

* Indicates that the title was added to the book group sets in 2010.

FICTION

* **All Other Nights** by Dara Horn (355 pages)

During the Civil War, a Jewish soldier is sent, on Passover, to kill his uncle who is plotting to assassinate Lincoln. His next assignment is to marry a spy.

All the Little Live Things by Wallace Stegner (345 pages)

In this novel of the modern American West, a retired couple is affected by their troubled neighbors of different generations.

* **Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein (321 pages)

A story of love, tragedy and redemption unfolds in the voice of Enzo, a dog.

* **Becoming Jane Eyre** by Sheila Kohler (234 pages)

An imagined tale of the Bronte sisters, this novel unravels the connections between one of fiction's most indelible heroines, Jane Eyre and the remarkable woman who created her, Charlotte Bronte. (Could be read and discussed with Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte.)

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (550 pages)

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Captain's Wife by Douglas Kelley (323 pages)

A young woman must navigate a clipper ship around Cape Horn in 1856 when her captain husband falls gravely ill in this tale of deception, danger, and treachery on the high seas.

* **Censoring an Iranian Love Story** by Shahriar Mandanipour (295 pages)

In this complex and literary title, the author demonstrates how difficult it is to write – and to live and love – in present-day Iran.

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon (226 pages)

This novel, narrated by a fifteen-year old with Asperger's syndrome, is at once a mystery, a coming-of-age story, and a look at a life without an understanding of emotions.

* **Dreamers of the Day** by Mary Doria Russell (253 pages)

A forty-year-old schoolteacher from Ohio still reeling from the tragedies of the Great War and the influenza epidemic takes the trip of a lifetime to Egypt and the Holy Land during the 1921 Cairo Peace Conference.

She meets Winston Churchill, T. E. Lawrence, and Lady Gertrude Bell and is drawn into the political intrigue surrounding the conference.

* **The Elegance of the Hedgehog** by Muriel Barbery (325 pages)

A fable from a French philosopher looks at convention, stereotypes, friendship and life lessons. A best seller in Europe.

The Eleventh Man by Ivan Doig (402 pages)

Correspondent Bill Reinking is assigned to cover his old Montana college football team on active duty during World War II.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran (326 pages)

Nine-year-old Oskar Schell is on a mission to find the lock that matches a mysterious key belonging to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on 9/11. An inspired innocent, Oskar is alternately endearing, exasperating, and hilarious as he careens from Central Park to Coney Island to Harlem on his search.

The Fig Eater by Jody Shields (311 pages)

A husband and wife solve the same murder in different ways in 1910 Vienna in this atmospheric suspense novel.

* **Finding Nouf** by Zoe Ferraris (305 pages)

A literary mystery set in present-day Saudi Arabia. Nayir tries to find the truth about what happened to 16-year old Nouf who is found dead in the desert.

The Forest Lover by Susan Vreeland (333 pages)

A novel based on the life and work of the British Columbia painter, Emily Carr, who blazed a path for modern women artists and whose bold paintings captured a disappearing landscape and an indigenous people.

* **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** by Stieg Larsson (590 pages)

From a Swedish author, a story that is at once a mystery, a family history, a romance and a look at financial corruption - with a very different heroine.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (290 pages)

Residents of the island form a book discussion group and try to cope with Nazi occupation.

Home to Harmony by Philip Gulley (256 pages)

A Quaker minister returns to his hometown and a varied congregation in this humorous and uplifting book.

* **Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet** by Jamie Ford (290 pages)

Set in the ethnic neighborhoods of Seattle during World War II and Japanese American internment camps of the era, this debut novel tells the heartwarming story of widower Henry Lee, his father, and his first love Keiko Okabe.

* **The House at Riverton** by Kate Morton (468 pages)

Set in England between the wars, this is the story of an aristocratic family, a house, a mysterious death and a way of life that has vanished forever.

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez (290 pages)

Four sisters and their parents leave Santo Domingo and cope with their new life in the United States – with the girls adjusting more easily than their traditional parents.

Kindred by Octavia Butler (287 pages)

A modern African-American woman travels back through time again and again to the antebellum South to help an ancestor.

* **The Lace Reader** by Brunonia Barry (385 pages)

In this literary thriller, Towner Whitney, who comes from a family of women who can read the future in the patterns of lace, returns to her hometown.

* **The Lacuna** by Barbara Kingsolver (507 pages)

The story of Harrison William Shepherd, a man caught between two worlds -- Mexico and the United States in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s -- and whose search for identity takes readers to the heart of the twentieth century's most tumultuous events.

* **The Last Chinese Chef** by Nicole Mones (278 pages)

An unexpected trip to China forces American food writer, Maggie McElroy to face her past while an assignment there to cover a cooking competition leads to a new relationship and some fine Chinese cuisine.

* **The Little Stranger** by Sarah Waters (510 pages)

The life of a country doctor is entwined with the lives of the landed gentry in this spooky tale.

Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper by Harriet Scott Chessman (164 pages)

In a novel set in 19th century Paris, Lydia poses for her sister, artist Mary Cassatt, as she battles a debilitating illness.

The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean (231 pages)

Alternates between past and present to tell the story of an 82-year-old Russian émigré who as a young woman gave tours of the Hermitage Museum but who now lives in the Pacific Northwest and suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear (294 pages)

As a former nurse in France during World War I and now a private investigator, Maisie Dobbs must confront her past as she solves two cases with rare insight and compassion in 1929 London.

Margherita Dolce Vita by Sefano Benni (226 pages)

Margherita's somewhat eccentric family life changes drastically when a new family moves next door. A thought-provoking commentary on modern life.

* **Peony in Love** by Lisa See (273 pages)

The opera "The Peony Pavilion" has an effect on three young women in 17th century China. Steeped in traditions and ritual, this story brings to life another time and place and yet addresses universal themes: the bonds of friendship, the power of words, and the age-old desire of women to be heard.

* **Prayers for Sale** by Sandra Dallas (305 pages)

Set in the high country of Colorado during the Depression, this is the story of a friendship between two women--eighty-six-year-old Hennie Comfort and seventeen-year-old Nit Spindle--and the deepest hardships and darkest secrets they shared with each other.

* **A Reliable Wife** by Robert Goolrick (291 pages)

It is rural Wisconsin in 1909. In the bitter cold, Ralph Truitt, a successful businessman, stands alone on a train platform waiting for the woman who answered his newspaper advertisement for "a reliable wife." But when Catherine Land steps off the train from Chicago, she's not the "simple, honest woman" that Ralph is expecting and so begins a dark and captivating tale.

* **Sarah's Key** by Tatiana de Rosnay (293 pages)

An American journalist's life becomes intertwined with that of a survivor of a French police roundup of Jewish families in 1942 when she is asked to write a story about this dark event during World War II.

* **The School of Essential Ingredients** by Erica Bauermeister (240 pages)

A cooking class learns more than recipes from an expert teacher.

The Sea by John Banville (195 pages)

After his wife dies, a man returns to the seaside where he spent summers as a young man and tries to make sense of his past.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See (288 pages)

A touching look at the lives of two women, Lily and Snow Flower, and the traditions of 19th century rural China that included sworn sisterhood, secret writing and foot binding.

A Sudden Country by Karen Fisher (379 pages)

Love, adventure and loss along the Oregon Trail.

Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky (395 pages)

A beautifully written novel of the French people caught up in the occupation of France during World War II.

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien (256 pages)

The moving story of an infantry company in the Vietnam war.

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield (432 pages)

When a young woman is asked to write the biography of an elderly popular English writer, she enters a world of dark secrets in this haunting suspense tale. Reminiscent of Rebecca and Jane Eyre.

A Thread of Grace by Mary Doria Russell (430 pages)

An historical novel of Italian resistance to the occupying Germans during World War II.

The Whistling Season by Ivan Doig (345 pages)

Set in rural Montana at the beginning of the 1900s, the lives of the motherless Milliron boys change forever with the arrival of a housekeeper, Rose, who proclaims that she “can’t cook, but doesn’t bite”.

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka (144 pages)

The powerful story of one Japanese American family and their internment during World War II.

* **Wolf Hall** by Hillary Mantel (604 pages)

The drama of England under Henry VIII unfolds as the author focuses on Thomas Cromwell and his rise to power as close advisor to the king. Winner of the Man Booker Prize.

NONFICTION

Autobiography of Ben Franklin by Ben Franklin (148 pages)

The life of Franklin: scientist, statesman, philosopher, businessman, and civic leader, in his own words.

Basilica: the Splendor and the Scandal: Building St. Peter’s by R.A. Scotti (299 pages)

Focuses on the individuals involved in the building of St. Peter’s in Rome: the artists, architects, popes and the faithful.

Beyond the Miracle Worker by Kim E. Nielsen (268 pages)

The life of Helen Keller’s teacher, Annie Sullivan – its triumphs and tragedies.

* **The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America** by Timothy Egan (324 pages)

Penetrating look at the events and consequences of the 1910 fire that burned across Montana, Idaho and Washington. A Washington State Book Award winner.

Chosen by a Horse: a Memoir by Susan Richards (248 pages)

A woman with many personal problems devotes herself to a sick horse.

Confederates in the Attic by Tony Horwitz (406 pages)

In this very readable book, the author looks at how the Civil War still affects us today.

A Crocodile Eats the Sun: A Memoir of Africa by Peter Godwin (341 pages)

A Zimbabwe-born writer returns to Africa to understand the tragic reality of his once prosperous homeland.

Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert (334 pages)

When her marriage ends, a woman embarks on a spiritual quest and a journey of self-discovery that takes her to Italy, India and Indonesia.

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser (383 pages)

The author examines fast food and how it affects our lives in many ways.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls (288 pages)

Memoir of Jeannette Wall, who grew up in a poor, dysfunctional family, and her struggle to rise above her beginnings.

* **Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide** by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (320 pages)

Calls attention to the health and poverty issues facing so many women around the world.

Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family by Annette Gordon-Reed

Historian and legal scholar Gordon-Reed presents this epic work that tells the story of the Hemingses, an American slave family, and their close blood ties to Thomas Jefferson. A National Book Award winner.

Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali (353 pages)

A Somali-born woman escapes an arranged marriage, seeks asylum in the Netherlands and becomes a voice for downtrodden women.

The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East by Sandy Tolan (362 pages)

A young Israeli woman and a young Arab refugee have a lifelong friendship and frank dialogue. A true story that illuminates the complex history of the Middle East.

The Miracle Worker by William Gibson (112 pages)

*The play based on the true story of blind and deaf Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan. (Could be read and discussed with **Beyond the Miracle Worker** by Kim Nielsen.)*

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder (352 pages)

The story of Dr. Paul Farmer who works for improved medical services for the poor around the world.

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich (230 pages)

A journalist goes undercover to tell the story of life as a minimum wage worker in the United States.

The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan (450 pages)

A surprising and thoughtful account of how Americans produce and market their food and decide what to eat.

Panama Fever by Matthew Parker (472 pages)

A look at the problems, the personalities and the costs, especially in human terms, of building the Panama Canal.

* **The Places in Between** by Rory Stewart (293 pages)

Arriving six weeks after the fall of the Taliban, journalist Stewart sets out to walk across Afghanistan in January 2002. He recounts the five-week journey in this memoir, describing his encounters with poor villagers, tribal elders, Taliban commanders, Western aid workers, Quranic scholars, and many others across the remote war-torn country.

Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books by Azar Nafisi (356 pages)

A female university professor and a group of young women meet in secret to discuss forbidden literature in modern day Iran.

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations – One School at a Time by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin (347 pages)

One man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote, and anti-American reaches of Asia: in 1993 Greg Mortenson was an American mountain-climber wandering emaciated and lost through Pakistan's Karakoram. After he was taken in and nursed back to health by the people of a Pakistani village, he promised to return one day and build them a school. From that promise grew an incredible and effective humanitarian campaign.

* **29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life** by Cami Walker (226 pages)

The story of a young woman's struggle with multiple sclerosis and how a healer's unusual prescription of mindful altruism--to "give away 29 gifts in 29 days"--ignited her energy, her happiness, and invited more abundance into her life.

Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution by Woody Holton (278 pages)

Was there too much democracy in the years following the Revolutionary War? An in-depth look at a tumultuous period in our history.

Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy by Carlos Eire (390 pages)

A memoir of a boy growing up in Cuba in the 1950s and of the revolution that changed his life forever.

* **White Cascade** by Gary Krist (315 pages)

In February 1910, a monstrous blizzard hit Washington State. High in the Cascade Mountains near the town of Wellington, two trainloads of cold, hungry passengers and their crews found their railcars buried in rising drifts, parked precariously on the edge of a steep ravine – leading to a tragic series of events.

Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan (340 pages)

A moving and very readable history of the Dust Bowl. 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. A National Book Award winner.

If you are a member of a book discussion group, or are thinking of starting a group, you might be interested in the library's Book Group Collection. These titles, fiction and nonfiction, were chosen because they can make for a wonderful discussion.

The titles in this collection are signed out as sets -10 copies to a set - to any book group member with an Everett library card, to share with other members of their book group. Each set includes a discussion packet to enhance the reading experience and discussion.

For more information and to sign up for these sets, contact:

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