by James Joyce - A collection of fifteen somber stories portraying the struggles encountered by men and women of the lower middle class in early twentieth century Dublin.

*Eat Pray Love: One Woman's Search for Everything across Italy, India, and Indonesia* by Elizabeth Gilbert - Traces the author's decision to quit her job and travel the world for a year after suffering a midlife crisis and divorce, a journey that took her to three places in her quest to learn the art of spiritual balance

*Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Life* by Alison Weir - A vibrant portrait of this truly exceptional woman, one of the great heroines of the Middle Ages. Eleanor managed to defy convention as she exercised power in the political sphere and crucial influence over her husbands and sons.

*Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn - Ella finds herself acting to save her friends, family, and fellow citizens from the encroaching totalitarianism of the Nollop Island's Council, which has banned the use of certain letters of the alphabet as they fall from a memorial statue of Nevin Nollop.

*Ellen Foster* by Kaye Gibbons - A story of the life of a young foster child and the victory of hope over victimization in her young life.

*The Emperor of Ocean Park* by Stephen Carter - Set in two privileged worlds: the upper crust African American society of the Eastern seaboard—families who summer at Martha's Vineyard—and the inner circle of an Ivy League law school. A riveting novel of suspense with the saga of a unique family.

*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. Winner of the Hugo and Nebula Awards.

*The Enduring Hills* by Janice Holt Giles - A story of a boy who yearns for wider horizons than his Eastern Kentucky home.



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*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Foer - Oskar searches New York with a mysterious key left by his father, killed in the September 11 attacks, a quest that intertwines with the story of his grandparents, whose lives were blighted by the firebombing of Dresden.

*The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde - In Great Britain, circa 1985, time travel is routine, cloning is a reality, and literature is taken very, very seriously. An ingenious fantasy that unites intrigue with English literature in a delightfully witty mix.

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury - Fireman Guy Montag loves to rush to a fire and watch books burn up. Then he meets a seventeen-year old girl who tells him of a past when people were not afraid, and a professor who tells him of a future where people could think.

*Fair and Tender Ladies* by Lee Smith - Ivy Rowe, turn of the century Virginia mountain girl, then mother, wife, and finally, "Mamaw," writes eloquent letters to friends and family.

*Far From the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy - Although Gabriel Oak loves the proud Bathsheba Everdene, she willfully becomes involved with two other unsuitable men, with tragic consequences.

*Fast Food Nation: the Dark Side of the All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser - Schlosser explains how the development of fast-food restaurants has led to the standardization of American culture, widespread obesity, urban sprawl and more.

*First Mothers: the Women Who Shaped the Presidents* by Bonnie Angelo - First Mothers captures the daily lives, thoughts and feelings of the remarkable women who played such a large role in developing the characters of the modern American Presidents.

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom - Killed in a tragic accident, an elderly man who believes that he had an uninspired life awakens in the afterlife, where he discovers that heaven consists of having five people explain the meaning of one's life.

*Founding Brothers: the Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph Ellis - An illuminating study of the intertwined lives of the founders of the American republic--Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, and Washington.

*The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand - Rand's hero is Howard Roark, a brilliant young architect who is engaged in ideological warfare with a society that despises him, an architectural community that doesn't understand him, and a woman who loves him but wants to destroy him

*Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley - This 19th Century classic is a timeless terrifying tale of one man's obsession to create life – and the monster that became his legacy.



*Friday Night Lights* by H.G. Bissinger - The classic, best-selling story of life in the football-driven town of Odessa, Texas, with a new afterword that looks at the players and the town ten years later.

*Gaudy Night* by Dorothy L. Sayres - This famous Harriet Vane mystery takes place at the all female Shrewsbury College at Oxford, where a powerful argument for women's status as men's intellectual equals is unfolding.

*Giants in the Earth: a Saga of the Prairie* by Ole Edvart Rolvaag - Nobel Prize winning classic story of a Norwegian pioneer family's struggles with the land and the elements of the Dakota Territory as they try to make a new life in America.

*Gift from the Sea* by Anne Morrow Lindbergh - The author reveals her compelling meditations on youth and age, love and marriage, solitude, peace and contentment, as she set them down during a brief vacation by the sea.

*Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson - Nearing death, the Reverend John Ames writes a letter to his son chronicling three generations of his family, a story that stretches back to the Civil War and reveals uncomfortable family secrets. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize.



*Girl in Hyacinth Blue* by Susan Vreeland - A compelling tale that traces the ownership of a Vermeer painting through time, marking the ways that beauty transforms us.

*Girl, Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen - A sharp-edged memoir of a teenage girl and the two years she spent in a psychiatric ward.

*Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier - A fictional history of 17th century Dutch culture featuring the young woman portrayed in Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring".

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry - A Newbery Award winner depicting a future society and the young boy who realizes the truth about his world and struggles with its duplicity.

*The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls - The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy - In 1969 in Kerala, India, Rahel and her twin brother, Estha, struggle to forge a childhood for themselves amid the destruction of their family life. Winner of the Booker Prize for best fiction.

*A Good Man is Hard to Find, and Other Stories* by Flannery O'Connor - O'Connor keenly uses irony and dialogue to focus on the dark side of life in the rural south in this collection of short stories.

*A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* by Robert Olen Butler - A Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of stories about Vietnamese expatriates living in the American South.



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*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck - A Pulitzer Prize-winning novel spotlighting the struggle of a dust bowl family who migrate to California to become migrant workers.

*The Grass Dancer* by Susan Power - A vibrant portrait of the North Dakota Sioux community that interweaves generations and time.

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald - The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan has been acclaimed by generations of readers.

*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer - An account of a writer's relationship with the members of a unique book club formed on the isle of Guernsey as an alibi to protect its members from arrest at the hands of the Nazis during WWII.

*Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Jared Diamond - Diamond offers a convincing explanation of the way the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

*The Hand I Fan With: a Novel* by Tina M. Ansa - A rich story of the search for love and companionship in a small Georgia town.

*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood - A speculative allegory focusing on a world dominated by militaristic fundamentalists, with selective women designated for breeding purposes.

*Hannah Coulter* by Wendell Berry - Now, in her late seventies, twice-widowed and alone, Hannah sorts through her memories: of her childhood, of young love and loss, of raising children and the changing seasons. An installment in Wendell Berry's story of the citizens of Port William, Kentucky.

*The Harlot by the Side of the Road: Forbidden Tales of the Bible* by Jonathan Kirsch - Sex. Violence. Scandal. These are words we rarely associate with the Bible. Kirsch places each story within the political and social context of its time with eye-opening analysis.

*The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson - A tale of subtle, psychological terror has earned its place as one of the significant haunted house stories of the ages.

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers - The story of the passions of an adolescent girl and her friendships with social outcasts of her small southern town.

*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* by Dave Eggers - A wrenching, hilarious, and stylistically groundbreaking story of a college senior who, in the space of five weeks, loses both of his parents to cancer and inherits his eight-year-old brother.

*Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman - Utopian novel about a fictitious society of women who reproduce by asexual means resulting in an ideal society that is free of conflict and war.



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*The History of Love* by Nicole Kraus - A long-lost book reappears, mysteriously connecting an old man searching for his son and a girl seeking a cure for her widowed mother's loneliness.

*Hotel du Lac* by Anita Brookner

After jilting her fiancé, Edith Hope retreats to a Swiss Hotel where she ponders her relationship with a married lover and reflects on life-at-large.

*An Hour before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood* by Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter re-creates his Depression-era boyhood on a Georgia farm before the civil rights movement forever changed the country.

*The Hours* by Michael Cunningham

Virginia Woolf is brought back to life in an intertwining of her story with those of two more contemporary women who are struggling with the conflicting claims of love, hope and despair.

*House of Sand and Fog* by Andre Dubus

A gripping tale of a tragic triangle involving a woman evicted from her home due to a bureaucrat's error, the sheriff who evicted her, and the immigrant who purchases the home.

*The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende

An epic tale of the influence of great families on history as well as the influence of history on great families set amidst the oppression and communism of Chile.

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

The story of a Hispanic woman who discovers the tougher side of life in a Chicago-area ghetto.

*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez

A vibrant tale of four sisters who flee the Dominican Republic during the 1960's and their stories of adjustment to the United States.

*How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe* by Tim Cahill - An entertaining history of the Dark Ages showing that as Europe was in an intellectual decline, Ireland became a haven for scholarship.

*Howard's End* by E. M. Forster - A story of class conflict within British society as a wealthy family, two independent but cultured sisters, and a young man living on the edge of poverty struggle with their destinies and desires.

*I Heard the Owl Call My Name* by Margaret Craven - A young vicar is sent to a village in the Pacific Northwest, learning tolerance and love as he faces his own poignant destiny.

*I Married a Communist* by Philip Roth - An idealistic political radical and celebrated radio star of the 1950s is blacklisted and brought to ruin when his wife, a self-hating Jewish actress, writes an expose called "I Married A Communist."



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*Icy Sparks* by Gwyn Hyman Rubio - A coming-of-age story set in 1950s rural Kentucky, featuring a poor, orphaned child prone to "fits".

*If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin - A starkly realistic tale of a talented young artist unjustly arrested and locked away in New York's infamous Tombs, and the sustaining love of his family.

*If This World Were Mine* by E. Lynn Harris - An engrossing and fast-paced novel about four African-American friends whose deep bonds of intimacy are threatened by conflicts of career and romance.

*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote - On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered. Capote yields poignant insights into the nature of American violence, as he reconstructs the murder and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers,

*In the Lake of the Woods* by Tim O'Brien - The tale of a husband and wife who spend time at a Minnesota cabin to sort out his political defeat and recently revealed involvement in the My Lai massacre.

*In the Name of Salome* by Julia Alvarez - An epic story of a strong woman, based upon the real-life Salome Urena, a poet who was a national icon in the Dominican Republic.

*Independence Day* by Richard Ford - A tale of an "everyman" sorting out his life in the midst of a 4th of July celebration.

*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer - Krakauer recounts the haunting and tragic mystery of young, idealistic Chris McCandless who disappeared in April 1992 into the Alaskan wilderness.

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison - The classic novel of the experiences of a young black man during the Depression as he travels from the Deep South to Harlem portray the invisibility of his life.

*Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson - This absorbing narrative of the 1900 hurricane that inundated Galveston, Texas, conveys the sudden, cruel power of the deadliest natural disaster in American history.

*Italian Love Stories: A Kentuckian's Journal of Tuscany* by Donna Valtri Crane - Crane, a second generation Italian-American and first generation Kentuckian, gives a witty and observant account of life in the tiny Tuscan hill town of Volterra.

*The Jane Austen Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler - Fowler exuberantly pays homage to and matches wits with Jane Austen by portraying six irresistible Californians who meet once a month to discuss Austen's six novels.

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte - The romantic classic set in Victorian England of an orphaned young woman who accepts employment as a governess with the mysterious Mr. Rochester.



*Jarhead: a Marine's Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles* by Anthony Swofford - A memoir of the Gulf War by a front-line infantry marine recounts his struggles with the conflict on the front lines, his battles with fear and suicide, and his identity as a soldier and an American.

*Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry - Set in the fictional small town of Port William, this is the story of a young man who abandons his plan to become a minister to instead become the town barber.

*The Johnstown Flood* by David McCullough - The story of one of the most devastating national disasters America has ever known told by a National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize winning author.

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan - Four older Chinese women living in San Francisco recall their memories of pre-war China and pass their culture and visions on to their American-born daughters.

*Kentucky Straight* by Chris Offutt - Stories, sometimes poignant, about life in Kentucky Appalachia, told with no patina of nostalgia, but with a strong sense of place.

*Kindred* by Octavia Butler - A modern black woman is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South where she must save the life of her white, slave-owning ancestor.

*The Kitchen God's Wife* by Amy Tan - Pressured to reveal to her adult American-born daughter her secret past in war-torn China in the 1940s, Winnie weaves an account of loneliness, love, courage and endurance.

*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini - Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

*The Known World* by Edward P. Jones - When a black slave owner dies, his widow Caldonia mismanages their Virginia plantation with disastrous results.

*Krakatoa: the Day the World Exploded* by Simon Winchester - A fascinating account of the underlying causes, utter devastation and lasting effects of the cataclysmic 1883 eruption of the volcano island Krakatoa.

*Ladder of Years* by Anne Tyler - A maturing but weary wife leaves her husband and children in order to pursue a life of independence.

*Leap of Faith: Memoirs from an Unexpected Life* by Queen Noor - The young American woman who became wife and partner to Lebanon's King Hussein gives an intimate account of a woman who lost her heart to a king and to his people.

*The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula Le Guin - The science fiction classic of an emissary from a human galaxy whose mission is to recover a wayward planet with an evolving civilization.



*A Lesson before Dying* by Ernest Gaines - The story of a black man unjustly accused of a killing and a teacher who must struggle with the universal question of how to live and die with dignity in segregated Louisiana.

*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel - Pi Patel, a zookeeper's son, sets sail for America. When the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.

*Light in August* by William Faulkner - Joe Christmas does not know whether he is black or white and can fit in neither world. Faulkner makes of Joe's tragedy a powerful indictment of racism.

*Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel - A bittersweet romance set in Mexico, where romance and sensuality are combined with magical realism in the celebration of food.

*Lincoln* by Gore Vidal - Isolated in a ramshackle White House in the center of a proslavery city, Lincoln presides over a fragmenting government as Lee's armies beat at the gates. An intimate depiction of the power struggles that accompanied Lincoln's efforts to preserve the Union at all costs.

*Lindbergh* by A. Scott Berg - A Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of one of most controversial and enigmatic figures of the twentieth century.

*Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov - When it was published in 1955, *Lolita* immediately became a cause célèbre because of the freedom and sophistication with which it handled the unusual erotic predilections of its protagonist

*Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time*  
by Dava Sobel - A social history of the invention of the chronometer, which greatly aided longitude calculations, is detailed as an historical marvel that facilitated European exploration.

*Lost Mountain: a Year in the Vanishing Wilderness: Radical Strip Mining, and the Devastation of Appalachia* by Erik Reece - A groundbreaking work of literary nonfiction that exposes how radical strip mining is destroying one of America's most precious natural resources and the communities that depend on it

*Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan - This narrative, vividly portraying the conflicts and struggles of a woman forced to choose between the roles of mother, wife, lover, and intellectual, is based on the clandestine love affair between Mamah Borthwick Cheney and Frank Lloyd Wright.

*The Magic Mountain* by Thomas Mann - The residents of a sanitarium in the Swiss Alps mirror the communal problems of pre-World War I Europe.

*The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett - Considered the author's finest work, this mystery novel introduces Sam Spade, the prototype of the hard-boiled detective.



## BOOK DISCUSSION KITS

*Mama Day* by Gloria Naylor - A captivating story of the conjuring powers of Mama Day, tested when the stubbornness of her New York City-bred niece, Cocoa endangers her to the Georgia island's darker forces.

*The Man in the High Castle* by Philip K. Dick - It's America in 1962. Slavery is legal once again. The few Jews who still survive hide under assumed names. All because some 20 years earlier the U.S. surrendered to Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan.

*A Map of the World* by Jane Hamilton - A memorable story of grief and guilt faced by a woman implicated in twin tragedies involving children of the community.

*March* by Geraldine Brooks - From Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic *Little Women*, Geraldine Brooks has taken the character of the absent father, March, who has gone off to war. Spanning the vibrant intellectual world of Concord and the sensuous antebellum South, March adds adult resonance to Alcott's optimistic children's tale.

*Maus: a Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman - A story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father's story and history itself.

*Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden - Historical fiction about the experience and art of being a Geisha during 1900s.

*The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards - A doctor is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. When his daughter is born, he sees immediately that she has Down's syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect Norah, his wife, he makes a split second decision that will alter all of their lives forever.

*The Memory of Old Jack* by Wendell Berry - Kentucky author Wendell Berry proves his mastery as a storyteller by sharing the life story of a 92-year-old small town Kentucky farmer, "Old Jack" Beechum.

*Middle Passage* by Charles Richard Johnson - This is a picaresque tale, historical romance, sea yarn, slave narrative, and philosophical novel about Rutherford Calhoun, a newly freed slave and irrepressible rogue.

*Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides - Calliope's friendship with a classmate and her sense of identity are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite, a situation with roots in her grandparents' desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s

*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil: A Savannah Story* by John Berendt - A murder mystery set in that very southern city of Savannah, where the characters are exotic, funny and intriguing.

*Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie - A family saga set against the vast, colorful background of the India of this century.

*The Mistress of Spices* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni - A hypnotizing tale of joy and sorrow and one special woman's magical powers.



## BOOK DISCUSSION KITS

*The Mists of Avalon* by Marion Zimmer Bradley - The mythical legend of King Arthur is retold through the lives of the amazing women who wielded power from behind the throne.

*Monkey Hunting* by Christina Garcia - The story of a Chinese immigrant's enslavement on a Cuban sugar plantation, his escape and eventual prosperity, interwoven with the stories of his Chinese and American descendents.

*The Moor's Last Sigh* by Salman Rushdie - Booker Prize-winning author Salman Rushdie combines a ferociously witty family saga with a surreally imagined and sometimes blasphemous chronicle of modern India and flavors the mixture with peppery soliloquies on art, ethnicity, religious fanaticism, and the terrifying power of love.

*Motherless Brooklyn* by Jonathan Lethem - A P.I. who suffers from Tourette's Syndrome tries to find out who killed the man who rescued him and three other misfits from a Brooklyn orphanage. Winner of the National Book Critics Award.

*Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder - A thought-provoking portrait of Harvard professor and world-renowned infectious disease expert Dr. Paul Farmer and his struggle to bring modern healthcare to Haiti and the world.

*Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf - Direct and vivid in her account of the details of Clarissa Dalloway's preparations for a party she is to give that evening, Woolf ultimately manages to reveal much more.

*My Antonia* by Willa Cather - Despite betrayal and crushing opposition, Antonia steadfastly pursues her quest for happiness—a moving struggle that mirrors the quiet drama of the American landscape. Considered by many to be Cather's greatest novel.

*My Love Affair with England* by Susan Toth - A travel memoir of England recounting numerous trips over a lifetime.

*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult - Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Kate begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures.

*The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri - A portrait of the immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India through their arrival in Massachusetts in the late 1960s.

*Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich - Determined to find out how anyone could make ends meet on \$7 an hour, the author left behind her middle class life as a journalist to try to sustain herself as a low-skilled worker.

*Night* by Elie Wiesel - An autobiographical account about Wiesel's terrifying and tragic experience as a child in Nazi death camps.





## BOOK DISCUSSION KITS

*No Ordinary Time: Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt The Home Front in World War II* by Doris Kearns Goodwin - A Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the lives of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

*O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather - The story of a 19th century Nebraska family coming to grips with farm life and personal relationships.

*The Omnivore's Dilemma: a Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan - Pollan follows each of the food chains--industrial food, organic or alternative food, and food we forage ourselves--from the source to the final meal, always emphasizing our co-evolutionary relationship with the handful of plant and animal species we depend on.

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez - A weaving of spiritual, personal and political worlds into a history of the mysterious and magical Buendia family.

*One of Ours* by Willa Cather - The Pulitzer Prize-winning narrative of the making of a young American soldier in World War I.

*One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus - A colorful assembly of pioneer women, under the auspices of the U.S. government, travel to the western prairies in 1875 to intermarry among the Cheyenne Indians. The covert and controversial "Brides for Indians" program is intended to help assimilate the Indians into the white man's world.

*One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen - A daughter is arrested for the murder of her critically ill mother in a mercy killing.

*One Writer's Beginnings* by Eudora Welty - A memoir recounting Welty's childhood and the mentors who contributed to her path of becoming a writer.

*The Palace Walk* by Naguib Mahfouz - Volume I of the masterful Cairo Trilogy this novel introduces the engrossing saga of a Muslim family in Cairo during Egypt's occupation by British forces in the early 1900s.

*Pay It Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde - Eighth-grader Trevor is challenged by his social-studies teacher to do something that will change the world. His rule is to do one very good deed for three different people, telling them that rather than paying him back, they are to "pay it forward" to three others.

*A Parchment of Leaves* by Silas House - In 1917, a Cherokee woman who leaves her community to marry a white man finds herself isolated and discriminated against as she tries to settle into her new life.

*Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger - The quiet 1960s midwestern life of the Land family is upended when son Davy kills two teenage boys who have come to harm the family.

*The Peppered Moth* by Margaret Drabble - A fictional exploration into the author's family genealogy and her attempts to come to terms with her mother's unhappy history



*Peter the Great: His Life & His World* by Robert K. Massie - The Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of one of history's most colorful rulers paints a vivid picture of 17th and 18th century Europe and Russia.

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde - A classic tale of a well-to-do Englishman who buys his youth from the Devil, remaining young and handsome as his portrait reflects the evil that consumes his life.

*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard - A series of essays that combines scientific observation, philosophy and personal meditation with beautifully written prose.

*Pitied but Not Entitled: Single Mothers and the History of Welfare* by Linda Gordon - A thought-provoking study of American policies and programs benefiting single mothers and their children.

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver - A story of a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family on a mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. A suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction.

*Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross - For a thousand years her existence has been denied. She is a legend that will not die—Pope Joan, the ninth-century woman who disguised herself as a man and rose to become the only female ever to sit on the throne of St. Peter.

*The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene - A Christian parable pitting God and religion against 20th century materialism in the story of a priest in Mexico who is painfully remorseful about his own human inadequacies.

*Possessing the Secret of Joy* by Alice Walker - Confronting the modern controversial issue of genital mutilation, Walker's main character, Tashi struggles with understanding and madness.

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving - Owen Meany, a dwarfish boy with a strange voice, accidentally kills his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes--accurately--that he is an instrument of God to be redeemed by martyrdom.

*A Prayer for the Dying* by Stewart O'Nan - Set in Friendship, Wisconsin just after the Civil War, *A Prayer for the Dying* tells of a horrible epidemic that has gripped the town in a vice of fear and death.

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen - An 18th century comedy of manners about a family's attempts to marry off five daughters.

*The Prince of Tides* by Pat Conroy - A story of a family striving to overcome its bizarre history of horror and grief with the help of a New York psychiatrist.

*Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver - Kentucky born author weaves together three stories of human love within a larger tapestry of lives in southern Appalachia.



*The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity & the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* by Simon Winchester - Although confined to a British insane asylum, an American civil war veteran contributes to the Oxford English Dictionary.

*Push* by Sapphire - Told from the point of view of an illiterate, brutalized Harlem teenager, this intense, explicit novel charts the psychic damage of the most ghettoized of inner-city inhabitants.

*The Quiet American* by Graham Greene - In 1952, while the French Army in Indo-China is grappling with the Vietnamese, back at Saigon a young and high-minded American begins to channel economic aid to a 'Third Force'.

*Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi - A glimpse into women's lives in revolutionary Iran; the story of the author and the women invited into her home to read and discuss forbidden works of Western Literature.

*Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier - A young bride arriving at Manderley, is drawn into the life of the first Mrs. De Winter, the beautiful Rebecca, dead, but not forgotten.

*The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant - A fictional retelling of Genesis stories of the daily life of women, as told by Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah.

*The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro - The fictional account of an aging butler recalling his life at Darlington Hall which includes intrigue of world politics and upper-class English society.

*Remembering Babylon* by David Malouf - A compelling tale of a young Australian left for dead who is brought up by the Aborigines, and the bigotry he faces when he returns to Australian society.

*River of Earth* by James Still - A vivid account of difficult Appalachian life, told with humor and love through the eyes of a boy.

*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy - America is a barren landscape of smoldering ashes, devoid of life except for those people still struggling to scratch out some type of existence. Amidst the destruction, a father and his young son walk, always toward the coast, but with no real understanding that circumstances will improve once they arrive.

*The Road from Coorain: An Autobiography* by Jill Kerr Conway - Conway's captivating autobiography covers her childhood in Australia to her adulthood in America, where she later became the first woman president of Smith College.

*Rocket Boys: a Memoir* by Homer Hickam - An inspiring account of the author's coming of age in a West Virginia mining town, and the remarkable events that lead him to a career with NASA.

*A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf - A brilliant essay on the importance of freedom for women, especially as it relates to creative writing.



### **BOOK DISCUSSION KITS**

*Rubyfruit Jungle* by Rita Mae Brown - A story of the adopted daughter of a poor but ambitious southern couple growing up as a lesbian in America and seeking adventure as well as acceptance.

*Running with Scissors* by Augusten Burroughs - When he was 12 years old, his mother gave him away to her psychiatrist to pursue her own poetic delusions. A horrifying, yet hysterical memoir of an unconventional childhood.

*Saturday* by Ian McEwan - Henry Perowne—a neurosurgeon, urbane, privileged, plans a quiet day. But after a minor traffic accident leads to an unsettling confrontation, Perowne must set aside his plans and summon strength greater than he knew he had in order to preserve the life that is dear to him

*The Screwtape letters; with Screwtape Proposes a Toast* by C. S. Lewis - In this humorous and perceptive exchange between two devils, C. S. Lewis delves into moral questions about good vs. evil, temptation, repentance, and grace. Through this wonderful tale, the reader emerges with a better understanding of what it means to live a faithful life.

*Seabiscuit: an American Legend* by Laura Hillenbrand - The spellbinding true story of this marvelous animal, the world he lived in, and the men who staked their lives and fortunes on his dazzling career.

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd - A young girl returns to her dead mother's Southern hometown where she meets an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters.

*The Seven Storey Mountain* by Thomas Merton - In 1941, a young man decided to give up a promising literary career to enter a monastery in Kentucky, from where he proceeded to become one of the most influential writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Seventh Heaven* by Alice Hoffman - An unconventional single mother moves to a Long Island suburb in 1959, and the place will never be the same.

*Singing in the Comeback Choir* by Bebe Moore Campbell - A story of a woman and the grandmother who raised her rediscovering faith, hope and love.

*Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut - A fictional account of Vonnegut's experience as a prisoner of war during World War II and, in his words, "is about the inhumanity of many of man's inventions to man."

*Slaves in the Family* by Edward Ball - A National Book Award-winning family biography traces the Ball family history back to their arrival in America as well as the slave families owned by and related to the Ball's.

*Slow Dancing on Dinosaur Bones* by Lana Witt - When a Californian rolls his broken-down car into a remote Kentucky town, he finds friends, enemies and lovers who are playing out tales as old as the prehistoric soil beneath their feet.



## BOOK DISCUSSION KITS

*Smilla's Sense of Snow* by Peter Hoeg - A literary thriller revolving around the death of a young boy which takes the resourceful heroine from Copenhagen to Greenland as she discovers a global intrigue.

*Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson - A murder trial of a Japanese American for the murder of a fellow fisherman reveals the racism of a small community.

*Snow in August: A Novel* by Peter Hamill - A story of friendship between a Jewish rabbi and a Catholic boy, who battle anti-Semitic toughs in 1947 Boston with ancient magic and the power of words.

*Song yet Sung* by James McBride - Liz Spocott, a beautiful young runaway slave, suffers a nasty head wound. When she awakes, she can see the future—from the near-future to Martin Luther King to hip-hop—in her dreams. Liz's visions help her and her fellow slaves escape, but soon there are new dangers on her trail

*Souls Raised from the Dead: a Novel* by Doris Betts - The story of an adolescent who lives with her divorced father, abandoned by a mother who refuses to donate a kidney to save her dying daughter.

*Snow Flower and the Secret fan* by Lisa See - A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

*The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell - Brilliant first novel about the discovery of extraterrestrial life and the voyage of a party of Jesuit missionaries to Alpha Centauri.

*Still Alice* by Lisa Genova - A compelling novel about a 50-year-old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease, written by a first-time author who holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience.

*The Stone Diaries* by Carol Shields - A fictional account of one woman's life presented through diary entries revealing her childhood, marriage, motherhood, and widowed years.

*Stones for Ibarra* by Harriet Doerr - A fictional story of a couple coming to value the wisdom of the natives and the strengths within themselves while restoring an ancestral home in a primitive Mexican village.

*Stones from the River* by Ursula Hegi - The story of a dwarf librarian living in Germany during the two World Wars whose craving for normalcy results in her attention to gossip and narrative.

*The Stranger* by Albert Camus - Through the story of an ordinary man unwittingly drawn into a senseless murder on an Algerian beach, Camus explores what he termed "the nakedness of man faced with the absurd."



*The Stranger Beside Me* by Ann Rule - The popular true crime writer and personal friend of the notorious serial killer Ted Bundy writes about her investigative discoveries of his horrific killing sprees.

*Sula* by Toni Morrison - The story of a young African-American girl who leaves her oppressive neighborhood to expand her dreams but finds many of her previous relationships tested when she returns ten years later.

*Summer* by Edith Wharton - A New Englander of humble origins, Charity Royall is swept into a torrid love affair with an artistically inclined young man, but her dreams of a future with him are thwarted. *Summer* was an immediate sensation when first published in 1917 and still stands as one of Wharton's greatest achievements.

*The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway - This classic captures life among the expatriates on Paris's Left Bank during the 1920s, the brutality of bullfighting in Spain, and the moral and spiritual dissolution of a generation.

*The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love* by Jill Conner Browne - A group of "belles gone bad" look at love, life, men, marriage and always being prepared.

*The Sweeter the Juice: a Family Memoir in Black & White* by Shirlee Taylor Haizlip - The true account of intertwined tensions between race and skin color confronted by the author while researching her mother's African-American family, which has passed for white.

*A Taste for Death* by P. D. James - Inspector Adam Dalgliesh, investigates the murder of a member of the peerage who is found with his throat slit in the vestry of a church.

*Tender at the Bone: Growing up at the Table* by Ruth Reichl - This book by the former restaurant critic of the New York Times is the story of a life enhanced and defined by a passion for food, unforgettable people, and the love of tales well told.

*Terrorist* by John Updike - Ahmad Ashmawy Mulloy, is an alienated American-born teenager who spurns the hedonistic life he witnesses in his New Jersey hometown. Turning to the words of the Holy Qur'an as expounded to him by the pedantic imam of a local mosque, the threads of an insidious plot gather around him.

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston - The story of tragedy and triumph of an early 20th century African-American woman.

*A Thief of Time* by Tony Hillerman - An investigation of the despoiling of an ancient Anasazi ruin where two corpses appear amid stolen goods and bones.

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe - A novel warning of the problems of colonialism in Africa and its impact on national culture.

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien - An unparalleled Vietnam testament and a profound study of men at war that illuminates the capacity and the limits of the human heart.



## BOOK DISCUSSION KITS

*The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield - A shy biographer is summoned to a famous, reclusive author's remote estate. Vida Winter is finally ready to tell the story of her remarkable life. But is she telling the truth?

*This Boy's Life* by Tobias Wolff - This unforgettable, bestselling memoir by a gifted writer introduces the young Toby Wolff, by turns tough and vulnerable, crafty and bumbling, and ultimately winning.

*A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley - A saga of a farmer and his two daughters as their secrets erupt and unravel the family's carefully constructed world.

*Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson - Dangerously ill after a climb in 1993, Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by a small Pakistani village; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan.

*Three Junes* by Julia Glass - A family portrait during three separate Junes spanning ten years. Paul McLeod is a recent widower hoping to find a new life in the Greek islands; Fenno McLeod is a New York bookstore owner dealing with the death of a close friend, and Fern is a pregnant dreamer unsure of her future. Winner of the National Book Award.

*Time and Again* by Jack Finney - In this cult fiction classic, a man is recruited for a secret government project and transported to 1880s New York City.

*The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger - The timelessness of love takes on new meaning in this fantastical romance about a reluctant time traveler Henry, and Clare, whose lives intersect in many non-chronological ways.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee - The classic story of a young girl who recalls her impressions of the time when her attorney father defended a black man accused of raping a white woman in a small Alabama town.

*Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck - Danny is a paisano descended from the original Spanish settlers of Monterey, California. He and his cohorts value friendship above money and possessions. Their love of freedom and scorn for material things draw them into daring and often hilarious adventures.

*Traveling Mercies* by Annie Lamott - A journey through Anne Lamott's often troubled past to illuminate her devout but quirky walk of faith.

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith - This American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years.

*The Trial* by Franz Kafka - The terrifying tale of Josef K., a respectable bank officer who is suddenly and inexplicably arrested and must defend himself against a charge about which he can get no information.



*Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson & the Opening of the American West* by Stephen E. Ambrose - Historian Stephen Ambrose traces the Lewis and Clark expedition and the opening of the American West

*Under the Banner of Heaven* by Jon Krakauer - This chilling story of murder explores the nature of radical Mormon sects and poses some striking questions about the closed-minded, closed-door policies of many religions in general.

*An Unfinished Life* by Mark Spragg - Hoping to introduce her daughter to the grandfather she has never met, a widow seeks refuge in her late husband's Wyoming hometown with her estranged father-in-law.

*A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson - Bill Bryson decided to reacquaint himself with his native country by walking the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail. The AT offers an astonishing landscape --and to a writer with the comic genius of Bill Bryson, endless opportunities to witness the majestic silliness of his fellow human beings.

*Walking Across Egypt* by Clyde Edgerton - Mattie Rigsby is an independent, strong-minded 78-year-old when she takes in a stray dog and teenage delinquent, offering an incredibly funny, balanced perspective on age and youth.



*Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen - Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope.

*The Water is Wide* by Pat Conroy - The true story of Pat Conroy's teaching experience on an impoverished South Carolina island in 1969.

*Watership Down* by Richard Adams - An epic tale of a hardy band of Berkshire rabbits forced to flee the destruction of their fragile habitat. A powerful saga of courage, leadership and survival.

*We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families* by Philip Gourevitch - A compelling work detailing Gourevitch's days in Rwanda as he reports on the genocide that killed nearly a million people in 1994. Winner of the National Book Critics Award.

*The Wedding* by Dorothy West - A family saga of race and class focusing on the relationship of an African American woman and her white jazz musician husband.

*What Happened to Anna K* by Irina Reyn - Exploring struggles of identity, fidelity, and community, "What Happened to Anna K." is a remarkable retelling of the Anna Karenina story set among early 21st-century Russian Jewish immigrants in New York City.

*What Our Mothers Didn't Tell Us: Why Happiness Eludes the Modern Woman* by Danielle Crittenden - A book that examines the foremost issues in women's lives – sex, marriage, motherhood, and work – and argues that a generation of women has been misled by outdated feminist attitudes.



## **BOOK DISCUSSION KITS**

*When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka - A story told from five different points of view chronicles the experiences of Japanese Americans caught up in the nightmare of the World War II internment camps.

*While I Was Gone* by Sue Miller - The compelling story of a woman who places her marriage and family life at risk to follow a flirtation from her past.

*White Oleander* by Janet Fitch - When her mother is jailed for killing a lover, 12-year old Astrid must navigate her way through a series of foster homes in her search to claim her own identity and adulthood.

*Wicked* by Gregory Maguire - There are two sides to every story. We've heard Dorothy's in L. Frank Baum's classic "The Wizard of Oz." Now we hear from the Wicked Witch of the West.

*Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China* by Jung Chang - A memoir reflecting upon the astonishing changes seen by three generations of women in 20th century China.

*Winesburg, Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson - A timeless book of connected short stories about the brave, cowardly, and altogether realistic inhabitants of an imaginary American town.

*The World Before Her* by Deborah Weisgall - Two parallel stories, set in Venice a century apart, follow two women and their marriages--Marian Evans, better known as famed English author George Eliot, and sculptor Caroline Spingold, coming unwillingly to the city with her older, wealthy husband.

*World's Fair* by E. L. Doctorow - A story of New York of the 1930's as the country deals with a looming depression and war on the horizon, as told through the eyes of a young boy.

*The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion - Didion explores with electric honesty and passion a private yet universal experience. Her portrait of a marriage-- and a life, in good times and bad-- will speak directly to anyone who has ever loved a husband, a wife, or a child.

*Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks - The story of the plague in the year 1666 from the eyes of Anna Frith, a housemaid and an unlikely heroine and healer. A tale of hope and faith in a time of despair.

*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: an Inquiry into Values* by Robert Pirsig - A narration of a summer motorcycle trip undertaken by a father and son becomes a personal and philosophical odyssey into fundamental questions of how to live.