



## 2009 Faculty Book Recommendations for FWT Reading

Barbara Alfano

[Silk](#) by Alessandro Baricco

David Anderegg

David's all poetry, all the time recommendations:

[The Book of Psalms: a Translation with Commentary](#) by Robert Alter. Even if you are not a fan of religious poetry, the footnotes on the art of translation are riveting

[The Mad Song](#) by Michael Schiavo. He is a recent Bennington MFA; the book has the look and feel of a contemporary version of Ginsberg's Howl. (book will be arriving soon at Crossett)

[Autobiography of Red](#) by Anne Carson. Breathtaking, a modern/classical novel in verse.

Steven Bach

[Dreams from My Father](#) by Barack Obama. Regardless of politics, one of the most beautifully written American autobiographies I have ever read.

[Guns of August](#) by Barbara Tuchman. A brilliant evocation of the beginnings of World War I, the war that ushered in the 20th century.

Doug Bauer

[Nothing is Quite Forgotten in Brooklyn](#) by Alice Mattison

Tom Bergeron

[Timequake](#) by Kurt Vonnegut

[Fortunate Son: George W. Bush and the Making of an American President](#) by James Hatfield

Kitty Brazelton

[Out of Sight: The Rise of African American Popular Music, 1889-1895](#) by Lynn Abbott & Doug Seroff

[Ragged but right : black traveling shows, "coon songs," and the dark pathway to blues and jazz](#) by Lynn Abbott & Doug Seroff

Ron Cohen

[Deaf sentence: a novel](#) by David Lodge

[Closed minds? : politics and ideology in American universities](#) by Bruce L. R. Smith, Jeremy D. Mayer, & A. Lee Fritschler

[Experiments in Ethics](#) Mary Flexner Lecture Series of Bryn Mawr College by Kwame Anthony Appiah.

Annabel Davis-Goff

[Reading in the dark](#) by Seamus Deane

[Nothing to be frightened of](#) by Julian Barnes

Kathleen Dimmick

[Twenty-eight Artists and Two Saints](#) by Joan Acocella

Mansour Farhang

[The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew and the Heart of the Middle East](#) by Sandy Tolan

[Passionate Uprising: Iran's Sexual Revolution](#) by Pardis Mahdavi

**Karen Gover**

[The Gift: imagination and the erotic life of property](#) by Lewis Hyde

**Dan Hofstadter**

Two about Brooklyn

[Low Company](#) by Daniel Fuchs

[Motherless Brooklyn](#) by Jonathan Lethem

**Jonathan Kline**

[Towards a Philosophy of Photography](#) by Vilem Flusser

[The Meaning of Photography](#) by Clark Studies in the Visual Arts

[Photography, A Very Short Introduction](#) by Steve Edwards

[The Short Story & Photography](#) by Jane Rabb

[Literature & Photography](#) by Jane Rabb

**George Lopez**

[Report to Greco](#) by Nikos Kazantzakis

[A Fine Balance](#) by Rohinton Mistry

**Mary Lum**

[Öyvind Fahlström : another space for painting.](#)

**Andrew McIntyre**

[Symmetry: a Journey in the Patterns of Nature](#) by Marcus DuSautoy

[Dreams of a Final Theory: a Scientist's Search for the Ultimate Laws](#) by Steven Weinberg

**Carol Meyer**

[A Soldier of the Great War](#) by Mark Helprin. Alessandro Giuliani recounts his experiences in WWI, providing both horrifying and captivating perspectives on war, love and fate told with such beauty that there were sentences that I would read and re-read.

**Chris Miller**

[Confessions of Zeno](#) (aka Zeno's Conscience) by Italo Svevo

[Theories of Everything](#) by Roz Chast

[The Bab Ballads](#) by W.S. Gilbert

[Laughter: A Scientific Investigation](#) by Robert R. Provine

[The Tunnel](#) by Russell Edson

**Randell Neal**

[Sounding Art : Eight Literary Excursions Through Electronic Music](#) by Katharine Norman

**Carol Pal**

[The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini. Everyone should read this.

[Shadow of the Torturer](#) by Gene Wolfe. Very deep, very dark. Science fiction by a writer who is in love with words.

[Free Enterprise : A Novel Of Mary Ellen Pleasant](#) by Michelle Cliff. A wonderful reimagining of a piece of American history. The novel blends the real character of Mary Ellen Pleasant, an extremely successful black businesswoman from California, with the raid on Harper's Ferry, and a Jamaican abolitionist, and...it's great!

**Ann Pibal**

[Song for the Blue Ocean](#) by Carl Safina

[Voyage of the Turtle: In Pursuit of the Earth's Last Dinosaur](#) by Carl Safina

Mirka Prazak

[What is the What](#) by Dave Eggers

Donald Sherefkin

[The Third Policeman](#) by Flann O'Brien

[Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder](#) by Lawrence Weschler

Betsy Sherman

[How to be Good](#) by Nick Hornby

[Spending: a Utopian Divertimento](#) by Mary Gordon

[The Magus](#) by John Fowles

Kerry Woods

Both Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln celebrate 200th birthday on 12 Feb -- or, rather, we should celebrate their joint birthday by reading stuff by and about them. There's a lot of very good stuff to read.

Darwin:

[Charles Darwin : a biography](#) by Janet Browne. Magisterial doesn't even begin to describe this work, but it's a good read as well -- especially the first volume (up to publication of *The Origin* in 1859). Browne worked with Fred Burckhardt on the Darwin correspondence project.

[The Reluctant Mr. Darwin](#) by David Quammen. Shorter, more accessible and more idiosyncratic, but Quammen is always good

Anything by Darwin: especially [Voyage of the Beagle](#), [On the Origin of Species](#) (these are good reading quite aside from historical value).

Lincoln:

[Team of Rivals](#) by Doris Kearns Goodwin. I probably listed this last year, but I think one of the best recent comprehensive studies of Lincoln as politician and president.

*Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words*, Douglas L. Wilson. Lincoln as orator and speechwriter and rhetorician.

[Abraham Lincoln : The Prairie Years And The War Years](#) by Carl Sandburg. Pure hagiography, but it's Sandburg...

[Lincoln : A Novel](#) by Gore Vidal. What it says, but fun.

[Lincoln](#) by David Herbert Donald. Probably the authoritative biography, but not as fun as some others.