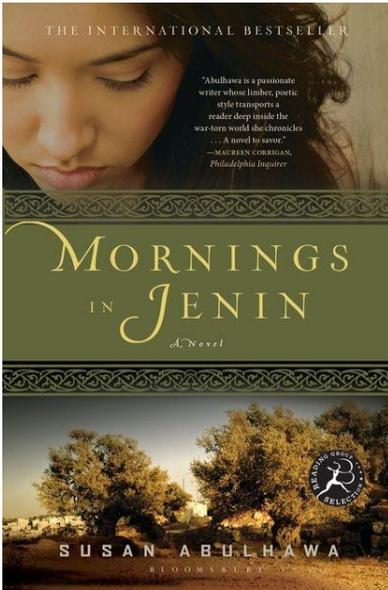


Suggested Summer Reading List for High School and Faculty Saint Ann's School, 2017



Abulhawa, Susan. *Mornings in Jenin*. Follow Amal and her family through Palestinian history in this lyrical, insightful novel. From a village near Haifa to a refugee camp in Jenin, from Jerusalem to Philadelphia to Beirut and back to the States, Amal and her loved ones find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time all too often. Be prepared to cry. A lot. Those with and without prior knowledge of the politics of the region will appreciate this unforgettable novel. (Hannah Mermelstein)

Alexander, Elizabeth. *The Light of the World*. I read this heartbreaking and beautiful book in one go—Alexander's description of love and loss left me feeling everything all at once. (Gretta Reed)

Alexievich, Svetlana. *Secondhand Time: The Last of the Soviets*. First, let me share a few lines from the book: "People in the West seem naive to us because they don't suffer like we do, they have a remedy for every little pimple. We're the ones who went to the camps, who piled up the corpses during the war, who dug through the nuclear waste in Chernobyl with our bare hands. We sit atop the ruins of socialism like it's the aftermath of war. We're run down and defeated." This book contains 20 deeply personal stories about individual lives before and after the collapse of the Soviet

Union. You'll be amazed by the shared humanity among different peoples: the Russians, the Belarusians, the Muslims, the Jews, the Christians, the Americans, etc. (Meredith Yinting Hu)

Babitz, Eve. *Slow Days, Fast Company: The World, The Flesh, and L.A.* If Joan Didion and Oscar Wilde had a daughter, she would write like Eve Babitz. In a series of vignettes (old friends spend an afternoon doing drugs at the Chateau Marmont; Orange County suburbanites enjoy a cocktail party; grape pickers in the Central Valley work and eat lunch; a romantic weekend in Palm Springs turns unromantic), Babitz conjures a slice of Los Angeles in the 1960s and early 1970s. The *raison d'être* of this book is (ostensibly) an attempt to seduce a man who has proven immune to Babitz's charms. I can't speak for him, but I was a goner. (Melissa Kantor)

Baker, Annie. *Circle Mirror Transformation* (2009); *The Flick* (2013); *John* (2015). Annie Baker's plays evoke and conjure. Each creates a sense of place in a remarkable and specific way. Each investigates time. *Circle Mirror Transformation* is set in a drama class in a community center in Vermont; *The Flick* at a single screen cinema in Massachusetts; *John* at a B & B in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. When reading, heed the scripted silences. Baker's plays run famously long. *John*, a slim volume, ran three hours and thirty minutes. During the Off-Broadway run of *The Flick*, audiences famously walked out because they found the considerable pauses enervating (the play later won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Drama). Next year, I hope to recommend reading *The Antipodes*, which recently ran at The Signature. Set in a writer's room in Los Angeles, it, too, conjured and evoked and asked audiences to listen to what wasn't being said as much as to the spoken language. (Laura Barnett)

Baldwin, James. *Go Tell It on the Mountain*. Here's a teenager to root for as he struggles through his family's intense church meetings, which lead to stories of his ancestors—including slavery, love, "sin," desire, suffering, lies, determination. Baldwin is admired by some reviewers, including me, for using words as waves, as music. (Mike Roam)

Shaded titles on this list indicate that it is available in the digital library.

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Look for an email from library@saintannsny.org containing yours. For instructions and other digital library tips, see the last page of this list.

Baldwin, James. *The Fire Next Time*. Required reading. (Ruth Chapman)

Batuman, Elif. *The Idiot*. This book is the perfect mix of humor and intellect, and is light enough to be a beach read. Set in the 1990s, the novel follows Selin, the daughter of Turkish immigrants, during her freshman year at Harvard. She befriends an enigmatic and enchanting Serbian girl in her Russian class named Svetlana. I won't give away the ending, or anything else; but I will tell you that this book is hilarious, tender, and sweet. It's a story of first loves, coming to terms with creative passions, and navigating new territories. (Lily Bratton)

Beatty, Paul. *The Sellout*. Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2016, this is a wild, delirious fantasia of racial outrageousness featuring over-the-top stereotypes, modern day slavery, sister cities (the narrator's rundown city is rejected for friendship by radioactive wasteland Chernobyl), the Supreme Court, urban farming, homeschooling, and segregation. The N word is used heavily, be warned. (Mike Roam)

Bennett, Claire-Louise. *Pond*. This is a book of poetry masquerading as a book of prose. A young woman living just outside a small coastal village admires fruit in a bowl; recalls a passionate love affair; takes a bath on a rainy night; contemplates throwing a cocktail party; wonders when the knobs on her stove will give out. It sounds like nothing, but it's everything—you know those bottles of thick syrup that hold so much flavor you only have to throw a dollop in a big glass of seltzer and you've got a delicious, fizzy drink that quenches your thirst *and* makes you think life is worth living? That's this book. (Melissa Kantor)

Bergner, Daniel. *Sing for Your Life: A Story of Race, Music, and Family*. You begin Dan Bergner's book eager to meet Ryan Speedo Green and learn the story of the young man from Virginia who is "not supposed to be here"—that is, about to audition at the Metropolitan Opera—because the odds are too steep, because our blindfolded history says we cannot see this in him, cannot see him here. Traveling the no-man's-land of Mr. Green's history, you hear him choose opera, hear him claim the stage and electrify the mighty space with his voice. Dan Bergner writes this tender, overwhelming, transforming journey with sheer beauty. Mr. Green is the story and the music. (Ruth Chapman)

Bergner, Daniel. *Sing for Your Life: A Story of Race, Music, and Family*. Beautifully written story about a young man's journey across the difficult landscape of our complex American culture. Haunting, uplifting...a great read! (Diane Gnagnarelli)

Bishara, Rawia. *Olives, Lemons, & Za'atar: The Best Middle Eastern Home Cooking*. An absolutely gorgeous cookbook, full of photographs of food and the Palestinian landscape, stories from the author's home (Nazareth), and delicious recipes that almost make you feel like you're eating at her Bay Ridge restaurant, Tanoreen. Stock up on tahini and pomegranate molasses and you're in for a treat. Note: Recipes are clearly written and easy to follow, but if your stove is like mine and not industrial-sized like hers, you might have to brown your onions about five times as long as she suggests! (Hannah Mermelstein)

Block, Lawrence. *Eight Million Ways to Die*. There are eight million people in New York City, and each has their own way to die: "some quick and brutal... and some agonizingly slow." This is more than just a detective novel. It's a complex and brilliant character study of 1980s New York City and its people: a mysterious pimp who was a sophisticated African art collector; his high-class prostitutes (a poet, a journalist and an actress); a transgender streetwalker who used to be a traditional Jewish boy; and the protagonist Matthew Scudder, an ex-cop turned private investigator, taking one day at a time, trying to save himself from alcohol. (Meredith Yinting Hu)

Brandon, John. *A Million Heavens*. Brandon's other books, like *Citrus County* and *Arkansas*, are compelling, but this one is the best I've read yet. It is a beautifully written novel full of parallel stories: the father of a boy in a coma, the people that attend a weekly vigil for the boy, the mayor of a dying town, a dead man, a wolf, all of it set in the desert outside Albuquerque. Here's one of my favorite sentences:

A million heavens waited, a million people scuffling around the desert hoping not to see their heaven too soon, failing to believe in the afterlives that awaited them and would have them in time, whether they kicked and screamed or closed their eyes and sighed, whether they tried to do good and could not or tried to do bad and succeeded. (Blair Carswell)

Calvino, Italo. *If on a Winter's Night a Traveler*. A beautiful classic, an easy and most pleasurable summer read. (Diane Gnagnarelli)

Carr, E.H. *Michael Bakunin*. I don't know how this came across my radar, but it was my favorite read of the year. It's out of print but you can find it in most libraries. Bakunin, the Russian anarchist, becomes a Falstaffian figure in this elegantly written and weirdly gripping biography. (Michael Donohue)

Carrère, Emmanuel. *The Adversary: A True Story of Monstrous Deception*. Nonfiction account of a Frenchman—a renowned doctor—who murders his wife, his children, and his parents. Carrère plays it for all it's worth, and you won't put the book down until you've finished it. (Michael Donohue)

Carson, Anne. *Autobiography of Red*. Poetry-meets-novel that glides effortlessly between the mythological and the deeply personal. Precious and emotionally resonant. I love this book! (Aparna Sarkar)

Cathcart, Brian. *The Fly in the Cathedral: How a Group of Cambridge Scientists Won the International Race to Split the Atom*. This book is a fascinating history of one of the most important times in chemistry and physics. Anyone with an interest in science history will love it! (Daniel Radoff)

Chang, Jeff. *Can't Stop Won't Stop*. A detailed and gripping history of hip hop. (Jesse Kohn)

Cline, Ernest. *Ready Player One*. Nick, Matteo (4th Grade) and I all read this book during the spring and loved it. The novel takes place in a dystopian futuristic society where everyone is addicted to a virtual reality video game. The novel is filled with 1980s video game, music, and movie references. What's not to love? (Kristin Fiori)

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. Reading this book has become essential to engaging in the national conversation about race. In my opinion, its giddy reception among liberals is undeserved: Coates declares his indifference to the fate of firefighters killed on 9/11, asserts that white people possess no collective identity except as oppressors of black people, and takes us on a Nation-of-Islam-style ramble, interspersed with descriptions of meals he ordered in Paris. You should read it this summer, and decide for yourself. (Brian Deimling)

Cooney, Ellen. *The Mountaintop School for Dogs and Other Second Chances*. This book is foremost about how people get themselves stuck and then how dogs help them get unstuck. Better than *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by a longshot. (Diane Gnagnarelli)

Deresiewicz, William. *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life*. Some of you may have heard Deresiewicz at one of our Monday forums in October. He connects the education system to the depressed and directionless over-achievers in elite colleges, and most insightfully to our timid, conventional, well-credentialed “leaders” in business and government, who fail to imagine the radical changes which are needed, because they are really just followers. (Brian Deimling)

Diamant, Anita. *The Red Tent*. This book had been recommended to me by five different people before I actually got around to reading it. I love it so much. It taps into a feminist reclaiming of the Judeo-Christian-Muslim tradition that really speaks to me, but it's also just such a fantastic first-person narrative account of an intense family experience. Sex, violence, desert-wandering, bread-baking, badass midwifery... it's got it all! What's not to love?! (Lainie Fefferman)

Djebar, Assia. *Women of Algiers in Their Apartment*. In this story collection Assia Djebar writes of the Algerian women who fought for Algerian independence yet find their own freedoms curtailed by the government and society that emerge post-war. The collection is unified by Djebar's references to Delacroix's painting and is followed by an essay on the brief moment in history when the European painter had access to the hitherto private world of the harem. (Beth Bosworth)

ElBaradei, Mohamed. *The Age of Deception: Nuclear Diplomacy in Treacherous Times*. A great book for anyone interested in the nuclear relations of the last twenty five years. ElBaradei, former head of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), offers a firsthand account of his dealings with Iraq, Iran, North Korea and Libya and their controversial/ clandestine nuclear programs. Additionally, he reveals the overbearing and meddling actions of the U.S. in

these affairs, making it clear that their justifications in intervening were based on little evidence. He also points out how often these nations have violated their obligations to the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) in order to suit their own interests. While some of his revelations (particularly the lack of WMDs in Iraq) are not surprising, I was often baffled at the amount of deceit and hypocrisy surrounding these decisions given the danger of nuclear weapons. (Kayla Brazee)

Eliot, George. ***Middlemarch***. This novel moved to the top of my future reading list when I heard that Julia Houser was teaching a class on *Middlemarch* to her peers. Despite the setting of 1830s England, the novel is deeply relevant today. Many of the character sketches immediately brought to mind someone I know (how many self-righteous lawmakers are the splitting image of Bulstrode?). The marriages are really the center of the novel, though. There are so many different relationships, so many ways they fall apart or hold together. Is your relationship like Dorothea and Casaubon's, Mary and Fred's, Rosamund and Lydgate's, Harriet and Bulstrode's, Celia and Chettam's, or Dorothea and Ladislaw's? (Kristin Fiori)

Enright, Anne. ***The Green Road***. The way Anne Enright crafts sentences breaks my heart on a regular basis. I love her work. This novel tells the story of a family over a span of many years. The main character, around whom the story revolves, is Rosaleen, the matriarch. Her husband has died and she lives alone in the home where she raised her four children. The story of each child is told, whether they left their small village on the west coast of Ireland, or remained. When she announces her plans to sell the house, the children come back home for one last Christmas. (Ragan O'Malley)

Enrique, Álvaro. ***Sudden Death***. "Whoever made this, he thought, can read God's design." A recently translated novel about a ferocious tennis match played in place of a duel between the painter Caravaggio and the poet Quevedo. Galileo is one of the linesmen. The story zigzags through a handful of historical episodes, shining light on the will to win behind sex, politics, religion, art, and all in only 261 pages. "I don't know what this book is about," says the narrator, who purports to be the author. "I know that as I wrote it I was angry because the bad guys always win." (Ben Gantcher)

Eugenides, Jeffrey. ***Middlesex***. "I was born twice: first, as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day of January 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974...My birth certificate lists my name as Calliope Helen Stephanides. My most recent driver's license...records my first name simply as Cal." So begins *Middlesex*, the saga of a Greek-American family spanning three generations that travels from a small village in Anatolia to Detroit. Yes, the novel is about gender, but it's also about history and race and culture and identity. *Middlesex* is a surprising and fascinating read. (Eva Zasloff)

Faye, Eric. ***Nagasaki***. *Nagasaki* is an intriguing novella that won the 2010 Grand Prix du Roman de l'Académie Française. The story takes place in Japan and deals with the themes of homelessness, solitude, and guilt. I won't spoil the plot by giving away more details. Perfect for students in French 3 and above. An English edition exists, too. (Joelle Zimmerman)

Finnegan, William. ***Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life***. Even if you, like me, have never surfed, you will be totally absorbed by Finnegan's memoir, which isn't really about surfing but about finding one's place in the world. (Michael Donohue)

Fraction, Matt and Chip Zdarsky. ***Sex Criminals, Volume 1: One Weird Trick***. Suzie and Jon discover that they both can freeze time when they orgasm. They hatch a plan to use this ability to rob some banks, and take just a little money each time, to save the underfunded library where Suzie is a librarian. It's a fun graphic novel read. (Nicholas Williams)

France, David. ***How to Survive a Plague: The Inside Story of How Citizens and Science Tamed AIDS***. A nonfiction account of grassroots AIDS activists in 1980s New York City. Widely ignored by public officials, the media, and religious leaders, a community came together to fight for their lives. From the creator of the Oscar-nominated documentary of the same name. (Sarah Fortini)

Frank, Thomas. ***The Conquest of Cool: Business Culture, Counterculture, and the Rise of Hip Consumerism***. Marxists of the Frankfurt School hoped that disaffected cultural groups might succeed where the working class failed in overthrowing capitalism. This book is a case study of how corporations and advertising co-opted and neutralized the counterculture of the 1960s and 70s. A great, light companion read to *One-Dimensional Man* (1964) by Herbert Marcuse, who describes how people are integrated into the system of consumer capitalism by advertising, and opposition is controlled by an illusion of choice. (Brian Deimling)

French, Tana. ***The Trespasser***. In this mystery novel, Tana French returns to her Dublin Murder Squad, where she focuses this time on Antoinette Conway, the sole woman in this rough and tumble police division. While Conway struggles with her own demons, as well as the false rumors that her colleagues create about her, she tries to find the truth about a headline-grabbing local murder. As in French's other books, the story unfolds slowly, with a lot of time taken to delve into the minds of the characters. Still, French keeps the reader guessing until the very end. (Stephanie Schragger)

Gidwitz, Adam. ***The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog***. Delightful, entertaining, and serious journey through a slice of the Middle Ages with peasants, magic, burnings, religious debates, misunderstandings, accusations, and multiple points of view—all wrapped in magic, silliness, cleverness, and deep tragedy. (Mike Roam)

Gladwell, Malcolm. ***Outliers: The Story of Success***. This book is a fascinating look at why some people succeed while others don't, and how it is not necessarily due to factors within their control. It's a must-read for anyone who cares about succeeding or success. (Daniel Radoff)

Greenwell, Garth. ***What Belongs to You***. This is a really beautiful novel about an American teacher living in Bulgaria and his relationship with Mitko, a hustler he meets in a museum bathroom in Sofia. Over the coming months, the relationship becomes more complicated as Mitko comes and goes, and as our ex-pat narrator experiences Bulgaria and reflects on the pain of growing up gay in the South. (Nicholas Williams)

Greenwell, Garth. ***What Belongs to You***. This first novel, about a young American living in Bulgaria, is well worth checking out. (Michael Donohue)

Gyasi, Yaa. ***Homegoing***. This unflinching novel traces the lives and descendants of two half-sisters from Africa who never meet. One is sold into slavery, the other remains in Africa. Following the lives of one member of each generation of the women's families, the novel explores the politics and history not just of the individuals whose experiences it documents but also of Africa and the United States over several generations (all the while telling a heartbreaking, page-turning story). (Melissa Kantor)

Gyasi, Yaa. ***Homegoing***. In this sweeping novel meet sisters Effia and Esi, born in different villages and 18th century Ghana. Travel with them through time, meeting their ancestors and six generations of their descendants. The structure of intersecting narratives is fascinating. There are descriptions of life both beautiful and harrowing. I read this book last summer and could not put it down. (Laura Barnett)

Hafner, Katie and Matthew Lyon. ***Where Wizards Stay up Late: The Origins of the Internet***. I like to know how things work. Some are easy: a dishwasher sprays water out at high velocity; an internal combustion engine corrals explosions into a circular force that can turn your car wheels. Now many of us (and all of our wee ones) are hooked on the internet. But where did it come from? Where does it live? What on earth is it? Read this mostly-understandable volume to find out! Without delving into much jargon or self-important geek-speak, *Wizards* is a page-turner for any curious tinkerer out there. (Eli Forsythe)

Hamid, Mohsin. ***The Reluctant Fundamentalist***. Over the course of a long evening at a Lahore café, a young man tells a stranger the story of his life. We find out how and why September 11th led to this Princeton-educated Pakistani leaving his comfortable (or was it uncomfortable?) life in Manhattan to return to the country of his birth. The story is hilarious and menacing. A quick, delicious read. (Melissa Kantor)

Hammer, Joshua. ***The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: And Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts***. The love of books (and literacy) as well as the philistine drive to burn them (and suppress independent thought) are not the unique province of white European/American history. This book, focusing on Africa, universalizes that issue. It's an exciting and eye-opening book. (Marty Skoble)

Hanff, Helene. ***84 Charing Cross Road***. This book contains the twenty-year letter correspondence between the New York-based author and an antiquarian bookseller in London, beginning in 1949. My British father says that reading this book brings him straight back to the 1950s in London. It is funny and clever and very moving. (Savannah Roberts)

Harris, Tamara Winfrey. ***The Sisters are Alright: Changing the Broken Narrative of Black Women in America***. As a White woman, I have appreciated the clarity this book gives about the many paradoxes Black women face in America. Harris dives into the ways that Black women are stereotyped about marriage, sexuality, motherhood, and beauty. This book also gives plenty of first-person accounts and “Moments in Alright” that celebrate and highlight the ways that Black women are pushing back against these broken narratives. (Gretta Reed)

Harrison, Jim. ***Dalva***. In addition to being a fine poet, Harrison can spin a great story and interweave a lot of insight into our American history. In this beautifully constructed novel, the eponymous heroine comes to terms with her own history by exploring, with a hired historian/lover her family’s past which is powerfully tied to our genocidal treatment of the Sioux. It is by turns raunchy, literary, fascinating, generous, painful and deeply satisfying. (Marty Skoble)

Hawley, Noah. ***Before the Fall***. Great story includes art, threat, survival, threads of (is it really?) coincidence, variety of motive, tons of suspects, and religious dispute—all surrounded by sensationalized politically-slanted conspiracy-speculating phone-tapping pseudo-news “journalism” with a blush of shame-on-you. There’s quite a range of personalities: a pilot who wants to be an astronaut, strange parents, an engineer, newscasters & news executives, a security team, an artist, a school-teacher, a micro-brew hipster, and a financial zillionaire. Like the old “Gilligan’s Island” TV show, but smarter. (Mike Roam)

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams. ***The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World***. For all those who’ve ever wondered what they can do to contribute to a better world, this book is for you! *The Book of Joy* is a ray of light in what often feels like a very dark and gloomy world. This book covers a week’s worth of conversations between two old buddies, the 14th Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu, in which they delved further into the key to having joy in our lives. They touch on extreme hardships that they’ve faced in their pasts, such as exile from the Chinese government in Tibet and the apartheid system in South Africa, and how they were able to overcome by choosing love over hate. While the question of how to acquire joy seemed very open-ended, their answer was quite simple: be compassionate. Enjoy! (Kenya Wagstaffe)

Hoff, Benjamin. ***The Tao of Pooh***.
“Rabbit’s clever,” said Pooh thoughtfully.
“Yes,” said Piglet, “Rabbit’s clever.”
“And he has Brain.”
“Yes,” said Piglet, “Rabbit has Brain.”
There was a long silence.
“I suppose,” said Pooh, “that that’s why he never understands anything.”
— Benjamin Hoff, *The Tao of Pooh* (Leah Allen)

Houellebecq, Michel. ***Submission***. This is Houellebecq’s controversial novel about a version of France (in the “near future”) that turns into a theocratic Muslim state. It’s slightly annoying, sometimes maddening, but still strangely fascinating. (Michael Donohue)

Howe, Marie. ***Magdalene***. Elegant moving poems, fusing eternal themes with contemporary life. Each poem stands alone beautifully, but the whole comes together to uplift your spirit. (Marty Skoble)

Hurston, Zora Neale. ***Their Eyes Were Watching God***. How shocking is it that I just read this novel for the first time? Hurston tells the story of Janie Crawford, whose return home without her lover, Teacake, inspires gossip and questions. We learn about Janie’s childhood and love affair(s) as she narrates her life story to her best friend, Pheoby. It’s a gorgeous story of an African-American woman’s coming-of-age in the south. (Melissa Kantor)

Jackson, Shirley. ***The Haunting of Hill House***. “No live organism can continue for long to exist sanely under conditions of absolute reality; even larks and katydids are supposed, by some, to dream. Hill House, not sane, stood by itself against its hills, holding darkness within; it had stood so for eighty years and might stand for eighty more. Within, walls continued upright, bricks met neatly, floors were firm, and doors were sensibly shut; silence lay steadily against the wood and stone of Hill House, and whatever walked there, walked alone.” If the only Shirley Jackson you’ve ever read is “The Lottery,” you’re missing out! (Max Bean)

Jiménez, Francisco. ***The Circuit, Breaking Through, and Reaching Out.*** Although these three short autobiographical books have received many awards for young adult literature, I think they would resonate strongly with anyone who cares about the immigrants' story of coming to America. The author Francisco Jimenez (who was a schoolmate of mine at Santa Clara University) tells the harrowing story of how he and his Mexican family overcame all odds through the years from picking strawberries and lettuce in the California fields to becoming the chairman of the romance language department at his alma mater. His journey is inspiring for all of us, especially in these times of so much xenophobia. (Christine Dunnigan)

Junger, Sebastian. ***Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging.*** Four rambling chapters consider a range of difficult circumstances—war, trauma, natural disaster—which can reveal to us, so Junger argues, our essentially tribal nature. Life in the individualistic societies of the modern West is lived against or in spite of the hardwired fact that we are designed by human evolution to flourish—or at least not to be quite so anxious and depressed—when we are sacrificing personal desires toward the pursuit of common ends. Junger can be macho, and his summaries of the relevant social science cursory. But we are trying to understand the voting habits of the white working class here, and we'll take what we can get. (Ben Rutter)

Kashua, Sayed. ***Dancing Arabs.*** This coming-of-age story of an Israeli Arab walks a fine line between comedy and something more grave. Each short, first-person chapter reads like a stand-up routine, yet we are drawn more deeply into the crisis of identity—and of daily existence—that the gifted narrator experiences as he attempts to balance the demands of family with the desire to assimilate into the elite, mainly Jewish boarding school to which he's won a scholarship. With remarkable success the author manages to render the political crisis in personal terms. (Beth Bosworth)

King, Lily. ***Euphoria.*** Loosely based on the life of Margaret Mead, this book follows three anthropologists studying native tribes along the Sepik River in New Guinea in the 1930s. As they conduct their fieldwork a love triangle develops, and we get to see the characters grapple with big questions regarding human nature on both a professional and personal level as the story rushes towards a tragic ending. (Sarah Fortini)

Knausgaard, Karl Ove. ***My Struggle: Book 1.*** If Proust, Tom Waits, and Larry David had a son, this is the book he'd write about growing up. (Peter Zerneck)

Knausgaard, Karl Ove. ***My Struggle: Book 2: A Man in Love.*** Everyone agrees on the central mystery of Knausgaard, which is that a meandering novel not so much padded with as constructed from carefully rendered accounts of unrememberably plain episodes in the life of a sour Scandinavian stay-at-home-dad novelist (timing the pasta with the asparagus, climbing back up the stairs after having left the birthday to retrieve a daughter's shoes) should prove so absorbing. Is it actually absorbing? Not in the usual sense. Part of what absorbed my attention during this second volume was the strange fact that I was still reading it. Which is to say that boredom is not only the novel's theme but its design. If I am recommending this -- the audiobook, I mean, which fills the time nicely while you wait for the asparagus -- I am recommending it as a sort of daily practice. As we read, we try out the struggle for ourselves. The struggle, renewed repeatedly in the novel and without the pleasures of variation, is to answer the question, Am I living consciously? Which is to say sincerely. Which is to say intensely. The answer to that one seems clear enough, as Knausgaard struggles to master his contempt for the toddler party he had just managed to leave. And so we are free, as he trudges back up the stairs, opens the door, re-smiles at the other parents, and fishes for the shoes, to let our minds wander, and to pose his question for ourselves. Are we living intensely? And as we adjust the volume and consider the answer, filling a pan of water for Annie's Organic Shells & Cheese, we cannot make out the sound of our daughters calling for the other flavor, the purple one, White Cheddar, in the other cupboard, above the stove. (Ben Rutter)

Krakauer, Jon. ***Into Thin Air.*** While this book has been out for a while, I didn't read it until two summers ago, and I'm already itching to reread. Journalist and climber Jon Krakauer (who also told the story of Chris McCandless's tragic misadventure in *Into the Wild*) joined the ill-fated climbers of the 1996 expedition, who attempted to climb Mt. Everest, many never to return. Krakauer's first-hand experience lends a haunting aspect to this tale, a confluence of bad-timing and bad luck on one of the harshest landscapes known to man. (Liann Herder)

Kraus, Chris. ***I Love Dick.*** A married woman who is also a failed (or failing) filmmaker falls in love with a well-known, successful intellectual. She and her husband pursue him and, over time, each other, in a series of letters that are kind of but not really written to Dick. Come for the sex, stay for the meditations on marriage, love, seduction, art, feminism and feminist art. (Melissa Kantor)

Kraus, Chris. *Aliens and Anorexia*. This novel is about many things: trying to make a movie; falling in (and out) of love; phone sex; the art scene in New York in the 1980s; trying to promote a movie; marriage; real estate investments. It's also about anorexia. And aliens. More meditative and sprawling than *I Love Dick*, it's the perfect companion to it. (Melissa Kantor)

Larson, Eric. *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*. Larson has a gift for capturing the life within an historical moment, and he has done so again in telling the tale of the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915. While he places the events in human context, he also tugs apart each thread in the tapestry, revealing how so many simple decisions from two very different captains combined to sink one of the biggest passenger liners of the day in under 20 minutes. I couldn't put this book down; I highly recommend it for your summer chills. (Liann Herder)

Lawrence, Tim. *Love Saves the Day: A History of American Dance Music Culture, 1970-1979*. The Summer of Love seemed a long way away in NYC in the 1970s, with rising crime, a population exodus, and bankruptcy looming. Lawrence's book reads like a fast paced novel, as he shows how a new thing—DJs—created a new dance culture that was exuberant, inclusive, and utterly vibrant. (Liam Flaherty)

Levin, Ira. *The Stepford Wives*. Although the suburb of Stepford seems idyllic when Joanna and her family move there, she soon observes that many of her female neighbors seem to be only interested in doing housework and serving their husbands. Odd. And what's this men's club that all the men in town belong to? Read it, then watch the 2004 movie version starring Nicole Kidman and Matthew Broderick or the 1975 movie starring Katharine Ross. Jordan Peele's recent *Get Out* also draws on Levin's classic! (Ragan O'Malley)

Mahajan, Karan. *The Association of Small Bombs*. A sad story wrapped around a series of political terrorist bombings in India. The story is sprinkled with subtle observations ("he laughed an instant too late...") and it inspired me to notice more around me: people's gestures, twirling leaves, etc. (Mike Roam)

Mahler, Jonathan. *Ladies and Gentlemen, the Bronx is Burning: 1977, Baseball, Politics, and the Battle for the Soul of a City*. A now-classic nonfiction work—and a page-turner—that tells the story of 1977 New York and the rise of Ed Koch, Reggie Jackson, and Rupert Murdoch. (Michael Donohue)

Marr, Johnny. *Set the Boy Free*. A guitar god—Marr was in The Smiths—tells the happy story of his happy life. (Michael Donohue)

Massimino, Michael. *Spaceman: An Astronaut's Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe*. Wonderful memoir of growing up to be a space-walking NASA astronaut. His story zooms from working class Long Island (with friends offering crucial "go for it" life advice) to repairing the Hubble Space Telescope in orbit (friends rescue his equipment and emotions). Midpoint stops include Columbia and MIT (friends help him survive PhD exams), then Houston astronaut training (he's a non-swimmer at first, and friends help him pass scuba and underwater space-walk tests), to NASA public relations and "Big Bang Theory" TV appearances. He shows how we rarely accomplish things single-handedly, he shows astronauts helping each other—especially when disaster brings death—while NASA is trying to work for the good of all people on our spinning spaceship Earth. (Mike Roam)

McBride, Eimear. *The Lesser Bohemians*. Every trigger warning imaginable applies to this harrowing story of love and redemption. The writing is mesmerizingly beautiful, every moment poetically transcribed simultaneously as the internal and external experience of its marvelously alive narrator. (Marty Skoble)

McEwan, Ian. *Nutshell*. This brilliant riff on Hamlet is told with eloquent wit by its persona (a fetus) who is indeed both "bound in a nutshell" and "King of infinite space." Though unborn, this narrator is both worldly and acutely human. A total delight! (Marty Skoble)

McGuire, Richard. *Here*. A graphic novel, published in 2014, this book holds a special place in my heart, as it was the last I purchased at Book Court. It also inspired my process of directing Mnemonic this past winter. Nearly wordless, unspeakably innovative, this story literally spans time: from 3,000,500,000 BCE to 2313 with many stops in between. (Laura Barnett)

McKay, Don. ***Camber: Selected Poems***. I love this book, love this poet. McKay often swings high and low in a single poem. He says “Some Functions of a Leaf” include “To Whisper. To applaud the wind/and hide the Hermit thrush...//To die with style...” And “A Toast to the Baltimore Oriole” begins, “Here’s to your good looks and the neat way you shit,/with a brisk bob like a curtsy, easy as song.” He’s drawn to praising the anatomy of momentary interactions between the I and the world. (Ben Gantcher)

Mitchell, David. ***Black Swan Green***. *Black Swan Green* is a coming-of-age set of stories told by an English, thirteen-year-old boy. His family is in the process of falling apart as he struggles to find his identity within his peer group and as a writer. Although each story stands on its own, they all hold together in an often hilarious and invariably fascinating way. Mitchell’s ear for the English vernacular is pitch perfect and he brings back the eighties vividly. Loved this book!! (Richard Mann)

Morgenstern, Erin. ***The Night Circus***. A dark and magical tale about a mysterious traveling circus and all of the colorful characters connected to it. I don’t often dip into the fantasy genre but the vivid world Morgenstern paints had me completely enthralled and feeling truly sad to leave it behind when the book was finished. Though a very different novel, it had touches of Katherine Dunn’s wonderfully odd and brilliant tale of a carny family in *Geek Love*, one of my favorite books of all time. (Molly Sissors)

Morris, Monique W. ***Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools***. Morris writes a compelling narrative of the ways Black girls come into contact with the criminal justice system in the United States. This account of Morris’s work with students around the country connects dots between classroom behavior, economic injustices, pressures on young women, and the unique ways that being Black impacts which pathways are afforded students in our educational system. (Gretta Reed)

Moshfegh, Ottessa. ***Eileen***. I loved this book. Eileen is a fascinating character, likable and disgusting all at once. It’s the 1960s, Christmastime, 24-year-old Eileen works a boring desk job at a boys’ prison by day and takes care of her deranged, alcoholic father at their decrepit house every night. But a beautiful and charismatic woman starts working at the prison, takes Eileen under her wing, and leads her to do something that we know from the start of the book will cause her to run away and disappear without a trace. (Nicholas Williams)

Noah, Trevor. ***Born a Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood***. Surprisingly great memoir by the Daily Show host. Noah was born in the end times of apartheid to a dauntless mother who wanted a life for her child that was unbounded by race. But the fact that Noah was mixed race (his father was white and mother black), made him an outsider. Noah’s stories—dodging riots on his way church, in Soweto with his grandmother—are eye-opening. We know apartheid was horrific, but the day-to-day details of how it operated are almost unbelievable. The book does a great job of putting the stories in context with brief, pithy chapters about South African history that are interspersed with the personal narrative. It’s also funny, of course! (Denise Rinaldo)

Nuernberger, Kathryn. ***The End of Pink***. Ruthlessly beautiful poems. A remarkably honest voice sharing authentic experience. (Marty Skoble)

Obama, Barack. ***Dreams from my Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance***. I read this for the first time this past fall. Prescient. Hopeful. Beautifully written. Made me differently understand the cycles of history. (Laura Barnett)

Palmer, Robert. ***Blues and Chaos: The Music Writing of Robert Palmer***. A collection of pieces from the *New York Times* inaugural pop critic. Palmer understood the blues roots of American popular music as deeply as any writer ever has, and was a prophet on the importance and spread of world music. And he hung with Ornette Coleman in the mountains of Morocco. (Liam Flaherty)

Patchett, Ann. ***Commonwealth***. Oh what tangled webs we weave! Patchett masterfully leads us through the tapestry of an extended family that verges on dysfunctional, yet manages to forge real connections. Vivid, deeply moving, and utterly convincing. (Marty Skoble)

Pomfret, John. ***The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present***. Want to learn something more about China? Want to learn how the United States and China have gotten along in the past couple of centuries? This new book by John Pomfret will tell you in a fun way. Pomfret served as a foreign correspondent for *The*

Washington Post for two decades, covering wars, revolutions, and China. “The Beautiful Country” is 美国, the United States, and “the Middle Kingdom” is 中国, referring to China. This book covers the relationship between the United States and China from the Revolutionary War to the present day. The author has many insights, particularly since he studied Chinese and lived in China for a long time, and he married a Chinese woman. Pick up the book and enjoy. John Pomfret is a SA graduate and this is his second book. The first one is *Chinese Lessons*. (Yuming Guo)

Roach, Mary. ***Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War***. Last time it was everything you didn’t know about the alimentary canal, from mouth to anus (*Gulp*). This time it’s war: humans are utterly unfit for it physically and terrible at dealing with (or even talking about) the blood, guts, urine, feces, cadavers, and more that it (war) entails. Roach, a meticulous and intrepid researcher, goes there. Warmhearted and witty, she makes it fun reading. (Marty Skoble)

Roosevelt, Eleanor (introduction by Jill Lepore). ***It’s Up to The Women***. Written in 1933 at the height of the Great Depression, and republished in 2017, historian Lepore writes in the introduction: “To say that Roosevelt’s act of writing this book was shocking hardly covers it....In 1933, women rarely spoke in public, held very few public offices, and had barely begun voting.” Historical curiosity? Or as relevant today as it was over 80 years ago? How little things have changed? Or how far we have come? Read and consider; I look forward to discussing in September! A recurring theme, intended to buoy Depression-era readers: trying times forge strong characters—gives us something to consider today. (Laura Barnett)

Sattouf, Riad. ***The Arab of the Future 2: A Childhood in the Middle East, 1984-1985***. Book 2 of a graphic (as in illustrated, like “Maus”) memoir of childhood in Syria. The boy’s first days of school include beatings and friendship; he sees parents negotiate with power and family and murder (“honor”—hah!). Last year I recommended the first book of the series and this second book is even better. (Mike Roam)

Saunders, George. ***Lincoln in the Bardo***. Brilliantly realized. This deeply moving story is told through “notes”: those from this world are styled like traditional footnotes although they present a logical narrative thread; the perceptions of the characters inhabiting the “other world” are styled similarly, and it works! A unique form for a strangely wonderful and poetic vision. (Marty Skoble)

Saunders, George. ***Lincoln in the Bardo***. This book sparkles and dazzles every moment of its deep gloom. When I came to the end, I went back and read it again. And then, bereft, I searched out more of his books. (Kate S. Hamilton)

Saunders, George. ***Tenth of December***. It’s just an outstanding short story collection. (Nicholas Williams)

Scelfo, Julie. ***The Women Who Made New York***. Released in October, 2016, this book helped me get through the days following November’s election. I love the illustrations and the way the author groups her subjects into short chapters (The Advocate, The Beacon, The Benefactor, Hot Stuff, The Authorities, Harlem Renaissance, The Grocers, The Educators, After Hours Politicos). In it, you will meet or learn more about: early influencers Lady Deborah Moody (1583-1659), Margaret Corbin (1751-1800), Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910); artists Berenice Abbott, Louise Nevelson, Louise Bourgeois, Ella Fitzgerald, La Lupe, Deborah Harry, Sylvia Robinson, Laurie Anderson, Zora Neale Hurston, DJ, Rekha, and Edith Wharton. Every time I read it, I learn more! As the *New York Times Book Review* wrote: “Forgetting—and belatedly remembering—women is a historiographical tradition as old as history itself. *The Women Who Made New York* positions itself as an antidote to that process.” (Laura Barnett)

Schulman, Audrey. ***Three Weeks in December***. Told in alternating perspectives that come together by the end, *Three Weeks in December* follows a young engineer overseeing construction of a railroad in British East Africa in the 1890s and an ethnobotanist searching for a mysterious vine in Rwanda that could become a lifesaving drug in 2000. A story about preservation, loneliness, and adventure—featuring man-eating lions! (Sarah Fortini)

Shakur, Assata. ***Assata: An Autobiography***. “The schools we go to are reflections of the society that created them. Nobody is going to give you the education you need to overthrow them. Nobody is going to teach you your true history, teach you your true heroes, if they know that that knowledge will help set you free.” (Leah Allen)

Shapiro, James. ***The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606***. A kind of sequel to *1599*, Shapiro's book about *Hamlet*, this one gives a riveting account of the year Shakespeare composed *King Lear*. Catnip for people interested in Shakespeare. (Michael Donohue)

Shetterly, Margot Lee. ***Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians who Helped Win the Space Race***. True, inspiring: achievement in the partly desegregated precursor to NASA, at Langley base within segregated Virginia in the 1940s-1970s. Yes, space race math was happening in Virginia, under a state government so racist that it chose to shut its public high schools during many of those years rather than obey the federal order to integrate them. (Mike Roam)

Siaudeau, Guillaume. ***Tarte aux pommes et fin du monde***. This is Guillaume Siaudeau's first novel. The young protagonist mixes humor with wry self-deprecation to describe his life while wondering if it is worth living. Short chapters, easy to read, filled with eccentric characters living at the margin of society. Perfect for students in French 3 and above. (Joelle Zimmerman)

Smith, Tom Rob. ***The Farm***. One of those unsettling, multilayered, psychological thrillers impossible to put down. Set between Sweden and London, this is a canny and enthralling story by way of a first person narrative that keeps the reader trying to guess and unravel secrets and truths, falsehoods and fantasies, stories within stories. Written with artistic simplicity. And a great exploration of parent-child relationships to boot. Can you trust your own mother? Or father? (Marielle Vigourt)

Smith, Zadie. ***Swing Time***. The latest from Smith, one of the few writers whose books I always buy in hardcover. I thought this was better than *NW*, her previous effort. (Michael Donohue)

Sorokin, Vladimir. ***The Blizzard***. Inspired by Pushkin's short story *The Snow Storm*, this novella is set in a bizarre and alternate universe, but one in which Russia remains recognizably troubled, authoritarian, and heir to the great literary culture of the nineteenth century. (Brian Deimling)

Spark, Muriel. ***Loitering with Intent***. One of the great, under-read British authors of the 20th century, Muriel Spark is currently experiencing something of a revival, partly because New Directions recently released new editions of all her best-known works. A master of clean, precise, energetic prose, Spark wastes no time and takes no prisoners. In *Loitering with Intent*, a young author battles to wrest her first novel from the grip of a backstabbing friend and a malevolent employer. This weird story about life stealing from art in 1950s London is a great place to start, but if you like *Loitering* (and, really, could you help but like it?), you have many delicious Spark novels ahead of you: *Memento Mori*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *The Comforters*, *A Far Cry from Kensington*, to name some of the best. (Max Bean)

Straub, Emma. ***Modern Lovers***. Growing up never stops, especially for people who think they are adults. A great read. Emma (our own) does endings (and love's tribulations) really well. (Marty Skoble)

Strout, Elizabeth. ***My Name is Lucy Barton***. What does it take to become a writer? How ruthless (Strout's word) do you have to be? In this novel, Lucy Barton narrates—years after the fact—a visit with her mother while Lucy is in the hospital recovering from surgery. At the time, Lucy is a young mother lonely for her children, who cannot visit her. The novel tells the story of the visit with her mother, the childhood Lucy escaped, her fraught relationship with her mother, and her life in New York—where she does, ultimately, become a writer (and may or may not become ruthless). It's a quiet, slim novel that lingers. (Melissa Kantor)

Swift, Graham. ***Mothering Sunday***. If you liked Ian McEwan's *Atonement*, you'll probably like this short novel about a secret romantic meeting at a country house in 1920s England. (Michael Donohue)

Szabo, Magda. ***The Door***. The nameless narrator tells a tale that mixes dark eastern-European hopelessness and "magic realism" in a taut and mesmerizing tale of a strange relationship between a young married woman and her housekeeper. Translated from Hungarian, this novel explores human psychology and society with a merciless eye and a compassionate point of view. (Jonathan Elliott)

Tóibín, Colm. ***House of Names***. The House of Atreus has always—for me—been populated by characters who were larger than life. The genius of Tóibín’s latest novel is that he slips inside of these ancient, enormous names (and the characters who bear them) leaving room for us to slip in along with him, too. As Clytemnestra, Orestes and Electra tell their stories, they are made knowable without being in any way rendered smaller. It doesn’t hurt that reading Tóibín’s sentences is like drinking a cold glass of water on a hot day. I read the book in a single sitting and am already planning to reread it, slowly this time. (Melissa Kantor)

Toobin, Jeffrey. ***The Run of His Life: The People v. O. J. Simpson***. Whatever you may think about the trial of the (last) century and the events surrounding it, Jeffrey Toobin’s account of the proceedings is a riveting one. Delving into the prosecutorial missteps, the emergence of DNA as a key factor in court, and the media circus surrounding the case, the book is a fun and easy read for such dark and dispiriting matters. The OJ case contained important revelations regarding racial relations, police brutality, domestic violence, and celebrity worship. This book brings them to light. (Eli Forsythe)

Trevor, William. ***The Collected Stories***. Another recently departed master. Ever wonder what it would be like if Chekhov was Irish and lived in the 20th century? Dip into these and you won’t have to. (Liam Flaherty)

Tyler, Anne. ***Vinegar Girl***. Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew* is served well by the modern slant Tyler gives it. Her Kate is a fiercely independent, tough, yet vulnerable, figure who comes to love by discovering that her connections to others is part of who she is: the powerful center of a pretty wacky universe. The ending made me so happy! (Marty Skoble)

Uriarte, Maximilian. ***The White Donkey: Terminal Lance***. Beautifully illustrated and sensitively written, this is a (largely?) fictional graphic memoir of a young marine serving in Iraq, by a young marine who served in Iraq. (Mike Roam)

Vance, J. D. ***Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis***. This book doesn’t need my introduction—it made many best-of lists and was especially trendy in the wake of the election. It’s a long, hard look by the author at his “hillbilly” upbringing, his family, and the larger culture he and they inhabited. For anyone who was surprised and confused by Trump 2016 (which is me and most people I know), this offers a small piece of the larger puzzle that we urban Democrats are trying to put together. It’s written in an engaging, conversational style, and is a quick read—topical stuff! (Jascha Narveson)

Vance, J.D. ***Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis***. This immensely popular book has been part of an entire genre of new non-fiction, where journalists and historians attempt to explain both what has happened to working class industrial America, as well as why Trump won the presidential election. This book is unique in that Vance was born and raised in this world—first in the Appalachian region of Kentucky, and then in company-town Ohio. Vance attempts to explain what it is like to be from this world, where dreams have disappeared, and the American work ethic seems hard to find. He also has strong views about welfare and the federal government, and his perspective might come as a surprise to many readers. At the time of writing the book, he had been living in Silicon Valley after graduating from Yale Law School, and it was clear that he was looking back on the world from which he came. More recently, Vance has actually moved back to his hometown, which adds another layer to his story. (Stephanie Schragger)

Wainaina, Binyavanga. ***One Day I Will Write About This Place***. A brave and delicate memoir from this Kenyan author. (Liam Flaherty)

Walcott, Derek. ***Omeros***. The recently deceased Nobel Prize winner achieves a genuine, universal classical echo while writing powerfully about the specific wonders of his tiny home island. (Liam Flaherty)

Wariner, Ruth. ***The Sound of Gravel***. “I am my mother’s fourth child and my father’s thirty-ninth.” Great first line, totally compelling memoir. Warner grew up in a polygamist Mormon sect in Mexico. When she was three, her father, the founding prophet of the community, was murdered by his younger brother in a power struggle. Warner’s mother quickly married another member of the community. Heartbreaking and truly impossible to put down. Read this in conjunction with John Krakauer’s awesome ***Under the Banner of Heaven***, which opens with the murder of a mother and baby in a community that overlaps with the one in which Warner grew up. Krakauer’s book uses the murder as a jumping off point for exploring the wild, fascinating history of Mormonism. (Denise Rinaldo)

Waters, Sarah. ***Fingersmith***. If you can't get enough of portraits of 19th century women, this book is for you; if you are a seasoned classics reader and believe you know all about 19th century women, this book is for you; if portraits of 19th century women are too mannered and pretentious for your taste, this book is definitely for you. With a precise, complex, refined writing style, this story, set in Victorian England, has more twists than a century-old tree has roots. It is quite an absorbing journey to explore a den of thieves in London, a country mansion, and a madhouse with three utterly charming heroines (all "nasty women!"). By the way, have I mentioned that this novel is a lesbian romance? (Meredith Yinting Hu)

Whitehead, Colson. ***The Underground Railroad***. This is one of those rare books that changes the way you look at the world. It is both horrifying and beautiful. The strong and sympathetic protagonist Cora takes you through her harrowing story, from slavery to escape to the possibility of freedom. Whitehead's writing is magnificent—vivid, unapologetic, and allegorical. This is the best book I've read in a long time. (Eva Zasloff)

Williams, John. ***Stoner***. This is a brilliant novel by a "writer's writer," and one of the very best I have ever read. Stoner is an uncelebrated academic, an eccentric professor at a state university in Missouri. His life is largely unremarkable by conventional measure but he does endure a relentless series of challenges. And yet his story is beautiful, simple in its facts but complex, harrowing, and existentially challenging. It is also a story that is most relevant in this particular time. Life is not kind to Stoner, but this book is absolutely NOT a downer. (Jonathan Elliott)

Williams, John. ***Stoner***. William Stoner is born at the end of the nineteenth century to a dirt poor Missouri farming family. He is sent to state university to study agronomy and instead falls in love with English literature and becomes a scholar. It is a deeply moving book about life's work, the work of living. (Jackie Henderson)

Wilson, G. Willow. ***Ms. Marvel, Vol.1: No Normal***. I read the first trade paperback and thought it was a fine Spiderman knock-off. But I kept reading and it quickly got hilarious and smart. (Michael Pershan)

Wilson, Sari. ***Girl Through Glass***. Tells the dual stories of adolescent Mira, a ballet student at Manhattan's elite SAB, and Kate, an adult struggling with the events that shaped her past. Toggling between past and present, *Girl Through Glass* reveals how the lasting impacts of a complicated relationship have ultimately changed the course of multiple lives. (Ellen Friedrichs)

Wolfe, Tom. ***The Right Stuff***. Intense, true(!) action stories from the early space race, full of adrenaline, engineering, courage, foolishness, big personalities, and cold-war sexism and desperation. (Mike Roam)

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