



SDJA HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING PROGRAM

“No two persons ever read the same book”

-Edmund Wilson

Dear High School Students and Families,

San Diego Jewish Academy is a school community that believes in providing a robust Jewish environment where personal and intellectual growth are paramount. Reading is possibly the most powerful personal practice to engage with one's growth as reading is directly related to developing excellent writing skills, critical thinking skills, and provides us the opportunity to grapple with the complexities of the human condition. It's also just fun to dig into a book and experience a new world or perspective.

SDJA students read a considerable amount of curriculum based text as part of their academic program. Reading outside of the curriculum for fun is as important as course related reading assignments. The SDJA Upper School Faculty is asking every high school student to read at least one non-course related book over summer break.

When we return to campus in August we will have a period on Lions Day (first day of school) when the entire high school, students and faculty, will meet in small groups to have a dialogue on the book each student read. There is no essay due, no grade will be awarded, but rather we, as a community of learners, will gather and talk, analyze and explore what we read over the summer break. The thinking prompt for the Lions Day discussion is: *Umm, Why does this book matter to me, the world, and our community?*

The high school faculty collaborated and designed a recommended reading list for the summer of 2017. It is vast, diverse and full of possibilities. Please take some time to look through the list and pick a book or two or three; log off the computer, turn off your phone and immerse yourself in the world of the written word.

Happy Reading,

Mr. Quigley

Head of the Upper School

Recommended Books for the SDJA Summer Reading Program

Fiction

An Abundance of Katherines, John Green. When it comes to relationships, everyone has a type. Colin Singleton's type is girls named Katherine. He has dated—and been dumped by—19 Katherines. In the wake of The K-19 Debacle, Colin—an anagram-obsessed washed-up child prodigy—heads out on a road trip with his overweight, Judge Judy-loving friend Hassan. With 10,000 dollars in his pocket and a feral hog on his trail, Colin is on a mission to prove a mathematical theorem he hopes will predict the future of any relationship (and conceivably win the girl).

The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien. Depicting the men of an US Army infantry company during the Vietnam War, this book addresses the nature of war in an unforgettable way.

The Martian, Andy Weir. Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive—and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive. Chances are, though, he won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills—and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit—he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

The Math Olympian, Richard Hoshino. As a small-town girl in Nova Scotia bullied for liking numbers more than boys, and lacking the encouragement of her unsupportive single mother who frowns at her daughter's unrealistic ambition, Bethany MacDonald's road to the International Math Olympiad has been marked by numerous challenges.

Down and Out in Paris and London, George Orwell. The adventures of a penniless British writer descending into the seedy heart of two great European cities.

The Comedians, Graham Greene. Set in Haiti under the rule of Francois 'Papa Doc' Duvalier and his secret police the *Tonton Macoute*, this book explores political repression and terrorism through the eyes of British hotelier, Brown.

A Most Wanted Man, John Le Carre. The most renowned writer of espionage novels, takes us inside the post 9-11 war on terror. Set in Germany, this book delivers the complex story of counter-terrorism operations from a European security service's

perspective. Or any book by John Le Carre.

The City of Joy, Dominique LaPierre. The story revolves around the trials and tribulations of a young Polish priest Fr Stephan Kovalski, the hardships endured by a rickshaw puller, Hasari Pal (the sufferer) in Calcutta (Kolkata), India and in the second half of the book, also the experiences of a young American doctor, Max Loeb.

Regeneration, Pat Barker. "*The trilogy is trying to tell something about the parts of war that don't get into the official accounts.*" –Pat Barker The first book of the Regeneration Trilogy and a Booker Prize nominee. It is a war saga in which not a shot is fired. It is a story of a battle for a man's mind in which only the reader can decide who is the victor, who the vanquished, and who the victim.

Maisie Dobbs, Jacqueline Winspear. Maisie is a young nurse during the Great War, and when she returns to London after the war ends, she wants to work with her mentor, Dr. Blanche. When he retires, she begins to run her own version of a private investigator's office. This is the first book in a series about Maisie's crime-solving in post-war London.

The Bean Trees, Barbara Kingsolver. If you love resourceful, strong-spirited women and road-trip-style journeys, meet Taylor Greer and her 1955 Volkswagen trekking from Kentucky to Arizona. Along the way a three-year-old American Indian girl ends up in the car as well, and the women at the end of the road pool their resources to make a new life. If you enjoy *The Bean Trees*, try *Animal Dreams* as well!

Bless Me, Ultima Rudolfo Anaya. Antonio Marex is six years old when Ultima comes to stay with his family in New Mexico. She is a *curandera*, one who cures with herbs and magic. "Ultima took my hand and I felt the power of a whirlwind sweep around me...Her eyes swept the surrounding hills and through them I saw for the first time the wild beauty of our hills and the magic of the green river. My nostrils quivered as I felt the song of the mockingbirds and the drone of the grasshoppers mingle with the pulse of the earth. The four directions of the *llano* met in me, and the white sun shone on my soul..."

The Outsiders, S. E. Hinton. This is the story of two groups of people--the Greasers and the Socs (pronounced 'Soshes' as in social). They are rival gangs, with the East Side Greasers being the poor kids and the West Side Socials being the rich kids. Think *Westside Story's* Sharks and Jets. The story is told from the Greasers' point of view, primarily through the characters of SodaPop and PonyBoy Curtis, orphaned brothers. The author, S.E. Hinton, was 15 when she started writing this book! This book was published on the day she graduated high school. Amazing! If you like *The Outsiders*, check out these other two titles from Hinton, as well: *That Was Then, This Is Now* and *Rumble Fish*.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, Juno Diaz. Oscar is sweet but disastrously

overweight, a New Jersey romantic who dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, of finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the *fuku*--a curse that has haunted Oscar's family for generations, following them on their journey from the Dominican Republic to the United States and back again. The author, Junot Diaz, is a professor at MIT, and the first chapter of this book is entitled "Ghetto Nerd at the End of the World." What more do you want?

Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions, Edwin A. Abbott. This book describes the journeys of A. Square, a mathematician and resident of the two-dimensional Flatland, where women-thin, straight lines-are the lowliest of shapes, and where men may have any number of sides, depending on their social status. Through strange occurrences that bring him into contact with a host of geometric forms, Square has adventures in Spaceland (three dimensions), Lineland (one dimension) and Pointland (no dimensions) and ultimately entertains thoughts of visiting a land of four dimensions—a revolutionary idea for which he is returned to his two-dimensional world.

Middlesex, Jeffrey Eugenides. This is the story of Calliope Stephanides and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family, who travel from a tiny village overlooking Mount Olympus to Prohibition-era Detroit to the suburbs of Grosse Pointe, Michigan. To understand why Calliope is not like other girls, she has to uncover a guilty family secret, and the astonishing genetic history that turns Callie into Cal. This book won the Pulitzer Prize in 2002. "'What's wrong with me, Daddy?' There was so much love in his eyes it was impossible to look for truth."

Devil in the White City, Erik Larson. This book takes place in Chicago in the year 1893. This is fiction but tells of the true story of two men--the brilliant architect behind the legendary 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death. The author is meticulous in his research of the city, of the World Fair, and of the crimes this man committed. If you are interested in architecture and thrillers (not to mention Chicago, itself), this is a great pick. This book was a National Book Award finalist in 2003.

The Shadow of the Wind, Carlos Ruiz Zafon. The setting is Barcelona, 1945, and the city is healing from WWII. Daniel, an antique book dealer's son who is mourning the loss of his mother, finds solace in a mysterious book entitled *The Shadow of the Wind*, by Julian Carax. But when he sets out to find the author's other works, he makes a shocking discovery: someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book Carax has ever written. In fact, Daniel may have the last of Carax's books in existence.

The History of Love, Nicole Krauss. Leo Gursky is a man who fell in love at the age of ten and has been in love ever since. These days he is just about surviving life in America, tapping his radiator each evening to let his upstairs neighbour know he's still

alive, drawing attention to himself at the milk counter of Starbucks. But life wasn't always like this: sixty years ago in the Polish village where he was born Leo fell in love with a young girl called Alma and wrote a book in honour of his love. These days he assumes that the book, and his dreams, are irretrievably lost, until one day they return to him in the form of a brown envelope.

In One Person, John Irving. This is Irving's 13th novel. It deals with the coming of age of a bisexual man and his coming to grips with his sexual identity. Praise for this book is centered around the theme and the author's use of humor throughout.

Forever Changes, Brenda Halpin. Although encouraged to apply to colleges, Brianna Pelletier, a mathematically-gifted high school senior with cystic fibrosis, dwells on her mortality and the unfairness of life

Mockingbird, Kathryn Erskine. Ten-year-old Caitlyn hates recess, with all its noise and chaos, and her kind, patient counselor, Mrs. Brook, helps her to understand the reasons behind her discomfort, while offering advice about how to cope with her Asperger's, make friends, and deal with her grief over her older brother's death in a recent school shooting.

Miracle on 49th Street, Mike Lupica. Molly Parker, 12, lives in Boston with her recently deceased mother's best friend and family. She is on a mission to meet the Celtics' star player, Josh Cameron, to tell him that she is his daughter. Self-centered Josh is skeptical of her claim, yet spends time with her. However, his sinister agent, Bobby, worries that knowledge of Molly's existence will destroy his client's clean-cut image, and he tells her to get lost. Lupica creates intriguing, complex characters in Molly, Sam, and Josh, and he paces his story well, with enough twists and cliff-hangers to keep the pages turning.

The One and Only Ivan, K. A. Applegate. Ivan is a captured gorilla and an artist. He tells us his story and explains that he does understand English, but this does not help him understand people. His best friends are Stella, an elephant, and Bob, a dog.

Secrets, Lies, and Algebra (Do the Math, #1), Wendy Lichtman. Tess loves math because it's the one subject she can trust—there's always just one right answer, and it never changes. But then she starts algebra and is introduced to those pesky and mysterious variables, which seem to be *everywhere*. When even your friends and parents can be variables, how in the world do you find out the right answers to the really important questions, like what to do about a boy you like or whom to tell when someone's done something really bad?

Moon over Manifest, Clare Vanderpool. Set in Kansas in 1936, this novel tells the story of 12-year-old Abilene who makes friends with a Gypsy fortune teller and does some tricky detective work to find her father.

When You reach Me, Rebecca Stead. Miranda is twelve years old and living in New York City when her best friend suddenly dumps her. New friends and her love for the book, *A WRINKLE IN TIME* turn her life around.

Tangerine, Edward Bloor. Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Bystander, James Preller. Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you're new in town, it's hard to know who to hang out with—and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular, but something isn't right about him. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things. And if Griffin doesn't like you, you'd better watch your back because there might be a target on it. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin: He's a liar, a bully, and a thief. Eric wants to break away, do the right thing, but in one shocking moment he goes from being a bystander...to the bully's next victim.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, Mark Haddon. Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructed universe is threatened. Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favorite detective, Sherlock Holmes.

The Chocolate War, Robert Cormier. What happened when Jerry Renault refused to sell chocolates for his annual school fund-raiser? "Cities fell. Earth opened. Planets tilted. Stars plummeted. And the awful silence." And this isn't even a dystopian novel. No, this is Trinity, an elite, all-male prep school in New England steeped in tradition and controlled by The Vigils, a secret society that executes cruel tests to its members. When Jerry's defiance tangles with the demands of The Vigils, war is incited. This book has sparked its share of controversy since its release in 1974, but remains a young adult classic. (For another spine-chilling Cormier classic, try *I am the Cheese*.)

Counting by Sevens, Holly Greenberg-Sloan. "If you're lost, you might need to swim against the tide." When 12-year-old genius Willow Chance loses her parents to an automobile accident, a cast of seemingly disparate characters cobble together to support her and to save her life. In truth, it is Willow who saves theirs.

Stupid Fast, Geoff Herbach. It is the summer between his sophomore and junior year of high school and aspiring stand-up comedian, Felton Reinstein, discovers a hidden talent. He can run. Fast. Stupid fast. And people—including the football coach—are

beginning to notice. Felton also has a dark tale to tell. Could it be he's running from that? Told in an engaging first-person narrative. Hilarious and heartbreaking. (If you finish and want more, Felton's story continues in *Nothing Special* and *I'm with Stupid*.)

Inside Out and Back Again, Thanhha Lai. "No one would believe me but at times I would choose wartime in Saigon over peacetime in Alabama." It's 1975. The Vietnam War threatens Ha and her family. They board a ship, leave Saigon and head for the United States. What ensues is Ha's experience as an immigrant, where she, her mother and her brothers must navigate and find a place in the seemingly foreign world of Alabama. Written in verse.

We Were Liars, E. Lockhart. The less you know walking into this book, the more you'll reap from its surprise ending. The flap copy reads: "A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends--the Liars--whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth." The underlying mystery of this book and intensity of Cady's voice will hold you literally captive.

Endangered, Eliot Schrefer. Sophie's annual summer visit to her mother's bonobo sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo begins with her rescuing Otto, an abused infant bonobo, from a grim fate. War breaks out in the country, the sanctuary is attacked, and 14-year-old Sophie temporarily finds safety for herself and Otto in the sanctuary's electrified fence enclosure, where she must learn her place in an existing bonobo hierarchy.

Peak, Roland Smith. Fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello scales skyscrapers in New York City. That is until he's caught. Instead of serving time in a juvenile detention center, he is summoned to live with his estranged father, Josh, who operates Peak Expeditions, a climbing company in Thailand that prepares climbers for Mount Everest. But when Peak arrives in Nepal, he learns that Josh has ulterior motives--to garner publicity for his company, he wants Peak to be the first fourteen year old to climb to the top of Everest.

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie, Jordan Sonnenblick. The first page of this novel starts with Steven, who stands at his eighth grade graduation and wonders, "How could my life have possibly changed so much in only 10 months?" What follows is a humorous and poignant retelling of his school year, of his younger brother Jeffrey's diagnosis of leukemia and how Steven and his family endure. (And...there's a sequel! *After Ever After*.)

The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea* is one of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal—a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Here Hemingway recasts, in strikingly contemporary style, the classic theme of courage in the

face of defeat, of personal triumph won from loss. Written in 1952, this hugely successful novella confirmed his power and presence in the literary world and played a large part in his winning the 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature.

As a Driven Leaf, Milton Steinberg. a historical novel about ancient sage-turned-apostate Elisha ben Abuyah in the late first century C.E. At the heart of the tale are questions about faith and the loss of faith and the repression and rebellion of the Jews of Palestine.

The Rise of David Levinsky, Abraham Cahan. First published in 1917, Abraham Cahan's realistic novel tells the story of a young talmudic scholar who emigrates from a small town in Russia to the melting pot of turn-of-the-century New York City. As the Jewish "greenhorn" rises from the depths of poverty to become a millionaire garment merchant, he discovers the unbearably high price of assimilation.

The Metamorphosis, Franz Kafka. The story begins with a traveling salesman, Gregor Samsa, waking to find himself transformed (metamorphosed) into a large, monstrous insect-like creature. The cause of Gregor's transformation is never revealed, and Kafka himself never gave an explanation. The rest of Kafka's novella deals with Gregor's attempts to adjust to his new condition as he deals with being burdensome to his parents and sister, who are repelled by the horrible, verminous creature Gregor has become.

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay, Michael Chabon. This brilliant epic novel set in New York and Prague introduces us to two misfit young men who make it big by creating comic-book superheroes. Joe Kavalier, a young artist who has also been trained in the art of Houdiniesque escape, has just smuggled himself out of Nazi-invaded Prague and landed in New York City. His Brooklyn cousin Sammy Clay is looking for a partner to create heroes, stories, and art for the latest novelty to hit America the comic book. Inspired by their own fears and dreams, Kavalier and Clay create the Escapists, The Monitor, and Luna Moth, inspired by the beautiful Rosa Saks, who will become linked by powerful ties to both men.

The Chosen, Chaim Potok. It is the now-classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again....

Only Yesterday, S.Y. Agnon (tr. Barbara Harshav). The book tells a seemingly simple tale about a man who immigrates to Palestine with the Second Aliya--the several hundred idealists who returned between 1904 and 1914 to work the Hebrew soil as in Biblical times and revive Hebrew culture. Only Yesterday quickly became recognized as

a monumental work of world literature, but not only for its vivid historical reconstruction of Israel's founding society. This epic novel also engages the reader in a fascinating network of meanings, contradictions, and paradoxes all leading to the question, what, if anything, controls human existence?

The Saturday Wife, Naomi Ragen. Beautiful, blonde, materialistic Delilah Levy steps into a life she could have never imagined when in a moment of panic she decides to marry a sincere Rabbinical student. But the reality of becoming a paragon of virtue for a demanding and hypocritical congregation leads sexy Delilah into a vortex of shocking choices which spiral out of control into a catastrophe which is as sadly believable as it is wildly amusing.

Historical Fiction

The Other Boleyn Girl, *The Queen's Fool* and *The Constant Princess*, Philippa Gregory. These are all historical fiction books about the Tudors in the time of Henry VIII

Between Shades of Gray, Ruta Sepetys . The gripping story of a Lithuanian teenage girl whose family is arrested by the Soviet secret police in 1941 to be sent to Siberia. It is fiction based on fact.

The Red Tent, Anita Diamant. It is a first-person narrative that tells the story of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and sister of Joseph. She is a minor character in the Bible, but the author has broadened her story.

Cryptonomicon, Neal Stephenson. Bouncing between World War II and the World Wide Web, *Cryptonomicon* follows the exploits of Lawrence Waterhouse, a young mathematical genius and cryptanalyst. Waterhouse is assigned to Detachment 2702, a highly secret Allied outfit attempting to crack the Nazi Enigma code without the enemy's knowledge. Fast forward to the present, where Waterhouse's grandson Randy stumbles upon a massive conspiracy rooted in his grandfather's original work — a conspiracy that represents the path to a future of ultimate freedom or universal totalitarianism.

Memoirs of a Geisha, Arthur Golden. In the 1920s, 9-year-old Chiyo gets sold to a geisha house. There, she is forced into servitude, receiving nothing in return until the house's ruling hierarchy determines if she is of high enough quality to service the clientele -- men who visit and pay for conversation, dance and song. After rigorous years of training, Chiyo becomes Sayuri, a geisha of incredible beauty and influence. Life is good for Sayuri, but World War II is about to disrupt the peace.

All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr. Set in occupied France during World War II, the novel centers on a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths eventually cross. Every other chapter is from the French girl's first person point of view with the chapters in between told from the German boy's first person point of view.

Bringing Up the Bodies, Hilary Mantel. This is Mantel's sequel to her award-winning *Wolf Hall*. It is the second part of a planned trilogy charting the rise and fall of Thomas Cromwell, the powerful minister in the court of King Henry VIII.

The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne. The adulteress Hester Prynne must wear a scarlet A to mark her shame. Her lover, Arthur Dimmesdale, remains unidentified and is wracked with guilt, while her husband, Roger Chillingworth, seeks revenge.

The Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver. This novel is about a missionary family, the Prices, who in 1959 move from the U.S. state of Georgia to the village of Kilanga in the Belgian Congo. Orleanna Price, the mother of the family, narrates the introductory chapter in five of the novel's seven sections. The narrative then alternates among the four daughters, with a slight preference for the voice of the most outspoken one, Leah. The four girls increasingly mature and develop differently as each adapts to African village life and the political turmoil that overtakes the Belgian Congo in the 1960s. This book was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in fiction

Girl with a Pearl Earring, Tracy Chevalier. When her father goes blind, Griet must go to work as a maid for painter Johannes Vermeer. While cleaning the house, Griet strikes up an unlikely friendship with Vermeer, which both agree to keep secret for fear of provoking the painter's jealous wife, Catharina. When wealthy patron Van Ruijven begins to lust after Griet, and commissions a painting of her, Vermeer and Griet are obliged to spend long hours alone together.

Code Name Verity, Elizabeth Wein. It's 1943. France is occupied by the Nazis. A British spy plane crashes. The two girls inside, best friends—pilot and passenger—are separated. This is their story told in two parts. Part one holds the written testimony of "Verity," who's writing directly to her Gestapo captors. Her choice: reveal her spy secrets or face execution. What about part two? Well, can't tell, but you'll clutch the book even tighter as "Kittyhawk" arrives to put the missing pieces together. Might take a little patience in the beginning—lots of aviation jargon and needed backstory.

Any book by Alan Furst. Furst is regarded as the master of the of historical spy novel. His books are meticulously researched for historical accuracy and are based in Eastern and Western Europe during the interwar and WWII period.

Day After Night, Anita Diamont. *Day After Night* is based on the extraordinary true story of the October 1945 rescue of more than two hundred prisoners from the Atlit internment camp, a prison for "illegal" immigrants run by the British military near the Mediterranean coast south of Haifa. The story is told through the eyes of four young women at the camp who survived the Holocaust: Shayndel, a Polish Zionist; Leonie, a Parisian beauty; Tedi, a hidden Dutch Jew; and Zorah, a concentration camp survivor. Haunted by unspeakable memories and losses, afraid to hope, the four of them find salvation in the bonds of friendship and shared experience even as they confront the

challenge of re-creating themselves in a strange new country.

Exodus, Leon Uris. Leon Uris magnificently portrays the birth of a new nation in the midst of enemies--the beginning of an earthshaking struggle for power. Here is the tale that swept the world with its fury: the story of an American nurse and an Israeli freedom fighter caught up in a glorious, heartbreaking, triumphant era.

Guide for the Perplexed, Dara Horn. Software prodigy Josie Ashkenazi has invented an application that records everything its users do. When an Egyptian library invites her to visit as a consultant, her jealous sister Judith persuades her to go. But in Egypt's post revolutionary chaos, Josie is abducted—leaving Judith free to take over Josie's life at home, including her husband and daughter, while Josie's talent for preserving memories becomes a surprising test of her empathy and her only means of escape.

Non- Fiction

How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World, Steven Johnson. In this illustrated history, Steven Johnson explores the history of innovation over centuries, tracing facets of modern life (refrigeration, clocks, and eyeglass lenses, to name a few) from their creation by hobbyists, amateurs, and entrepreneurs to their unintended historical consequences.

Black Gods of the Asphalt: Religion, Hip-Hop, and Street Basketball, Onaje Woodbine. On the street, every ballplayer has a story. Onaje X. O. Woodbine, a former streetball player who became an all-star Ivy Leaguer, brings the sights and sounds, hopes and dreams of street basketball to life. He shows that big games have a trickster figure and a master of black talk whose commentary interprets the game for audiences. The beats of hip-hop and reggae make up the soundtrack, and the ballplayers are half-men, half-heroes, defying the ghetto's limitations with their flights to the basket.

The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution, Walter Isaacson. - *The Innovators* is Walter Isaacson's revealing story of the people who created the computer and the Internet. It is destined to be the standard history of the digital revolution and an indispensable guide to how innovation really happens. What were the talents that allowed certain inventors and entrepreneurs to turn their visionary ideas into disruptive realities? What led to their creative leaps? Why did some succeed and others fail?

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance. Angela Duckworth. In this instant New York Times bestseller, pioneering psychologist Angela Duckworth shows anyone striving to succeed—be it parents, students, educators, athletes, or business people—that the secret to outstanding achievement is not talent but a special blend of

passion and persistence she calls “grit.”

The Happiness Advantage: The Seven Principles of Positive Psychology That Fuel Success and Performance at Work, Shawn Achor. Our most commonly held formula for success is broken. Conventional wisdom holds that if we work hard we will be more successful, and if we are more successful, then we’ll be happy. If we can just find that great job, win that next promotion, lose those five pounds, happiness will follow. But recent discoveries in the field of positive psychology have shown that this formula is actually backward: Happiness fuels success, not the other way around.

How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America, Mustafa Bayoumi. Just over a century ago, W.E.B. Du Bois posed a probing question in his classic *The Souls of Black Folk*: How does it feel to be a problem? Now, Moustafa Bayoumi asks the same about America’s new “problem”-Arab- and Muslim-Americans. Bayoumi takes readers into the lives of seven twenty-somethings living in Brooklyn, home to the largest Arab-American population in the United States. He moves beyond stereotypes and clichés to reveal their often unseen struggles, from being subjected to government surveillance to the indignities of workplace discrimination. Through it all, these young men and women persevere through triumphs and setbacks as they help weave the tapestry of a new society that is, at its heart, purely American.

Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...And Maybe the World. William H. McRaven. On May 17, 2014, Admiral William H. McRaven addressed the graduating class of the University of Texas at Austin on their Commencement day. Taking inspiration from the university’s slogan, “What starts here changes the world,” he shared the ten principles he learned during Navy Seal training that helped him overcome challenges not only in his training and long Naval career, but also throughout his life; and he explained how anyone can use these basic lessons to change themselves-and the world-for the better.

In My Father’s Court, Isaac Bashevis Singer - This story is set in pre-WWII Poland. It’s about how the writer spent his childhood in his father’s rabbinate.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, Bryan Stevenson. Bryan Stevenson is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. In this true story, Stevenson shares his experiences representing death row inmates and calls for mercy and justice in our legal system.

A Nice Little Place on the North Side. A History of Triumph, Mostly Defeat, and Incurable Hope at Wrigley Field, George Will. A look at the hapless Chicago Cubs and their often beatified home, Wrigley Field.

The Water is Wide, Pat Conroy. The true story of a man who gave a year of his life to give an island and a people a new life.

Absolutely American: Four Years at West Point, David Lipsky. This book explores the challenging environment of The US Military Academy at West Point by following an entering class of cadets through all four years of their college education. They are high achievers, among the best students in their high schools. This is a personal view of their struggles with the rigors of the regimen and their constant examination of their career choice.

Spying Blind: The CIA, the FBI and the origins of 9-11, Amy Zegart. In this book, Amy Zegart, PhD, provides an examination of the intelligence failures that lead to the 9-11 attacks.

Band of Brothers : E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest, Stephen Ambrose. The iconic story of the ordinary men who became the World War II's most extraordinary soldiers: Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, US Army.

The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail--but Some Don't, Nate Silver. Nate Silver built an innovative system for predicting baseball performance, predicted the 2008 election within a hair's breadth, and became a national sensation as a blogger—all by the time he was thirty. He solidified his standing as the nation's foremost political forecaster with his near perfect prediction of the 2012 election.

The Numbers Behind NUMB3ERS: Solving Crime with Mathematics, Keith J. Devlin, Gary Lorden. This book, which is the companion to the CBS television crime series, NUMB3ERS, presents the fascinating way mathematics is used to fight real-life crime.

Out of Africa. Isak Dinesen. From 1914 to 1931, Danish aristocrat Baroness Karen Blixen owned and operated a coffee plantation in Kenya. After the plantation failed, she returned to Europe and began to write under the pen name Isak Dinesen. *Out of Africa* reads like a collection of stories in which she adheres to no strict chronology, gives no explanation of the facts of her life, and apologizes for nothing.

Outlier or Blink or The Tipping Point, Malcolm Gladwell. Let's let a student reader speak for this author. Here's an excerpt from Dan Gorodezky's review of *Outliers* in 2014: "This book has given me a much more logical understanding of the world. It has taught me to look for patterns, shown me the importance of culture legacies, made me realize that success largely depends on factors out of your control."

Bomb, Steve Sheinkin. Non-fiction thriller about the creation of the atomic bomb during World War II: the Soviet attempts to steal it and the Norwegian attempts to stop them.

Big Data Baseball: Math, Miracles, and the End of a 20-year Losing Streak, Travis Sawchik. After twenty consecutive losing seasons for the Pittsburgh Pirates, team morale was low, the club's payroll ranked near the bottom of the sport, game attendance was down, and the city was becoming increasingly disenchanted with its

team. *Big Data Baseball* is the story of how the 2013 Pirates, mired in the longest losing streak in North American pro sports history, adopted drastic big-data strategies to end the drought, make the playoffs, and turn around the franchise's fortunes.

Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game, Michael Lewis. *Moneyball* is a quest for the secret of success in baseball. Following the low-budget Oakland Athletics, their larger-than-life general manager, Billy Beane, and the strange brotherhood of amateur baseball enthusiasts, Michael Lewis has written not only "the single most influential baseball book ever" (Rob Neyer, *Slate*) but also what "may be the best book ever written on business" (*Weekly Standard*).

The Right Stuff, Tom Wolfe. This book is about the first pilots engaged in U.S. postwar research with experimental rocket-powered, high-speed aircraft. It tells the story of the beginnings of the US space program and the men who were the first Mercury astronauts selected for the NASA space program.

A Brief History of Time, Stephen Hawking. A landmark volume in science writing by one of the great minds of our time, Stephen Hawking's book explores such profound questions as: How did the universe begin—and what made its start possible? Does time always flow forward? Is the universe unending—or are there boundaries? Are there other dimensions in space? What will happen when it all ends?

The Code Book: The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography, Simon Singh. Simon Singh offers the first sweeping history of encryption, tracing its evolution and revealing the dramatic effects codes have had on wars, nations, and individual lives. From Mary, Queen of Scots, trapped by her own code, to the Navajo Code Talkers who helped the Allies win World War II, to the incredible (and incredibly simple) logistical breakthrough that made Internet commerce secure, *The Code Book* tells the story of the most powerful intellectual weapon ever known: secrecy.

The Art of War, Sun Tzu. Historians don't know the exact date of the book's publication (though they believe it to be in the 4th or 5th century); in fact, they don't even know who wrote it! Scholars have long believed that *The Art of War*'s author was a Chinese military leader named Sun Tzu, or Sunzi. Today, however, many people think that there was no Sun Tzu: Instead, they argue, the book is a compilation of generations of Chinese theories and teachings on military strategy.

On the Road, Jack Kerouac. An aspiring writer, his new friend and his friend's seductive wife heed the call of the open road. It is considered a defining work of the postwar Beat generations, with its protagonists living life against a backdrop of jazz, poetry, and drug use.

Diplomacy, Henry Kissinger. Henry Kissinger's *Diplomacy* is a speculative book that looks toward the twenty-first century with an eye toward assessing the international

stature of the United States in the new world order.

In Cold Blood, Truman Capote. If you get nightmares easily, don't read this book. It is the true story of two ex-convicts who intend to rob a Kansas family, the Clutters. The men enter the Clutter home expecting to find a safe filled with cash, but in fact find no money at all. Enraged, they kill the entire family and flee. This book includes interviews the author had with one of these convicts (who was caught and put in jail) as he awaits his trial.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou. When Maya Angelou was three years old and her brother was four, they were sent from their father in California to their paternal grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas. Their grandmother runs a store there, which is the center of life in the Negro community of the town. This is her story and it is filled with violence and redemption. Maya Angelou, by the way, was the first woman (and the second person EVER) to be asked by a President to write an original poem and speak it at the Presidential Inauguration.

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft, Stephen King. This book is part biography and part how-to. Stephen King writes about his childhood and young adulthood, relating stories that made him the writer he has become.

Hiroshima, John Hersey. After the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Vice President Harry Truman is suddenly forced to deal with the difficult task of taking control of the United States during the closing stages of World War II. Though the Germans have been beaten down and are on the verge of surrender, Japanese forces refuse to back down. Meanwhile, President Truman is getting conflicting advice regarding the necessity of dropping a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima.

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values, Robert Pirsig. This interweaves two parallel plots: the first is the chronicling of a transcontinental motorcycle journey taken by the narrator and his eleven-year-old son, Chris. The second plot details the life and thought of a man named Phaedrus, a solitary intellectual obsessed with a philosophical concept called Quality. This is a philosophical work of nonfiction that sold more than 5 million copies worldwide.

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America, Barbara Ehrenreich. Ehrenreich begins her book by discussing her preparations for her endeavor. The idea is to enter the low-wage workforce for a period of time as a way of investigating poverty in the age of welfare reform. "How does anyone live on the wages available to the unskilled?" Ehrenreich asks. "How, in particular, [are] the roughly four million women about to be booted into the labor market by welfare reform going to make it on \$6 or \$7 an hour?"

The Origin of Species, Charles Darwin. In *The Origin of Species*, Darwin challenged many of the most deeply-held beliefs of the Western world. Arguing for a material, not

divine, origin of species, he showed that new species are achieved by "natural selection." *The Origin* communicates the enthusiasm of original thinking in an open, descriptive style, and Darwin's emphasis on the value of diversity speaks more strongly now than ever.

Silent Spring, Rachel Carson. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was first published in three serialized excerpts in the *New Yorker* in June of 1962. The book appeared in September of that year and the outcry that followed its publication forced the banning of DDT and spurred revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. Carson's passionate concern for the future of our planet reverberated powerfully throughout the world, and her eloquent book was instrumental in launching the environmental movement.

The Selfish Gene, Richard Dawkins. Richard Dawkins' brilliant reformulation of the theory of natural selection has the rare distinction of having provoked as much excitement and interest outside the scientific community as within it. His theories have helped change the whole nature of the study of social biology, and have forced thousands of readers to rethink their beliefs about life.

To Explain the World: The Discovery of Modern Science, Steven Weinberg. In this book, pre-eminent theoretical physicist Steven Weinberg offers a rich and irreverent history of science from a unique perspective - that of a scientist. Moving from ancient Miletus to medieval Baghdad to Oxford, and from the Museum of Alexandria to the Royal Society of London, he shows that the scientists of the past not only did not understand what we understand about the world - they did not understand what there is to understand. Yet eventually, through the struggle to solve such mysteries as the backward movement of the planets and the rise and fall of tides, the modern discipline of science emerged.

A Brief History of Time, Stephen Hawking. Told in language we all can understand, *A Brief History of Time* plunges into the exotic realms of black holes and quarks, of antimatter and "arrows of time," of the big bang and a bigger God—where the possibilities are wondrous and unexpected. With exciting images and profound imagination, Stephen Hawking brings us closer to the ultimate secrets at the very heart of creation.

What is Life, Erwin Schrodinger. Nobel laureate Erwin Schrödinger's *What is Life?* is one of the great science classics of the twentieth century. It was written for the layman, but proved to be one of the spurs to the birth of molecular biology and the subsequent discovery of DNA.

The Making of the Atom Bomb, Richard Rhodes. Twenty-five years after its initial publication, *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* remains the definitive history of nuclear weapons and the Manhattan Project. From the turn-of-the-century discovery of nuclear

energy to the dropping of the first bombs on Japan, Richard Rhodes's Pulitzer Prize-winning book details the science, the people, and the socio-political realities that led to the development of the atomic bomb.

The Elegant Universe, Brian Greene. Brian Greene, one of the world's leading string theorists, peels away layers of mystery to reveal a universe that consists of eleven dimensions, where the fabric of space tears and repairs itself, and all matter—from the smallest quarks to the most gargantuan supernovas—is generated by the vibrations of microscopically tiny loops of energy. *The Elegant Universe* makes some of the most sophisticated concepts ever contemplated accessible and thoroughly entertaining, bringing us closer than ever to understanding how the universe works.

Coming of Age in the Milky Way, Timothy Ferris. From the second-century celestial models of Ptolemy to modern-day research institutes and quantum theory, this classic book offers a breathtaking tour of astronomy and the brilliant, eccentric personalities who have shaped it. From the first time mankind had an inkling of the vast space that surrounds us, those who study the universe have had to struggle against political and religious preconceptions. They have included some of the most charismatic, courageous, and idiosyncratic thinkers of all time. In *Coming of Age in the Milky Way*, Timothy Ferris uses his unique blend of rigorous research and captivating narrative skill to draw us into the lives and minds of these extraordinary figures, creating a landmark work of scientific history.

Wonderful Life, Stephen Jay Gould. High in the Canadian Rockies is a small limestone quarry formed 530 million years ago called the Burgess Shale. It holds the remains of an ancient sea where dozens of strange creatures lived—a forgotten corner of evolution preserved in awesome detail. In this book Stephen Jay Gould explores what the Burgess Shale tells us about evolution and the nature of history.

Physics and Philosophy: The Revolution in Modern Science, Werner Heisenberg. The seminal work by one of the most important thinkers of the twentieth century, *Physics and Philosophy* is Werner Heisenberg's concise and accessible narrative of the revolution in modern physics, in which he played a towering role. The outgrowth of a celebrated lecture series, this book remains as relevant, provocative, and fascinating as when it was first published in 1958. A brilliant scientist whose ideas altered our perception of the universe, Heisenberg is considered the father of quantum physics; he is most famous for the Uncertainty Principle, which states that quantum particles do not occupy a fixed, measurable position. His contributions remain a cornerstone of contemporary physics theory and application.

The Same and Not the Same, Roald Hoffman. Positioned at the crossroads of the physical and biological sciences, chemistry deals with neither the infinitely small, nor the infinitely large, nor directly with life. So it is sometimes thought of as dull, the way things

in the middle often are. But this middle ground is precisely where human beings exist. As Hoffmann shows in his inspired prose, the world observed at its molecular level is complex and agitated, as are the emotions of the supposedly dispassionate scientists who explore it. In *The Same and Not the Same* the vital tensions of chemistry are revealed; with down-to-earth explanations, Hoffmann uncovers the polarities that power, rend, and reform the world of molecules. *The Same and Not the Same* also offers a rare and compelling personal statement of the social responsibility of scientists. Unabashedly confronting some of the major ethical controversies in chemistry today, the book strives for balance in facing the pressing ecological and environmental concerns of our time.

The Language Instinct: The New Science of Language and Mind, Steven Pinker. In this classic, the world's expert on language and mind lucidly explains everything you always wanted to know about language: how it works, how children learn it, how it changes, how the brain computes it, and how it evolved. With deft use of examples of humor and wordplay, Steven Pinker weaves our vast knowledge of language into a compelling story: language is a human instinct, wired into our brains by evolution. *The Language Instinct* received the William James Book Prize from the American Psychological Association and the Public Interest Award from the Linguistics Society of America.

The Emperor's New Mind: Concerning Computers, Minds and the Laws of Physics, Roger Penrose. For decades, proponents of artificial intelligence have argued that computers will soon be doing everything that a human mind can do. Admittedly, computers now play chess at the grandmaster level, but do they understand the game as we do? Can a computer eventually do everything a human mind can do? In this absorbing and frequently contentious book, Roger Penrose--eminent physicist and winner, with Stephen Hawking, of the prestigious Wolf prize--puts forward his view that there are some facets of human thinking that can never be emulated by a machine. Penrose examines what physics and mathematics can tell us about how the mind works, what they can't, and what we need to know to understand the physical processes of consciousness.

New Views on an Old Planet, Tjeerd H. Van Andel. Earth Science is history, and because the earth is changing every day, earth history is being added every moment. Professor van Andel's now famous book on earth history interweaves three main themes: the evolution of the solid earth; the history of oceans and atmospheres; and the evolution of life. In prose that is both concise and compelling and with a glossary and suggestions for further reading *New Views on an Old Planet*:

Cosmos, Carl Sagan. The best-selling science book ever published in the English language, *COSMOS* is a magnificent overview of the past, present, and future of science. Brilliant and provocative, it traces today's knowledge and scientific methods to their historical roots, blending science and philosophy in a wholly energetic and

irresistible way.

Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth, James Lovelock. In this classic work that continues to inspire its many readers, James Lovelock deftly explains his idea that life on earth functions as a single organism. Written for the non-scientist, *Gaia* is a journey through time and space in search of evidence with which to support a new and radically different model of our planet. In contrast to conventional belief that living matter is passive in the face of threats to its existence, the book explores the hypothesis that the earth's living matter-air, ocean, and land surfaces-forms a complex system that has the capacity to keep the Earth a fit place for life.

The Human Brain: A Guided Tour, Susan A. Greenfield. What would you see if you removed the skull from the human brain and then slowly worked your way deeper and deeper into the brain, to the level of an individual neuron? With renowned brain researcher Susan Greenfield as your guide, here is your chance to gain a bird's eye view of the human brain and to learn more about what the brain is, how it works, what happens when one part of the brain is made dysfunctional through stroke or accident, how brain mood-modifying drugs find their targets. In a particularly fascinating chapter, Greenfield surveys for us how a brain is built and then takes us on a tour of the developing brain from the moment of conception. Throughout Greenfield poses the larger questions all readers want to consider, including: At what stage does individuality creep into the developing brain? How does the collection of circuits of neurons give rise not just to an individual brain but an individual consciousness? What might a fetus be conscious of?

Chaos, James Gleick. A work of popular science in the tradition of Stephen Hawking and Carl Sagan, this 20th-anniversary edition of James Gleick's groundbreaking bestseller *Chaos* introduces a whole new readership to chaos theory, one of the most significant waves of scientific knowledge in our time. From Edward Lorenz's discovery of the Butterfly Effect, to Mitchell Feigenbaum's calculation of a universal constant, to Benoit Mandelbrot's concept of fractals, which created a new geometry of nature, Gleick's engaging narrative focuses on the key figures whose genius converged to chart an innovative direction for science. In *Chaos*, Gleick makes the story of chaos theory not only fascinating but also accessible to beginners, and opens our eyes to a surprising new view of the universe.

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, Oliver Sacks. In his most extraordinary book, "one of the great clinical writers of the twentieth century" (*The New York Times*) recounts the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders. Oliver Sacks's *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* tells the stories of individuals afflicted with fantastic perceptual and intellectual aberrations: patients who have lost their memories and with them the greater part of their pasts; who are no longer able to recognize people and common objects; who are stricken with

violent tics and grimaces or who shout involuntary obscenities; whose limbs have become alien; who have been dismissed as retarded yet are gifted with uncanny artistic or mathematical talents. If inconceivably strange, these brilliant tales remain, in Dr. Sacks's splendid and sympathetic telling, deeply human. They are studies of life struggling against incredible adversity, and they enable us to enter the world of the neurologically impaired, to imagine with our hearts what it must be to live and feel as they do. A great healer, Sacks never loses sight of medicine's ultimate responsibility: "the suffering, afflicted, fighting human subject."

Bad Science, Ben Goldacre. Ben Goldacre's wise and witty bestseller, shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize, lifts the lid on quack doctors, flaky statistics, scaremongering journalists and evil pharmaceutical corporations. Since 2003 Dr Ben Goldacre has been exposing dodgy medical data in his popular Guardian column. In this eye-opening book he takes on the MMR hoax and misleading cosmetics ads, acupuncture and homeopathy, vitamins and mankind's vexed relationship with all manner of 'toxins'. Along the way, the self-confessed 'Johnny Ball cum Witchfinder General' performs a successful detox on a Barbie doll, sees his dead cat become a certified nutritionist and probes the supposed medical qualifications of 'Dr' Gillian McKeith. Full spleen and satire, Ben Goldacre takes us on a hilarious, invigorating and ultimately alarming journey through the bad science we are fed daily by hacks and quacks.

The Emperor of All Maladies, Siddhartha Mukherjee. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, *The Emperor of All Maladies* is a magnificent, profoundly humane "biography" of cancer—from its first documented appearances thousands of years ago through the epic battles in the twentieth century to cure, control, and conquer it to a radical new understanding of its essence. Physician, researcher, and award-winning science writer, Siddhartha Mukherjee examines cancer with a cellular biologist's precision, a historian's perspective, and a biographer's passion. The result is an astonishingly lucid and eloquent chronicle of a disease humans have lived with—and perished from—for more than five thousand years. The story of cancer is a story of human ingenuity, resilience, and perseverance, but also of hubris, paternalism, and misperception. Mukherjee recounts centuries of discoveries, setbacks, victories, and deaths, told through the eyes of his predecessors and peers, training their wits against an infinitely resourceful adversary that, just three decades ago, was thought to be easily vanquished in an all-out "war against cancer." The book reads like a literary thriller with cancer as the protagonist.

Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void, Mary Roach. Space is a world devoid of the things we need to live and thrive: air, gravity, hot showers, fresh produce, privacy, beer. Space exploration is in some ways an exploration of what it means to be human. How much can a person give up? How much weirdness can they take? What happens to you when you can't walk for a year? Smell flowers? What

happens if you vomit in your helmet during a spacewalk? Is it possible for the human body to survive a bailout from space? To answer these questions, space agencies set up all manner of quizzical and startlingly bizarre space simulations. As Mary Roach discovers, it's possible to preview space without ever leaving Earth. From the Space Shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA's new space capsule (cadaver filling in for astronaut), Roach takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth.

Sparks of Genius: The Thirteen Thinking Tools of the World's Most Creative People, Robert S. Root-Bernstein. All the imagination needs to be fruitful is exercise. Robert and Michele Root-Bernstein identify the thinking tools employed by history's greatest creative minds—from Albert Einstein and Jane Goodall to Amadeus Mozart and Virginia Woolf—so that anyone with the right mix of inspiration and drive can set their own genius in motion. With engaging narratives and ample illustrations, Robert and Michele Root-Bernstein investigate cognitive tools as diverse as observing, imaging, recognizing patterns, modeling, playing, and more to provide "a clever, detailed and demanding fitness program for the creative mind."

The Blessing of a Broken Heart, Sherri Mandell. Koby Mandell was just thirteen-years-old on May 8, 2001, when he and his friend Yosef cut school to go hiking. Their bodies were found the next day. The boys had been brutally stoned to death in a cave in the heart of the Judean desert. How does a family cope with the loss of a child through such horror?

Escape from Sobibor, Richard Rashke. On October 14, 1943, six hundred Jews imprisoned in Sobibor, a secret Nazi death camp in eastern Poland, revolted. They killed a dozen SS officers and guards, trampled the barbed wire fences, and raced across an open field filled with anti-tank mines. Against all odds, more than three hundred made it safely into the woods. Fifty of those men and women managed to survive the rest of the war. Richard Rashke tells their stories, based on his interviews with eighteen of the survivors. It vividly describes the biggest prisoner escape of World War II.

The Case for Israel, Alan Dershowitz. Dershowitz, a well-known attorney and Harvard professor, examines a wide range of pernicious accusations levied against Israel and attempts to defend Israel against them.

Memoirs / Biographies

The World As I See It, Albert Einstein. Einstein believed in humanity, in a peaceful world of mutual helpfulness, and in the high mission of science. Intended as a plea for these beliefs, this book, like no other provides a complete key to the understanding of this

distinguished man's personality.

Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike, Phil Knight. In this candid and riveting memoir, for the first time ever, Nike founder and board chairman Phil Knight shares the inside story of the company's early days as an intrepid start-up and its evolution into one of the world's most iconic, game-changing, and profitable brands.

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race, Margot Lee Shetterly. Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women, some of the brightest minds of their generation.

D DAY Through German Eyes - The Hidden Story of June 6th 1944, Holger Eckhertz. Almost all accounts of D Day are told from the Allied perspective, with the emphasis on how German resistance was overcome on June 6th 1944. But what was it like to be a German soldier in the bunkers and gun emplacements of the Normandy coast, facing the onslaught of the mightiest seaborne invasion in history?

Fever Pitch, Nick Hornby. This book, which the basis of two films, is the author's tribute to a lifelong obsession. The author tells the story of his relationship with soccer and with the Arsenal Football Club.

Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Mind of An Extraordinary Savant, Daniel Tammet. Bestselling author Daniel Tammet is unique among people who have severe autistic disorders in that he is capable of living a fully independent life and able to explain what is happening inside his head. He sees numbers as shapes, colors, and textures, and he can perform extraordinary calculations in his head. He can learn to speak new languages fluently, from scratch, in a week. In 2004, he memorized and recited more than 22,000 digits of pi, setting a record. He has savant syndrome, an extremely rare condition that gives him the most unimaginable mental powers.

The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan, Robert Kanigel. This book is a biography of the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. The book, which was recently made into a film, details Ramanujan's relationship with his tutor at Cambridge University, G.H. Hardy, in the years before World War I.

Wooden, A Lifetime of Observations and Reflections On and Off the Court, John Wooden and Steve Jamison. - This book is a collection of the simple and direct beliefs and observations of John Wooden, arguably the best (college) basketball coach of all time.

A Coach's Life, My 40 Years in College Basketball, Dean Smith. A look back at Coach

Smith's teams at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, players and rivalries. Through it all, Smith confirms that the fundamentals of good basketball are the fundamentals of good character - passion, focus, discipline, selflessness and responsibility.

Alex Ferguson, My Autobiography, Alex Ferguson. Sir Alex Ferguson's compelling story is honest and revealing as he reflects on his managerial career that embraced unprecedented European football success for Aberdeen and 26 triumphant seasons with Manchester United.

The Apprentice: My Life in the Kitchen, Jacques Pepin. Follow Chef Pepin's life from a young homesick kitchen apprentice in France to a world renowned award winning Master Chef.

Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina. Misty Copeland. Misty Copeland makes history, telling the story of her journey to become the first African-American principal ballerina at the prestigious American Ballet Theatre

A Year in Provence, Peter Mayle. This autobiographical travel book of an ex advertising executive from London who leaves the high octane life in the City and moves to the south of France for a new life. Peter Mayle has written over thirty books, some fiction some nonfiction but all based on the Provencal lifestyle he adopted over twenty- five years ago.

One L, Scott Turow. The true story of a first year law student at Harvard Law School.

Elon Musk: Biography of a Self-Made Visionary, Entrepreneur and Billionaire, B. Storm.

Unbroken Laura Hillenbrand. This is the story of the amazing Louis Zamperini in a biography by the Pulitzer-winning author, Laura Hillenbrand. Zamperini is an Olympic runner who ends up adrift in the Pacific during WWII and then enduring a prisoner of war experience after being captured by the Japanese. This is an invigorating biography showcasing the strength of the human spirit.

The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace Jeff Hobbs. A young African-American man who left the streets of Newark, New Jersey to attend Yale University on a full scholarship because he was so brilliant, graduates and then falls back into the streets when he returned to Newark and was murdered. So why read his biography? You tell me.

Measure of a Man: Auschwitz Survivor to the Presidents' Tailor, Martin Greenfield. This is the true story of a man who suffered the unimaginable horror of the Holocaust and emerged with a dream of success. From sweeping floors at a New York clothing factory to founding America's premier custom suit company, Greenfield built a fashion empire.

A Beautiful Mind, Sylvia Nasar. A Beautiful Mind is the biography of Nobel Prize-winning

economist and mathematician John Forbes Nash, Jr.

Ben-Gurion: Father of Modern Israel. Shapira, Anita. Translated by: Anthony Berris.

Churchill, A Life, Martin Gilbert.

My Life, Golda Meir.

John F. Kennedy, Michael O'brien.

Med Head, James Patterson. Narrated by Cory Friedman, this story details Cory's 15 year struggle with Tourette Syndrome and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

Between a Rock and Hard Place by Aron Ralston. During a rock climbing excursion, Ralston becomes trapped and must cut off his arm in order to survive. This true story is now a movie.

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, Ishmael Beah. There may be as many as 300,000 child soldiers, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s, in more than fifty conflicts around the world. Ishmael Beah is the first to tell his story of being a child soldier in Sierra Leone.

The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls. Jeanette Walls describes her upbringing with her nomadic parents; her mother is a frustrated-artist and her father is an alcoholic. They move Jeanette and her siblings around the United States when and where they please, often leaving the children to fend for themselves. This is the story of how Jeanette preserved through all her hardships (some that are so disturbing, it makes it hard to believe they are real) to eventually grow up to be a successful writer and accomplish her dreams.

Three Weeks With My Brother, Nicholas Spark. Nicholas Sparks is a prolific romance writer and this book is a complete departure from his usual works. He takes an around the world trip to see the "Wonders of the World" with his brother. Sparks details their travels but the main focus is on his relationship with his brother and the rest of their family. From their childhoods to having children of their own, Sparks shares life in a genuine way.

The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream by Dr. Sampson Davis, Dr. George Jenkins, and Dr. Rameck Hunt. Three young boys growing up in Newark, New Jersey, fulfill a promise to one another to overcome the negative influences in their lives, graduate high school, attend college, and become doctors. *The Pact* tells their inspirational success story.

Stand and Deliver, Nicholas Edwards. Story of Jaime Escalante, a math teacher at East Los Angeles' Garfield High School, who refuses to write off his inner-city students as losers. Escalante pushes and inspires 18 students who were struggling with math to

become math whizzes.

The Umpire Strikes Back, Ron Luciano. Ron Luciano was a Major League umpire for ten years in the 60s and 70s. He was the guy who made the outlandish, bombastic “You’re OUT!” call famous. In 1982, he wrote this memoir of sorts and has entertained every baseball fan who has read it the past thirty years. If you love the game, this is a *must-read*.

The Snow Leopard, Peter Mathiessen. Literary giant Peter Mathiessen died in April, 2014; he left behind a legacy of great works, both fiction and nonfiction. *The Snow Leopard*, published in 1978, is considered a modern classic. It recounts his 1972 journey deep into the heart of the Himalayas in search of the elusive Asian snow leopard—and also in search of self. A brilliant mixture of nature writing, cultural journalism, and spiritual seeking, this is a book to read and re-read.

Full Body Burden: Growing Up in the Nuclear Shadow of the Rocky Flats, Kristen Iversen. Iversen was raised near a top-secret nuclear weapons plant in Colorado; she later worked there and became increasingly troubled by the safety risks and health hazards, especially as people in the area became ill at an alarming rate. Here she’s entwined two narratives: one about environmental peril and the other about her own family’s toxic secrets. The result is a compelling, moving, and deeply thought-provoking book.

Angela’s Ashes, Frank McCourt. Mention Irish memoir, and it’s hard not to think of *Angela’s Ashes*, McCourt’s blockbuster, Pulitzer Prize-winning account of a cruel childhood, rich only in storytelling—and surprising humor—an extremely funny, heartbreaking book.

Boy by Roald Dahl. An account of his childhood years, this book is just as fun to read as any of his stories for children. If you’re a Roald Dahl fan, you really should read it. It gives insight into how many of his classic tales came to be.

When I Was Puerto Rican, Esmerelda Santiago. Santiago’s 1994 account is one of growing up in a large family in rural Puerto Rico, moving to Brooklyn, translating for her mother at the welfare office, and ultimately graduating from Harvard with high honors.

The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to His White Mother, James McBride. This is an autobiography and memoir first published in 1995; it is also a tribute to his mother. The chapters alternate between James McBride’s descriptions of his early life and first-person accounts of his mother Ruth’s life, mostly taking place before her son was born. McBride depicts the conflicting emotions that he endured as he struggled to discover who he truly was, as his mother narrates the hardships that she had to overcome as a white, Jewish woman who chose to marry a black man in 1942.

Double Helix, James Watson. James Watson’s frank, and often frankly rude, account of

his role in discovering the structure of DNA infuriated nearly everyone whose name appeared in it, but it nonetheless ranks as a first-rate piece of science writing. *The Double Helix* takes us inside a pell-mell race whose winners were almost guaranteed fame and a Nobel Prize.

Rocket Boys, Homer H. Hickman Jr. The #1 *New York Times* bestselling memoir that inspired the film *October Sky*, *Rocket Boys* is a uniquely American memoir—a powerful, luminous story of coming of age at the dawn of the 1960s, of a mother's love and a father's fears, of a group of young men who dreamed of launching rockets into outer space . . . and who made those dreams come true.

The Wright Brothers, David McCullough. Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize David McCullough tells the dramatic story-behind-the-story about the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly: Wilbur and Orville Wright. On a winter day in 1903, in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, two unknown brothers from Ohio changed history. But it would take the world some time to believe what had happened: the age of flight had begun, with the first heavier-than-air, powered machine carrying a pilot. Who were these men and how was it that they achieved what they did?

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot. Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance.

Cathedrals of Science: The Personalities and Rivalries that Made Modern Chemistry, Patrick Coffey. In *Cathedrals of Science*, Patrick Coffey describes how chemistry got its modern footing—how thirteen brilliant men and one woman struggled with the laws of the universe and with each other. They wanted to discover how the world worked, but they also wanted credit for making those discoveries, and their personalities often affected how that credit was assigned.

In the Shadow of the Bomb: Oppenheimer, Bethe and the Moral Responsibility of the Scientist, Silvan A. Schweber. *In the Shadow of the Bomb* narrates how two charismatic, exceptionally talented physicists—J. Robert Oppenheimer and Hans A. Bethe—came to terms with the nuclear weapons they helped to create. In 1945, the United States dropped the bomb, and physicists were forced to contemplate disquieting questions about their roles and responsibilities. When the Cold War followed, they were confronted with political demands for their loyalty and McCarthyism's threats to academic freedom. By examining how Oppenheimer and Bethe—two men with similar backgrounds but divergent aspirations and characters—struggled with these moral dilemmas, one of our foremost historians of physics tells the story of modern physics,

the development of atomic weapons, and the Cold War.

Gorillas in the Mist, Dian Fossey. In a richly hued portrait of the lives and behavior of African mountain gorillas, Fossey documents her 13 years dwelling in a remote rain forest amid these enigmatic animals. One of a trio of protégés picked by famed anthropologist Louis Leakey to conduct field studies of great apes, Fossey was determined, devoted, and often angry—over the apes' diminishing habitat and especially over the danger they faced from poachers (who may have been responsible for Fossey's 1985 murder). In *Gorillas* she leaves behind a scientific treasure, one rendered more poignant by her death in the service of these peaceful, intelligent beasts.

Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman! (Adventures of a Curious Character), Richard Feynman. Richard Feynman, winner of the Nobel Prize in physics, thrived on outrageous adventures. Here he recounts in his inimitable voice his experience trading ideas on atomic physics with Einstein and Bohr and ideas on gambling with Nick the Greek; cracking the uncrackable safes guarding the most deeply held nuclear secrets; accompanying a ballet on his bongo drums; painting a naked female toreador. In short, here is Feynman's life in all its eccentric—a combustible mixture of high intelligence, unlimited curiosity, and raging chutzpah.

Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood, Oliver Sacks. Long before Oliver Sacks became a distinguished neurologist and bestselling writer, he was a small English boy fascinated by metals—also by chemical reactions (the louder and smellier the better), photography, squids and cuttlefish, H.G. Wells, and the periodic table. In this endlessly charming and eloquent memoir, the author of *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* and *Awakenings* chronicles his love affair with science and the magnificently odd and sometimes harrowing childhood in which that love affair unfolded.

Alan Turing: The Enigma, Andrew Hodges. Alan Turing (1912-54) was a British mathematician who made history. His breaking of the German U-boat Enigma cipher in World War II ensured Allied-American control of the Atlantic. But Turing's vision went far beyond the desperate wartime struggle. Already in the 1930s he had defined the concept of the universal machine, which underpins the computer revolution. In 1945 he was a pioneer of electronic computer design. But Turing's true goal was the scientific understanding of the mind, brought out in the drama and wit of the famous "Turing test" for machine intelligence and in his prophecy for the twenty-first century.

Collections

The Writer Who Stayed, William Zinser. A collection of Zinser's weekly columns that appeared in the *American Scholar* Magazine. This series was devoted to culture and the arts, the craft of writing and travel.

Worldmaker. The Art and Science of American Diplomacy. David Milne. This book is a collection of short biographies on some of the most influential US leaders from Woodrow Wilson to Henry Kissinger to Barack Obama.

The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe, Edgar Allan Poe. Edgar Allan Poe was born in 1809. Poe was a poet, author, and literary critic. He is one of the leading authors of the Romantic period. His tales of the macabre have delighted and scared readers. He is considered the founder of the detective/fiction genre and contributed to the popularity of science fiction.

The Pleasure of Finding Things Out: The Best Short Works of Richard P. Feynman, Richard Feynman. Why do we do science? Beyond altruistic and self-aggrandizing motivations, many of our best scientists work long hours seeking the electric thrill that comes only from learning something that nobody knew before. *The Pleasure of Finding Things Out*, a collection of previously unpublished or difficult-to-find short works by maverick physicist Richard Feynman, takes its title from his own answer. From TV interview transcripts to his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize, we see his quick, sharp wit, his devotion to his work, and his unwillingness to bow to social pressure or convention. It's no wonder he was only grudgingly admired by the establishment during his lifetime--read his "Minority Report to the Space Shuttle Challenger Inquiry" to see him blowing off political considerations as impediments to finding the truth.

Miriam's Tambourine: Jewish Folktales from Around the World, Howard Schwartz. Most of the themes in this collection are universal they include wisdom, foolishness, resourcefulness, love, and courage and the magicians and princesses are familiar, even when a holy rabbi cuts an odd figure as a hero. What gives these tales a characteristically Jewish shape is the moral dimension of their informing faith. Not luck but divine guidance assures the success of the underdog: poverty and persecution are overcome by asserting the ultimate purpose of life. There are several strong female "saviors" but no Chelm-type fools, and conventional fairytales rub shoulders with didactic "midrash."

Sarah Laughed, Vanessa L. Ochs. In this vivid collection, Judaic scholar Vanessa Ochs brings the legends of the biblical matriarchs to new life. Intimate, familiar and wise, the heroines in *Sarah Laughed* are revealed to be inspiring role models for women today. From Eve's rebellious taste of wisdom to the righteous anger of Job's wife, each woman's story is retold in imaginative prose and accompanied by real-life rituals that can help us gain insight into various aspects of our everyday lives.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

To Say Nothing of the Dog, Connie Willis. If you even mildly enjoy science fiction, this is

your book. Ned Henry is badly in need of a rest. He's been shuttling between the 21st century and the 1940s searching for a Victorian atrocity called the bishop's bird stump. It's part of a project to restore the famed Coventry Cathedral, destroyed in a Nazi air raid over a hundred years earlier. But then Verity Kindle, a fellow time traveler, inadvertently brings back something from the past. Now Ned must jump back to the Victorian era to help Verity put things right--not only to save the project but to prevent altering history itself. If you read this book in its entirety you will be hooked on Connie Willis, and you can read her book *Doomsday Book* next! It's also an astonishingly fun book with time travel as its centerpiece. Instead of traveling to the Victorian age or Nazi Germany as the characters do in *To Say Nothing of the Dog*, in *Doomsday Book* a student finds herself trapped in England during the Black Plague.

Slaughterhouse Five, Kurt Vonnegut. With irony and dark humor, Vonnegut partially plays off the story of his own survival as an American soldier captured and taken as a prisoner of war in Germany during WWII. He ends up working in a beautiful, cultural center of Dresden which the Americans bombed. Ironically, he survives this bombing because he is in Slaughterhouse Five with the cadavers of butchered animals. This is where the facts end and the fiction of Vonnegut begins. So it goes.

1984, George Orwell. This classic dystopian novel written in the 1940's imagines a world 40 years in the future in which "Big Brother" is watching the move of every citizen. Inspired by his disdain for the rise of totalitarian regimes in the 30's and 40's, Orwell creates a powerful statement about the need to protest against too much government...a timely tale.

Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury. Another dystopian classic...the best window into this book, IS the book: "Montag had been a fireman for ten years. He knew the pleasure of the midnight runs, the fire trucks screaming through the dark, the clean smell of the kerosene and the joy of watching the books consumed by flames. And then one night, he encountered an old lady who refused to leave her house when the firemen came to burn her books. And he met the girl Clarisse who knew something of the past, when there were no informers and people were not afraid. And that was the beginning of Montag's doubt about himself and the society he lived in. From then on, Montag was an enemy of the 'normal' world, a fugitive into the inferno, pursued implacably by the authorities, stalked by the Mechanical Hound.

The Illustrated Man Ray Bradbury. A collection of his best short stories, including 'The Veldt,' "Marionettes, Inc.'" and 'Sound of Thunder.'

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley. Huxley's vision of the future in his astonishing 1931 novel *Brave New World* -- a world of tomorrow in which capitalist civilization has been reconstituted through the most efficient scientific and psychological engineering, where the people are genetically designed to be passive, consistently useful to the ruling class.

Dystopian Series

A Song of Fire and Ice, George R R Martin. This series has become, in many ways, the gold standard for modern epic fantasy. Martin—dubbed the “American Tolkien” by *Time* magazine—has created a world that is as rich and vital as any piece of historical fiction, set in an age of knights and chivalry and filled with a plethora of fascinating, multidimensional characters that you love, hate to love, or love to hate as they struggle for control of a divided kingdom. It is this very vitality that has led it to be adapted as the HBO miniseries “Game of Thrones.”

Divergent, Veronica Roth. In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote their lives.

The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan. Classic Greek mythology is mixed with modern adventure in this action-packed fantasy series. After learning he is a demigod, Percy Jackson is sent to a summer camp on Long Island, where he meets the father he never knew—Poseidon, God of the Sea.

The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins. In a not-too-distant future, the United States of America has collapsed, to be replaced by Panem, a country divided into the Capitol and 12 districts. Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games in which the 24 participants are forced to eliminate their competitors, literally, with all citizens required to watch. When 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, is selected as the mining district's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She and her male counterpart, Peeta, the son of the town baker who seems to have all the fighting skills of a lump of bread dough, will be pitted against bigger, stronger representatives who have trained for this their whole lives.

Uglies, Scott Westerfeld. The first three novels focus on the exploits of Tally Youngblood. In the post-apocalyptic future society where Tally lives, teenagers, upon reaching their sixteenth birthday, undergo a surgery to mold them into a so-called “Pretty.” When Tally's new friend Shay runs away to the Smoke, a secret refuge for those who oppose the city's government, the future of Tally's own operation becomes uncertain. Dr. Cable, the head of the mysterious Special Circumstances, cuts Tally a deal: betray her friends and help the city locate the runaways or remain an “Ugly” forever. When Tally joins the Smokies, she learns a chilling truth: the surgeries that the city performs are not just intended to render its inhabitants beautiful. The city also puts lesions into the minds of the “Pretties,” making them shallow, unintelligent, and

ultimately easier to control population. Over the course of the novels, Tally struggles to maintain her sense of self within a society that literally alters how people think and ultimately succeeds in undoing the system of mind alteration.

The House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer. Up for something dystopian? Intense? Welcome to Opium, a land tucked between the United States and Aztlan, formally known as Mexico. The poppy fields are tended by enslaved immigrants with computer chips embedded in their brains. Tucked into those fields, in isolation, lives Matteo Alacran, a boy who was harvested from the DNA of Opium's lord, the 140-year-old El Patron. The story traces Matt's struggle to understand-- and survive--his existence.

Legend, Marie Lu. Fan of The Hunger Games and Divergent? This one's for you. North America is split into two warring nations. Fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous slum born criminal and June, an elite born soldier hired to capture him, discover a common enemy. Told in dual-voice format with effortless prose. Part one of a trilogy.

Judaica

The Five Books of Miriam, Ellen Frankel. Weaving together Jewish lore, the voices of Jewish foremothers, Yiddish fable, midrash and stories of her own imagining, Ellen Frankel has created in this book a breathtakingly vivid exploration into what the Torah means to women. Here are Miriam, Esther, Dinah, Lilith and many other women of the Torah in dialogue with Jewish daughters, mothers and grandmothers, past and present. Together these voices examine and debate every aspect of a Jewish woman's life -- work, sex, marriage, her connection to God and her place in the Jewish community and in the world. The Five Books of Miriam makes an invaluable contribution to Torah study and adds rich dimension to the ongoing conversation between Jewish women and Jewish tradition.

God Was in This Place and I Didn't Know, Lawrence Kushner. In this illuminating journey, our spiritual guides ask and answer the fundamental questions of human experience: Who am I? Who is God? What is God's role in history? What is the nature of evil? How should I relate to God and other people? Could the universe really have a self? Rabbi Lawrence Kushner brilliantly reclaims a millennium of Jewish spirituality for contemporary seekers of all faiths and backgrounds. *God Was in This Place & I, i Did Not Know* is about God and about you; it is about discovering God's place in the universe, and yours.

Text Messages: A Torah commentary for Teens, Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin. Young people need to be included in the struggle for meaning, for the right questions to ask and the search for useful and relevant answers. This is the book that has been missing from the ever-expanding bookshelf of Torah commentaries—a collection of messages on each

Torah portion, specifically for today's teens. It shows them how each Torah portion contains worlds of meaning for them, for what they are going through in their lives, and how they can shape their Jewish identity as they enter adulthood. This groundbreaking spiritual resource is truly trans denominational—including the insights of over 100 Jews who identify as Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Renewal, post-denominational and “just Jewish.”

Dignity of Difference, Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. The first major statement by a Jewish leader on the ethics of globalization, it introduces a new paradigm into the search for co-existence. Sacks argues that we must do more than search for common human values. We must also learn to make space for difference, even and especially at the heart of the monotheistic imagination. The global future will call for something stronger than earlier doctrines of toleration or pluralism. It needs a new understanding that the unity of the Creator is expressed in the diversity of creation.; Sacks argues that this new thinking also sheds fresh light on the global challenges of an age of unprecedented change: economic inequality, environmental destruction, the connection between information technology and human dignity, and the structures of civil society.

The Jew in the Lotus, Rodger Kamenetz. While accompanying eight high-spirited Jewish delegates to Dharamsala, India, for a historic Buddhist-Jewish dialogue with the Dalai Lama, poet Rodger Kamenetz comes to understand the convergence of Buddhist and Jewish thought. Along the way he encounters Ram Dass and Richard Gere, and dialogues with leading rabbis and Jewish thinkers, including Zalman Schacter, Yitz and Blue Greenberg, and a host of religious and disaffected Jews and Jewish Buddhists.

Jewish Meditation, Aryeh Kaplan. Jewish Meditation is a step-by-step introduction to meditation and the Jewish practice of meditation in particular. This practical guide covers such topics as mantra meditation, contemplation, and visualization within a Jewish context. It shows us how to use meditative techniques to enhance prayer using the traditional liturgy—the Amidah and the Shema. Through simple exercises and clear explanations of theory, Rabbi Kaplan gives us the tools to develop our spiritual potential through an authentically Jewish meditative practice.

Lonely Man of Faith, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik. In this modern classic, Soloveitchik uses the story of Adam and Eve as a springboard, interweaving insights from such important Western philosophers as Kierkegaard and Kant with innovative readings of Genesis to provide guidance for the faithful in today's world. He explains prayer as “the harbinger of moral reformation,” and discusses with empathy and understanding the despair and exasperation of individuals who seek personal redemption through direct knowledge of a God who seems remote and unapproachable. He shows that while the faithful may become members of a religious community, their true home is “the abode of loneliness.” In a moving personal testimony, Soloveitchik demonstrates a deep-seated commitment, intellectual courage, and integrity to which people of all religions will

respond.

The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic, Mary Zamore. This anthology of essays explores the questions and challenges of navigating the personal and communal choices about eating. The historic Jewish approach to eating, traditionally termed Kashrut, is explored, broadened and, in some cases, challenged within this volume. These essays and the questions they pose present a diverse range of voices, opinions, and options that highlight Jewish values and provide ideas about how to navigate these complex choices.

Why Be Jewish? Edgar Bronfman. Bronfman walks readers through the major tenets and ideas in Jewish life, fleshing out their meaning and offering proof texts from the Jewish tradition gleaned over his many years of study with some of the greatest teachers in the Jewish world. With honesty, poignancy, and passion, Bronfman shares his WHY BE JEWISH? insights gleaned from his own personal journey and makes a compelling case for the meaning and transcendence of a secular Judaism that is still steeped in deep moral values, authentic Jewish texts, and a focus on deed over creed or dogma.

After Abel and Other Stories, Michal Lemberger. Vividly reimagined with startling contemporary clarity, Michal Lemberger's debut collection of short stories gives voice to silent, oft-marginalized biblical women: their ambitions, their love for their children, their values, their tremendous struggles and challenges. Informed by Lemberger's deep knowledge of the Bible, each of these nine stories recasts a biblical saga from the perspective of a pivotal woman.

Jewish Roots in Southern Soil, Marcia Ferris, ed.; Mark Greenberg, ed.; Eli Evans, fwd. A lively look at southern Jewish history and culture. Jews have long been a presence in the American South, first arriving in the late seventeenth century as part of exploratory voyages from Europe to the New World. Two of the nation's earliest Jewish communities were founded in Savannah in 1733 and Charleston in 1749. By 1800, more Jews lived in Charleston than in New York City. Today, Jews comprise less than one half of one percent of the southern population but provide critical sustenance and support for their communities.

The American Jewish Experience, Jonathan Sarna. The book presents a range of the liveliest, most informative writing on Jews in America from colonial times to the present. This revised and expanded edition of the popular reader contains nine new selections and continues to explore traditional areas as well as topics of current interest - such as Jewish women in American society and Jews in American popular culture.

