

# BOOK TITLE SUGGESTIONS for 2017

Name of Book	<i>Brave New World</i>
Author of Book	Aldous Huxley
Format	Hardback, Paperback, eBook
Number of Pages	280
Publication Date	1932
Time Period	Future
Main Theme(s)	Literary Classic?, Other?
If Other...	Speculative
Cultural or Ethnic Focus	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Recommendation Based On	I've read it
If you answered "other"...	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Have you attended at least 1 FFT meeting?	Yes
Book Summary	Hundreds of years in the future, the World Controllers have created an ideal civilization. Its members, shaped by genetic engineering and behavioral conditioning, are productive and content in roles they have been assigned at conception. Government-sanctioned drugs and recreational sex ensure that everyone is a happy, unquestioning consumer; messy emotions have been anesthetized and private attachments are considered obscene. Only Bernard Marx is discontented, developing an unnatural desire for solitude and a distaste for compulsory promiscuity. When he brings back a young man from one of the few remaining Savage Reservations, where the old unenlightened ways still continue, he unleashes a dramatic clash of cultures that will force him to consider whether freedom, dignity, and individuality are worth suffering for.

Name of Book

## *The Children Act*

Author of Book

Ian McEwan

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

240

Publication Date

2015

Time Period

Current

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

moral dilemma

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

British

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

Field not completed.

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Fiona Maye is a leading High Court judge who presides over cases in the family division. She is renowned for her fierce intelligence, exactitude, and sensitivity. But her professional success belies private sorrow and domestic strife. There is the lingering regret of her childlessness, and now her marriage of thirty years is in crisis. At the same time, she is called on to try an urgent case: Adam, a beautiful seventeen-year-old boy, is refusing for religious reasons the medical treatment that could save his life, and his devout parents echo his wishes. Time is running out. Should the secular court overrule sincerely expressed faith? In the course of reaching a decision, Fiona visits Adam in the hospital—an encounter that stirs long-buried feelings in her and powerful new emotions in the boy. Her judgment has momentous consequences for them both.

Name of Book

## *Claire of the Sea Light*

Author of Book

Edwidge Danticat

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

256

Publication Date

2013

Time Period

late 20th century

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Human relationships

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

Haiti

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

Field not completed.

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Just as her father makes the wrenching decision to send her away for a chance at a better life, Claire Limyè Lanmè—Claire of the Sea Light—suddenly disappears. As the people of the Haitian seaside community of Ville Rose search for her, painful secrets, haunting memories, and startling truths are unearthed. In this stunning novel about intertwined lives, Edwidge Danticat crafts a tightly woven, breathtaking tapestry that explores the mysterious bonds we share—with the natural world and with one another.

Name of Book

## Code Name Verity

Author of Book

Elizabeth Wein

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

352

Publication Date

2012

Time Period

WW II

Main Theme(s)

Nazis?, Other?

If Other...

Human spirit

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

British German

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

I have two weeks. You'll shoot me at the end no matter what I do. That's what you do to enemy agents. It's what we do to enemy agents. But I look at all the dark and twisted roads ahead and cooperation is the easy way out. Possibly the only way out for a girl caught red-handed doing dirty work like mine - and I will do anything, anything to avoid SS-Hauptsturmführer von Linden interrogating me again. He has said that I can have as much paper as I need. All I have to do is cough up everything I can remember about the British War Effort. And I'm going to. But the story of how I came to be here starts with my friend Maddie. She is the pilot who flew me into France - an Allied Invasion of Two. We are a sensational team.

Name of Book

## Commonwealth

Author of Book

ANN PATCHETT

Format

Hardback, eBook

Number of Pages

415

Publication Date

SEPTEMBER 2016

Time Period

MODERN

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

FAMILY

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

*Field not completed.*

Recommendation Based On

Word of mouth

If you answered "other"...

LOVE THE AUTHOR

Have you attended at least 1 FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

The enthralling story of how an unexpected romantic encounter irrevocably changes two families' lives. One Sunday afternoon in Southern California, Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny's mother, Beverly—thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families. Spanning five decades, *Commonwealth* explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved. Spending summers together in Virginia, the Keating and Cousins children forge a lasting bond that is based on a shared disillusionment with their parents and the strange and genuine affection that grows up between them. When, in her twenties, Franny begins an affair with the legendary author Leon Posen and tells him about her family, the story of her siblings is no longer hers to control. Their childhood becomes the basis for his wildly successful book, ultimately forcing them to come to terms with their losses, their guilt, and the deeply loyal connection they feel for one another. *Commonwealth* is a meditation on inspiration, interpretation, and the ownership of stories.

Name of Book

# *The Course of Love*

Author of Book

Alain de Botton

Format

Hardback, eBook

Number of Pages

240

Publication Date

June 16, 2016

Time Period

Contemporary

Main Theme(s)

Literary Classic?

If Other...

Just literary

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

Scottish middle class couple

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

The best book I've ever read on marriage.

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

“The course of true love may not run smooth, but the storytelling certainly does in this wise, humane and irresistibly readable history of an appealingly nuanced relationship. De Botton deftly moves us through time, weaving in philosophical interludes that showcase his essayistic gifts, so that before we know it we have lived a whole life with these two, and they are just getting started. De Botton directs his ferocious intelligence at the most complex puzzle of all, and it seems that no intellectual or emotional problem surpasses his ability to solve it.” —Matthew Thomas, New York Times bestselling author of *We Are Not Ourselves*

Name of Book

## *Defending Jacob*

Author of Book

William Landay

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

431

Publication Date

2012

Time Period

Contemporary

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Legal Thriller

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

*Field not completed.*

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1 FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

A 14-year-old boy is stabbed to death in the park near his middle school in an upper-class Boston suburb, and Assistant District Attorney Andy Barber takes the case, despite the fact that his son, Jacob, was a classmate of the victim. But when the bloody fingerprint on the victim's clothes turns out to be Jacob's, Barber is off the case and out of his office, devoting himself solely to defending his son. Even Barber's never-before-disclosed heritage as the son and grandson of violent men who killed becomes potential courtroom fodder, raising the question of a "murder gene." Within the structure of a grand jury hearing a year after the murder, Landay gradually increases apprehension. As if peeling the layers of an onion, he raises personal and painful ethical issues pertaining to a parent's responsibilities to a child, to a family, and to society at large. Landay's two previous novels (*Mission Flats*, 2003; *The Strangler*, 2007) were award winners, but he reaches a new level of excellence in this riveting, knock-your-socks-off legal thriller.

Name of Book

## *Ed King*

Author of Book

David Guterson

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

322

Publication Date

2011

Time Period

1960s

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Dark Humor

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

*Field not completed.*

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

In Seattle in 1962, Walter Cousins, a mild-mannered actuary—"a guy who weighs risk for a living"—takes a risk of his own, and makes the biggest error of his life. He sleeps with Diane Burroughs, the sexy, not-quite-legal British au pair who's taking care of his children for the summer. Diane gets pregnant and leaves their baby on a doorstep, but not before turning the tables on Walter and setting in motion a tragedy of epic proportions. Their orphaned child, adopted by an adoring family and named Edward Aaron King, grows up to become a billionaire Internet tycoon and an international celebrity—the "King of Search"—who unknowingly, but inexorably, hurtles through life toward a fate he may have no power to shape.

Name of Book

## *The Expatriates*

Author of Book

Janice Y K Lee

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

336

Publication Date

January 2016

Time Period

current times

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

human relationships

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

Hong Kong

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Janice Y. K. Lee's New York Times bestselling debut, *The Piano Teacher*, was called "immensely satisfying" by People, "intensely readable" by O, The Oprah Magazine, and "a rare and exquisite story" by Elizabeth Gilbert. Now, in her long-awaited new novel, Lee explores with devastating poignancy the emotions, identities, and relationships of three very different American women living in the same small expat community in Hong Kong. Mercy, a young Korean American and recent Columbia graduate, is adrift, undone by a terrible incident in her recent past. Hilary, a wealthy housewife, is haunted by her struggle to have a child, something she believes could save her foundering marriage. Meanwhile, Margaret, once a happily married mother of three, questions her maternal identity in the wake of a shattering loss. As each woman struggles with her own demons, their lives collide in ways that have irreversible consequences for them all. Atmospheric, moving, and utterly compelling, *The Expatriates* confirms Lee as an exceptional talent and one of our keenest observers of women's inner lives.

Name of Book

## *Fates and Furies*

Author of Book

Lauren Groff

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

390

Publication Date

September 2015

Time Period

Current

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Love and truth

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

*Field not completed.*

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Every story has two sides. Every relationship has two perspectives. And sometimes, it turns out, the key to a great marriage is not its truths but its secrets. At the core of this rich, expansive, layered novel, Lauren Groff presents the story of one such marriage over the course of twenty-four years. At age twenty-two, Lotto and Mathilde are tall, glamorous, madly in love, and destined for greatness. A decade later, their marriage is still the envy of their friends, but with an electric thrill we understand that things are even more complicated and remarkable than they have seemed.

Name of Book

## *The French Lieutenant's Woman*

Author of Book

JOHN FOWLES

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

467

Publication Date

1969

Time Period

1867

Main Theme(s)

Literary Classic?

If Other...

*Field not completed.*

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

*Field not completed.*

Recommendation Based On

Other

If you answered "other"...

ANNA QUINDLEN'S LIST OF NOVELS THAT MADE HER PROUD TO BE A WRITER

Have you attended at least 1 FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

In a feat of seductive storytelling, John Fowles immerses us in the emotionally charged world of a Victorian love triangle and, through a startling act of literary invention, reveals the image of modern man reflected in the past. *The French Lieutenant's Woman* is perhaps the most beloved of Fowles's internationally best selling novels; it is universally regarded as a modern classic. (From the publisher.) *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, on one level a historical romance, is on another level an audacious, innovative experiment in storytelling. The novel portrays Victorian characters living in 1867, but the narrator / author, writing in 1967, intervenes with wry, ironic commentary. The plot centers on Charles Smithson who is engaged to Ernestina Freeman, a conventional, wealthy woman. But after a series of clandestine trysts with a beautiful, mysterious woman, he breaks off the engagement. The woman, Sarah Woodruff, a social outcast, is the reputed lover of a French lieutenant who has deserted her—and Charles first sees her waiting on the pier for his return. The intrusive narrator / author, who offers readers different endings, encourages us to reach our own conclusions. (From the publisher.)

Name of Book

*Honeydew*

Author of Book

Edith Perlman

Format

Hardback, eBook

Number of Pages

304

Publication Date

Sept. 22, 2015

Time Period

Contemporary

Main Theme(s)

Literary Classic?

If Other...

*Field not completed.*

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

East coast Americans

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

"There remain a few dedicated practitioners of the short story, and Edith Pearlman is one to be cherished... The 20 stories [in Honeydew] are vinegary, rueful, droll, humane and endlessly inquisitive. Though intricately constructed, they are slight in drama and emphasis, set down like a light footprint that nevertheless fixes itself in one's memory as though pressed in wet cement."—The Wall Street Journal

Name of Book

# *Immunity*

Author of Book

Taylor Antrim

Format

Hardback, eBook

Number of Pages

288

Publication Date

2015

Time Period

21st century

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

bio-thriller

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

US

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

In the very near future, a devastating Ebola-like pandemic has struck the world, but for the 1% in New York City it's an excuse for even more twisted behavior. Taylor Antrim delivers a thrilling new novel that combines the best of dystopian fiction with a sharp-eyed exploration of class and wealth in the world's capital. In this fast-paced paranoid, near-future New York City, we meet Catherine, a broke socialite who is getting sick. Desperate, she takes a job with a luxury concierge service that fulfills the most outlandish desires of the ultra-rich—even if that means hunting down the 99%. As the hidden agendas of her employer and his shadowy clients emerge, Catherine realizes things are not remotely as they appear and she finds herself a pawn of mega-corporations and government agents all eager to profit from the cure embedded inside of her.

Name of Book

## *Indignation*

Author of Book

Philip Roth

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

256

Publication Date

2008

Time Period

1950s

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Coming of age

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

US

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

In 1951, the second year of the Korean War, a studious, law-abiding, and intense youngster from Newark, New Jersey, Marcus Messner, begins his sophomore year on the pastoral, conservative campus of Ohio's Winesburg College. And why is he there and not at a local college in Newark where he originally enrolled? Because his father, the sturdy, hardworking neighborhood butcher, seems to have gone mad—mad with fear and apprehension of the dangers of adult life, the dangers of the world, the dangers he sees in every corner for his beloved boy. Far from Newark, Marcus has to find his way amid the customs and constrictions of another American world.

Name of Book

## *The Interestings*

Author of Book

Meg Wolitzer

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

560

Publication Date

2013

Time Period

America 1070s to 21st century

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Coming of age

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

US

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Ethan, Jonah, Cathy, Ash, and her brother Goodman dub themselves "The Interestings" when they reconvene at their trendy creative-arts summer camp in the Berkshire Mountains. Jules, née Julie, Jacobson is both flattered and flabbergasted to be admitted into their little enclave, where she uses her sardonic wit to compensate for a lack of beauty, money, or social graces. Golden-girl Ash adopts her as her best friend, while the dorky but brilliant Ethan becomes mired in unrequited love. After a tragedy affects two of their members in very different ways, the remaining group slogs their way into adulthood, embarking upon careers and relationships with varying degrees of success and satisfaction. Wolitzer's clique of narcissistic friends turns out to be not so interesting after all. It begins in Graz, Austria, in 1938, when Joseph Skizzen's father pretends to be Jewish and emigrates to avoid the Nazis. In London with his wife and children for the duration of the war, he mysteriously disappears and the rest of the family relocates to a small town in Ohio. Here Joseph Skizzen grows up and leads a resolutely ordinary life, but one that is built on a scaffold of forgery and deceit. Outwardly he is a professor of music at a mediocre college; secretly he is the earnestly obsessive curator of a private Inhumanity Museum, meant to contain the guilt of centuries of atrocities.

Name of Book

## *The Last Painting of Sara De Vos*

Author of Book

Dominic Smith

Format

Hardback

Number of Pages

275

Publication Date

2016

Time Period

*Field not completed.*

Main Theme(s)

Tragedy?, Other?

If Other...

historic

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

american and Dutch

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Dutch women artist in 1636 paints what she desires, a landscape, even though she is forbidden to do so by law. Women could paint only what men told them to and were not allowed to sign their own name to the painting. Sara's painting is handed down through generations. It is 1950, in New York and a fake copy has been made by Ellie. Year 2000, brings us to Sydney, Ellie's birth place where she has escaped after a failed marriage in London. The painting and it's original owner seem to have come back to haunt her. Delightful book, loved the story, writing, history, and all the characters.

Name of Book

## *A Man Called Ove*

Author of Book

Fredrik Backman

Format

*Field not completed.*

Number of Pages

337

Publication Date

2014

Time Period

Current

Main Theme(s)

Tragedy?, Other?

If Other...

Love

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

*Field not completed.*

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Read the New York Times bestseller that has taken the world by storm! Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbor from hell.” But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations.

Name of Book

## *Mary Coin*

Author of Book

Marisa Silver

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

336

Publication Date

2013

Time Period

1930s Great Depression

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Historical fiction

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

American

Recommendation Based On

Other

If you answered "other"...

Excellent reviews and won awards

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Inspired by Migrant Mother, the iconic Depression-era photograph snapped by Dorothea Lange in 1936, Silver reimagines the lives of both the photographer and the subject. Interweaving the stories of Mary Coin, a young mother grappling with the cruel realities of raising a family during an enduring economic crisis, and Vera Dare, the brilliant young photographer facing life-altering decisions of her own, this dual portrait investigates the depths of the human spirit, exposing the inner reserves of will and desire hidden in both women. Though their paths cross for a brief moment, their fates—stretching into succeeding generations—are permanently altered by the meeting. The luminously written, heart-wrenching—yet never maudlin—plot moves back and forth through time, as history professor Walker Dodge unpeels the layers of the photograph's hidden truths.

Name of Book

## Middle C

Author of Book

William Gass

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

416

Publication Date

2013

Time Period

Midcentury America

Main Theme(s)

Nazis?, Other?

If Other...

Moral dilemma

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

german-american

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

In a series of brilliant variations, William Gass presents a man's life—futile, comic, anarchic—arranged in an array of vocabularies, altered rhythms, forms, and tones, with music as both theme and structure. It begins in Graz, Austria, in 1938, when Joseph Skizzen's father pretends to be Jewish and emigrates to avoid the Nazis. In London with his wife and children for the duration of the war, he mysteriously disappears and the rest of the family relocates to a small town in Ohio. Here Joseph Skizzen grows up and leads a resolutely ordinary life, but one that is built on a scaffold of forgery and deceit. Outwardly he is a professor of music at a mediocre college; secretly he is the earnestly obsessive curator of a private Inhumanity Museum, meant to contain the guilt of centuries of atrocities. *Middle C* tells the story of his journey—a story that is also an investigation into the nature of identity and the ways in which each of us is several selves.

Name of Book

## *My Name is Lucy Barton*

Author of Book

Elizabeth Strout

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

240

Publication Date

January 2016

Time Period

Current

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

human relationships

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

US

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

also won awards

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • LONGLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE • A simple hospital visit becomes a portal to the tender relationship between mother and daughter in this extraordinary novel by the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *Olive Kitteridge* and *The Burgess Boys*. Lucy Barton is recovering slowly from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken for many years, comes to see her. Gentle gossip about people from Lucy's childhood in Amgash, Illinois, seems to reconnect them, but just below the surface lie the tension and longing that have informed every aspect of Lucy's life: her escape from her troubled family, her desire to become a writer, her marriage, her love for her two daughters. Knitting this powerful narrative together is the brilliant storytelling voice of Lucy herself: keenly observant, deeply human, and truly unforgettable.

Name of Book

## *News of the World*

Author of Book

Paulette Jiles

Format

Hardback

Number of Pages

209

Publication Date

2016

Time Period

1870s

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Historical fiction

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

Texans and Native Americans

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

Field not completed.

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

It's set after the Civil War and its protagonist is a 71-year-old man who makes his living showing up in small Texas towns and reading articles from newspapers from distant places. New York, London, Paris. He does so with style and authority, and people drop nickels and dimes into his can because they're curious about the world and appreciate a good performance. In North Texas someone comes to him and convinces him to take on a job this man can't complete: delivering an eight-year-old girl to her aunt and uncle in Castroville. Her parents had been killed and she had been captured by Indians when she was three. Several years later, she is wild in the ways Indians were, and has no recollection of English. It's highly original and wonderfully written.

Name of Book

## *Palisades Park*

Author of Book

Alan Brennert

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

448

Publication Date

2013

Time Period

Midcentury America

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Historical fiction

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

American

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Growing up in the 1930s, there is no more magical place than Palisades Amusement Park in New Jersey—especially for seven-year-old Antoinette, who horrifies her mother by insisting on the unladylike nickname Toni, and her brother, Jack. Toni helps her parents, Eddie and Adele Stopka, at the stand where they sell homemade French fries amid the roar of the Cyclone roller coaster. There is also the lure of the world's biggest salt-water pool, complete with divers whose astonishing stunts inspire Toni, despite her mother's insistence that girls can't be high divers. But a family of dreamers doesn't always share the same dreams, and then the world intrudes: There's the Great Depression, and Pearl Harbor, which hits home in ways that will split the family apart; and perils like fire and race riots in the park. Both Eddie and Jack face the dangers of war, while Adele has ambitions of her own—and Toni is determined to take on a very different kind of danger in impossible feats as a high diver. Yet they are all drawn back to each other—and to Palisades Park—until the park closes forever in 1971. Evocative and moving, with the trademark brilliance at transforming historical events into irresistible fiction that made Alan Brennert's *Moloka'i* and *Honolulu* into reading group favorites, *Palisades Park* takes us back to a time when life seemed simpler—except, of course, it wasn't.

Name of Book

## *The Piano Teacher*

Author of Book

Janice Y K Lee

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

328

Publication Date

2009

Time Period

Mid 20th century

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

human relationships

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

Hong Kong

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

also won awards

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

In the sweeping tradition of *The English Patient*, Janice Y.K. Lee's debut novel is a tale of love and betrayal set in war-torn Hong Kong. In 1942, Englishman Will Truesdale falls headlong into a passionate relationship with Trudy Liang, a beautiful Eurasian socialite. But their affair is soon threatened by the invasion of the Japanese as World War II overwhelms their part of the world. Ten years later, Claire Pendleton comes to Hong Kong to work as a piano teacher and also begins a fateful affair. As the threads of this spellbinding novel intertwine, impossible choices emerge-between love and safety, courage and survival, the present, and above all, the past.

Name of Book

## *Picture Miss Seaton*

Author of Book

Haron Carvic

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

209

Publication Date

2016

Time Period

1980

Main Theme(s)

Humorous?, Other?

If Other...

Mystery

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

English

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

About a very prime and proper retired English art teacher. She gets herself into very odd situations and gets herself out in equally odd ways. A book that pokes fun at murder mysteries.

Name of Book

## *Prodígal Summer*

Author of Book

Barbara Kingsolver

Format

*Field not completed.*

Number of Pages

440

Publication Date

unknown

Time Period

*Field not completed.*

Main Theme(s)

Literary Classic?, Humorous?

If Other...

*Field not completed.*

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

american

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

Description of the Appalachian Trail and life around it makes me want to go there. Three parallel stories come to a beautiful ending. Stories of wildlife, farm life and a city girl trying to fit into her husband's family after he dies of a tractor accident, she carries on at the farm trying to keep up with payments and finding other lucrative crops to grow besides tobacco. This is a little long, and well worth it. I thoroughly enjoyed it. One of the books I do not want to end.

Name of Book

## *Shadow of a Century*

Author of Book

Jean Granger

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

409

Publication Date

2015

Time Period

1900 s

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Irish uprising of 1916

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

Irish

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

A story of three women that spans a century. Tells about the Irish uprising of 1916 through the eyes of a young woman who lived through it

Name of Book

## *The Is Your Life, Harriet Chance*

Author of Book

Jonathan Evison

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

320

Publication Date

2015

Time Period

21st century

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

human relationships

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

US

Recommendation Based On

A review

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

With Bernard, her husband of fifty-five years, now in the grave, seventy-eight-year-old Harriet Chance impulsively sets sail alone on an Alaskan cruise that her late husband had planned. But what Harriet hoped would be a voyage leading to a new lease on life becomes a wildly surprising and revelatory journey into her past. Jonathan Evison has crafted a bighearted novel with an endearing heroine at the helm. Part dysfunctional love story, part poignant exploration of mother-daughter relationships, nothing is what it seems in this bittersweet tale, told with humor and humanity.

Name of Book

## *The Time It Never Rained*

Author of Book

elmer kelton

Format

Hardback, Paperback, eBook

Number of Pages

375

Publication Date

1973

Time Period

1950s

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

Historical fiction

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

West Texas/Hill Country

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1  
FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

"The Time It Never Rained was inspired by actual events, when the longest and most severe drought in living memory pressed ranchers and farmers to the outer limits of courage and endurance."—Elmer Kelton Rio Seco was too small to afford a professional manager for its one-room Chamber of Commerce. And Rio Seco, meaning "dry river" in Spanish, symbolizes the biggest enemy of the ranchers and farmers in 1950s Texas, an enemy they can't control: drought. To cranky Charlie Flagg, an honest, decent rancher, the drought of the early 1950s is a battle that he must fight on his own grounds. Refusing the questionable "assistance" of federal aid programs and their bureaucratic regulations, Charlie and his family struggle to make the ranch survive until the time it rains again—if it ever rains again. Charlie Flagg, among the strongest of Elmer Kelton's memorable creations, is no pasteboard hero. He is courageous and self-sufficient but as real as his harsh and unforgiving West Texas home country. His battle with an unfathomable foe is the stuff of epics and legends.

Name of Book

## Truly Madly Guilty

Author of Book

LIANE MORIARTY

Format

Hardback, eBook

Number of Pages

415

Publication Date

JULY 2016

Time Period

2000

Main Theme(s)

Other?

If Other...

*Field not completed.*

Cultural or Ethnic Focus

*Field not completed.*

Recommendation Based On

I've read it

If you answered "other"...

*Field not completed.*

Have you attended at least 1 FFT meeting?

Yes

Book Summary

In Truly Madly Guilty, Liane Moriarty turns her unique, razor-sharp eye towards three seemingly happy families. Sam and Clementine have a wonderful, albeit, busy life: they have two little girls, Sam has just started a new dream job and Clementine, a cellist, is busy preparing for the audition of a lifetime. If there's anything they can count on, it's each other. Clementine and Erika are each other's oldest friends. A single look between them can convey an entire conversation. But theirs is a complicated relationship, so when Erika mentions a last minute invitation to a barbecue with her neighbors, Tiffany and Vid, Clementine and Sam don't hesitate. Having Tiffany and Vid's larger than life personalities there will be a welcome respite. Two months later, it won't stop raining, and Clementine and Sam can't stop asking themselves the question: What if we hadn't gone? In Truly Madly Guilty, Liane Moriarty takes on the foundations our lives: marriage, sex, parenthood, and friendship. She shows how guilt can expose the fault lines in the most seemingly strong relationships, how what we don't say can be more powerful than what we do, and how sometimes it is the most innocent of moments that can do the greatest harm.