

Reading remains one of life's great pleasures and an important means of broadening our horizons of knowledge and experience. This list includes books of diverse cultural perspectives for readers with varying interests and abilities. Enjoy your reading discoveries. For English class, all students must read **FOUR** books, **two** of which are required. **Two** other choices from the list are left to you. Please be ready to discuss your reading early in the fall. **Bring the required reading books with you when you return.** Electronic texts are permissible. If, for any reason, you cannot obtain the required book online or from your local bookstore or library, [please call](mailto:caustin@deerfield.edu) Deerfield's Campus Store (Hitchcock House) at 413-774-1513 to arrange a shipment. [You can also email caustin@deerfield.edu](mailto:caustin@deerfield.edu). He will help you resolve the difficulty.

Community required read
Departmental required read

Gyasi, Yaa. **Homegoing**
 O'Brien, Tim. **The Things They Carried**

Abu-Jaber, Diana. **Crescent** An Iraqi-American chef discovers the ingredients for love and understanding of her Arab heritage as she cooks at Nadia's Café in Los Angeles.

Ashbery, John. **Selected Poems.** The Heritage Award-winning Deerfield graduate's selection of his own best poems.

Bradley, David. **The Chaneyville Incident** An African-American historian learns about his father and himself in uncovering the mystery of a shocking incident.

Brooks, Geraldine. **Caleb's Crossing** A Puritan minister's daughter and a Wampanoag chief's son strike up a bond on Martha's Vineyard in the 1660s.

Brown, Dee. **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee** Brown chronicles the intertwined fates of Native Americans and the immigrants who "tamed the West."

Buck, Rinker. **Oregon Trail** Modern-day journalist Buck travels the trail in an old-fashioned mule wagon.

Cole, K.C. **The Universe and The Teacup: The Mathematics of Truth and Beauty** Explore links between mathematics and a variety of social, political, and scientific issues. (Recommended for FST)

Crane, Stephen. **The Red Badge of Courage** A naive boy heads to the Civil War to become a hero, but his courage falters in the face of overwhelming armies and an indifferent universe.

Egan, Timothy. **Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher** Explore the life and photographic work of Edward S. Curtis, who preserved Native American culture on film.

El Akkad, Omar. **American War** Choose sides in a second American Civil War fought in the future over fossil fuels.

Erdrich, Louise. **Plague of Doves** An act by vigilantes haunts a family and tribe for years on an Ojibwe reservation.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. **This Side of Paradise** We follow Amory Blaine through prep school, Princeton, love, and loss, and leave him peering into adulthood and trying to figure out what he believes.

Gattis, Ryan. **All Involved** The Los Angeles riots in the wake of the Rodney King case provide a window to the city's soul.

Ginsberg, Allen. **Howl and Other Poems** Meet the Beat Poet who helped define a movement.

Goldstein, Amy. **Janesville** Witness the economic and emotional struggles of Wisconsin families wracked by the Great Recession.

Graham, Jorie. **From the New World** This prize-winning Harvard professor's selected poems contend with consciousness, memory, imperialism, and art.

Grann, David. **Killers of the Flower Moon** Who was killing Osage Indians and drilling oil wells on their land?

Haigh, Jennifer. **Heat and Light** A small Pennsylvania town wrestles with the various costs of fracking for natural gas.

Hass, Robert. **The Apple Trees at Olema: New and Selected Poems** Hass focuses this selection on the Northern California landscape and on human experience.

Hogan, Linda. **Mean Spirit** A conspiracy to steal the oil from the Osage Indian tribe's land leads to mayhem.

Horwitz, Tony. **A Voyage Long and Strange** Rediscover the stories of the first visitors in the New World.

Jiles, Paulette. **News of the World** Travel with a grizzled Civil War veteran who leads an unwilling girl who had been captured and raised by the Kiowas back to her family.

Jones, Brendan. **Alaskan Laundry** Working on an Alaskan tugboat empowers a woman who had faced little beyond despair in her native Philadelphia.

Kolbert, Elizabeth. **Field Notes from a Catastrophe** Read these dispatches and decide for yourself about the threats of climate change.

Lee, Chang Rae. **Aloft** Even flying high in his small plane, a retired Long Island builder cannot escape the pull of his family's bonds and problems.

Lepucki, Edan. **California** What emotional and cultural bonds will prevail in post-apocalyptic wilderness?

Maclean, Norman. **A River Runs Through It and Collected Stories** Maclean tells the story of his family and fly-fishing, of bar fights and bait fishermen, of a Montana "with the dew still on it."

Malcolm X. **The Autobiography of Malcolm X** Follows the turbulent life of this famous man, from his rough youth through prison and conversion to Islam and into his leadership period.

Mbue, Imbolo. **Behold the Dreamers** A Cameroonian couple hopes to succeed in New York City as the economy falls apart.

McCann, Colum. **Transatlantic** Traversing time, McCann weaves together the stories of an early flight across the Atlantic, Frederick Douglass's visit to Ireland, and the peace settlement between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

McPhee, John. **Levels of the Game** Arthur Ashe struggles to overcome prejudice against black tennis players.

Mengestu, Dinaw. **The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears** An Ethiopian immigrant battles the despair in his new community in Washington, D.C.

Mezrich, Ben. **Bringing Down the House** The inside story of six M.I.T. students who took Vegas for millions. An intriguing true story of how mathematics beat the system.

Orange, Tommy. **There There** A powwow in Oakland offers the opportunity for displaced Native Americans to test identities.

Otsuka, Julie. **The Buddha in the Attic** Japanese "picture brides" struggle to adapt in an American nation that revokes its initial welcome.

Patchett, Ann. **State of Wonder** Is there another "heart of darkness" deep in the Amazonian Rain Forest?

Philbrick, Nathaniel. **In the Heart of the Sea** Whalers survive a 2,000-mile sail in small boats after a shipwreck.

Plath, Sylvia. **The Bell Jar** After graduating from college, Esther Greenwood works in New York as an editor. As her life becomes more complex, her grasp on reality diminishes.

Poe, Edgar Allan. **Selected Stories** Poe penetrates his haunted and obsessed characters' secrets.

Potok, Chaim. **My Name is Asher Lev** A Jewish artist struggles with the demands of faith and art.

Powers, Kevin. **The Yellow Birds** Two Army privates in Iraq carry the war's burdens in different ways.

Powers, Richard. **The Overstory** Interlocking stories over a 100-year span reveal the power of trees and the human bonds with them.

Rankine, Claudia. **Citizen** Using the lyric essay form, Rankine engages with contemporary American racial politics from Trayvon Martin to Michael Brown.

Sharma, Akhil. **Family Life** Grief, dislocation, and discrimination threaten immigrants in Queens, but a young man's resilience helps to restore the family.

Silver, Marisa. **Mary Coin** Silver imagines the story of the woman captured in an iconic photo of the Depression.

Steinbeck, John. **The Grapes of Wrath** Follow the Joad family from the Oklahoma Dust Bowl to California—the paradise that supposedly would end their problems.

Stevenson, Bryan. **Just Mercy** Test your perspective on capital punishment in the United States.

Strayed, Cheryl. **Wild** With her life falling apart, Strayed finds clarity along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Vonnegut, Kurt. **Slaughterhouse-Five** Journey through time in telegraphic, schizophrenic style with Billy Pilgrim, who can never escape the horrors of the Dresden firebombing.

Walker, Alice. **The Color Purple** With the help of her husband's lover, the flamboyant blues-singing Shug Avery, Celie finds the courage to defy the oppressive restraints of race and sex and to delight in love.

Ward, Jesmyn. **Sing, Unburied, Sing** This family road trip through a ravaged southern landscape will haunt you.

Watson, Bruce. **Freedom Summer** White college students and black activists join together in the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. (Watson is a former Wilson Fellow at Deerfield.)

Watson, James. **The Double Helix** Relive the race to discover the structure of DNA.

Whitehead, Colson. **The Underground Railroad** This award-winning novel reimagines the journeys slaves took in escaping and heading north.

Wright, Richard. **Native Son** Who or what is responsible for the murders Bigger Thomas commits?