



BOOK CLUB BOOKS

Below are this winter's Book Club selections. Chosen to represent a range of interests, it is hoped these books will stimulate thought and discussion among our diverse group of readers. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

FALL 2017

Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue

It's 2007 and Jende has arrived from Cameroon. After a stint as a dishwasher, he lands a job as the driver for Clark Edwards, a rich executive at the soon-to-be doomed Lehman Brothers. Jende is living in Harlem, but with his new job he moves his wife and son to a better area, feeling that he is on the fast track to realizing his dreams. A novel about marriage, immigration, race, and the trapdoors in the "American Dream". Winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award. (fiction)

Books for Living: Some Thoughts on Reading, Reflecting, and Embracing Life by Will Schwalbe

A delightful and inspiring look at the power of books to shape our lives in an era of constant connectivity. For Schwalbe, reading is a way to entertain himself but also to make sense of the world, and to find the answers to life's questions big and small. In each chapter, he discusses a particular book and how it relates to concerns we all share. (nonfiction)

Do Not Say We Have Nothing by Madeleine Thien

The story of an extended family in China, showing us the lives of two successive generations—those who lived through Mao's Cultural Revolution and their children, who became the students protesting in Tiananmen Square. In present-day Vancouver, Marie, one of their descendants, strives to piece together the tale of her fractured family. A richly detailed, moving consideration of China's complex history. A finalist for the Man Booker Prize. (fiction)

Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill

by Candice Millard

At the age of twenty-four Churchill was convinced it was his destiny to become prime minister of England. He arrived in South Africa in 1899, valet and crates of vintage wine in tow, to cover the brutal colonial war the British were fighting with Boer rebels and jumpstart his political career. But just two weeks later, Churchill was taken prisoner. A superb character study and adventure story page turner. (nonfiction)

Moonglow by Michael Chabon

Stemming from the deathbed confession of a man the narrator refers to only as "my grandfather," this is a tale of the shining aspirations and demonic underpinnings of American technological accomplishments at midcentury. It is also about the destructive impact of keeping secrets and telling lies. From the Jewish slums of prewar South Philadelphia to the heyday of the space program to the twilight of the "American Century," the novel focuses on family legends, existential adventures, and the forces that work to destroy us. (fiction)

News of the World by Paulette Jiles

Elderly Captain Jefferson Kidd, veteran of the Civil War, drifts through northern Texas making a living reading from newspapers to townspeople hungry for news of the world. When he agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa Indians back to her kinfolk, his life takes on quite a few new challenges. In beautiful prose, Jiles creates a vivid portrait of a beautiful and hostile land, and explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust. A National Book Award finalist. (fiction)

Perfume River by Robert Olen Butler

An exquisite novel that examines family ties and the legacy of the Vietnam war through the portrait of a broken Florida family. Robert and his wife Darla are tenured professors. Their marriage, forged in the fervor of anti-Vietnam War protests, now bears the strains of time. As Robert attempts to confront the past and the rifts with his father and brother over that war, as well as what happened to those who served and those who didn't, the story echoes the American experience and the lives of so many affected by war. (fiction)



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