

SHAKER HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annotated List of Book Sets for Book Discussion Groups

Award Abbreviations

A	Alex Award	NBA	National Book Award
ALAN	ALA Notable	NBCC	National Book Critics Circle Award
B	Booker Prize	O	Orange Prize
EAP	Edgar Allan Poe-Mystery	P	Pulitzer
H	Hugo Award	PEN	PEN/Faulkner Award
N	Nobel	W	Whitbread Book Award
NM	Newbery Medal		

TITLE INDEX

- Abraham** (2002) Non-Fiction, 229 pages **Bruce Feiler**
Traveling through war zones and into the caves of ancient Mesopotamia, Feiler journeys to the heart of three Monotheistic faiths to search for the possible reconciliation through Abraham, the shared ancestor of Christianity, Judaism and Islam.
- The Accidental Tourist** (1985) Fiction, NBCC, 342 pages **Anne Tyler**
This amusing study of human behavior is the story of Macon Leary, a travel book author who meets Muriel, an odd character whose vitality challenges Leary to question his safe responses to the world.
- The Age of Innocence** (1920) Fiction, P, 362 pages **Edith Wharton**
The strict social rituals and etiquette of 1920s New York society set the stage for attorney Newland Archer's moral dilemma. Although engaged to May Welland, Archer is strongly attracted to Welland's nonconformist cousin Ellen.
- All the Pretty Horses** (1992) Fiction, NBA, NBCC, 302 pages **Cormac McCarthy**
On the cusp of adulthood, a young man begins an odyssey on horseback across Texas and Mexico and begins to understand the world around him.
- An American Childhood** (1987) Autobiography, 255 pages **Annie Dillard**
This is a vivid and thoughtful evocation of Dillard's 1950s childhood in Pittsburgh.
- Among the Missing** (2001) Stories, 258 pages **Dan Chaon**
This collection of short stories by Cleveland Heights author Chaon features an eclectic assortment of characters coping with life. The book was a finalist for the 2001 National Book Award.
- Angle of Repose** (1971) Fiction, P, 569 pages **Wallace Stegner**
Retired history professor, Lyman Ward, returns to his childhood home to write a book about his paternal grandparents' marriage and their experiences living in the American western frontier in the late 19th century.
- Antelope Wife** (1998) Fiction, 240 pages **Louise Erdrich**
The author's story brings to life the cultures and mix of people who live in Minneapolis, once a hunting ground for the Ojibway.
- Atonement** (2002) Fiction, 384 pages **Ian McEwan**
Guilt and innocence, punishment and atonement are recurring themes in this tragic tale of the stunning consequences of a young girl's lie.

- Away** (2007), ALAN, Fiction, 247 pages **Amy Bloom**
When immigrant Lillian Leyb finds out her three-year-old daughter may still be alive in Siberia, she begins an epic transcontinental journey home ultimately walking the Yukon trail toward the Bering Strait.
- Bachelor Brothers' Bed and Breakfast** (1996) Fiction, 152 pages **Bill Richardson**
Unmarried fraternal twins, Hector and Virgil, run a bed and breakfast for bibliophiles on an island near Vancouver Island. Richardson's book won Canada's Stephen Leacock Award for Humor.
- Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress** (2001) Fiction, 192 pages **Sijie Dai**
This first novel is the inspiring tale of two boys who are sent to a remote Chinese village for "re-education" during the Cultural Revolution. The cast of richly developed characters adds to a timeless lesson in friendship and loyalty.
- Be Sweet: A Conditional Love Story** (1998) Autobiography, 329 pages **Roy Blount Jr.**
Blount reflects on his relationship with his mother in this memoir filled with humorous anecdotes, candid thoughts and complex emotions.
- The Bean Trees** (1988) Fiction, 232 pages **Barbara Kingsolver**
A poor but adventurous Kentucky girl manages to avoid pregnancy in high school and earns enough money to buy a car and travel west.
- Behind You** (2004) Teen Fiction, 118 pages **Jacqueline Woodson**
This sequel to Woodson's "If You Come Softly" is the tender, thoughtful and powerful story of what follows in the wake of the interracial love affair between 15 year-old Jeremiah, who is African-American, and his classmate Elie, who is white. Grades 8 and up.
- Bel Canto** (2001) Fiction, O, PEN, 318 pages **Ann Patchett**
Joined by no common language except music, a band of terrorists and their international hostages forge unexpected bonds.
- Beloved** (1987) Fiction, P, 275 pages **Toni Morrison**
Set in post-Civil War Ohio, an escaped slave finds catharsis by sharing her gruesome past with an understanding man in this stunning novel about slavery.
- Between, Georgia** (2007) Fiction, 294 pages **Joshilyn Jackson**
In this fictional town between Athens and Atlanta with a population of ninety, Nonny is caught in the decades old family feud between her adopted family and her biological one.
- Black Girl/White Girl** (2007) Fiction, 272 pages **Joyce Carol Oates**
In this novel of dark suspense and racial tension, Genna reflects on the tragic events leading up to the death of her college roommate in the mid 1970s.
- The Bone People** (1984) Fiction, B, 445 pages **Keri Hulme**
This 1985 Booker Prize-winning first novel explores both destruction and healing within families as well as the personal costs of losing touch with traditions and cultures.
- Breathing Lessons** (1988) Fiction, P, 338 pages **Anne Tyler**
A middle-aged Baltimore couple comes to terms with one another as they discuss old friends and their grown children on the drive to a distant funeral.
- Breathing Underwater** (2001) Teen Fiction 263 pages **Alex Finn**
Caitlin's so lucky to have handsome high school superstar Nick crazy in love with her. Or is she? This contemporary tale of dating violence is seen through the eyes of the male offender and takes readers on a journey from a court-mandated restraining order to the roots of Nick's anger. Grades 9 and up.

- The Buffalo Soldier** (2002) Fiction, 432 pages **Chris Bohjalian**
When their twin daughters are killed in a flash flood, a Vermont couple takes in a 10-year-old African-American foster child in an attempt to rekindle their failing marriage.
- A Child's Christmas in Wales** (1980) Fiction, 45 pages **Dylan Thomas**
Welsh poet Dylan Thomas recollects the happy celebration of Christmas when he was a child. Edward Ardizzone illustrated this edition.
- The Children's Blizzard** (2004) Nonfiction, 307 pages **David Laskin**
The year was 1888, the month January, the day unusually warm and sunny, which provided an unusual break in the weather. Many, especially the children, decided not to wear coats or hats or boots or gloves. Suddenly the weather changed and a terrible storm hit.
- Cold Mountain** (1997) Fiction, NBA, 449 pages **Charles Frazier**
In this evocative novel set during the Civil War, a disillusioned confederate soldier deserts his unit and walks back to his home in the Blue Ridge Mountains and to the woman he loved.
- The Color of Water** (1996) Biography, 291 pages **James McBride**
In this black man's tribute to his white mother, McBride writes about his mother's heart, strength and determination in raising 12 children, who rose from poverty instilled with a respect for education, religion—and their mother.
- The Color Purple** (1982) Fiction, P, NBA, 251 pages **Alice Walker**
A Southern black woman, who experiences rape and human degradation, sacrifices herself to save her sister in this story about the power of love.
- Crossing to Safety** (1987) Fiction, 341 pages **Wallace Stegner**
Stegner explores the bonds of a long friendship between two couples despite vast differences in their upbringing and social status.
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time** (2003) Fiction, A, 226 pages **Mark Haddon**
When a 15 year-old autistic boy is suspected of killing the neighbor's poodle, he adopts the methods of his favorite sleuth – Sherlock Holmes – to solve the murder in this touchingly humorous novel.
- A Dangerous Friend** (1999) Fiction, 256 pages **Ward Just**
Colonialism and idealism clash in this provocative book set in 1965 Saigon when a group of young civilians set out to reform Vietnam.
- The Daughter of Time** (1951) Mystery, 185 pages **Josephine Tey**
A Scotland Yard detective convalescing from a bad fall becomes intrigued with an old scandal about Richard III.
- The Devil in the White City: Murder Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America** (2003) Nonfiction, 447 pages **Erik Larson**
This is the brilliant, chillingly-told true story of H. H. Holmes, the serial killer who stalked the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.
- Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant** (1982) Fiction, 303 pages **Anne Tyler**
In alternating chapters, family members look back on their childhood and come to terms with their mother and themselves.
- Disgrace** (1999) Fiction, B, 220 pages **J. M. Coetzee**
This short but powerful Booker Prize-winning novel is the story of the social, racial and political complexities of post-apartheid South Africa.

- The Dive from Clausen's Pier** (2002) Fiction, A, 413 pages **Ann Packer**
After a tragic accident leaves her fiancé paralyzed, 23-year-old Carrie Bell leaves her hometown of Madison, Wisconsin for an extended stay in New York.
- Dreams from My Father** (1995) Biography, 453 pages **Barack Obama**
Written by the senator from Illinois, this memoir chronicles his life as the son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother.
- The Elegance of the Hedgehog** (2006) Fiction, 325 pages **Muriel Barbery**
The lives of 54-year-old concierge Rene Michel and extremely bright, suicidal 12-year-old Paloma Josse are transformed by the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu.
- Empire Falls** (2001) Fiction, P, 483 pages **Richard Russo**
Set in a depressed Maine mill town, this rural epic examines the founding family's influence over the town and its people.
- Fahrenheit 451** (1953) Fiction, NBA, 165 pages **Ray Bradbury**
In this science fiction, fireman Guy Montag's curiosity about forbidden books leads him from a life of surround sound and video "families" to a life on the run.
- The Faith Club** (2007) Non-Fiction, 293 pages **Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner**
This book documents the experiences of three New York City mothers whose attempts to write a children's book about the commonalities among their religions became complicated by their differences.
- The Fall of Rome** (2002) Fiction, 223 pages **Martha Southgate**
Jerome Washington is the only African-American faculty member at an elite boarding school. His life is forever altered with the arrival of a new white teacher, Jana Hansen, with whom he becomes romantically involved, and a new black student, Rashid Bryson, a smart but tough city kid.
- Falling Leaves: A True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter** (1998) Autobiography, 274 pages **Adeline Yen Mah**
In her memoir, Mah details her gruesome life in Mainland China and her escape to America where she succeeded in becoming a physician and writer.
- The Falls** (2004) Fiction, 481 pages **Joyce Carol Oates**
Ariah Erskine has been married for less than a day when her husband commits suicide at Niagara Falls. She quickly remarries and starts a family with Dirk Burnaby but when he takes on Love Canal litigation, she worries that she'll lose him, too.
- Felix in the Underworld** (1997) Mystery, 247 pages **John Mortimer**
A quiet, dignified mid-list novelist becomes enmeshed in a wild series of events in which barrister Mortimer's comic and satirical charms abound.
- Fieldwork** (2008) Fiction, 356 pages **Mischa Berlinski**
Following his girlfriend to her new teaching position in Thailand, a young reporter researches the story of American anthropologist, Martiya van der Leun, following her suicide in a Thai prison where she was serving a lengthy sentence for murder. A 2007 National Book Award Finalist.
- Fifth Business** (1970) Fiction, 266 pages **Robertson Davies**
Set in the Canadian Midwest, this novel is the first of a trilogy dealing with ambition, love and strange vengeance.
- Finding Fish: A Memoir** (2001) Autobiography, 339 pages **Antwone Fisher**
Born in prison and raised in Cleveland's foster care system, Fisher recounts his life story – and the major role the U.S. Navy played in his rise to success as a Hollywood producer and screenwriter.

- Flame Trees of Thika** (1959) Non-Fiction, 281 pages **Elsbeth Huxley**
This is the author's delightful memoir of growing up in Kenya during the waning days of British colonialism before World War I changed almost everything.
- Flight Behavior** (2012) Fiction, 448 pages **Barbara Kingsolver**
On her way to meet a potential lover, bored housewife Dellarobia Turnbow is detoured by a miraculous event on the Appalachian mountainside, which ignites a media and religious firestorm that changes her life forever.
- Four Spirits** (2003) Fiction, 560 pages **Sena Jeter Naslund**
The lives of blacks and whites, both living and dead, are skillfully intertwined in rich historical detail in this ambitious novel about the Civil Rights struggle in Birmingham, Alabama during the 1960's.
- The Fox Woman** (2000) Fiction, 382 pages **Kij Johnson**
This lyrical first novel about a medieval Japanese shape shifter is based on a Japanese myth about a fox that falls in love with a nobleman and becomes a woman.
- Gilead** (2004) Fiction, NBCC, P, PEN, 247 pages **Marilynne Robinson**
In poetic and lyrical language, Reverend John Ames writes a letter to his seven year-old son describing his life and the world around him.
- Girl with a Pearl Earring** (1999) Fiction, A, 233 pages **Tracy Chevalier**
Set in 17th-century Holland, this richly imagined novel centers on a young woman employed by the artist, Vermeer, and provides an intimate glimpse into his artistic world.
- The Giver** (1993) Teen Fiction, NM, 180 pages **Lois Lowry**
Twelve-year-old Jonas discovers the terrible truth about his utopian society when he becomes the "Receiver of Memories."
- The Glass Castle** (2005) Autobiography, A, 288 pages **Jeanette Walls**
This page-turner hooks you from the beginning when the author, dressed for a benefit, looks out her taxi window to watch her mother dumpster diving. MSNBC's Jeanette Walls' memoir goes on to describe her dysfunctional family life with nary a hint of bitterness.
- The God of Small Things** (1997) Fiction, B, 321 pages **Arundhati Roy**
Set in India in the late 1960s, Roy's debut novel is the story of twins, Estha and Rahel, and the disturbing consequences of the accidental drowning of a visiting English cousin.
- The Golden Compass** (2001) Teen Fiction, 399 pages **Philip Pullman**
The first book in a compelling trilogy set in a fascinating fantasy world filled with highly original characters and situations.
- A Good Enough Daughter** (1999) Autobiography, 254 pages **Alix Kates Shulman**
The author of *Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen* explores what it means to do exactly what is expected of a daughter, and in the process, discovers the unexpected joys of going home.
- A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain** (1992) Stories, P, 249 pages **Robert Olen Butler**
This collection of 15 stories about the unspoken legacy of the Vietnam War and the reality of contemporary American culture is told by the Vietnamese themselves.
- The Great Gatsby** (1925) Fiction, 189 pages **F. Scott Fitzgerald**
Living in a luxurious mansion on the Long Island shore, Jay Gatsby pursues Daisy Buchanan through the glittering society of the Roaring Twenties.

- The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** (2008) Fiction, 288 pages **Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows**
Impromptu letters between a London journalist and eccentric residents of Guernsey provide a heartwarming, but realistic glimpse of a German occupied British island during WWII, where books and recipes became a lifeline.
- The Help** (2009) Fiction, 451 pages **Kathryn Stockett**
Set in Jackson, Mississippi in the early 1960s, this compelling first novel is the story of three women on opposite sides of the racial divide, who prove that ordinary women can be heroic.
- Home Town** (2000) Non-Fiction, 432 pages **Tracy Kidder**
A Pulitzer Prize-winning author creates a tender portrait of Northampton, Massachusetts—a typical American home town—as he reveals the dramas behind the ordinary lives of its residents. Their stories demonstrate how individuals shape a community's social conscience and how a group of people can create a strong sense of community.
- Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet** (2009) Fiction, 301 pages **Jamie Ford**
Set in both the ethnic neighborhoods of Seattle and the World War II Japanese internment camps, this tender first novel explores an innocent passion that crosses racial barriers.
- House of Sand and Fog** (1999) Fiction, 365 pages **Andre Dubus III**
A collision of cultures brings tragic results in a struggle for possession of the same house.
- I Am Madame X** (2003) Fiction, 261 pages **Gioia Diliberto**
This richly imagined novel illuminates the struggle between American beauty, Virginie Gautreau, and John Singer Sargent, painter of the controversial painting that shocked the 1884 Paris Salon.
- The Inheritance of Loss** (2006) Fiction, NBCC, B, 357 pages **Kiran Desai**
Set in politically turbulent India in the 1980's, three central characters—a judge, his orphaned granddaughter, and his cook's son—struggle with their cultural identities.
- Interpreter of Maladies** (1999) Stories, P, 198 pages **Jhumpa Lahiri**
This award-winning debut collection of nine stories, set in the United States and India, captures the lives of immigrants, expatriates and first-generation Americans of Indian descent.
- The Kite Runner** (2003) Fiction, A, 372 pages **Khaled Hosseini**
In this coming-of-age story, a complex friendship between two motherless boys is set against the backdrop of 1960 Afghanistan.
- The Last Universe** (2006) Teen Fiction, 240 pages **William Sleator**
This gripping and suspenseful science fiction tale features a teenage brother and sister, quantum physics, the power of the maze, and the ties that bind family.
- A Lesson Before Dying** (1993) Fiction, NBCC, 256 pages **Ernest Gaines**
Set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s, Grant Wiggins returns to teach a black youth, who is sentenced to die for a crime he didn't commit, how to die with dignity.
- Life of Pi** (2001) Fiction, B, 336 pages **Yann Martel**
Born and raised in India, sixteen-year-old Pi Patel finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean following a terrible shipwreck.

- The Light in the Ruins** (2013) Fiction, 309 pages **Chris Bohjalian**
Hoping to safeguard themselves from the ravages of World War II within the ancient walls of their Florence villa, the noble Rosatis family becomes prisoners in their home when 18-year-old Christiana's courtship by a German lieutenant prompts the Nazis to take over the estate, a situation that leads to a serial murder investigation years later.
- Little Bee** (2008) Fiction, ALAN, 266 pages **Chris Cleave**
The fates of a 16-year-old Nigerian orphan and a well-to-do British couple seeking to repair their strained marriage are cast when the couple decides to stray beyond the walls of their Nigerian beach resort.
- Love in the Time of Cholera** (1988) Fiction, 348 pages **Gabriel Garcia Marquez**
Set in a South American community from the late 1870s to the early 1930s, this is a tale of an unrequited passion so strong that it binds three people's lives together for more than fifty years.
- Love Medicine** (1984) Fiction, NBCC, 367 pages **Louise Erdrich**
On a North Dakota reservation, the passionate and dramatic lives of two families are linked to the past and immersed in the present.
- The Love Wife** (2004) Fiction, 379 pages **Gish Jen**
A Chinese-American couple has cobbled together a family with two adopted Chinese daughters and a biological son. When the wife's disapproving mother-in-law dies, she wills them a Chinese nanny, whose presence disrupts their lives in this story about cultural assimilation.
- Loving Frank** (2007) Fiction, 384 pages **Nancy Horan**
Fact and fiction are blended in this graceful, compelling story of the early Twentieth Century scandal set in motion by architect Frank Lloyd Wright's affair with one of his married clients.
- Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** (2010) Fiction, 368 pages **Helen Simonson**
A retired major and a Pakistani shopkeeper are drawn together by their love of literature and the loss of their respective spouses in this unconventional love story.
- The March** (2006) BCC, PEN 363 pages **E. L. Doctorow**
In this powerful novel of William Tecumseh Sherman's march to the sea, events are narrated through the perspective of freed slaves and slave owners, unionists and rebels portraying a lively illumination of a country at war with itself.
- Memoirs of a Geisha** (1997) Fiction, 434 pages **Arthur Golden**
Golden's historical novel follows the life of Chiyo, a poor child from a rural Japanese fishing village in the 1920s to her later years in luxurious surroundings in New York.
- The Memory Keeper's Daughter** (2005) Fiction, 401 pages **Kim Edwards**
Snowed in with a wife in labor, a doctor is forced to deliver his twin children. When he recognizes that one has Down's Syndrome, he tells his wife that the baby was stillborn. He instructs his nurse to take the baby to a home for disabled children but instead; she moves away and raises the child as her own.
- Mister Pip** (2007) ALAN, A, Fiction, 256 pages **Lloyd Jones**
On a tropical island torn by violence, Matilda and her classmates are riveted by the story of Dickens' orphan Pip in Victorian England in this magical novel that celebrates the transformative power of literature.
- Montana 1948** (1993) Fiction, 175 pages **Larry Watson**
In a small Montana town, a twelve-year-old boy sees his family torn between justice and loyalty.
- Mountains Beyond Mountains** (2003) Biography, 322 pages **Tracy Kidder**
This is the true story of Dr. Paul Farmer, who embarks on an epic struggle to change medicine and humanity in Haiti.

- Mystic River** (2001) Mystery, 416 pages **Dennis Lehane**
Three boyhood friends – one now a cop, another an ex-con, and the third a haunted man, who was raped as a child – reunite when the ex-con's daughter is murdered.
- The Namesake** (2003) Fiction, 304 pages **Jhumpa Lahiri**
The immigrant experience and the conflict of cultures are revealed in this penetrating story of a second-generation immigrant who seeks his place in the world.
- The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency** (1998) Mystery, 235 pages **Alexander McCall Smith**
Set in Botswana, this mystery series features detective Precious Ramotswe who sets out to find a missing 11-year-old, who she fears has been kidnapped by evil witchdoctors.
- Nineteen Minutes** (2007) Fiction, 408 pages **Jodi Picoult**
Lives can be changed in an instant as demonstrated in this story of a school massacre told in two voices---the victim's and the shooter's.
- Olive Kitteridge** (2008) Fiction, 286 pages **Elizabeth Strout**
At the edge of the continent, in the small town of Crosby, Maine, lives Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher who deplors the changes in her town and in the world at large but doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her.
- One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd** (1998) Fiction, 304 pages **Jim Fergus**
Loosely based in history, these personal journals describe the adventures of white brides, their marriages to Cheyenne warriors and prairie life before the white man's civilization changed it.
- The Orchid Thief** (1998) Biography, 284 pages **Susan Orlean**
This is the story of obsessive, eccentric plant dealer John Laroche, who is arrested with three Seminole assistants for poaching rare ghost orchids from a South Florida swamp.
- Other People's Children** (1999) Fiction, 352 pages **Joanna Trollope**
Realistic, middle-class characters face recognizable dilemmas when Josie marries Matt and creates a new configuration of step-relationships that affects three women, two men and six children.
- Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha** (1993) Fiction, B, 282 pages **Roddy Doyle**
Set in Dublin in the 1960s, a ten-year-old boy, drawn to pranks and boyish deviltry, grows soberly aware of his parents failing marriage and his father's descent into alcoholism.
- Palace Walk** (1956) Fiction, N/Literature 1988, 498 pages **Naguib Mahfouz**
While engaging in nightly trysts with his mistress of the moment, a duplicitous Cairo merchant rules his family according to the Koran in the first book of The Cairo Trilogy set in post-World War I Egypt.
- Paradise Postponed** (1985) Fiction, 374 pages **John Mortimer**
When an ultraliberal English pastor wills the family brewery to a social-climbing conservative politician, his widow and sons react strongly.
- The Paris Wife** (2011) Fiction, 320 pages **Paula McLain**
This historical fiction, written by a local author, is the story of Ernest Hemingway's time in Paris as seen through the eyes of his first wife, Hadley Richardson.
- People of the Book** (2008) Fiction, 372 pages **Geraldine Brooks**
Offered a coveted job to analyze and conserve a priceless Sarajevo Haggadah, Australian rare-book expert Hanna Heath discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the volume's ancient binding that reveal its historically significant origins.

- The Piano Tuner** (2002) Fiction, 336 pages **Daniel Mason**
The British War Office sends piano expert Edgar Drake into the wilds of 19th century Burma to fix the piano of an eccentric Surgeon-Major who has brokered a tenuous peace among the local warlords through the use of music and poetry.
- Plainsong** (1999) Fiction, A, 320 pages **Kent Haruf**
With a prose rich in particulars, small town lives parallel each other and intersect as teacher Maggie Jones becomes involved in the lives of a fellow high school teacher, a pregnant 17-year-old and two elderly bachelor brothers.
- Prodigal Summer** (2000) Fiction, 464 pages **Barbara Kingsolver**
Set in southern Appalachia, these narratives of human love and animal life are intertwined in this novel about the importance of the balance of nature.
- The Promise of Stardust** (2013) Fiction, 432 pages **Priscille Sibley**
After an accident leaves his wife brain dead, Matt Beaulieu resolves to take her off life support, but changes his mind when doctors discover she is pregnant. His decision results in a controversial legal battle with her family.
- Race Matters** (1993) Nonfiction, 159 pages **Cornel West**
In this collection of essays, Princeton scholar Cornel West meets the subject of race in America head-on.
- Ragtime** (1975) Fiction, NBCC, 270 pages **E. L. Doctorow**
Kenyon College graduate and current NYU professor, Doctorow won the first National Book Critics Circle Award in 1976 for his story of three families in turn-of-the-century New York where real-life characters of the era move in and out of the lives of fictional ones.
- The Reader** (1997) Fiction, 218 pages **Bernhard Schlink**
Set in post-World War II Germany, Schlink chronicles the unusual relationship of 15-year-old Michael Berg and 35-year-old Hanna Schmitz. Years later the two are reunited in a war-crimes trial courtroom.
- The Red Tent** (1997) Fiction, 321 pages **Anita Diamant**
Narrated by Dinah, daughter of Jacob, this historical novel relates the story of the tribe of Jacob in the Book of Genesis.
- Rocket Boys** (1998) Biography, 384 pages **Homer Hickam**
This is the charming memoir of a NASA engineer, who grew up during the 1960s space race and began designing and launching homemade rockets in his hometown of Coalwood, West Virginia.
- The Rule of Four** (2004) Fiction, 372 pages **Ian Caldwell**
This debut novel involves four Princeton roommates and their quest to solve the puzzle in the 15th-century book, Hypnerotomachia Poliphili. The friends encounter drama and danger set against the backdrop of college life.
- The Samurai's Garden** (1994) Fiction, 211 pages **Gail Tsukiyama**
Sent to Japan, a young Chinese man meets four local residents while recovering from tuberculosis.
- Seabiscuit: An American Legend** (2001) Nonfiction, 339 pages **Laura Hillenbrand**
This best-selling sports biography of an unlikely champion tells the story of the men who wagered their luck and lives on one horse's amazing career.
- The Secret Life of Bees** (2002) Fiction, 302 pages **Sue Monk Kidd**
This debut novel is the story of 14-year-old Lily Owens and her "stand-in" mother, Rosaleen, who find refuge, courage and hope in the loving home of three black bee-keeping sisters.

- The Sense of an Ending** (2012) Fiction, B, 163 pages **Julian Barnes**
In this Man Booker Prize-winning novel, an unexpected bequest forces a man in his 60s to reconsider different decisions, and to revise his place in the world.
- The Shadow of the Wind** (2004) Fiction, 496 pages **Carlos Ruiz Zafon**
In 1950s Spain, a young man named Daniel discovers a rare novel by an obscure author named Carax. As Daniel becomes more interested in the author and his books, he learns that a mysterious man is destroying copies of Carax's titles and that there are strange similarities between his own life and that of the author.
- The Shipping News** (1993) Fiction, NBA, P, 335 pages **E. Annie Proulx**
A third-rate newspaperman retreats to his ancestral home in Newfoundland with his aunt and two young daughters, hoping to find true love and less unpredictability in a new community.
- Sister of My Heart** (1999) Fiction, 322 pages **Chitra Divakaruni**
Two cousins, born on the same day in the same Calcutta household love each other as sisters until arranged marriages and family secrets separate them. When tragedy strikes they turn to each other for love and support.
- Snow Falling On Cedars** (1994) Fiction, PEN, 460 pages **David Guterson**
Old prejudices surface in a small island town near Puget Sound when Japanese-American man stands trial for the murder of a fisherman in the 1950's.
- Snow Flower and the Secret Fan** (2005) Fiction, 288 pages **Lisa See**
This novel chronicles the friendship of two 19th-century Chinese women and their correspondence using a secret language, passed down by women for more than a thousand years.
- The Soloist: A Lost Dream, An Unlikely Friendship and the Redemptive Power of Music** (2008) Biography, 289 pages **Steve Lopez**
The remarkable bond between a Los Angeles Times journalist and a classically trained homeless violinist is recounted in this compelling story of triumph and heartbreak.
- Some Love, Some Pain, Sometime** (1995) Stories, 273 pages **J. California Cooper**
This uplifting collection of short stories is about women for whom life—despite its constant struggles—is always worth the journey.
- South of Broad** (2009) Fiction, 514 pages **Pat Conroy**
This sprawling novel is both a love letter to Charleston, South Carolina and a tribute to lifelong friendship.
- The Space Between Us** (2007) Fiction, 321 pages **Thrity Umrigar**
An Upper middle class Parsi housewife and her domestic servant inhabit different worlds, but find they share much in common as they discover they are bound by shared life experiences.
- State of Wonder** (2011) O Nominee, Fiction 353 pages **Ann Patchett**
In the Amazon basin, a medical researcher searches for her former mentor, a despotic scientist who is developing a miracle fertility drug.
- Stones from the River** (1994) Fiction, 525 pages **Ursula Hegi**
Trudi Montag, a dwarf and town librarian, recounts life in a small town in Germany from WW I to the early 1950s.
- Strapless: John Singer Sargent and the Fall of Madame X** (2003) Non-Fiction, 310 pages **Deborah Davis**
This is the personal history of Virginie Gautreau the twenty-three-year old New Orleans Creole who moved to Paris and a relatively unknown painter, John Singer Sargent, who won the commission to paint her.

- The Sweet Hereafter** (1991) Fiction, 272 pages **Russell Banks**
When a school bus goes off the road in a fatal accident, the story of its impact on a small, northern town is told through the voices of several characters, including the bus driver, the father of two of the passengers, an attorney and a cheerleader who was maimed in the crash.
- The Sweeter the Juice** (1994) Autobiography, 268 pages **Shirlee Taylor Haizlip**
The author explores her family's heritage as slaves, free blacks, Indians, and whites since the Civil War era.
- Teacher Man** (2005) Autobiography, 258 pages **Frank McCourt**
The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Angela's Ashes* recounts his years as a teacher in New York's Stuyvesant High School.
- That Old Cape Magic** (2009) Fiction, 261 pages **Richard Russo**
The Pulitzer Prize winning author, (**Empire Falls**, 2002) mixes humor and tragedy in his story about a well-respected, angst-ridden professor who examines his parents' failed marriage and his troubled one as he prepares for his daughter's wedding.
- Their Eyes Were Watching God** (1937) Fiction, 219 pages **Zora Neale Hurston**
Set in 1937, this classic novel follows the fortunes of Janie Crawford, a woman living in the black town of Eaton, Florida.
- Things Fall Apart** (1959) Fiction, 209 pages **Chinua Achebe**
Achebe presents a sympathetic and complex portrait of the Ibo cultural traditions in Africa. His novel chronicles the life of Okonkwo, the leader of a tribal Igbo community.
- The Things They Carried** (1990) NBA, Teen Fiction, 272 pages **Tim O'Brien**
This compelling collection of stories provides a look at the men who fought in Viet Nam.
- A Thousand Splendid Suns** (2007) Fiction, 384 pages **Khaled Hosseini**
Thirty years of Afghan history are chronicled in a moving story of family and friendship as seen through the eyes of two women, who become allies in their battle with a man to whom each were married.
- The Tiger's Wife** (2011) Fiction, NBA, ALAN 337 pages **Tea Obrecht**
Struggling to understand why her beloved grandfather left his family to die alone in a field hospital far from home, a young doctor in a war-torn Balkan country takes over her grandfather's search for a mythical ageless vagabond while referring to a worn copy of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*.
- The Time Traveler's Wife** (2003) Fiction, A, 546 pages **Audrey Niffenegger**
This unforgettable love story with a unique dash of science fiction follows the time-traveling life of librarian, Henry and his artist wife, Clare.
- To Kill A Mockingbird** (1960) Fiction, P, 281 pages **Harper Lee**
Set in Alabama during the depression, this novel of class, race, justice and a man's relationship to his family is told through the eyes of his 8-year-old daughter.
- The Trees** (1940) Fiction, 167 pages **Conrad Richter**
With varying degrees of distress, staunchness and good humor, members of the pioneering Lucket family meet the hardships of primitive life in the forest wilderness along the Ohio River.
- Turbulent Souls: A Catholic Son's Return to His Jewish Family** (1998) Nonfiction, 317 pages **Stephen Dubner**
Filled with humorous anecdotes, this is the personal account of one man's conversion to Judaism from Catholicism, even though his parents converted from Judaism to Catholicism.

- The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry** (2012) Fiction, ALAN, 336 pages **Rachel Joyce**
Jolted from emotional numbness by a letter from a dying friend, Harold Fry embarks on a 600-mile hike to her side, an endeavor that stirs up memories of his unhappy marital and parenting experiences.
- The Vintage Caper** (2009) Fiction, 223 pages **Peter Mayle**
A wine savvy sleuth hired to trace an L.A. cellar heist is introduced in this delightful caper that moves from Hollywood to Paris, Bordeaux and Marseille.
- Waiting** (1999) Fiction, NBA, PEN, 320 pages **Ha Jin**
This is the unusual love story of Lin Kong, an ordinary Chinese man straddling two worlds as he tries to obey the dictates of his traditional Chinese heritage and the new rules of the Chinese Communist Party.
- Walking Across Egypt** (1987) Fiction, 225 pages **Clyde Edgerton**
A spunky senior citizen, a stray dog and a troubled teenager provide a wise and witty romp in a Southern, small-town setting.
- Water for Elephants** (2007) Fiction, A, 331 pages **Sara Gruen**
Partially based on real circus stories, this lush compelling novel, set in the circus world of the 1930s, is the reminiscence of ninety-year old Jacob and loves of his life in the circus Marlena the performer and Rosie the elephant.
- White Rabbit** (1996) Fiction, 212 pages **Kate Phillips**
Eighty-eight-year-old Ruth Hubble looks back at her life in this poignant first novel about old age written by a promising 28-year-old author.
- White Teeth** (2000) Fiction, W, 448 pages **Zadie Smith**
Smith's first novel follows two families and their children from the 1970s to the present day in London's racially mixed environment.
- The Woman Warrior** (1976) Autobiography, 209 pages **Maxine Hong Kingston**
An astonishingly accomplished account of a Chinese-American girl's coming of age, in and out of the family laundry business in California.
- Women of the Silk** (1991) Fiction, 238 pages **Gail Tsukiyama**
Set in 1926 China, a group of young women working in a silk factory forge a strong sisterhood. When a strike begins, the women use their collective strength to achieve freedom from their enslavement.
- The Zookeeper's Wife** (2007) Non-Fiction, ALAN, 368 pages **Diane Ackerman**
The director of the Warsaw Zoo and his wife saved hundreds of imperiled Jews and Polish resisters during the Nazi Occupation in 1944. This well-researched, moving story illuminates the connection between human nature and zoology and the need to adapt to survive.