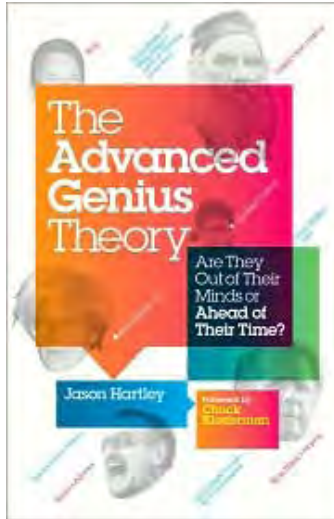


# Summer Reading 2011



Kevin Beaulieu '13

# *The Advanced Genius Theory: Are They Out of Their Minds or Ahead of Their Time?*



Title: *The Advanced Genius Theory: Are They Out of Their Minds or Ahead of Their Time?*

Author: Jason Hartley and Chuck Klosterman

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Arndt

BOOK TWO

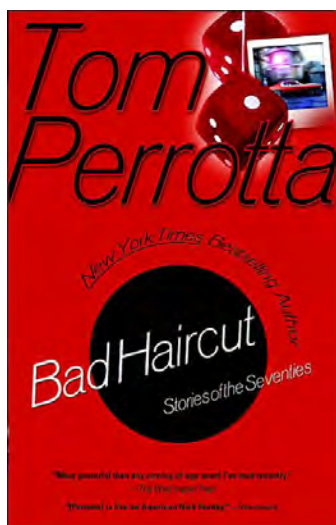
## **Publisher's Description**

Let the debate begin...

The Advanced Genius Theory, hatched by Jason Hartley and Britt Bergman over pizza, began as a means to explain why icons such as Lou Reed, David Bowie, and Sting seem to go from artistic brilliance in their early careers to “losing it” as they grow older. The Theory proposes that they don’t actually lose it, but rather, their work simply advances beyond our comprehension. The ramifications and departures of this argument are limitless, and so are the examples worth considering, such as George Lucas’s Jar Jar Binks, Stanley Kubrick’s fascination with coffee commercials, and the last few decades of Paul McCartney’s career. With equal doses of humor and philosophy, theorist Jason Hartley examines music, literature, sports, politics, and the very meaning of taste, presenting an entirely new way to appreciate the pop culture we love . . . and sometimes think we hate. The Advanced Genius Theory is a manifesto that takes on the least understood work by the most celebrated figures of our time.

“Hartley gently advances his “Advanced Genius Theory” with rigor, enthusiasm, and a game sense of (re-)discovery. Eschewing the snide critical distance that many fans take for granted, Hartley gives the artist in question the benefit of the doubt.”--*Publishers Weekly*

# *Bad Haircut: Stories of the Seventies*



Title: *Bad Haircut: Stories of the Seventies*

Author: Tom Perrotta

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Leet

BOOK ONE

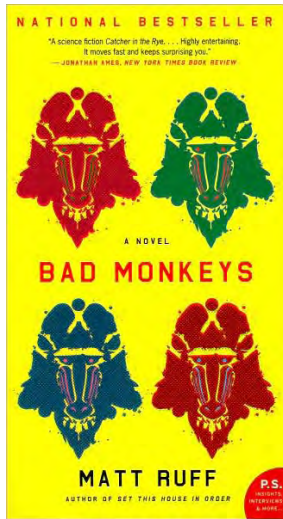
## **Publisher's Description**

Tom Perrotta made his literary debut with his short story collection *Bad Haircut*, earning critical praise and comparisons to Salinger, Carver, and Roth by taking readers to New Jersey in the 1970s as a boy named Buddy struggles with the timeless mysteries of sex, death, parents-and of course, bad haircuts.

## **From Publishers Weekly**

Amid the current glut of '70s nostalgia, Perrotta has fashioned a moving cycle of stories that looks past the era's celebrated kitsch to still relevant social and cultural issues and the timeless mysteries of growing up. In 10 tales covering a period from the fall of 1969 to the summer of 1980, he follows the revelations of his narrator, Buddy, from his days as an eight-year-old Cub Scout through his return home from the first year of college. Set in the small New Jersey town of Darwin, these seamless, understated narratives find--in boyhood activities as ordinary as playing sports, riding a bike, taking driver's ed or going to the prom--insights into loneliness, societal violence, sexual identity, racism, mortality and much more. Perrotta eschews sentimentality and overt philosophizing, crafting in Buddy's voice a sensitivity to pregnant moments that remain unexplained and a knack for delicate, unobtrusive metaphor. Forgoing the easy irony of disco and vintage TV, he delivers a convincing portrait of a time of life, illuminating all the profound cruelty and tenderness of adolescence.

# *Bad Monkeys*



Title: *Bad Monkeys*  
Author: Matt Ruff  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Dr. Morris  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

Jane Charlotte has been arrested for murder.

She says she's a member of a secret organization devoted to fighting evil. She says she's working with the Department for the Final Disposition of Irredeemable Persons—aka “Bad Monkeys.”

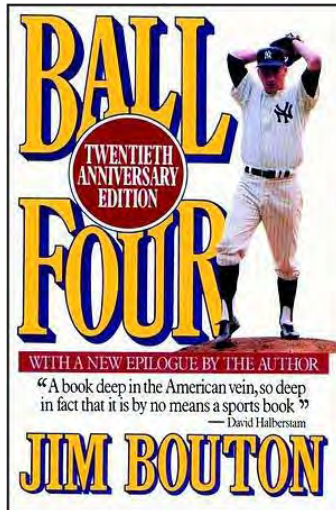
Her confession lands her in the jail's psychiatric wing and earns her countless hours of poking, probing, and questioning by a professional. But is Jane crazy or lying?

Or is she playing a whole different game altogether?

## **From Publishers Weekly**

In this clever SF thriller from Ruff (*Fool on the Hill*), almost everyone is a bad monkey of some kind, but only Jane Charlotte is a self-confessed member of The Department for the Final Disposition of Irredeemable Persons. Or is she? In a series of sessions with a psychotherapist in the Las Vegas County Jail nut wing, Jane tells the story of her early life in San Francisco and her assimilation into the Bad Monkeys, an organization devoted to fighting evil. Crazy or sane, Jane is still a murderer, whether she used a weapon like the NC gun, which kills someone using Natural Causes, or more prosaic weaponry. Still, nothing is quite what it seems as Jane's initial story of tracking a serial killer janitor comes under scrutiny and the initial facts about her brother, Phil, get turned on their head. At times the twists are enough to give the reader whiplash. Ruff's expert characterization of Jane and agile manipulation of layers of reality ground the novel and make it more than just a Philip K. Dick rip-off.

# Ball Four



Title: *Ball Four*  
Author: Jim Bouton  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Davis  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

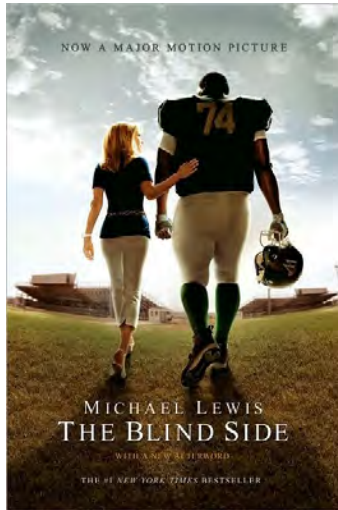
Twentieth-anniversary edition of a baseball classic, with a new epilogue by Jim Bouton.

When first published in 1970, *Ball Four* stunned the sports world. The commissioner, executives, and players were shocked. Sportswriters called author Jim Bouton a traitor and “social leper.” Baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn tried to force him to declare the book untrue. Fans, however, loved the book. And serious critics called it an important social document. Today, Jim Bouton is still not invited to Old-timer’s Days at Yankee Stadium. But his landmark book is still being read by people who don’t ordinarily follow baseball.

A book deep in the American vein, so deep in fact it is by no means a sports book” —David Halberstam

“Ball Four is a people book, not just a baseball book.” —Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *The New York Times*

# *The Blind Side*



Title: *The Blind Side*  
Author: Michael Lewis  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Exline  
BOOK TWO

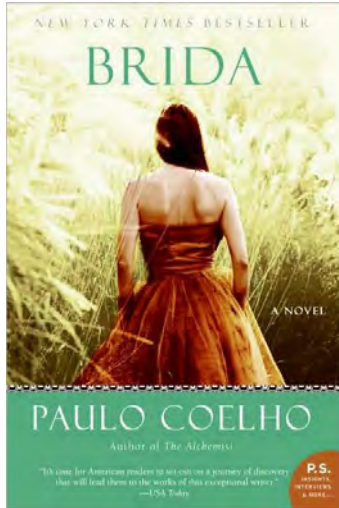
## **Publisher's Description**

The book behind the Academy award-winning film starring Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw. Opening in theaters November 20, 2009, *The Blind Side* is a feature movie based on Michael's Lewis's New York Times bestseller, produced by Alcon Entertainment and distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures. *The Blind Side* tells the inspirational story of Michael Oher, a homeless black teen taken under the wing of the Touhys, a wealthy white Memphis family. Oher's size and speed on the football field bring him accolades. But learning the game's strategy and making it as a student take the help of his new family, coaches, and tutor.

Sandra Bullock stars as Leigh Anne Touhy, the sharp-witted and compassionate matriarch. Tim McGraw stars as her sports-enthusiast husband. Oscar winner Kathy Bates plays Miss Sue, Oher's indefatigable tutor. Quinton Aaron has his first major role as Oher. John Lee Hancock, who directed *The Rookie* and *The Alamo*, writes and directs the film.

Michael Oher was just drafted in the first round of the NFL Draft by the Baltimore Ravens. This edition includes a new afterword bringing Oher's life up to date through college and the NFL.

# Brida



Title: *Brida*  
Author: Paul Coelho  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Ms. Graan  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

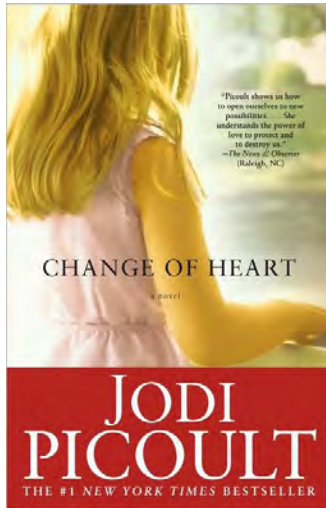
*Brida*, a young Irish girl, has long been interested in various aspects of magic but is searching for something more. Her search leads her to people of great wisdom. She meets a wise man who dwells in a forest, who teaches her to trust in the goodness of the world, and a woman who teaches her how to dance to the music of the world. As *Brida* seeks her destiny, she struggles to find a balance between her relationships and her desire to become a witch.

This enthralling novel incorporates themes that fans of Paulo Coelho will recognize and treasure. It is a tale of love, passion, mystery, and spirituality from the master storyteller.

## **From Booklist**

Coelho's loyal fan base will welcome the U.S. publication of *Brida*, another mystical pilgrimage from the master of the genre. Readers familiar with *The Alchemist* (1993), *The Zahir* (2005), and *The Witch of Portobello* (2007) will recognize the common themes—mysticism, discipleship, and a quest for fulfillment—that are incandescently woven into the fabric of most of his fiction. *Brida* O'Fern, a young Irishwoman, embarks on a voyage of self-discovery, ultimately resulting in a spiritual awakening and an acceptance of her own supernatural powers. While seeking initiation into the Tradition of the Moon, an ancient Wiccan ritual, she also discovers her soul mate and learns that love is the most divinely liberating emotion to be recognized and valued on the path to true wisdom and knowledge. Slighter than some of Coelho's philosophically meatier novels, *Brida* is still a journey well worth taking.

# Change of Heart



Title: *Change of Heart*  
Author: Jodi Picoult  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Dillon  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

The acclaimed #1 New York Times bestselling author presents a spellbinding tale of a mother's tragic loss and one man's last chance at gaining salvation.

Can we save ourselves, or do we rely on others to do it? Is what we believe always the truth?

One moment June Nealon was happily looking forward to years full of laughter and adventure with her family, and the next, she was staring into a future that was as empty as her heart. Now her life is a waiting game. Waiting for time to heal her wounds, waiting for justice. In short, waiting for a miracle to happen.

For Shay Bourne, life holds no more surprises. The world has given him nothing, and he has nothing to offer the world. In a heartbeat, though, something happens that changes everything for him. Now, he has one last chance for salvation, and it lies with June's eleven-year-old daughter, Claire. But between Shay and Claire stretches an ocean of bitter regrets, past crimes, and the rage of a mother who has lost her child.

Would you give up your vengeance against someone you hate if it meant saving someone you love?

Would you want your dreams to come true if it meant granting your enemy's dying wish?

Once again, Jodi Picoult mesmerizes and enthralls readers with this story of redemption, justice, and love.

# *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right*



Title: *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right*

Author: Atul Gawande

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Ramseyer

BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

*A New York Times Bestseller*

In his latest bestseller, Atul Gawande shows what the simple idea of the checklist reveals about the complexity of our lives and how we can deal with it.

The modern world has given us stupendous know-how. Yet avoidable failures continue to plague us in health care, government, the law, the financial industry—in almost every realm of organized activity. And the reason is simple: the volume and complexity of knowledge today has exceeded our ability as individuals to properly deliver it to people—consistently, correctly, safely. We train longer, specialize more, use ever-advancing technologies, and still we fail. Atul Gawande makes a compelling argument that we can do better, using the simplest of methods: the checklist. In riveting stories, he reveals what checklists can do, what they can't, and how they could bring about striking improvements in a variety of fields, from medicine and disaster recovery to professions and businesses of all kinds. And the insights are making a difference. Already, a simple surgical checklist from the World Health Organization designed by following the ideas described here has been adopted in more than twenty countries as a standard for care and has been heralded as “the biggest clinical invention in thirty years” (The Independent).

# Crossing



Title: *Crossing*  
Author: Andrew Xia Fukuda  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Morford  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

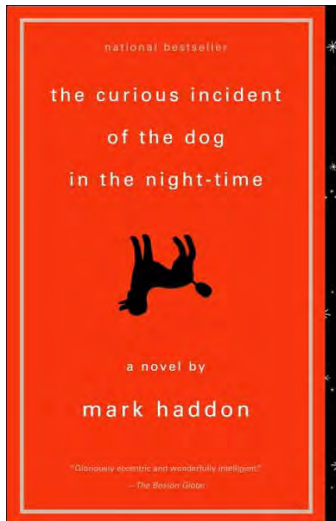
A loner in his all-white high school, Chinese-born Xing (pronounced “Shing”) is a wallflower longing for acceptance. His isolation is intensified by his increasingly awkward and undeniable crush on his only friend, the beautiful and brilliant Naomi Lee.

Xing’s quiet adolescent existence is rattled when a series of disappearances rock his high school and fear ripples through the blue collar community in which he lives.

Amidst the chaos surrounding him, only Xing, alone on the sidelines of life, takes notice of some peculiar sightings around town. He begins to investigate with the hope that if he can help put an end to the disappearances, he will finally win the acceptance for which he has longed. However, as Xing draws closer to unveiling the identity of the abductor, he senses a noose of suspicion tightening around his own neck.

While Xing races to solve the mystery and clear his name, *Crossing* hurtles readers towards a chilling climax.

# *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*



Title: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

Author: Mark Haddon

Description: Fiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Compton

BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

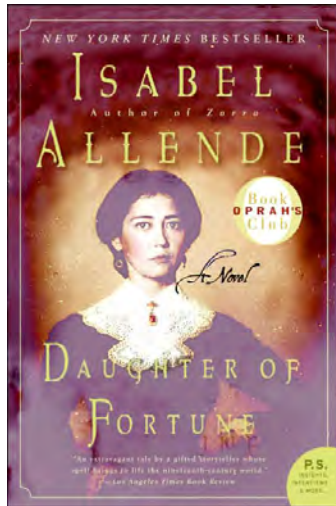
Narrated by a fifteen-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling novel weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story, and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions.

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, Christopher is autistic. Everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning for him. At fifteen, Christopher's carefully constructed world falls apart when he finds his neighbour's dog Wellington impaled on a garden fork, and he is initially blamed for the killing.

Christopher decides that he will track down the real killer, and turns to his favourite fictional character, the impeccably logical Sherlock Holmes, for inspiration. But the investigation leads him down some unexpected paths and ultimately brings him face to face with the dissolution of his parents' marriage. As Christopher tries to deal with the crisis within his own family, the narrative draws readers into the workings of Christopher's mind.

And herein lies the key to the brilliance of Mark Haddon's choice of narrator: The most wrenching of emotional moments are chronicled by a boy who cannot fathom emotions. The effect is dazzling, making for one of the freshest debut in years: a comedy, a tearjerker, a mystery story, a novel of exceptional literary merit that is great fun to read.

# Daughter of Fortune



Title: *Daughter of Fortune*  
Author: Isabel Allende  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Dr. Larson  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

An orphan raised in Valparaiso, Chile, by a Victorian spinster and her rigid brother, vivacious young Eliza Sommers follows her lover to California during the Gold Rush of 1849. Entering a rough-and-tumble world of new arrivals driven mad by gold fever, Eliza moves in a society of single men and prostitutes with the help of her good friend and savior, the Chinese doctor Tao Chi'en. California opens the door to a new life of freedom and independence to the young Chilean, and her search for her elusive lover gradually turns into another kind of journey. By the time she finally hears news of him, Eliza must decide who her true love really is.

‘As broad ranging and lyrical as “The House of the Spirits.”’ *Daily Telegraph*

‘A masterpiece of historical fiction.’ *New York Times*

‘An extravagant tale by a gifted storyteller whose spell brings to life the 19th century world! Entertaining and well paced!compelling.’ *Los Angeles Times*

‘It is packed with incident, rushing from one highly coloured scene to the next ! If you like your passions grand and your views panoramic, then “Daughter of Fortune” will be irresistible!you’ll find it hard not to be beguiled by the charm and ingenuity of Allende’s storytelling.’ *The Times*

# *Divergent*



Title: *Divergent*  
Author: Veronica Roth  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Reifeis  
BOOK TWO

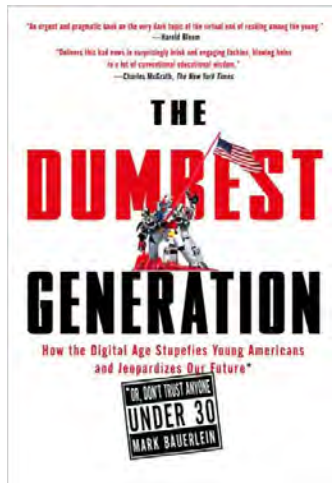
## **Publisher's Description**

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago, 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 the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.

During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles to determine who her friends really are—and where, exactly, a romance with a sometimes fascinating, sometimes infuriating boy fits into the life she's chosen. But Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. And as she discovers a growing conflict that threatens to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves . . . or it might destroy her.

Debut author Veronica Roth bursts onto the literary scene with the first book in the *Divergent* series—dystopian thrillers filled with electrifying decisions, heartbreaking betrayals, stunning consequences, and unexpected romance.

# *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future (Or, Don't Trust Anyone Under 30)*



Title: *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future (Or, Don't Trust Anyone Under 30)*

Author: Mark Bauerlein

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Ms. Sneeringer

BOOK TWO

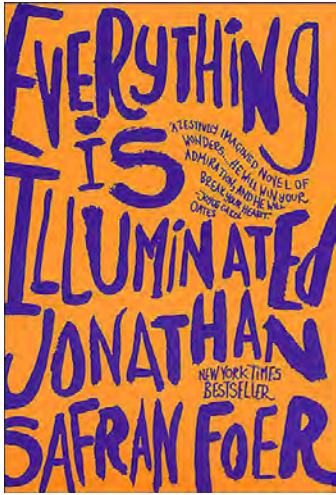
## **Publisher's Description**

This shocking, surprisingly entertaining romp into the intellectual nether regions of today's underthirty set reveals the disturbing and, ultimately, incontrovertible truth: cyberculture is turning us into a society of know-nothings.

## **From Booklist**

It's an irony so commonplace it's become almost trite: despite the information superhighway, despite a world of knowledge at their fingertips, the younger generation today is less informed, less literate, and more self-absorbed than any that has preceded it. But why? According to the author, an English professor at Emory University, there are plenty of reasons. The immediacy and intimacy of social-networking sites have focused young people's Internet use on themselves and their friends. The material they're studying in school (such as the Civil War or *The Great Gatsby*) seems boring because it isn't happening right this second and isn't about them. They're using the Internet not as a learning tool but as a communications tool: instant messaging, e-mail, chat, blogs. And the language of Internet communication, with its peculiar spelling, grammar, and punctuation, actually encourages illiteracy by making it socially acceptable. It wouldn't be going too far to call this book the *Why Johnny Can't Read* for the digital age. Some will disagree vehemently; others will nod sagely, muttering that they knew it all along.

# Everything is Illuminated



Title: Einstein: *Everything is Illuminated*

Author: Jonathan Foer

Description: Fiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Wuorinen

BOOK TWO

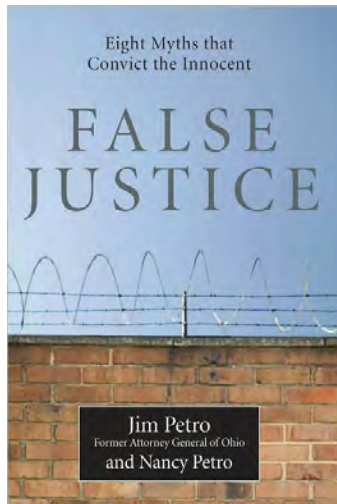
## **Publisher's Description**

With only a yellowing photograph in hand, a young man -- also named Jonathan Safran Foer -- sets out to find the woman who may or may not have saved his grandfather from the Nazis. Accompanied by an old man haunted by memories of the war; an amorous dog named Sammy Davis, Junior, Junior; and the unforgettable Alex, a young Ukrainian translator who speaks in a sublimely butchered English, Jonathan is led on a quixotic journey over a devastated landscape and into an unexpected past.

## **Amazon.com Review**

The simplest thing would be to describe *Everything Is Illuminated*, Jonathan Safran Foer's accomplished debut, as a novel about the Holocaust. It is, but that really fails to do justice to the sheer ambition of this book. The main story is a grimly familiar one. A young Jewish American--who just happens to be called Jonathan Safran Foer--travels to the Ukraine in the hope of finding the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis. He is aided in his search by Alex Perchov, a naïve Ukrainian translator, Alex's grandfather (also called Alex), and a flatulent mongrel dog named Sammy Davis Jr. Jr. On their journey through Eastern Europe's obliterated landscape they unearth facts about the Nazi atrocities and the extent of Ukrainian complicity that have implications for Perchov as well as Safran Foer. This narrative is not, however, recounted from (the character) Jonathan Safran Foer's perspective. It is relayed through a series of letters that Alex sends to Foer. These are written in the kind of broken Russo-English normally reserved for Bond villains or Latka from *Taxi*. Interspersed between these letters are fragments of a novel by Safran Foer--a wonderfully imagined, almost magical realist, account of life in the shtetl before the Nazis destroyed it. These are in turn commented on by Alex, creating an additional metafictional angle to the tale. If all this sounds a little daunting, don't be put off; Safran Foer is an extremely funny as well as intelligent writer who combines some of the best Jewish folk yarns since Isaac Bashevis Singer with a quite heartbreaking meditation on love, friendship, and loss.

# *False Justice: Eight Myths that Convict the Innocent*



Title: *False Justice: Eight Myths that Convict the Innocent*

Author: Jim and Nancy Petro

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mrs. Daniel

BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

Former Ohio Attorney General crusades against wrongful conviction and shows how citizens can prevent this terrifyingly common miscarriage of justice.

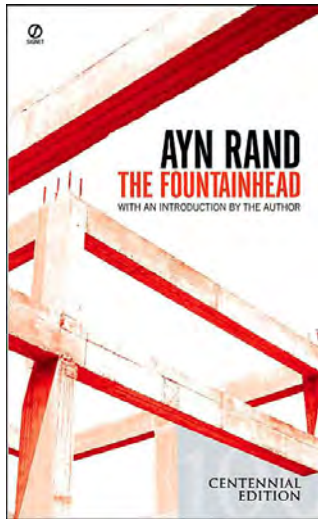
“Wrongful criminal conviction is much more frequent than most Americans believe. The thought of imprisoned innocent people haunted me. I became determined to try to do something about it.” - Jim Petro, Former Attorney General of Ohio

The flaws in America's execution of justice lead to an unacceptable number of wrongful criminal convictions. Jim Petro was confronted with this issue when the guilt of several convicts serving life sentences was called into question. In *False Justice*, Jim and Nancy Petro detail and challenge eight myths of justice:

“Everyone in prison claims innocence.” “Our system almost never convicts an innocent person.” “Only the guilty confess.” “Wrongful convictions are caused by innocent human error.” “An eyewitness is the best testimony.” “Conviction errors get corrected on appeal.” “It dishonors the victim to question a conviction.” “If the justice system has problems, the pros will fix them.”

*False Justice* corrects these common misunderstandings with an important truth: true justice requires constant vigilance and is the responsibility every citizen.

# *The Fountainhead*



Title: *The Fountainhead*  
Author: Ayn Rand  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Bening  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

A special edition hardcover in celebration of Ayn Rand's centennial.

When it was first published in 1943, *The Fountainhead*--containing Ayn Rand's daringly original literary vision with the seeds of her groundbreaking philosophy, Objectivism--won immediate worldwide acclaim. This instant classic is the story of an intransigent young architect, his violent battle against conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with a beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him. This centennial edition of *The Fountainhead*, celebrating the controversial and eduring legacy of its author, features an afterword by Rand's literary executor, Leonard Peikoff, offering some of Ayn Rand's personal notes on the development of her masterwork.

## **Amazon.com Review**

*The Fountainhead* has become an enduring piece of literature, more popular now than when published in 1943. On the surface, it is a story of one man, Howard Roark, and his struggles as an architect in the face of a successful rival, Peter Keating, and a newspaper columnist, Ellsworth Toohey. But the book addresses a number of universal themes: the strength of the individual, the tug between good and evil, the threat of fascism. The confrontation of those themes, along with the amazing stroke of Rand's writing, combine to give this book its enduring influence.

# *The Glass Castle*



Title: *The Glass Castle*  
Author: Jeanette Walls  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Reifeis  
BOOK ONE

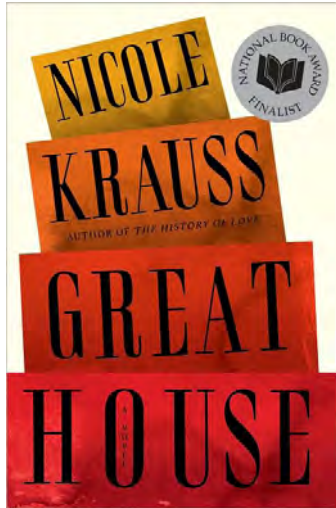
## **Publisher's Description**

Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in fifteen minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever.

Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town -- and the family -- Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

What is so astonishing about Jeannette Walls is not just that she had the guts and tenacity and intelligence to get out, but that she describes her parents with such deep affection and generosity. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms. For two decades, Jeannette Walls hid her roots. Now she tells her own story. A regular contributor to MSNBC.com, she lives in New York and Long Island and is married to the writer John Taylor

# Great House



Title: *Great House*  
Author: Nicole Krauss  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Ms. Swinford  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

Finalist for the 2010 National Book Award in Fiction: A powerful, soaring novel about a stolen desk that contains the secrets, and becomes the obsession, of the lives it passes through.

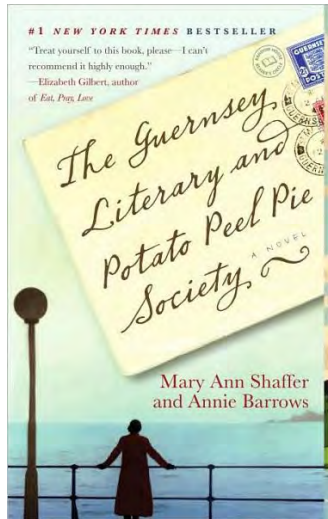
For twenty-five years, a reclusive American novelist has been writing at the desk she inherited from a young Chilean poet who disappeared at the hands of Pinochet's secret police; one day a girl claiming to be the poet's daughter arrives to take it away, sending the writer's life reeling. Across the ocean, in the leafy suburbs of London, a man caring for his dying wife discovers, among her papers, a lock of hair that unravels a terrible secret. In Jerusalem, an antiques dealer slowly reassembles his father's study, plundered by the Nazis in Budapest in 1944.

Connecting these stories is a desk of many drawers that exerts a power over those who possess it or have given it away. As the narrators of *Great House* make their confessions, the desk takes on more and more meaning, and comes finally to stand for all that has been taken from them, and all that binds them to what has disappeared.

*Great House* is a story haunted by questions: What do we pass on to our children and how do they absorb our dreams and losses? How do we respond to disappearance, destruction, and change?

Nicole Krauss has written a soaring, powerful novel about memory struggling to create a meaningful permanence in the face of inevitable loss.

# *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*



Title: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*  
Author: Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Landes  
BOOK TWO

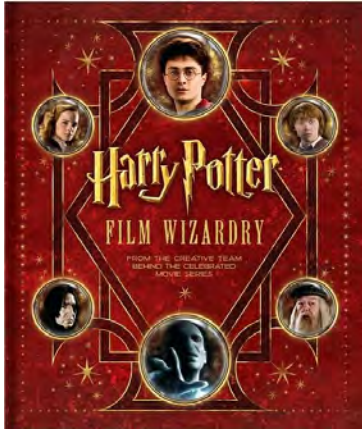
## **Publisher's Description**

January 1946: writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name.

## **From Bookmarks Magazine**

“Traditional without seeming stale, and romantic without being naïve” (San Francisco Chronicle), this epistolary novel, based on Mary Ann Shaffer’s painstaking, lifelong research, is a homage to booklovers and a nostalgic portrayal of an era. As her quirky, loveable characters cite the works of Shakespeare, Austen, and the Brontës, Shaffer subtly weaves those writers’ themes into her own narrative. However, it is the tragic stories of life under Nazi occupation that animate the novel and give it its urgency; furthermore, the novel explores the darker side of human nature without becoming maudlin. The Rocky Mountain News criticized the novel’s lighthearted tone and characterizations, but most critics agreed that, with its humor and optimism, Guernsey “affirms the power of books to nourish people during hard times” (Washington Post).

# Harry Potter Film Wizardry



Title: *Harry Potter Film Wizardry*

Author: Brian Sibley

Description: Fiction

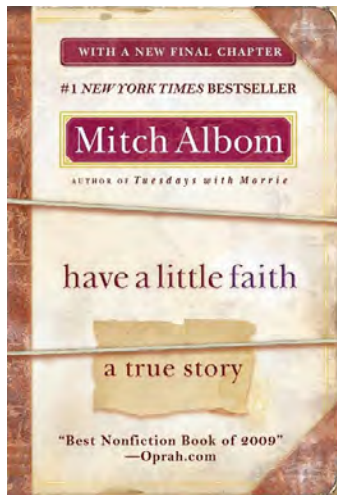
Faculty Member (2 groups): Mr. Block; Mr. Wuorinen

BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

Immerse yourself in the world of the spectacular Harry Potter film series. Learn why Yule Ball ice sculptures never melt, where Galleons, Sickles, and Knuts are really “minted,” how to get a Hippogriff to work with actors, the inspiration behind Hogwarts castle, and why Dementors move the way they do. Written and designed in collaboration with the cast and crew that brought J. K. Rowling’s celebrated novels to the silver screen, *Harry Potter: Film Wizardry* delivers an enchanting interactive experience, transporting readers to the wizarding world by sharing filmmaking secrets, unpublished photography and artwork, and exclusive stories from the stars. Full of removable facsimile reproductions of props and paper ephemera from the movies, this collectible volume offers a privileged look at the Harry Potter films and the talented group of Muggles that has made true movie magic.

# *Have a Little Faith*

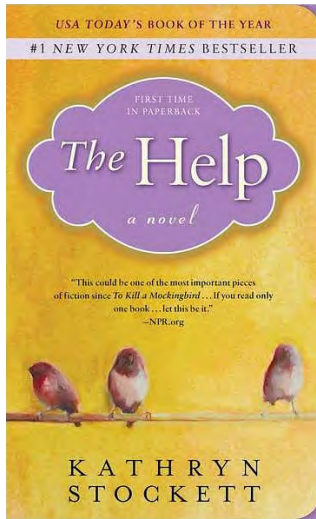


Title: *Have a Little Faith*  
Author: Mitch Albom  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Street  
BOOK ONE

## **From Publishers Weekly**

*Starred Review.* Albom delivers a command audio performance. He brings his two clergymen-protagonists—an elderly rabbi from Albom’s home synagogue and an African-American pastor leading a ministry to Detroit’s homeless population—to vivid life and conveys their messages of faith with sensitivity and respect. The audio’s most memorable moments feature the humility-and eccentricity-of the two spiritual leaders who, despite their deep religious commitment, refuse to be placed on a pedestal. From the ail-ing Jewish leader breaking out into whimsical songs in the middle of his grueling medical treatments and his Christian counterpart savoring the joys of barbecuing, Albom’s characterizations brim with humor and compassion.

# The Help



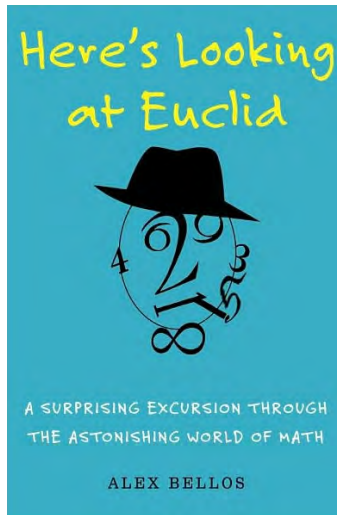
Title: *The Help*  
Author: Kathryn Stockett  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Ms. Hermann  
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

The wildly popular New York Times bestseller and reading group favorite.

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town...

# *Here's Looking at Euclid: From Counting Ants to Games of Chance— An Awe-Inspiring Journey Through the World of Numbers*



Title: *Here's Looking at Euclid: From Counting Ants to Games of Chance— An Awe-Inspiring Journey Through the World of Numbers*

Author: Alex Bellos

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Olexio

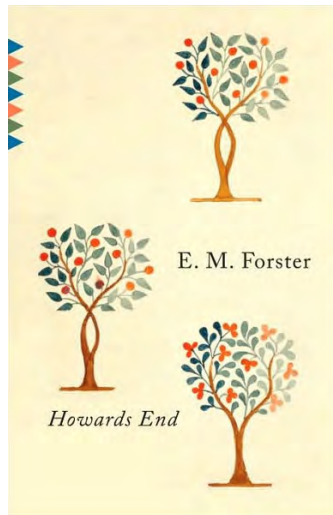
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

Too often math gets a bad rap, characterized as dry and difficult. But, Alex Bellos says, “math can be inspiring and brilliantly creative. Mathematical thought is one of the great achievements of the human race, and arguably the foundation of all human progress. The world of mathematics is a remarkable place.” Bellos has traveled all around the globe and has plunged into history to uncover fascinating stories of mathematical achievement, from the breakthroughs of Euclid, the greatest mathematician of all time, to the creations of the Zen master of origami, one of the hottest areas of mathematical work today. Taking us into the wilds of the Amazon, he tells the story of a tribe there who can count only to five and reports on the latest findings about the math instinct—including the revelation that ants can actually count how many steps they’ve taken. Journeying to the Bay of Bengal, he interviews a Hindu sage about the brilliant mathematical insights of the Buddha, while in Japan he visits the godfather of Sudoku and introduces the brainteasing delights of mathematical games. Exploring the mysteries of randomness, he explains why it is impossible for our iPods to truly randomly select songs. In probing the many intrigues of that most beloved of numbers, pi, he visits with two brothers so obsessed with the elusive number that they built a supercomputer in their Manhattan apartment to study it. Throughout, the journey is enhanced with a wealth of intriguing illustrations, such as of the clever puzzles known as tangrams and the crochet creation of an American math professor who suddenly realized one day that she could knit a representation of higher dimensional space that no one had been able to visualize.

Whether writing about how algebra solved Swedish traffic problems, visiting the Mental Calculation World Cup to disclose the secrets of lightning calculation, or exploring the links between pineapples and beautiful teeth, Bellos is a wonderfully engaging guide who never fails to delight even as he edifies. *Here's Looking at Euclid* is a rare gem that brings the beauty of math to life.

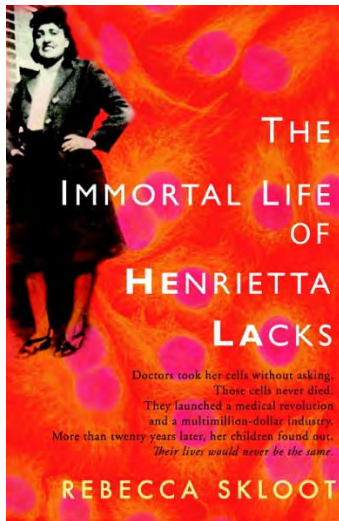
# Howard's End



Title: *Howard's End*  
Author: E.M. Forster  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Dr. Martin  
BOOK TWO

First published in 1910, *Howards End* is the novel that earned E. M. Forster recognition as a major writer. At its heart lie two families—the wealthy and business-minded Wilcoxes and the cultured and idealistic Schlegels. When the beautiful and independent Helen Schlegel begins an impetuous affair with the ardent Paul Wilcox, a series of events is sparked—some very funny, some very tragic—that results in a dispute over who will inherit *Howards End*, the Wilcoxes' charming country home. As much about the clash between individual wills as the clash between the sexes and the classes, *Howards End* is a novel whose central tenet, “Only connect,” remains a powerful prescription for modern life.

# *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*



Title: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Author: Rebecca Skloot

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Dr. Martin

BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they’d weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.

Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

Now Rebecca Skloot takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the “colored” ward of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950s to stark white laboratories with freezers full of HeLa cells; from Henrietta’s small, dying hometown of Clover, Virginia—a land of wooden slave quarters, faith healings, and voodoo—to East Baltimore today, where her children and grandchildren live and struggle with the legacy of her cells.

Henrietta’s family did not learn of her “immortality” until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. And though the cells had launched a multimillion-dollar industry that sells human biological materials, her family never saw any of the profits. As Rebecca Skloot so brilliantly shows, the story of the Lacks family—past and present—is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of.

Over the decade it took to uncover this story, Rebecca became enmeshed in the lives of the Lacks family—especially Henrietta’s daughter Deborah, who was devastated to learn about her mother’s cells. She was consumed with questions: Had scientists cloned her mother? Did it hurt her when researchers infected her cells with viruses and shot them into space? What happened to her sister, Elsie, who died in a mental institution at the age of fifteen? And if her mother was so important to medicine, why couldn’t her children afford health insurance?

Intimate in feeling, astonishing in scope, and impossible to put down, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* captures the beauty and drama of scientific discovery, as well as its human consequences.

# *The Information: A History, A Theory, A Flood*

The Information	The Information
The Information	The Information
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The Information	The Information
The Information	By James Gleick
The Information	By James Gleick
The Information	By James Gleick
A History,	By James Gleick
The Information	By James Gleick
A Theory,	By James Gleick
The Information	By James Gleick
A Flood	By James Gleick
The Information	By James Gleick
The Information	By James Gleick
The Information	By James Gleick
The Information	By James Gleick
The Information	Author of <i>Chaos</i>

Title: *The Information: A History, A Theory, A Flood*

Author: James Gleick

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Kerr

BOOK TWO

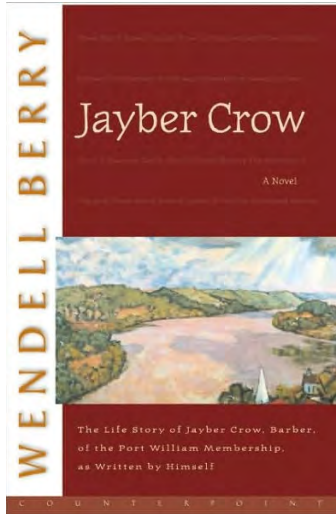
## **Publisher's Description**

James Gleick, the author of the best sellers *Chaos* and *Genius*, now brings us a work just as astonishing and masterly: a revelatory chronicle and meditation that shows how information has become the modern era's defining quality—the blood, the fuel, the vital principle of our world.

The story of information begins in a time profoundly unlike our own, when every thought and utterance vanishes as soon as it is born. From the invention of scripts and alphabets to the long-misunderstood talking drums of Africa, Gleick tells the story of information technologies that changed the very nature of human consciousness. He provides portraits of the key figures contributing to the inexorable development of our modern understanding of information: Charles Babbage, the idiosyncratic inventor of the first great mechanical computer; Ada Byron, the brilliant and doomed daughter of the poet, who became the first true programmer; pivotal figures like Samuel Morse and Alan Turing; and Claude Shannon, the creator of information theory itself.

And then the information age arrives. Citizens of this world become experts willy-nilly: aficionados of bits and bytes. And we sometimes feel we are drowning, swept by a deluge of signs and signals, news and images, blogs and tweets. *The Information* is the story of how we got here and where we are heading.

# Jayber Crow

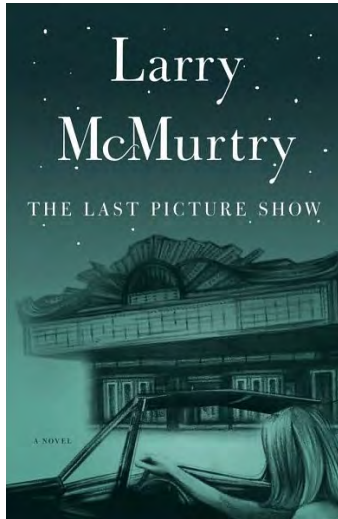


Title: *Jayber Crow*  
Author: Wendell Berry  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Hogan  
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

For thirty-nine years Wendell Berry has brought us stories from the fictional town of Port William, Kentucky. The latest, *Jayber Crow*, is the story of a man's love for his community and his abiding and unrequited love for Mattie Chatham, a good woman who had too early made one bad mistake. Sent to an orphanage at the age of ten, Jayber grows up knowing of loneliness and want, and learns how to be a watchful observer of human goodness and frailty. With the flood of 1937 he returns to his native Port William to become the town's barber. Slowly, patiently, the observer becomes participant. This is a book about Heaven, writes Jayber, but I must say too that it has been a close call. For I have wondered sometimes if it would not finally turn out to be a book about Hell—where we fail to love one another, where we hate and destroy one another for reasons abundantly provided or for righteousness' sake or for pleasure, where we destroy the things we need the most, where we see no hope and have no faith...where we must lose everything to know what we have had. Sounding themes of love and loss, despair and deepest joy, Berry's clear-sighted artistry in depicting the Port William membership will not soon be forgotten.

# *The Last Picture Show*

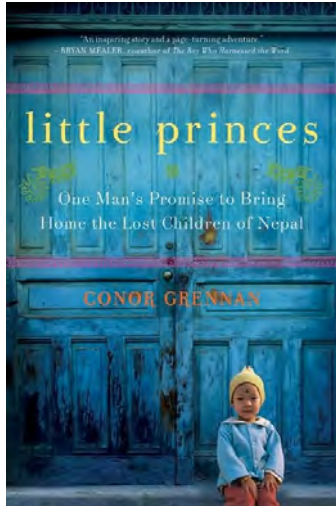


Title: *The Last Picture Show*  
Author: Larry McMurtry  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Block  
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

The Last Picture Show is one of Larry McMurtry's most powerful, memorable novels -- the basis for the enormously popular movie of the same name. Set in a small, dusty, Texas town, The Last Picture Show introduced the characters of Jacy, Duane, and Sonny: teenagers stumbling toward adulthood, discovering the beguiling mysteries of sex and the even more baffling mysteries of love. Populated by a wonderful cast of eccentrics and animated by McMurtry's wry and raucous humor, The Last Picture Show is wild, heartbreaking, and poignant -- a coming-of-age novel that resonates with the magical passion of youth.

# *Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal*



Title: *Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal*

Author: Conor Grennan

Description: Nonfiction

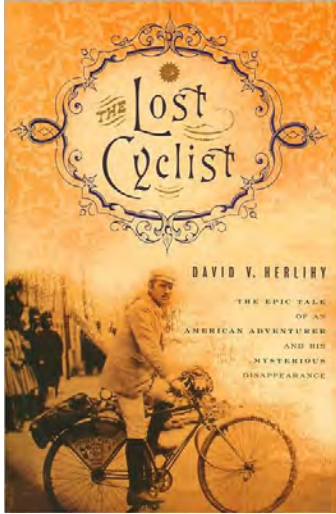
Faculty Member: Mrs. Tong

BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

The riveting story of Conor Grennan's year in Nepal reads like a cross between *Into Thin Air* and *Three Cups of Tea*. While volunteering at an orphanage, Conor discovers that the children are not orphans: they are trafficked. Despite the danger, Conor treks up dirt paths with photographs of the children, miraculously reuniting dozens of families. It's 2006 and Nepal is a country torn apart by war, greed and corruption. Caught in the middle are the Nepalese children, snatched and sold into slavery, the kidnapers promising their families that they will be taken to a safe haven from where they will eventually return. Some of the luckier ones are finally dumped in an orphanage, only to be found by Conor, an unlikely philanthropist. Conor's search for intrepid adventure on the cusp of 30 soon becomes a dangerous and haphazard mission, buoyed by the energy and adoration of the children. Conor nevertheless vows to do everything he can, including risk his own life, to bring these lost children back to their families. The process is painstaking and chaotic, involving weeks of trekking across inhospitable peaks and surmounting the infinite cultural and language barriers, but the children's raucous happiness on seeing photos of their parents after years of separation, abandonment and fear make the wounds, the danger, the freezing cold and the food poisoning pale into insignificance. An epic thriller and also a love story, *Little Princes* is as full of life and hope as the children Conor's organisation, Next Generation Nepal, continues to save every day.

# *The Lost Cyclist: The Epic Tale of an American Adventurer and His Mysterious Disappearance*



Title: *The Lost Cyclist: The Epic Tale of an American Adventurer and His Mysterious Disappearance*

Author: David Herlihy

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Olexio

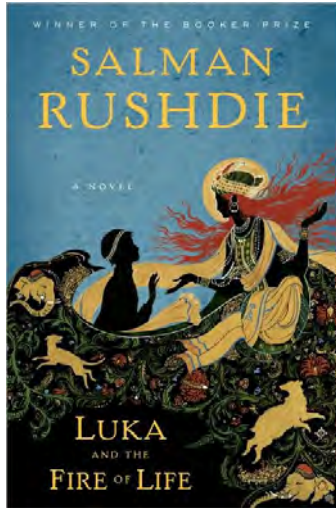
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

In the late 1880s, Frank Lenz of Pittsburgh, a renowned high-wheel racer and long-distance tourist, dreamed of cycling around the world. He finally got his chance by recasting himself as a champion of the downsized “safety-bicycle” with inflatable tires, the forerunner of the modern road bike that was about to become wildly popular. In the spring of 1892 he quit his accounting job and gamely set out west to cover twenty thousand miles over three continents as a correspondent for *Outing* magazine. Two years later, after having survived countless near disasters and unimaginable hardships, he approached Europe for the final leg.

He never made it. His mysterious disappearance in eastern Turkey sparked an international outcry and compelled *Outing* to send William Sachtleben, another larger-than-life cyclist, on Lenz's trail. Bringing to light a wealth of information, Herlihy's gripping narrative captures the soaring joys and constant dangers accompanying the bicycle adventurer in the days before paved roads and automobiles. This untold story culminates with Sachtleben's heroic effort to bring Lenz's accused murderers to justice, even as troubled Turkey teetered on the edge of collapse.

# *Luka and the Fire of Life*



Title: *Luka and the Fire of Life*  
Author: Salman Rushdie  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Farrenkopf  
BOOK TWO

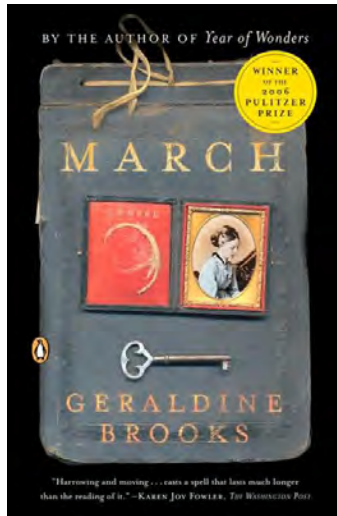
## **Publisher's Description**

With the same dazzling imagination and love of language that have made Salman Rushdie one of the great storytellers of our time, *Luka and the Fire of Life* revisits the magic-infused, intricate world he first brought to life in the modern classic *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*. This breathtaking new novel centers on Luka, Haroun's younger brother, who must save his father from certain doom.

For Rashid Khalifa, the legendary storyteller of *Kahani*, has fallen into deep sleep from which no one can wake him. To keep his father from slipping away entirely, Luka must travel to the Magic World and steal the ever-burning Fire of Life. Thus begins a quest replete with unlikely creatures, strange alliances, and seemingly insurmountable challenges as Luka and an assortment of enchanted companions race through peril after peril, pass through the land of the Badly Behaved Gods, and reach the Fire itself, where Luka's fate, and that of his father, will be decided.

Filled with mischievous wordplay and delving into themes as universal as the power of filial love and the meaning of mortality, *Luka and the Fire of Life* is a book of wonders for all ages.

# March

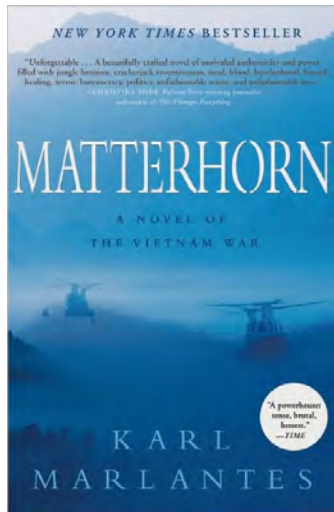


Title: *March*  
Author: Geraldine Brooks  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Ms. Daniel  
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

From Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic *Little Women*, Geraldine Brooks has animated the character of the absent father, March, and crafted a story "filled with the ache of love and marriage and with the power of war upon the mind and heart of one unforgettable man" (Sue Monk Kidd). With "pitch-perfect writing" (USA Today), Brooks follows March as he leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs. A lushly written, wholly original tale steeped in the details of another time, *March* secures Geraldine Brooks's place as a renowned author of historical fiction.

# Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War



Title: *Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War*

Author: Karl Marlantes

Description: Fiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Morford

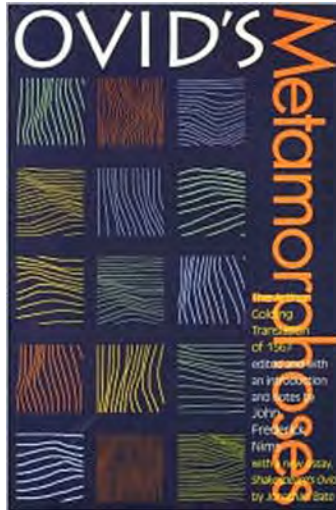
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

An incredible publishing story—written over the course of thirty years by a highly decorated Vietnam veteran, a New York Times best seller for sixteen weeks, a National Indie Next and a USA Today best seller—*Matterhorn* has been hailed as a “brilliant account of war” (New York Times Book Review). Now out in paperback, *Matterhorn* is an epic war novel in the tradition of Norman Mailer’s *The Naked and the Dead* and James Jones’s *The Thin Red Line*. It is the timeless story of a young Marine lieutenant, Waino Mellas, and his comrades in Bravo Company, who are dropped into the mountain jungle of Vietnam as boys and forced to fight their way into manhood. Standing in their way are not merely the North Vietnamese but also monsoon rain and mud, leeches and tigers, disease and malnutrition. Almost as daunting, it turns out, are the obstacles they discover between each other: racial tension, competing ambitions, and duplicitous superior officers. But when the company finds itself surrounded and outnumbered by a massive enemy regiment, the Marines are thrust into the raw and all-consuming terror of combat. The experience will change them forever.

*Matterhorn* is a visceral and spellbinding novel about what it is like to be a young man at war. It is an unforgettable novel that transforms the tragedy of Vietnam into a powerful and universal story of courage, camaraderie, and sacrifice: a parable not only of the war in Vietnam but of all war, and a testament to the redemptive power of literature.

# Metamorphoses



Title: *Metamorphoses* (selections as assigned by Mr. Ely)

Author: Ovid

Description: Nonfiction

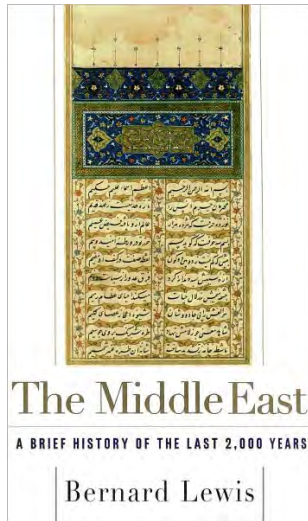
Faculty Member: Mr. Ely

BOOK TWO

## Publisher's Description

Perhaps one of the most influential works ever written, “The Metamorphoses” is an epic and narrative poem by the Roman writer Ovid. Finished in 8 AD, this work, organized into fifteen books, combines a stunning arrangement of mythological tales that are masterfully connected by a theme of transformation, most often through love. Beginning with the world’s creation, the poet utilizes unparalleled wit to describe the history of the world, incorporating the most commonly known Greek and Roman myths and legends of his time in a style both dramatic and mischievous.

# *The Middle East*

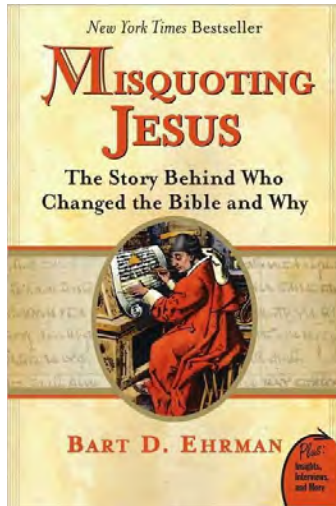


Title: *The Middle East*  
Author: Bernard Lewis  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Dr. Larson  
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

In a sweeping and vivid survey, renowned historian Bernard Lewis charts the history of the Middle East over the last 2,000 years, from the birth of Christianity through the modern era, focusing on the successive transformations that have shaped it. Elegantly written, scholarly yet accessible, *The Middle East* is the most comprehensive single volume history of the region ever written from the world's foremost authority on the Middle East.

# *Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*



Title: *Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*

Author: Bart D. Ehrman

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Dr. Heale

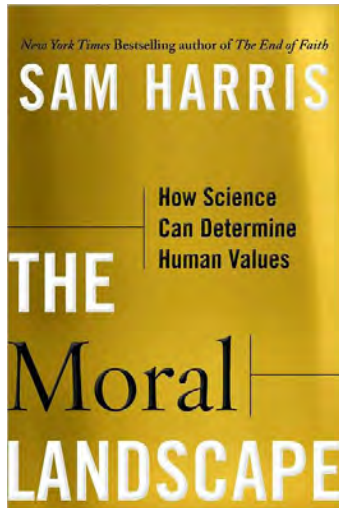
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

For almost 1,500 years, the New Testament manuscripts were copied by hand—and mistakes and intentional changes abound in the competing manuscript versions. Religious and biblical scholar Bart Ehrman makes the provocative case that many of our widely held beliefs concerning the divinity of Jesus, the Trinity, and the divine origins of the Bible itself are the results of both intentional and accidental alterations by scribes.

In this compelling and fascinating book, Ehrman shows where and why changes were made in our earliest surviving manuscripts, explaining for the first time how the many variations of our cherished biblical stories came to be, and why only certain versions of the stories qualify for publication in the Bibles we read today. Ehrman frames his account with personal reflections on how his study of the Greek manuscripts made him abandon his once ultra-conservative views of the Bible.

# *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values*

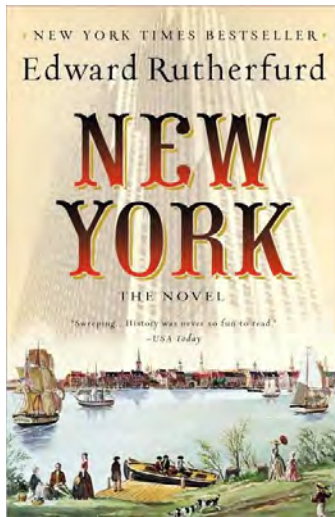


Title: *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values*  
Author: Sam Harris  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Leet  
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

Sam Harris's first book, *The End of Faith*, ignited a worldwide debate about the validity of religion. In the aftermath, Harris discovered that most people—from religious fundamentalists to nonbelieving scientists—agree on one point: science has nothing to say on the subject of human values. Indeed, our failure to address questions of meaning and morality through science has now become the most common justification for religious faith. It is also the primary reason why so many secularists and religious moderates feel obligated to “respect” the hardened superstitions of their more devout neighbors. In this explosive new book, Sam Harris tears down the wall between scientific facts and human values, arguing that most people are simply mistaken about the relationship between morality and the rest of human knowledge. Harris urges us to think about morality in terms of human and animal well-being, viewing the experiences of conscious creatures as peaks and valleys on a “moral landscape.” Because there are definite facts to be known about where we fall on this landscape, Harris foresees a time when science will no longer limit itself to merely describing what people do in the name of “morality”; in principle, science should be able to tell us what we ought to do to live the best lives possible. Bringing a fresh perspective to age-old questions of right and wrong and good and evil, Harris demonstrates that we already know enough about the human brain and its relationship to events in the world to say that there are right and wrong answers to the most pressing questions of human life. Because such answers exist, moral relativism is simply false—and comes at increasing cost to humanity. And the intrusions of religion into the sphere of human values can be finally repelled: for just as there is no such thing as Christian physics or Muslim algebra, there can be no Christian or Muslim morality. Using his expertise in philosophy and neuroscience, along with his experience on the front lines of our “culture wars,” Harris delivers a game-changing book about the future of science and about the real basis of human cooperation.

# *New York*



Title: *New York*  
Author: Edward Rutherfurd  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Exline  
BOOK ONE

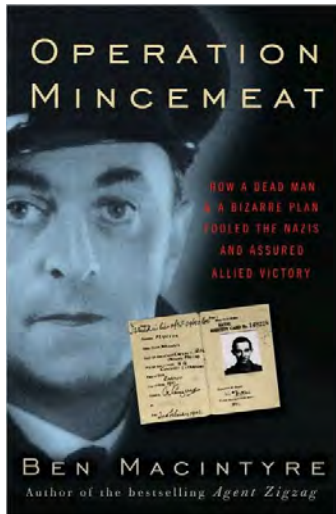
## **Publisher's Description**

Winner of the David J. Langum, Sr., Prize in American Historical Fiction

Named one of the best books of the year by The Washington Post and “Required Reading” by the New York Post

Edward Rutherfurd celebrates America's greatest city in a rich, engrossing saga, weaving together tales of families rich and poor, native-born and immigrant—a cast of fictional and true characters whose fates rise and fall and rise again with the city's fortunes. From this intimate perspective we see New York's humble beginnings as a tiny Indian fishing village, the arrival of Dutch and British merchants, the Revolutionary War, the emergence of the city as a great trading and financial center, the convulsions of the Civil War, the excesses of the Gilded Age, the explosion of immigration in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the trials of World War II, the near demise of New York in the 1970s and its roaring rebirth in the 1990s, and the attack on the World Trade Center. A stirring mix of battle, romance, family struggles, and personal triumphs, *New York: The Novel* gloriously captures the search for freedom and opportunity at the heart of our nation's history.

# *Operation Mincemeat: How a Dead Man and a Bizarre Plan Fooled the Nazis and Assured an Allied Victory*



Title: *Operation Mincemeat: How a Dead Man and a Bizarre Plan Fooled the Nazis and Assured an Allied Victory*

Author: Ben Macintyre

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Rahe

BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

Ben Macintyre's *Agent Zigzag* was hailed as "rollicking, spellbinding" (New York Times), "wildly improbable but entirely true" (Entertainment Weekly), and, quite simply, "the best book ever written" (Boston Globe). In his new book, *Operation Mincemeat*, he tells an extraordinary story that will delight his legions of fans.

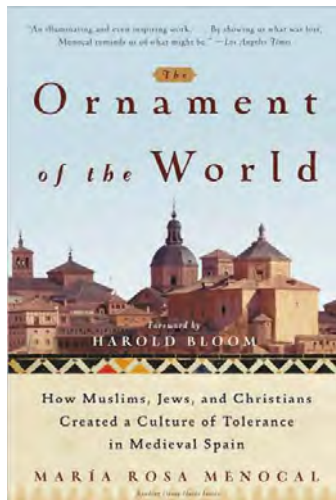
In 1943, from a windowless basement office in London, two brilliant intelligence officers conceived a plan that was both simple and complicated— *Operation Mincemeat*. The purpose? To deceive the Nazis into thinking that Allied forces were planning to attack southern Europe by way of Greece or Sardinia, rather than Sicily, as the Nazis had assumed, and the Allies ultimately chose.

Charles Cholmondeley of MI5 and the British naval intelligence officer Ewen Montagu could not have been more different. Cholmondeley was a dreamer seeking adventure. Montagu was an aristocratic, detail-oriented barrister. But together they were the perfect team and created an ingenious plan: Get a corpse, equip it with secret (but false and misleading) papers concerning the invasion, then drop it off the coast of Spain where German spies would, they hoped, take the bait. The idea was approved by British intelligence officials, including Ian Fleming (creator of James Bond). Winston Churchill believed it might ring true to the Axis and help bring victory to the Allies.

Filled with spies, double agents, rogues, fearless heroes, and one very important corpse, the story of *Operation Mincemeat* reads like an international thriller.

Unveiling never-before-released material, Ben Macintyre brings the reader right into the minds of intelligence officers, their moles and spies, and the German Abwehr agents who suffered the "twin frailties of wishfulness and yesmanship." He weaves together the eccentric personalities of Cholmondeley and Montagu and their near-impossible feats into a riveting adventure that not only saved thousands of lives but paved the way for a pivotal battle in Sicily and, ultimately, Allied success in the war.

# *Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*



Title: *Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*

Author: Maria Rosa Menocal

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mrs. Haque

BOOK TWO

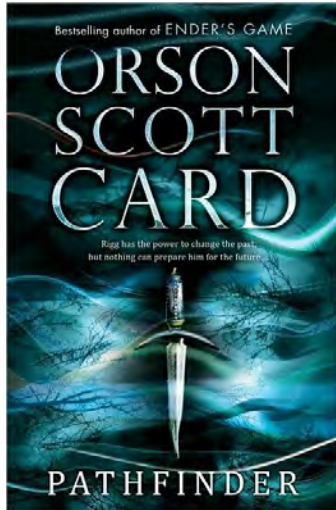
## **Publisher's Description**

Widely hailed as a revelation of a “lost” golden age, this history brings to vivid life the rich and thriving culture of medieval Spain where, for more than seven centuries, Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived together in an atmosphere of tolerance, and literature, science, and the arts flourished. of photos. 3 maps.

## **From Booklist**

In the eighth century, the Abbasids took control of the Islamic empire from the once-powerful Umayyads. Abd al-Rahman, an Umayyad, fled to Spain and founded al-Andalus. There Jews, Christians, and Muslims lived together in relative peace and equality for centuries. The Andalusian kingdom has been largely ignored by Western and Eastern historians alike, but Menocal argues persuasively that to see the Middle Ages through an Andalusian lens reveals no dark ages among them but instead “a whole series of golden ages.” Indeed, from the rediscovery of Hebrew by Jews to translations of Plato and Aristotle, the Andalusians laid the groundwork for the Renaissance. The culture of tolerance slowly fell apart, of course, and has never really returned. Menocal displays a lavish sense of place that should be the envy of many novelists, telling an engaging story in detail without ever alienating the general reader. Her seductively written history serves as both a testament to past tolerance and the hope of a peaceful future. The lessons of Andalusian history surely have never been more timely.

# *Pathfinder*



Title: *Pathfinder*  
Author: Orson Scott Card  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Dr. Morris  
BOOK TWO

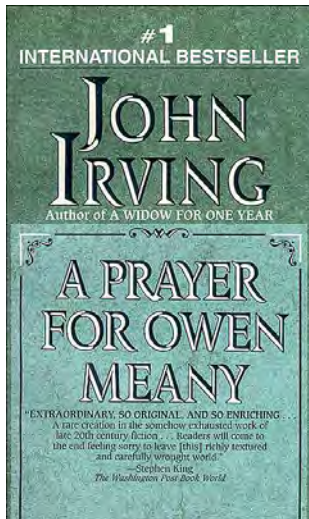
## **Publisher's Description**

A powerful secret. A dangerous path.

Rigg is well trained at keeping secrets. Only his father knows the truth about Rigg's strange talent for seeing the paths of people's pasts. But when his father dies, Rigg is stunned to learn just how many secrets Father had kept from him--secrets about Rigg's own past, his identity, and his destiny. And when Rigg discovers that he has the power not only to see the past, but also to change it, his future suddenly becomes anything but certain.

Rigg's birthright sets him on a path that leaves him caught between two factions, one that wants him crowned and one that wants him dead. He will be forced to question everything he thinks he knows, choose who to trust, and push the limits of his talent...or forfeit control of his destiny.

# *A Prayer for Owen Meany*



Title: *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

Author: John Irving

Description: Fiction

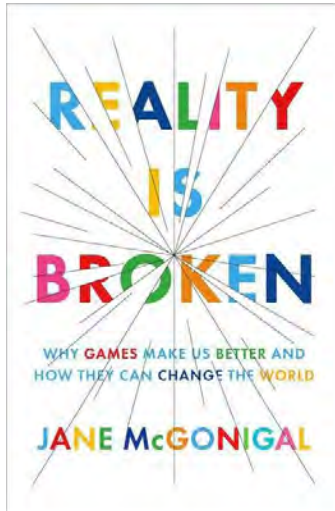
Faculty Member: Ms. Heywood

BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boys—best friends—are playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills the other boy's mother. The boy who hits the ball doesn't believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen, after that 1953 foul ball, is extraordinary and terrifying.

# *Reality is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World*



Title: *Reality is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World*

Author: Jane McGonigal

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Ms. Heywood

BOOK ONE

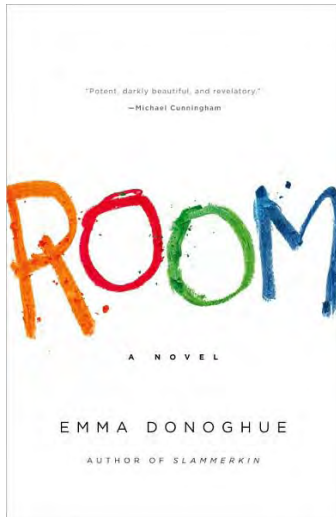
Visionary game designer Jane McGonigal reveals how we can harness the power of games to solve real-world problems and boost global happiness.

More than 174 million Americans are gamers, and the average young person in the United States will spend ten thousand hours gaming by the age of twenty-one. According to world-renowned game designer Jane McGonigal, the reason for this mass exodus to virtual worlds is that videogames are increasingly fulfilling genuine human needs. In this groundbreaking exploration of the power and future of gaming, McGonigal reveals how we can use the lessons of game design to fix what is wrong with the real world. Drawing on positive psychology, cognitive science, and sociology, *Reality Is Broken* uncovers how game designers have hit on core truths about what makes us happy and utilized these discoveries to astonishing effect in virtual environments. Videogames consistently provide the exhilarating rewards, stimulating challenges, and epic victories that are so often lacking in the real world. But why, McGonigal asks, should we use the power of games for escapist entertainment alone? Her research suggests that gamers are expert problem solvers and collaborators because they regularly cooperate with other players to overcome daunting virtual challenges, and she helped pioneer a fast-growing genre of games that aims to turn gameplay to socially positive ends.

In *Reality Is Broken*, she reveals how these new alternate reality games are already improving the quality of our daily lives, fighting social problems such as depression and obesity, and addressing vital twenty-first-century challenges-and she forecasts the thrilling possibilities that lie ahead. She introduces us to games like *World Without Oil*, a simulation designed to brainstorm-and therefore avert- the challenges of a worldwide oil shortage, and *Evoke*, a game commissioned by the World Bank Institute that sends players on missions to address issues from poverty to climate change.

McGonigal persuasively argues that those who continue to dismiss games will be at a major disadvantage in the coming years. Gamers, on the other hand, will be able to leverage the collaborative and motivational power of games in their own lives, communities, and businesses. Written for gamers and nongamers alike, *Reality Is Broken* shows us that the future will belong to those who can understand, design, and play games.

# Room



Title: *Room*

Author: Emma Donoghue

Description: Fiction

Faculty Member: Mrs. Landes

BOOK ONE

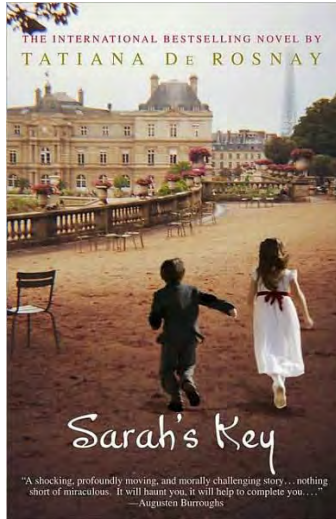
## **Publisher's Description**

To five-year-old-Jack, Room is the world. . . . It's where he was born, it's where he and his Ma eat and sleep and play and learn. At night, his Ma shuts him safely in the wardrobe, where he is meant to be asleep when Old Nick visits.

Room is home to Jack, but to Ma it's the prison where she has been held for seven years. Through her fierce love for her son, she has created a life for him in this eleven-by-eleven-foot space. But with Jack's curiosity building alongside her own desperation, she knows that Room cannot contain either much longer.

Room is a tale at once shocking, riveting, exhilarating--a story of unconquerable love in harrowing circumstances, and of the diamond-hard bond between a mother and her child.

# *Sarah's Key*



Title: *Sarah's Key*  
Author: Tatiana de Rosnay  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Ms. Hermann  
BOOK ONE

## **Product Description**

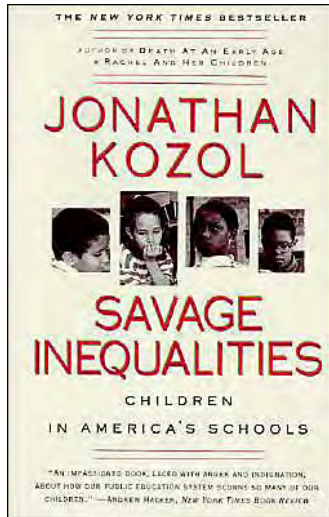
A New York Times bestseller.

Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten year-old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment, thinking that she will be back within a few hours.

Paris, May 2002: On Vel' d'Hiv's 60th anniversary, journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France's past. Through her contemporary investigation, she stumbles onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets that connect her to Sarah. Julia finds herself compelled to retrace the girl's ordeal, from that terrible term in the Vel d'Hiv', to the camps, and beyond. As she probes into Sarah's past, she begins to question her own place in France, and to reevaluate her marriage and her life.

Tatiana de Rosnay offers us a brilliantly subtle, compelling portrait of France under occupation and reveals the taboos and silence that surround this painful episode.

# *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*



Title: *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*

Author: Jonathan Kozol

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. MacElhiney

BOOK ONE

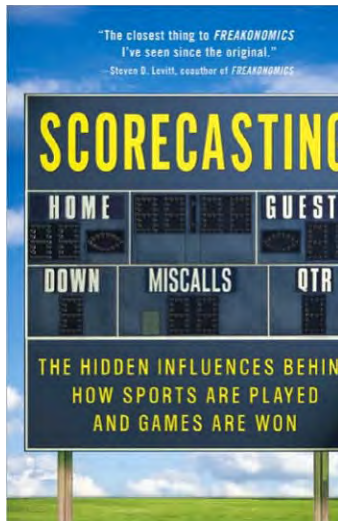
## **Publisher's Description**

National Book Award-winning author Jonathan Kozol presents his shocking account of the American educational system in this stunning New York Times bestseller.

## **From Publishers Weekly**

Kozol believes that children from poor families are cheated out of a future by grossly underequipped, understaffed and underfunded schools in U.S. inner cities and less affluent suburbs. The schools he visited between 1988 and 1990--in burnt-out Camden, N.J., Washington, D.C., New York's South Bronx, Chicago's South Side, San Antonio, Tex., and East St. Louis, Mo., awash in toxic fumes--were "95 to 99 percent nonwhite." Kozol ( *Death at an Early Age* ) found that racial segregation has intensified since 1954. Even in the suburbs, he charges, the slotting of minority children into lower "tracks" sets up a differential, two-tier system that diminishes poor children's horizons and aspirations. He lets the pupils and teachers speak for themselves, uncovering "little islands of . . . energy and hope." This important, eye-opening report is a ringing indictment of the shameful neglect that has fostered a ghetto school system in America.

# Scorecasting: *The Hidden Influences Behind How Sports Are Played and Games Are Won*



Title: *Scorecasting: The Hidden Influences Behind How Sports Are Played and Games Are Won*

Author: Tobias Moskowitz

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Ms. Graan

BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

In *Scorecasting*, University of Chicago behavioral economist Tobias Moskowitz teams up with veteran *Sports Illustrated* writer L. Jon Wertheim to overturn some of the most cherished truisms of sports, and reveal the hidden forces that shape how basketball, baseball, football, and hockey games are played, won and lost.

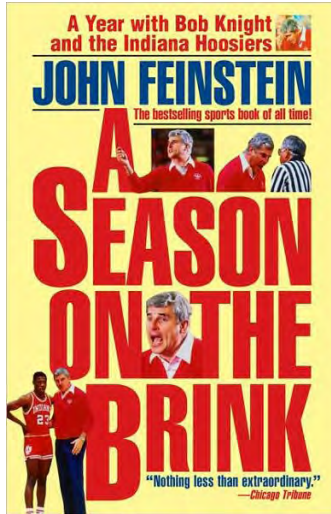
Drawing from Moskowitz's original research, as well as studies from fellow economists such as best-selling author Richard Thaler, the authors look at: the influence home-field advantage has on the outcomes of games in all sports and why it exists; the surprising truth about the universally accepted axiom that defense wins championships; the subtle biases that umpires exhibit in calling balls and strikes in key situations; the unintended consequences of referees' tendencies in every sport to "swallow the whistle," and more.

Among the insights that *Scorecasting* reveals:

- Why Tiger Woods is prone to the same mistake in high-pressure putting situations that you and I are
- Why professional teams routinely overvalue draft picks
- The myth of momentum or the "hot hand" in sports, and why so many fans, coaches, and broadcasters fervently subscribe to it
- Why NFL coaches rarely go for a first down on fourth-down situations--even when their reluctance to do so reduces their chances of winning.

In an engaging narrative that takes us from the putting greens of Augusta to the grid iron of a small parochial high school in Arkansas, *Scorecasting* will forever change how you view the game, whatever your favorite sport might be.

# *Season on the Brink*



Title: *Season on the Brink*  
Author: John Feinstein  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Davis  
BOOK TWO

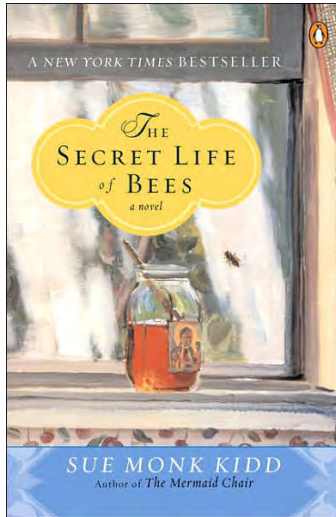
## **Publisher's Description**

A Season on the Brink chronicles the basketball season that John Feinstein spent following the Indiana Hoosiers and their fiery coach, Bob Knight.

Knight granted Feinstein an unprecedented inside look at college basketball -- with complete access to every moment of the season. Feinstein saw and heard it all -- practices, team meetings, strategy sessions, and mid-game huddles -- during Knight's struggle to avoid a losing season.

A Season on the Brink not only captures the drama and pressure of big-time college basketball but paints a vivid portrait of a complex, brilliant coach walking a fine line between genius and madness.

# *The Secret Life of Bees*



Title: *The Secret Life of Bees*  
Author: Sue Monk Kidd  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Carlin  
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

Sue Monk Kidd's ravishing debut novel has stolen the hearts of reviewers and readers alike with its strong, assured voice. Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the town's fiercest racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There they are taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna who presides over their household. This is a remarkable story about divine female power and the transforming power of love--a story that women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

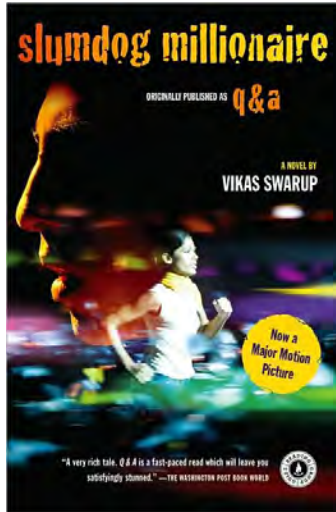
# *Sense and Sensibility*



Title: *Sense and Sensibility*  
Author: Jane Austen  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Ms. Sneeringer  
BOOK ONE

Published in 1811, *Sense and Sensibility* has delighted generations of readers with its masterfully crafted portrait of two sisters, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood. Forced to leave their home after their father's death, Elinor and Marianne must rely on making good marriages as their means of support. But unscrupulous cads, meddling matriarchs, and various guileless and artful women impinge on their chances for love and happiness. The novelist Elizabeth Bowen wrote, "The technique of [Jane Austen's novels] is beyond praise....Her mastery of the art she chose, or that chose her, is complete."

# *Slumdog Millionaire*



Title: *Slumdog Millionaire*  
Author: Vikas Swarup  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Bening  
BOOK TWO

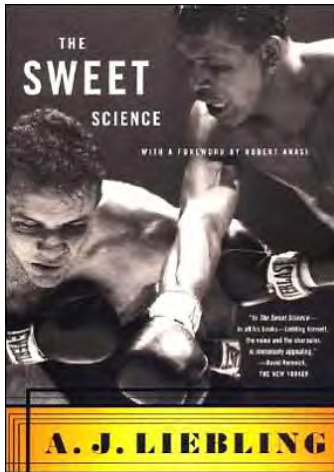
## **Publisher's Description**

Vikas Swarup's spectacular debut novel opens in a jail cell in Mumbai, India, where Ram Mohammad Thomas is being held after correctly answering all twelve questions on India's biggest quiz show, Who Will Win a Billion? It is hard to believe that a poor orphan who has never read a newspaper or gone to school could win such a contest. But through a series of exhilarating tales Ram explains to his lawyer how episodes in his life gave him the answer to each question.

Ram takes us on an amazing review of his own history -- from the day he was found as a baby in the clothes donation box of a Delhi church to his employment by a faded Bollywood star to his adventure with a security-crazed Australian army colonel to his career as an overly creative tour guide at the Taj Mahal.

Swarup's Q & A is a beguiling blend of high comedy, drama, and romance that reveals how we know what we know -- not just about trivia, but about life itself. Cutting across humanity in all its squalor and glory, Vikas Swarup presents a kaleidoscopic vision of the struggle between good and evil -- and what happens when one boy has no other choice in life but to survive.

# *The Sweet Science*



Title: *The Sweet Science*  
Author: A.J. Liebling  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Ely  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

A.J. Liebling's classic New Yorker pieces on the "sweet science of bruising" bring vividly to life the boxing world as it once was. It depicts the great events of boxing's American heyday: Sugar Ray Robinson's dramatic comeback, Rocky Marciano's rise to prominence, Joe Louis's unfortunate decline. Liebling never fails to find the human story behind the fight, and he evokes the atmosphere in the arena as distinctly as he does the goings-on in the ring--a combination that prompted Sports Illustrated to name *The Sweet Science* the best American sports book of all time.

# *Switch: How to Change Things when Change is Hard*



Title: *Switch: How to Change Things when Change is Hard*  
Author: Chip and Dan Heath  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Hunker '81  
BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

Why is it so hard to make lasting changes in our companies, in our communities, and in our own lives?

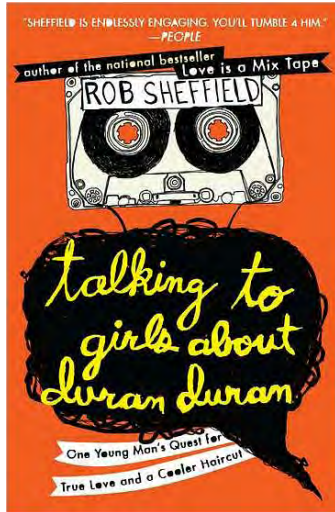
The primary obstacle is a conflict that's built into our brains, say Chip and Dan Heath, authors of the critically acclaimed bestseller *Made to Stick*. Psychologists have discovered that our minds are ruled by two different systems—the rational mind and the emotional mind—that compete for control. The rational mind wants a great beach body; the emotional mind wants that Oreo cookie. The rational mind wants to change something at work; the emotional mind loves the comfort of the existing routine. This tension can doom a change effort—but if it is overcome, change can come quickly.

In *Switch*, the Heaths show how everyday people—employees and managers, parents and nurses—have united both minds and, as a result, achieved dramatic results:

- The lowly medical interns who managed to defeat an entrenched, decades-old medical practice that was endangering patients.
- The home-organizing guru who developed a simple technique for overcoming the dread of housekeeping.
- The manager who transformed a lackadaisical customer-support team into service zealots by removing a standard tool of customer service

In a compelling, story-driven narrative, the Heaths bring together decades of counterintuitive research in psychology, sociology, and other fields to shed new light on how we can effect transformative change. *Switch* shows that successful changes follow a pattern, a pattern you can use to make the changes that matter to you, whether your interest is in changing the world or changing your waistline.

# Talking to Girls about Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut



Title: *Talking to Girls about Duran Duran: One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*

Author: Rob Sheffield

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Ms. Swinford

BOOK TWO

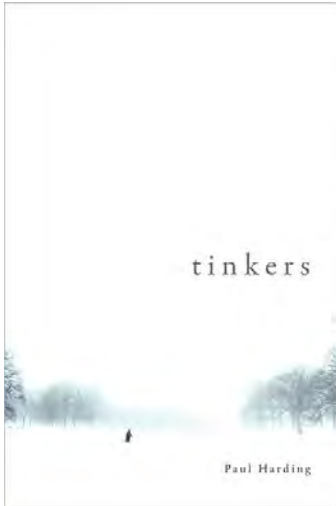
## **Publisher's Description**

Growing up in the eighties, you were surrounded by mysteries. These were the years of MTV and John Hughes movies, the era of big dreams and bigger shoulder pads. Like any teenage geek, Rob Sheffield spent the decade searching for true love and maybe a cooler haircut. *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran* is his tale of stumbling into adulthood with a killer soundtrack. Inept flirtations. Dumb crushes. Deplorable fashion choices. Girls, every last one of whom was madly in love with the bassist of Duran Duran.

In his first book, the national bestseller *Love Is a Mix Tape*, Sheffield shared a heartbreaking true story of love and grief. With *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran*, he returns with a smart, funny, and emotionally pitch-perfect trip through the music and memories of the eighties. As a confused teenager stranded in the suburbs, mowing lawns, and playing video games, Rob had a lot to learn about women, love, music, and himself. But he was sure his radio had all the answers, whether he was driving an ice cream truck through Boston to "Purple Rain," slam dancing to The Replacements, or pondering the implications of Madonna lyrics.

From Bowie to Bobby Brown, from hair metal to hip-hop, he loved them all. *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran* is a journey through pop culture of an American adolescence that will remind you of your first crush, first car, and first kiss. But it's not just a book about music. This is a book about moments in time, and the way we obsess over them through the years. Every song is a snapshot of a moment that helps form the rest of your life. Whenever you grew up, and whatever your teenage obsessions, *Talking to Girls About Duran Duran* brings those moments to life.

# Tinkers

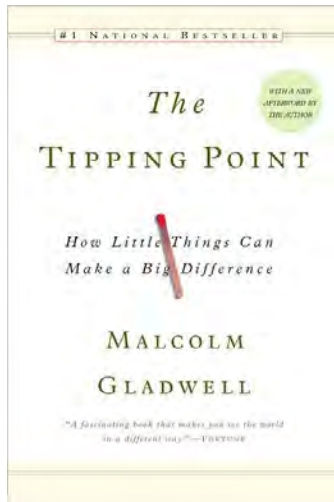


Title: *Tinkers*  
Author: Paul Harding  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Tong  
BOOK TWO

## From Booklist

**\*Starred Review\*** A tinker is a mender, and in Harding's spellbinding debut, he imagines the old, mendable horse-and-carriage world. The objects of the past were more readily repaired than our electronics, but the living world was a mystery, as it still is, as it always will be. And so in this rhapsodic novel of impending death, Harding considers humankind's contrary desires to conquer the "imps of disorder" and to be one with life, fully meshed within the great glimmering web. In the present, George lies on his death bed in the Massachusetts house he built himself, surrounded by family and the antique clocks he restores. George loves the precision of fine timepieces, but now he is at the mercy of chaotic forces and seems to be channeling his late father, Howard, a tinker and a mystic whose epileptic seizures strike like lightning. Howard, in turn, remembers his "strange and gentle" minister father. Each man is extraordinarily porous to nature and prone to becoming "unhitched" from everyday human existence and entering a state of ecstasy, even transcendence. Writing with breathtaking lyricism and tenderness, Harding has created a rare and beautiful novel of spiritual inheritance and acute psychological and metaphysical suspense.

# *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*



Title: *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*  
Author: Malcolm Gladwell  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mr. Ramseyer  
BOOK ONE

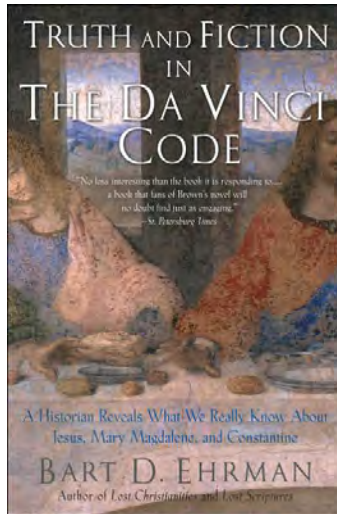
## **Publisher's Description**

The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate. This widely acclaimed bestseller, in which Malcolm Gladwell explores and brilliantly illuminates the tipping point phenomenon, is already changing the way people throughout the world think about selling products and disseminating ideas.

## **The New York Times Book Review**

*The Tipping Point*, by Malcolm Gladwell, is a lively, timely and engaging study of fads... Gladwell, who made his career in journalism as a science writer, has a knack for explaining psychological experiments clearly; *The Tipping Point* is worth reading just for what it tells us about how we try to make sense out of the world.

# *Truth and Fiction in the Da Vinci Code: A Historian Reveals What We Really Know about Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Constantine*



Title: *Truth and Fiction in the Da Vinci Code: A Historian Reveals What We Really Know about Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Constantine*

Author: Bart D. Ehrman

Description: Nonfiction

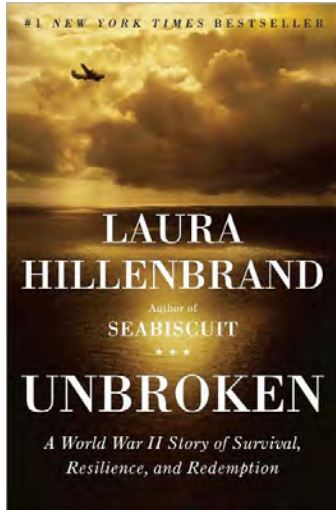
Faculty Member: Dr. Heale

BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

In his staggeringly popular work of fiction, Dan Brown states up front that the historical information in the *The Da Vinci Code* is all factually accurate. But is this claim true? As historian Bart D. Ehrman shows in this informative and witty book, *The Da Vinci Code* is filled with numerous historical mistakes. Did the ancient church engage in a cover-up to make the man Jesus into a divine figure? Did Emperor Constantine select for the New Testament--from some 80 contending Gospels--the only four Gospels that stressed that Jesus was divine? Was Jesus Christ married to Mary Magdalene? Did the Church suppress Gospels that told the secret of their marriage? Bart Ehrman thoroughly debunks all of these claims. But the book is not merely a laundry list of Brown's misreading of history. Throughout, Ehrman offers a wealth of fascinating background information--all historically accurate--on early Christianity. He describes, for instance, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls ; outlines in simple terms how scholars of early Christianity determine which sources are most reliable; and explores the many other Gospels that have been found in the last half century. In his engaging book, Ehrman separates fact from fiction, the historical realities from the flights of literary fancy. Anyone who would like to know the truth about the beginnings of Christianity and the real truth behind *The Da Vinci Code* will find this book riveting.

# *Unbroken:* *A World War II Story of* *Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*



Title: *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*

Author: Laura Hillenbrand

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Members: Mr. Mackenzie, BOOK ONE

Mr. Compton, BOOK TWO

## **Publisher's Description**

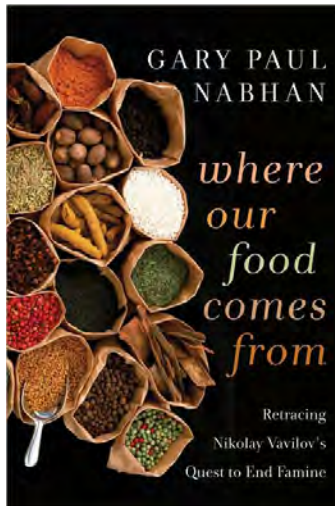
On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood, he'd been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown.

Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

In her long-awaited new book, Laura Hillenbrand writes with the same rich and vivid narrative voice she displayed in *Seabiscuit*. Telling an unforgettable story of a man's journey into extremity, *Unbroken* is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.

# *Where Our Food Comes From: Retracing Nikolay Vavilov's Quest to End Famine*



Title: *Where Our Food Comes From: Retracing Nikolay Vavilov's Quest to End Famine*

Author: Gary Paul Nabhan

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Tong

BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

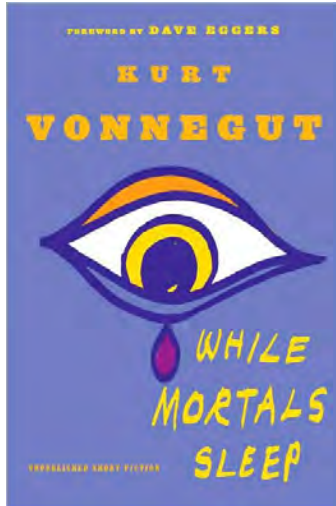
The future of our food depends on tiny seeds in orchards and fields the world over. In 1943, one of the first to recognize this fact, the great botanist Nikolay Vavilov, lay dying of starvation in a Soviet prison. But in the years before Stalin jailed him as a scapegoat for the country's famines, Vavilov had traveled over five continents, collecting hundreds of thousands of seeds in an effort to outline the ancient centers of agricultural diversity and guard against widespread hunger. Now, another remarkable scientist—and vivid storyteller—has retraced his footsteps.

In *Where Our Food Comes From*, Gary Paul Nabhan weaves together Vavilov's extraordinary story with his own expeditions to Earth's richest agricultural landscapes and the cultures that tend them. Retracing Vavilov's path from Mexico and the Colombian Amazon to the glaciers of the Pamirs in Tajikistan, he draws a vibrant portrait of changes that have occurred since Vavilov's time and why they matter.

In his travels, Nabhan shows how climate change, free trade policies, genetic engineering, and loss of traditional knowledge are threatening our food supply. Through discussions with local farmers, visits to local outdoor markets, and comparison of his own observations in eleven countries to those recorded in Vavilov's journals and photos, Nabhan reveals just how much diversity has already been lost. But he also shows what resilient farmers and scientists in many regions are doing to save the remaining living riches of our world.

It is a cruel irony that Vavilov, a man who spent his life working to foster nutrition, ultimately died from lack of it. In telling his story, *Where Our Food Comes From* brings to life the intricate relationships among culture, politics, the land, and the future of the world's food.

# *While Mortals Sleep*



Title: *While Mortals Sleep*  
Author: Kurt Vonnegut  
Description: Fiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Hogan  
BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

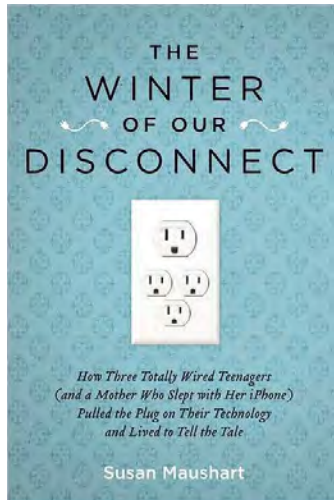
Foreword by Dave Eggers

Smart, whimsical, and often scathing, the fiction of Kurt Vonnegut influenced a generation of American writers—including Dave Eggers, author of this volume's Foreword. In these previously unpublished gems, Vonnegut's originality infuses a unique landscape of factories, trailers, and bars—and characters who pit their dreams and fears against a cruel and sometimes comically indifferent world.

Here are stories of men and machines, art and artifice, and how ideals of fortune, fame, and love take curious twists in ordinary lives. An ambitious builder of roads, commanding an army of bulldozers, graders, and asphalt spreaders, fritters away his free time with miniature trains—until the women in his life crash his fantasy land. Trapped in a stenography pool, a young dreamer receives a call from a robber on the run, who presents her with a strange proposition. A crusty newspaperman is forced onto a committee to judge Christmas displays—a job that leads him to a suspiciously ostentatious ex-con and then a miracle. A hog farmer's widow receives cryptic, unsolicited letters from a man in Schenectady about “the indefinable sweet aches of the spirit.” But what will she find when she goes to meet him in the flesh?

These beautifully rendered works are a testament to Vonnegut's unique blend of observation and imagination. Like a present left behind by a departed loved one, *While Mortals Sleep* bestows upon us a shimmering Kurt Vonnegut gift: a poignant reflection of our world as it is and as it could be.

# *The Winter of Our Disconnect: How Three Totally Wired Teenagers (and a Mother Who Slept with Her iPhone) Pulled the Plug on Their Technology and Lived to Tell the Tale*



Title: *The Winter of Our Disconnect: How Three Totally Wired Teenagers (and a Mother Who Slept with Her iPhone) Pulled the Plug on Their Technology and Lived to Tell the Tale*

Author: Susan Maushart

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mrs. Tong

BOOK ONE

## **Publisher's Description**

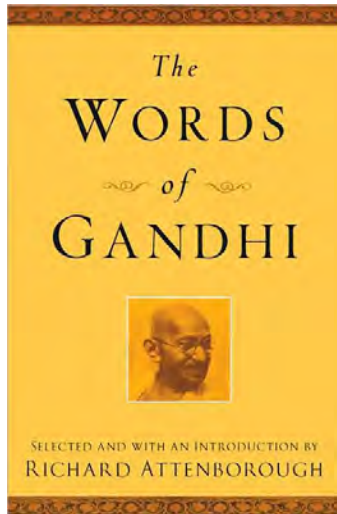
The wise and hilarious story of a family who discovered that having fewer tools to communicate with led them to actually communicate more.

When Susan Maushart first announced her intention to pull the plug on her family's entire armory of electronic weaponry for six months—from the itsy-bitsiest iPod Shuffle to her son's seriously souped-up gaming PC—her three kids didn't blink an eye. Says Maushart: "Looking back, I can understand why. They didn't hear me."

For any parent who's ever IM-ed their child to the dinner table, this account of one family's self-imposed exile from the Information Age will leave you LOLing with recognition. But it will also make you think.

*The Winter of Our Disconnect* challenges readers to examine the toll that technology is taking on their own family connections, and to create a media ecology that instead encourages kids—and parents—to thrive. Indeed, as a self-confessed single mom who "slept with her iPhone," Maushart knew her family's exile from Cyburbia wasn't going to be any easier for her than for her three teenagers, ages fourteen, fifteen, and eighteen. Yet they all soon discovered that the rewards of becoming "unplugged" were more rich and varied than any cyber reality could ever be.

# *The Words of Gandhi*



Title: *The Words of Gandhi*  
Author: Mohandas Gandhi  
Description: Nonfiction  
Faculty Member: Mrs. Haque  
BOOK ONE

Drawn from Gandhi's letters, speeches, and writings, here are his ideas, as meaningful today as they were during his long and inspiring life. His enlightening thoughts and beliefs, especially on violence and the atomic bomb, reveal his eloquent foresight about our contemporary world. *The Words of Gandhi* explores the prophet's timeless thoughts on: Daily Life, Cooperation, Nonviolence, Faith, and Peace.

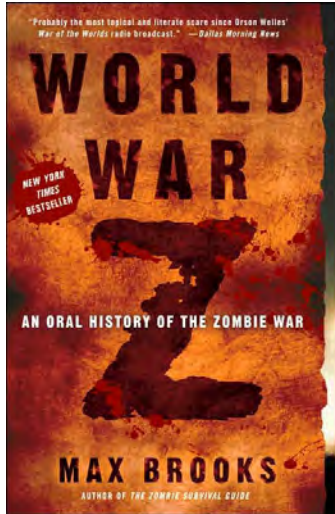
This new commemorative hardcover edition of the bestselling classic includes:

- An introduction by Richard Attenborough
- An afterword by Time magazine Senior Foreign Correspondent Johanna McGeary that places Gandhi's life and work in the historical context of the twentieth century
- Twenty striking historical photographs, specially selected from the archives at the National Gandhi Museum in New Delhi, that capture the important personal, political, and spiritual aspects of Gandhi's career.

"His words struck me so forcibly that there and then I committed myself to an attempt to make a film about Mahatma Gandhi—a commitment that changed the subsequent twenty years of my life....I hope this book, *The Words of Gandhi*, will offer an introduction to the Mahatma's ideas and philosophies."—Sir Richard Attenborough, in his Introduction

"I have done nothing new to teach the world. Truth and nonviolence are as old as the hills. All I have done is to try experiments in both on as vast a scale as I could....[N]o elaborate literature or propaganda is needed....Those who believe in the simple truths I have laid down can propagate them only by living them."—Mahatma Gandhi

# *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War*



Title: *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War*

Author: Max Brooks

Description: Fiction

Faculty Member: Mr. Farrenkopf

BOOK ONE

Contains Profanity and “Zombie Gore Galore.”

## **Publisher’s Description**

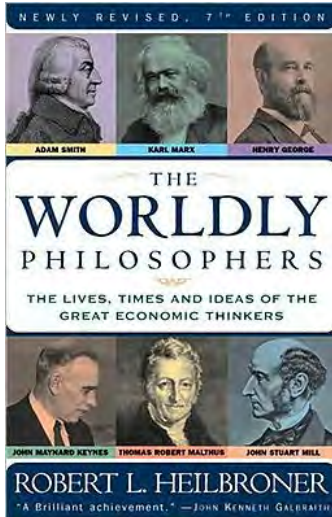
“The end was near.” —Voices from the Zombie War

The Zombie War came unthinkable close to eradicating humanity. Max Brooks, driven by the urgency of preserving the acid-etched first-hand experiences of the survivors from those apocalyptic years, traveled across the United States of America and throughout the world, from decimated cities that once teemed with upwards of thirty million souls to the most remote and inhospitable areas of the planet. He recorded the testimony of men, women, and sometimes children who came face-to-face with the living, or at least the undead, hell of that dreadful time. *World War Z* is the result. Never before have we had access to a document that so powerfully conveys the depth of fear and horror, and also the ineradicable spirit of resistance, that gripped human society through the plague years.

Ranging from the now infamous village of New Dachang in the United Federation of China, where the epidemiological trail began with the twelve-year-old Patient Zero, to the unnamed northern forests where untold numbers sought a terrible and temporary refuge in the cold, to the United States of Southern Africa, where the Redeker Plan provided hope for humanity at an unspeakable price, to the west-of-the-Rockies redoubt where the North American tide finally started to turn, this invaluable chronicle reflects the full scope and duration of the Zombie War.

Most of all, the book captures with haunting immediacy the human dimension of this epochal event. Facing the often raw and vivid nature of these personal accounts requires a degree of courage on the part of the reader, but the effort is invaluable because, as Mr. Brooks says in his introduction, “By excluding the human factor, aren’t we risking the kind of personal detachment from history that may, heaven forbid, lead us one day to repeat it? And in the end, isn’t the human factor the only true difference between us and the enemy we now refer to as ‘the living dead’?”

# *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers*



Title: *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers*

Author: Robert Heilbroner

Description: Nonfiction

Faculty Member: Mr. MacElhiney

BOOK ONE

Please read the newly revised 7th edition.

## **Publisher's Description**

The Worldly Philosophers is a bestselling classic that not only enables us to see more deeply into our history but helps us better understand our own times. In this seventh edition, Robert L. Heilbroner provides a new theme that connects thinkers as diverse as Adam Smith and Karl Marx. The theme is the common focus of their highly varied ideas -- namely, the search to understand how a capitalist society works. It is a focus never more needed than in this age of confusing economic headlines. In a bold new concluding chapter entitled "The End of the Worldly Philosophy?" Heilbroner reminds us that the word "end" refers to both the purpose and limits of economics. This chapter conveys a concern that today's increasingly "scientific" economics may overlook fundamental social and political issues that are central to economics. Thus, unlike its predecessors, this new edition provides not just an indispensable illumination of our past but a call to action for our future.