



Johnson County Library

BOOK CLUB TO GO KITS

Abu-Jaber, Diana

Crescent

Lonely Arab students and professors come together at Nadia's Café, a Lebanese restaurant in Los Angeles, where they read foreign newspapers, eat food from their homelands, drink coffee and long to visit their homes and families in the Middle East.

Adams, Douglas

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Chronicles the off-beat and occasionally extraterrestrial journeys, notions, and acquaintances of galactic traveler Arthur Dent.

Allen, Sarah Addison

Garden Spells

A successful caterer in Bascomb, North Carolina, Claire has always remained tied to the legacy of the Waverly family until her peaceful life is transformed by Tyler Hughes, an art teacher and new next-door-neighbor, and by the return of her prodigal sister, Sydney.

Allende, Isabel

Zorro

Diego de la Vega, the son of an aristocratic Spanish landowner and a Shoshone mother, returns to California from school in Spain to reclaim the hacienda on which he was raised and to seek justice for the weak and helpless.

Angelou, Maya

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (BIO ANGELOU M. Angelou)

Poet Maya Angelou's memoir of her childhood in a small, rural community during the 1930s is filled with images and recollections that point to the dignity and courage of black men and women. Angelou paints a sometimes disquieting, but always affecting picture of the people--and the times--that touched her life.

Armstrong, Karen

The Spiral Staircase (BIO ARMSTRON K. Armstron)

Armstrong begins this spellbinding story of her spiritual journey with her departure in 1969 from the Roman Catholic convent she had entered seven years before--hoping, but failing, to find God. Powerfully engaging, often heartbreaking, but lit with bursts of humor, "The Spiral Staircase" is an extraordinary history of self.

Atkinson, Kate

Case Histories

Private detective Jackson Brodie finds his own need for resolution sparked by three investigations, including that of two sisters who discover a shocking clue to the disappearance of their third sister thirty years earlier.

Austen, Jane

Emma

Emma tries to impose her match making ideas on everyone and finds that sometimes she should desist.

Austen, Jane

Persuasion

Centering on Anne Elliott, Jane Austen's *Persuasion* is a brilliant satire on vanity and pretension, and a story of missed opportunities and second chances.

Barnes, Julian

Arthur and George

Chronicles the lives of two boys--one who is forgotten by history, and one who becomes the creator of the world's most famous detective--as they pursue their separate destinies until they meet in a remarkable alliance.

Carter, Stephen ***New England White***

Takes us to the New England university town of Elm Harbor, where the murder of a renowned African-American economist opens the door on the racial complications of the town's past, on one family's secrets, and on the hidden and powerful bastions of African-American political influence.

Cather, Willa ***My Antonia***

Antonia works as a servant for her neighbors after her father's death, elopes, and then returns to marry a Bohemian farmer.

Cather, Willa ***O Pioneers!***

Swedish farmer John Bergson's daughter Alexandra encourages the family members to help keep his dream alive after his death.

Chevalier, Tracy ***Girl With a Pearl Earring***

A poor seventeenth-century servant girl knows her place in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town.

Christie, Agatha ***The Murder of Roger Ackroyd (Mystery)***

A murder in a small English village leads Hercule Poirot into a strange mystery involving a determined, curious spinster, the local doctor, and a wide range of suspects with possible motives and mysterious relationships.

Cisneros, Sandra ***Caramelo***

During her family's annual car trip from Chicago to Mexico City, Lala Reyes listens to stories about her family, including her grandmother, the descendant of a renowned dynasty of shawl makers, whose magnificent striped (or caramelo) shawl has come into Lala's possession, in a multi-generational saga of a Mexican-American family.

Cisneros, Sandra ***The House on Mango Street***

For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness.

Coelho, Paulo ***The Alchemist***

A fable about undauntingly following one's dreams, listening to one's heart, and reading life's omens features dialogue between a boy and an unnamed being.

Collins, Wilkie ***The Woman in White***

A drawing master's moonlight encounter with an ethereal, if forlorn, woman leads to sensational events in Victorian England.

Conroy, Pat ***Beach Music***

Living in Rome with his daughter, Jack McCall finds his grief following his wife's suicide interrupted by the arrival of his sister-in-law and two friends seeking his help in tracking down a classmate who went underground as a Vietnam protestor.

Croke, Vicki C. ***The Lady and the Panda (599.789 Croke 2005)***

Recounts the adventures of Ruth Harkness, an American bohemian socialite, who, in 1936, ventured into one of the most dangerous, unexplored regions of the world on a quest to bring back the first live giant panda to reach the West.

Dai, Sijie ***Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress***

During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, two boys are sent to the country for reeducation, where their lives take an unexpected turn when they meet the beautiful daughter of a local tailor and stumble upon a forbidden stash of Western literature.

Doig, Ivan ***The Whistling Season***

Hired as a housekeeper to work on the early 1900s Montana homestead of widower Oliver Milliron, the irreverent and perpetually whistling Rose and her font-of-knowledge brother, Morris, endeavor to educate the widower's reluctant sons while witnessing local efforts on a massive irrigation project.

Dubus, Andre III ***House of Sand and Fog***

Three fragile yet determined people are drawn by their competing desires to the same small house in the California hills and become dangerously entangled in a relentlessly escalating crisis.

DuMaurier, Daphne ***Rebecca***

A classic novel of romantic suspense finds the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter entering the home of her mysterious and enigmatic new husband and learning the story of the house's first mistress, to whom the sinister housekeeper is unnaturally devoted.

Dunant, Sarah ***The Birth of Venus***

Turning fifteen in Renaissance Florence, Alessandra Cecchi becomes intoxicated with the works of a young painter whom her father has brought to the city to decorate the family's Florentine palazzo.

Edwards, Kim ***The Memory Keeper's Daughter***

In a tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twins during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from their baby daughter's affliction with Down Syndrome, turns her over to a nurse, who secretly raises the child.

Erdrich, Louise ***The Painted Drum***

Discovering a cache of valuable Native American artifacts while appraising an estate in New Hampshire, Faye Travers investigates the history of a ceremonial drum, which possesses spiritual powers and changes the lives of people who encounter it.

Ehrenreich, Barbara ***Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America (305.569 Ehrenrei)***

From first-hand experience, social critic and political essayist Barbara Ehrenreich tells what's it like to be an unskilled worker trying to live on wages of \$6 to \$7 an hour.

Enger, Leif ***Peace Like a River***

The quiet 1960s midwestern life of the Land family--father Jeremiah, and children, Reuben, Davy and Swede--is upended when Davy kills two teenage boys who have come to harm the family. On the morning of his sentencing, Davy escapes from his cell and the Lands set out in search of him. Their search is at once a heroic quest, a tragedy, a love story, and a haunting meditation on the possibility of magic in the everyday world.

Ephron, Nora ***I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman (814.54 Ephron)***

A collection of essays offers a humorous look at the ups and downs of being a woman of a certain age, discussing the tribulations of maintenance and trying to stop the clock, menopause, and empty nests.

Essex, Karen ***Leonardo's Swans***

Born into wealth amid the political and artistic foment of the Italian Renaissance, worldly and ambitious Isabella and naïve Beatrice d'Este, sisters and rivals, compete for the attentions of Ludovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan.

Eugenides, Jeffrey ***Middlesex***

Calliope's friendship with a classmate and her sense of identity are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite, a situation with roots in her grandparents' desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s.

Faber, Michel ***The Crimson Petal and the White***

Yearning to escape her life of prostitution in 1870s London, Sugar finds her fate entangled in the complicated family life of patron William Rackham, an egotistical perfume magnate.

Faulkner, William ***As I Lay Dying***

The harrowing, darkly comic tale of the Bundren family's trek across Mississippi to bury Addie, their wife and mother, as told by each of the family members--including Addie herself.

Faulkner, William

The Sound and the Fury

Retells the tragic times of the Compson family, including beautiful, rebellious Caddy; manchild Benjy; haunted, neurotic Quentin; Jason, the brutal cynic; and Dilsey, their Black servant.

Fforde, Jasper

The Eyre Affair

In a world where one can literally get lost in literature, Thursday Next, a Special Operative in literary detection, tries to stop the world's Third Most Wanted criminal from kidnapping characters, including Jane Eyre, from works of literature.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

The Great Gatsby

Jay Gatsby still adores Daisy Buchanan although she has married someone else, and he risks everything to lure her back.

Forster, E. M.

Room With a View

Lucy Honeychurch falls in love while on a visit to Florence and must choose between fulfilling her social role or following her heart.

Frazier, Charles

Cold Mountain

After Inman escapes from a war hospital in 1864 and starts walking to Cold Mountain, Ada struggles to save her mountain farm with the help of Ruby, an illiterate but efficient farmer.

Gaines, Ernest

A Lesson Before Dying

A young illiterate African American man witnesses two black robbers kill a white store owner in Louisiana in the late 1940s, and he is the one convicted.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel

Love in the Time of Cholera

Set on the Caribbean coast of South America, this love story brings together Fermina Daza and Florentino Ariza, a man who has secretly loved her for more than fifty years, on the day of her husband's funeral.

Gibbons, Stella

Cold Comfort Farm

When sensible sophisticated Flora Poste is orphaned at nineteen, she decides her only choice is to descend upon relatives in deepest Sussex. At the aptly named Cold Comfort Farm, she meets the doomed Starkadders; cousin Judith; Amos; their sons, Seth and Reuben; and Aunt Ada Doom. But Flora loves nothing better than to organize other people.

Gilbert, Elizabeth

Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia (910.4 Gilbert)

This memoir of self-discovery is about what can happen when you claim responsibility for your own contentment. It is also about the adventures that can transpire when a woman stops trying to live in imitation of society's ideals.

Goldberg, Myla

The Bee Season

An ordinary girl with an exceptional gift for spelling, young Eliza Naumann embarks on the rough-and-tumble "spelling bee" circuit, where her quirky family will collide with the harsh realities of life.

Golden, Arthur

Memoirs of a Geisha

Because her mother is dying and her father old, Chiyo, nine, is sold to a wealthy geisha house in Gion where she learns her trade and works it in the 1930s and 1940s.

Goodman, Allegra

Kaaterskill Falls

A small Orthodox Jewish sect spends summers in a Dutch community, and in 1976, the townspeople begin to resent the intrusion, and female members of the group chafe under its laws and restrictions.

Gregory, Philippa

The Other Boleyn Girl

The daughters of a ruthlessly ambitious family, Mary and Anne Boleyn are sent to the court of Henry VIII to attract the attention of the king, who first takes Mary as his mistress, in which role she bears him an illegitimate son, and then Anne as his wife.

Grogan, John

Marley and Me (636.752 Grogan 2005)

John and Jenny were just beginning their life together. Then they brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow furball of a puppy. Life would never be the same.

Gruen, Sara

Water For Elephants

Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope.

Haddon, Mark

The Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night-Time

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Hamilton, Jane

A Map of the World

On a diary farm in the midwest, Alice is watching her neighbor's daughter when she drowns in the pond. This marks the beginning of a series of events that turns Alice into a scapegoat and brings about her family's downfall.

Hammett, Dashiell

The Maltese Falcon

A murder involves Sam Spade in a dangerous search for a valuable statue.

Haruf, Kent

Plainsong

An unlikely extended family is formed when a high school teacher helps a pregnant student make a home with two elderly bachelor ranchers.

Hemingway, Ernest

A Farewell to Arms

Story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front during World War I and his love for an English nurse.

Hicks, Robert

Widow of the South

A story based on the true experiences of a Civil War heroine finds Carrie McGavock witnessing the bloodshed of the Battle of Franklin, falling in love with a wounded man, and dedicating her home as a burial site for fallen soldiers.

Hillenbrand, Laura

Seabiscuit: An American Legend (798.4 Hillenbr 2003)

Hillenbrand unfolds the spellbinding story of the racehorse Seabiscuit in a riveting tale of grit, grace, luck, and an underdog's stubborn determination.

Hoffman, Alice

The Ice Queen

After a small town librarian survives a lightning strike, she seeks out a fellow survivor in a quest for meaning, only to begin an obsessive love affair between two opposites joined by a single common thread.

Hoffman, Alice

Probable Future

Struggling to cope with her unwanted ability to see the future, Stella must confront her legacy when her father is jailed, wrongly accused of homicide, and Stella joins forces with her grandmother and mother to uncover the truth.

Horan, Nancy

Loving Frank: A Novel

Fact and fiction blend in a historical novel that chronicles the relationship between seminal architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney, from their meeting, when they were each married to another, to the clandestine affair that shocked Chicago society.

Hosseini, Khaled

The Kite Runner

Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son, in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

Hosseini, Khaled

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in wartorn Kabul, incurring losses over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage.

Hurston, Zora Neale ***Their Eyes Were Watching God***

Meet the unforgettable Janie Crawford, an articulate African-American woman in the 1930s. Traces Janie's quest for identity, through three marriages, on a journey to her roots.

Irving, John ***The Cider House Rules***

The practices of Dr. Wilbur Larch--obstetrician, orphanage director, ether addict, and abortionist--are hindered, abetted, and continued, in turn, by his favorite orphan, Homer Wells.

Jackson, Shirley ***The Haunting of Hill House***

An anthropologist conducts an unusual research project in a reputedly haunted house.

Jiles, Paulette ***Enemy Women***

Follows Adair, the daughter of modest farmers in the Missouri Ozarks, who is wrongly accused of enemy collaboration by the Union militia, as she falls in love with her interrogator and embarks on a perilous journey to find her family.

Kay, Terry ***To Dance With the White Dog***

Left alone when his wife of fifty-seven years dies suddenly, Sam Peek begins telling his worried children of a beautiful white dog that only he can see, in a tale of life, loss, mystery, and hope.

Kaysen, Susanna ***Girl, Interrupted (BIO KAYSEN S. Kaysen)***

Kaysen's startling account of her two-year stay at a Boston psychiatric hospital 25 years ago

Khadra, Yasmina ***The Swallows of Kabul***

Their lives as a diplomat and lawyer frozen by the ascendancy of the Taliban, Moshen and Zunaira find their situation becoming a nightmare when Zunaira is arrested and condemned to death.

Kidd, Sue Monk ***The Mermaid Chair***

Jessie Sullivan is summoned home to tiny Egret Island, where she meets Brother Thomas, a monk who is about to take his final vows, and encounters the legend of a mysterious chair dedicated to a saint who had originally been a mermaid.

Kidd, Sue Monk ***The Secret Life of Bees***

After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

Kimmel, Haven ***A Girl Named Zippy (BIO KIMMEL H. Kimmel)***

In this memoir that is more a collection of vignettes than a formal biography, Zippy Kimmel paints a picture of her life growing up in small town in America's heartland that is comforting, humorous, and spiced with wit.

King, Laurie ***The Beekeeper's Apprentice***

A chance meeting with a Sussex beekeeper turns into a pivotal, personal transformation when fifteen-year-old Mary Russell discovers that the beekeeper is the reclusive, retired detective Sherlock Holmes, who soon takes on the role of mentor and teacher.

Kingsolver, Barbara ***The Bean Trees***

Taylor Greer hits the road wanting only to get as far away from Kentucky as possible, ending up in Arizona with a 3-year-old Cherokee girl she has inherited from a woman in a bar.

Kostova, Elizabeth ***The Historian***

Discovering a medieval book and a cache of letters, a motherless American girl becomes the latest in a series of historians, including her late father, who investigate the possible surviving legacy of Vlad the Impaler.

Krakauer, Jon ***Into the Wild (BIO MCCANDLE C. Krakauer)***

Krakauer searches for the clues to the drives and desires that propelled 24-year-old Chris McCandless to leave civilization behind and head into the remote Alaskan wilderness. Four months later, McCandless's emaciated corpse was found at his campsite by a hunter.

McCarthy, Cormac

No Country For Old Men

Stumbling upon a bloody massacre, a cache of heroin, and more than \$2 million in cash during a hunting trip near the Rio Grande, Llewelyn Moss removes the money, a decision that draws him and his young wife into the middle of a violent confrontation in which their only hope of survival is local sheriff Ed Tom Bell.

McCourt, Frank

Teacher Man (BIO MCCOURT F. McCourt 2005)

Frank McCourt's critically acclaimed, Pulitzer Prize-winning bestseller about how his 30-year teaching career in the public schools of New York City shaped his second act as a writer.

McCrum, Sharyn

The Ballad of Frankie Silver

As a convicted killer awaits execution in Tennessee, Sheriff Spencer Arrowood wonders if he arrested the right man years ago. Searching for answers, he discovers shocking parallels with a case more than a century old--the controversial hanging of a 19-year-old North Carolina woman. Suddenly he finds himself in a frantic struggle to stop history from repeating itself.

McCullers, Carson

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

A quiet, sensitive girl searches for beauty in a small, but damned Southern town.

McEwan, Ian

Atonement

Three children lost their innocence--as the sweltering summer heat bears down on the hottest day in 1935--and their lives are changed forever.

McLaughlin, Emma

The Nanny Diaries

"What do you do when you are a nanny to an obscenely rich Park Avenue matron named X? Mrs. X refuses to do anything for herself, including cook, clean, or take care of her four-year-old son. You are expected to do everything."

Martel, Yann

Life of Pi

Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for America, but when the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.

Maugham, W. Somerset

Of Human Bondage

A young man struggling for self-realization, Philip Carey, becomes caught up in a destructive love affair with a waitress, in the classic novel of sexual obsession, self-discovery, and the complexities of human relationships.

Millard, Candice

The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey (BIO Roosevelt T)

At once an incredible adventure narrative and a penetrating biographical portrait, *The River of Doubt* is the true story of Theodore Roosevelt's harrowing exploration of one of the most dangerous rivers on earth.

Min, Anchee

Empress Orchid

A fictional portrait of the last empress of China follows Orchid, a beautiful teenager from an aristocratic family, who is chosen to become a low-ranking concubine of the emperor and rises to a position of power in the Chinese court.

Mitchell, Margaret

Gone With the Wind

Scarlett O'Hara faces and survives the Civil War and Reconstruction and marries Rhett Butler for his money because her true love has married someone else.

Moehring, J. R.

The Tender Bar (BIO MOEHRING J. Moehring 2005)

Needing a male influence in his life, J. R. turned to the flamboyant patrons of a grand old New York saloon for a kind of fatherhood by committee.

Moon, Elizabeth

The Speed of Dark

Journeys inside the mind of Lou Arrendale, an autistic man, who is asked to undergo a new, experimental treatment designed to cure autism, as he decides whether or not he should risk a medical procedure that could make him "normal."

Morgan, Robert

Gap Creek

The story of a young woman's struggles in early 20th century Appalachia.

Moriarty, Laura

The Center of Everything

Fending for herself in the wake of a chronically unemployed, dysfunctional mother, ten-year-old Evelyn Bucknow experiences feelings of confinement in their small Midwestern town and suffers the heartache of a first love.

Morrison, Toni

Beloved

After the Civil War ends, Sethe longingly recalls the two-year-old daughter whom she killed when threatened with recapture after escaping from slavery 18 years before.

Nafisi, Azar

***Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*
(*BIO NAFISI, A. Nafisi 2003*)**

Literature professor Azar Nafisi gives readers an inside look at life in revolutionary Iran in this memoir/literary criticism/social history as she relates what happens when a group of her best female students secretly meet at her home every week to discuss forbidden Western literature.

Naslund, Sena Jeter

Abundance: A Novel of Marie Antoinette

A fictional tale inspired by the life of Marie Antoinette presents the story of a teenage empress's daughter who is forced to leave her family home to marry the future king of France and who rebels against the formality and rigid protocol of court life.

Nemirovsky, Irene

Suite Francaise

A story of life in France under the Nazi occupation includes two parts--"Storm in June," set amid the chaotic 1940 exodus from Paris, and "Dolce," set in a German-occupied village rife with resentment, resistance, and collaboration.

Neville, Katherine

The Eight: A Novel

The globally best-selling thriller that paved the way for the *Da Vinci Code* and countless copycat conspiracy novels.

Nguyen, Bich Minh

Stealing Buddha's Dinner: A Memoir

Niffenegger, Audrey

The Time Traveler's Wife

Passionately in love, Clare and Henry vow to hold onto each other and their marriage as they struggle with the effects of Chrono-Displacement Disorder, a condition that casts Henry involuntarily into the world of time travel.

O'Brien, Tim

The Things They Carried

Heroic young men carry the emotional weight of their lives to war in Vietnam in a patchwork account of a modern journey into the heart of darkness.

Orwell, George

1984

Portrays life in a future time when a totalitarian government watches over all citizens and directs all activities.

Otsuka, Julie

When the Emperor was Divine

A story told from five different points of view, chronicles the experiences of Japanese Americans caught up in the nightmare of the World War II internment camps.

Palahniuk, Chuck

Fight Club

In a confusing world poised on the brink of mayhem, Tyler Durden, a projectionist, waiter, and anarchic genius, comes up with an idea to create clubs in which young men can escape their humdrum existence and prove themselves in barehanded fights.

Patchett Ann

Bel Canto

When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxane Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan.

Reichl, Ruth

***Comfort Me With Apples: More Adventures at the Table*
(641.5092 Reichl 2001)**

In the sequel to *Tender at the Bone*, the noted food critic describes her odyssey from chef to food writer, traces her journey through restaurants from Bangkok to Paris to Los Angeles, and offers colorful anecdotes about her life and encounters with great food.

Roberts, Cokie

***Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation* (973.3 Roberts 2004)**

Using personal correspondence and private journals, political commentator and bestselling author Cokie Roberts brings to life the stories of the wives, sisters, daughters, and mothers who influenced America's Founding Fathers.

Robinson, Marilynne

Gilead

As the Reverend John Ames approaches the hour of his own death, he writes a letter to his son chronicling three previous generations of his family, a story that stretches back to the Civil War and reveals uncomfortable family secrets.

Rosoff, Meg

How I Live Now (YA Fiction)

Soon after fifteen-year-old Daisy arrives at her aunt's farm in England, her aunt goes away on business, leaving Daisy with four cousins she's never met—the next day when London is attacked by an unnamed enemy, power fails, systems fail, the farm becomes more isolated with no adults in charge and no rules, and yet the cousins' uncanny bond grows into something extraordinary as time passes.

Rosoff, Meg

What I Was

Sailing the eastern coast of England with his godson, one-hundred-year-old H remembers his privileged teenage exploits at the side of unlikely childhood companion Finn, whose significantly different lifestyle enchants H before the pair is shattered by a painful scandal.

Roth, Philip

The Plot Against America

In a novel of alternative history, aviation hero Charles A. Lindbergh defeats Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election, negotiating an accord with Adolf Hitler and accepting his conquest of Europe and anti-Semitic policies.

Ruiz, Zafon

The Shadow of the Wind

A boy named Daniel selects a novel from a library of rare books, enjoying it so much that he searches for the rest of the author's works, only to discover that someone is destroying every book the author has ever written.

Russo, Richard

Empire Falls

Like so many dying New England towns, Empire Falls is a mill town without a mill and middle-class townspeople with little work to do who are stuck.

Ryan, Terry

***The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* (977.144 Ryan)**

The true story of how Evelyn Ryan, mother of ten children and wife to an alcoholic who sometimes spent a third of his paycheck on booze, wrote prize-winning jingles in the 1950's to make ends meet.

Sayers, Dorothy

Busman's Honeymoon

When their plans for a private and romantic honeymoon are disrupted by the untimely murder of their estate's former owner, newlyweds Lord Peter and Harriet Vane are baffled by the strange clues that they discover.

Sayers, Dorothy

***Gaudy Night* (Mystery)**

Attending a college reunion at Oxford, Harriet Vane receives mysterious messages that call her a murderer.

Schlink, Bernhard

The Reader

Not until he becomes a law student after World War II does Michael Berg realize that the woman who found him ill and nursed him through hepatitis was illiterate and possibly a Nazi war criminal.

See, Lisa

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

Seton, Anya

Katherine

This classic romance novel tells the true story of the love affair that changed history—that of Katherine Swynford and John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, the ancestors of most of the British royal family.

Setterfield, Diane

The Thirteenth Tale

When her health begins failing, the mysterious author Vida Winter decides to let Margaret Lea, a biographer, write the truth about her life, but Margaret needs to verify the facts since Vida has a history of telling outlandish tales.

Shields, Carol

The Stone Diaries

Daisy Goodwill Flett, whose mother died during Daisy's birth in 1905, moves from Canada to Indiana with her stonecutter father and lives an ordinary life against the backdrop of 20th-century events.

Shields, Jody

The Fig Eater

It's Vienna, 1910 and it is hot, unusually hot for the end of August. Someone has murdered a young woman. They find no objects, no obvious clues around her. They'll search the area again tomorrow during the day, when there is better light.

Sittenfeld, Curtis

Prep

During the late 1980s, fourteen-year-old Lee Fiora leaves behind her close-knit, middle-class Indiana family to enroll in an elite co-ed boarding school in Massachusetts, becoming a shrewd observer of, and eventually a participant in, their rituals and customs.

Spragg, Mark

An Unfinished Life

Seeking to escape her brutal boyfriend and hoping to introduce her daughter, Griff, to the grandfather she has never met, widow Jean Gilkyson seeks refuge in her late husband's Wyoming hometown with her estranged father-in-law.

Stegner, Wallace

Crossing to Safety

Two young couples, Sid and Charity and Larry and Sally, from different backgrounds--East and West, rich and poor--befriend each other in 1937 Madison, Wisconsin.

Steinbeck, John

East of Eden

This story of two generations of brothers in California's Salinas Valley mirrors the biblical story of Cain and Abel.

Steinbeck, John

The Grapes of Wrath

The Joad family, Oklahoma farmers forced from their dustbowl home during the Depression, try to find work as migrant fruitpickers in California.

Steinbeck, John

The Pearl

A poor fisherman dreams of wealth and happiness for his family when he finds a priceless pearl.

Stourton, Ivo

The Night Climbers

When James Walker arrives at Tudor College, Cambridge, he tries to create a vague air of mystery about himself in the hope of making the right kind of friends. By accident or fate he encounters a member of the Night Climbers, a wealthy, secretive, and tantalizingly eccentric circle of undergraduates who scale the college towers and gargoyles at night in pursuit of the kind of thrill-seeking danger that makes them feel truly alive.

Swift, Graham

Last Orders

While driving the ashes of a dead friend from London to the seaside town where they are to be scattered, long-time pals, men whose lives revolve around work, family, the racetrack, and a favorite pub, reexamine their lives, choices, and personal relationships.

Tan, Amy

The Joy Luck Club

Encompassing two generations and a rich blend of Chinese and American history, the story of four struggling, strong women also reveals their daughter's memories and feelings.

Wharton, Edith

The Age of Innocence

Wealthy New Yorkers in the 1870s have difficulties breaking free from social codes they hate.

White, Bailey

Sleeping at the Starlite Motel (817.54 White)

NPR commentator and first-grade teacher White (Mama Makes Up Her Mind) here explores the many quirks of the human psyche and the richness and variety of American landscapes.

Winchester, Simon

The Professor and the Madman (423 Winchest)

Masterfully researched and eloquently written, this book is an extraordinary tale of madness, genius, and the incredible obsessions of two remarkable men that led to the making of the Oxford English Dictionary.

Wolff, Tobias

Old School

During his senior year at an elite New England prep school, a young man who had struggled to find it with his contemporaries finds his life unraveling thanks to the school's obsession with literary figures and their work during a visit from an author for whose blessing a young writer would do almost anything.

Wolff, Tobias

This Boy's Life: A Memoir (BIO Wolff T)

The author chronicles the tumultuous events of his early life, discussing his parents' divorce, the nomadic wanderings with his mother that followed, and the strange and eventful process of growing up.

December, 2007

Updated June, 2009

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