

## Summer Reading List 2018

Dear Incoming Seniors,

This is it! Your Final Preston Summer Reading Assignment has arrived!

Of course, reading is the best preparation for the academic challenges that college will send your way. It expands your vocabulary and your horizons. Reading keeps your brain in gear. Regardless of why you read or what you read, reading makes you smarter. It's that simple. Readers are better writers. They get the "sound" of good writing in their head, and they use that as a measure of their own work.

What follows are the requirements for Preston's Summer Reading Program for Rising Seniors. We expect you to read a minimum of four books over the summer—and complete a short writing assignment regarding two of these mandatory books. We do, however, allow you, the student, to have some choice in what you read.

Our goal is to have you read for pleasure, so we have provided you with a list of a wide range of books that cover many subjects and interests. Some books are short, but challenging. Others are longer, but easy to read and understand. Still, others represent a middle level of difficulty. Either way, we are sure you'll find something that appeals to you on each list.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms. Esposito, the English Department Chairperson, at [mesposito@prestonhs.org](mailto:mesposito@prestonhs.org)

Enjoy your summer and see you next year!

Sincerely,

The Senior-Level Faculty

**Assignment:**

**1. We require Seniors in English 4R to purchase and read the following very important novels in the canon of World Literature. Each will serve you well in your future studies. Bring these to English class on the first days of school.**

*The Liars' Club*, by Mary Karr

According to the *New York Review of Books* (2013), when it emerged in 1995, Mary Karr's *The Liars' Club* took the world by storm and raised the art of the memoir to an entirely new level; it also engendered a dramatic revival of the form. As Michiko Kakutani (The New York Times) has stated, "Ms. Karr has written an astonishing book. We all should read it."

Please buy this ISBN version: [9780143035749](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780143035749).

*Sister of My Heart*, by Chitra Divakaruni

According to Divakaruni's webpage, Anju is the daughter of an upper-caste Calcutta family of distinction. Sudha is the daughter of the black sheep of that same family. Sudha is startlingly beautiful; Anju is not. Despite these differences, since the day the two girls were born—the same day their fathers died (mysteriously and violently)—Sudha and Anju have been sisters of the heart—bonded in ways even their mothers cannot comprehend.

**2. Additionally, we require all rising seniors (excluding AP--English students) to read Dr. Lisa Firestone's and Dr. Neel Burton's articles (this document's pages 3—6). Annotate these pieces, as your teacher will ask you to use this work during the first days of school.**

**3. All rising seniors (excluding AP—English Literature students) must also complete a written assignment that appears on this document's page 7. Please ensure you type this work and prepare to submit it on the first day of school.**

**4. For the remaining two books, you must choose one book from the fiction list and one book from the non-fiction list (on this document's pages 8-11). Exposure to each of these genres is important for cross-cultural understanding. The following lists provide a wide variety of subject matters and difficulty levels from which you may choose. You must complete all these books by the first day of class in September. Read for understanding and enjoyment but prepare yourself to write knowledgeably about these books during the first week of classes.**

**5. Please note that the Science Department also requires all rising seniors to complete the following summer reading assignment: "You are required to purchase and read a copy of one science-related magazine/journal. Bring this magazine to your first science class in September. These titles should be readily available in any larger bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, or a newsstand. Possible science-related magazines include: ® *Scientific American* ® *Science* ® *Discovery* ® *Popular Science*."**

**6. If you enrolled in AP-Spanish Literature, please read three short stories, in Spanish. They appear below, along with links to access their full-text versions—**

**Horacio Quiroga's "El hijo:"** <http://www.ciudadseva.com/textos/cuentos/esp/quiroga/hijo.htm>

**Sabine R. Ulibarri's "Mi caballo mago:"**

[http://www.collegeboard.com/prod\\_downloads/student/testing/ap/spanish\\_lit/micaballomago\\_8393.pdf](http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/student/testing/ap/spanish_lit/micaballomago_8393.pdf)

**Juan Rulfo's "No oyes ladrar los perros:"** <http://www.literatura.us/rulfo/perros.html>

## Why We Lie and How to Stop: The many lies we tell hurt us in the end.

Dr. Lisa Firestone (PhD)

*Psychology Today*

(September 2016)

There's a scene in the movie "Something's Gotta Give" that simply and succinctly captures one reality about the truth. After catching the man she loves on a date with another woman, Diane Keaton is chased out of the restaurant by a guilty and distraught Jack Nicholson. When he finally stops her, he pleads, "I have never lied to you, I have always told you some version of the truth." She replies, "The truth doesn't have versions, okay?" And that's the truth. The truth may have many sides to it. It may be complicated or hard to understand, but it exists... in one version. Yet, most of us have trouble with the truth. We may not be outright liars, but we certainly shade the truth to make it fit more comfortably into our lives—to keep it from disrupting anything from our careers to our relationships to our afternoons.

In her research, Bella DePaulo, Ph.D. found that people lie in one in five of their daily interactions. Pamela Meyer, author of *Liespotting*, claims in her *TED Talk* that we're lied to from 10-200 times a day. It's important to consider: how honest is the world we've created around ourselves? How often do we ourselves tell lies? And, on the flip side, do we intimidate others in ways that might encourage them to shade the truth?

It's common for people to only say the parts of the truth that they feel are acceptable or that they think people want to hear, leaving the full truth hidden away. They may lie by omission or tell "little white lies" that paint a very different picture of reality. It's no surprise that these lies don't just hurt relationships, they can outright destroy them. Even lies told in the name of protecting others can leave you feeling pretty bad about yourself, because you don't feel like an authentic, strong individual when you aren't being honest. Here are some examples of the many ways people lie and how these lies hurt them in all areas of their lives:

**Controlling a Response**—When you talk to a close friend about an interaction with a co-worker or lover, do you only tell your side of the story? Do you leave out a small but significant detail about something you brought to the table? Do you rephrase the less desirable words you said in the moment? Think about how these subtle changes may influence your friend's attitude and response. Are you just getting your friend to say what you want to hear? In the end, how authentic is their response if you strategically manipulated the outcome?

When you control a response by shading the truth, you create an alternate, agreed upon reality between you and another person. You then get advice that may be based on faulty information. Plus, you deny yourself the value and integrity that another person's true opinions might have awarded you.

**Lying by Omission**—Ever complained to someone that you aren't losing weight without mentioning the Grande Frappuccino you downed as an afternoon snack? Everyone has times when they leave out less desirable details. Sometimes you do this to be sensitive or to spare a person's feelings, but sometimes those details matter, and you know it. For example, if your partner asks what you did that day, you may not mention that you wound up running into an ex and having lunch. Maybe you try to conceal an ongoing flirtation with a co-worker. These may not feel like acts of deception to you, but imagine how your partner would see them. Whether there's nothing to hide or something real you'd rather they not know about, leaving out significant facts will make you feel shady and create a hotbed for further deceptions. On the other hand, creating an environment where you can be open about these things will promote a feeling of mutual trust and honest communication.

**Exaggerations**—People's insecurities about themselves may lead them to try to preserve a certain image of themselves, and they may experience a need for approval from others. However, when you exaggerate or don't represent yourself honestly, you are left feeling like a fraud, which further hurts your self-esteem. There's a fine line between highlighting your attributes and completely inflating your abilities. At work, you may promise to finish a

task you know you won't be able to complete on time. You may exaggerate to a boss when it comes to your progress or skill level. Doing this will lead to trouble when, most likely, your actions will fail to match your words.

At times, you may lie to compensate for guilt. Parents often do this with their children, missing a soccer game, for instance, then promising they'll show up at every game for the rest of the season—only to disappoint again soon-after. It's hard to hide a broken promise, a missed meeting or a poor performance. Exaggerating deems you untrustworthy. Your words start to mean a lot less when the reality doesn't match up. Plus, you may never believe that you're being chosen or cared about for who you really are.

**Self-Protection**—Too often, people are coached by an inner critic to not express directly what they want or feel toward other people. You may have a guard up that tells you not to be too vulnerable. You may downplay your emotions or act like you don't care, because you don't want to feel or look like a fool. But defending yourself with deceptions or false portrayals of who you are will drive you further from your goals and will likely prevent you from getting what you want in life.

**Gossip or Covert Communication**—Gossip is an epidemic. It's in every household, office space and coffee house. It's a booming industry taking over our media. The biggest problem with talking about someone behind their back is that you may flat out deny these observations when face-to-face with that person. You can see how this can be harmful to your relationships. A true friend or loved one should be someone you can talk openly with, someone to whom you can offer feedback and welcome the same in return.

Another problem is that gossip breeds cynicism and destroys compassion. It's a nasty way of indirectly dealing with real observations or competitive feelings. When you favor direct communication over gossip, you become a more genuine, compassionate, not to mention appealing, person to be around.

Some people believe you need lies to survive in a relationship. I would argue that this is untrue. Misleading a person distorts their reality and makes them feel crazy, which is one of the most unethical things you can do to another person. So what can you do to be more honest? You can begin by being honest with yourself.

First off, you can stop listening to your "critical inner voice." Shading the truth often comes from listening to an inner coach that's not on your side, that instructs you to self-protect by telling you things like you can only be accepted if you say the right thing or don't really reveal yourself. In relation to your boss, it may tell you, "You've been messing up lately so make your boss think you solved this problem without the help of your co-workers." With your spouse, it may say, "Don't tell her you forgot her birthday; it will only lead to a fight." In relation to a competitor, it may advise you, "Don't let him know you think he's talented. Don't let your guard down; he'll just use the truth to hurt you." By getting to know this inner critic, you can separate it from your real point of view and act against it.

Next, you can take chances on the people you care about by being a lot more honest and direct with them. You can find healthy and considerate ways to express yourself and to be sensitive to the other person's sense of reality. The truth may not always be easy to hear, but in the long term, you will earn a lot more trust and respect from the people whose opinion you value the most.

When it comes to the truth, it's important to think about whether you want people to trust you. Do you value integrity and want your words to be reflected in your actions? If you commit to these attributes on a behavioral level, you'll be better able to gain trust and live your life with honest, open communication. This world may not be perfect, nor the truth always easy to take, but you can find peace and freedom in the security of knowing that the world you've created around you is as real as it gets.

## These Are the 7 Types of Love... and how we can ignore the most fulfilling types

Dr. Neel Burton (M.D.)

*Psychology Today* (June 2016)

Everyone seems to be hankering after romantic love, but few of us realize that far from being timeless and universal, romantic love is in fact a modern construct, one that emerged in tandem with the novel. In *Madame Bovary* (1856), Gustave Flaubert tells us that Emma Bovary only found out about romantic love through 'the refuse of old lending libraries'. These books, he wrote:

'...were all about love and lovers, damsels in distress swooning in lonely lodges, postillions slaughtered all along the road, horses ridden to death on every page, gloomy forests, troubles of the heart, vows, sobs, tears, kisses, rowing-boats in the moonlight, nightingales in the grove, gentlemen brave as lions and gentle as lambs, too virtuous to be true, invariably well-dressed, and weeping like fountains.'

But there are many other ways to love, not all of which are compatible with romantic love. By preoccupying ourselves with romantic love, we risk neglecting other types of love that are more readily accessible and may, especially in the long term, prove more healing and fulfilling.

The seven types of love discussed below are loosely based on classical readings, especially of Plato and Aristotle, and on J. A. Lee's 1973 book *Colours of Love*.

**1. Eros** is sexual or passionate love, and is the type most akin to our modern construct of romantic love. In Greek myth, it is a form of madness brought about by one of Cupid's arrows. The arrow breaches us and we 'fall' in love, as did Paris with Helen, leading to the Trojan War and downfall of Troy. In modern times, eros has been amalgamated with the broader life force, something akin to Schopenhauer's will, a fundamentally blind process of striving for survival and reproduction. Eros has also been contrasted with Logos, or Reason, with Cupid depicted as a blindfolded child.

**2. Philia:** The hallmark of philia, or friendship, is shared goodwill. Aristotle believed a person can bear goodwill to another for one of three reasons—that he is useful; that he is pleasant; and, above all, that he is good, that is, rational and virtuous. Friendships founded on goodness are associated not only with mutual benefit but also with companionship, dependability, and trust. For Plato, the best kind of friendship is that which lovers have for each other. It is a philia born out of eros, and that in turn feeds back into eros to strengthen and develop it, transforming it from a lust for possession into a shared desire for a higher level of understanding of the self, the other, and the world. In sum, philia transforms eros from a lust for possession into an impulse for philosophy.

### **3. Storge**

Storge ('store-gae'), or familial love, is a kind of philia pertaining to the love between parents and their children. It differs from most philia in that it tends, especially with younger children, to be unilateral or asymmetrical. More broadly, storge is the fondness born out of familiarity or dependency and, unlike eros or philia, does not hang on our personal qualities. People in the early stages of a romantic relationship often expect unconditional storge, but find only eros, and, if they are lucky, philia. Over time, eros often mutates into storge and, if we are lucky, there is philia and pragma (see below) as well.

### **4. Agape**

Agape is universal love, such as the love for strangers, nature, or God. Unlike storge, it does not depend on filiation or familiarity. Also called charity by Christian thinkers, agape can be said to encompass the modern concept of altruism, defined as unselfish concern for the welfare of others. Recent studies link altruism with a number of benefits. In the

short term, altruism leaves us with a euphoric feeling—the so-called 'helper's high'. In the long term, it is associated with better mental and physical health, as well as longevity. At a social level, altruism serves as a signal of cooperative intentions, and also of resource availability and so of mating or partnering potential. It also opens up a debt account, encouraging beneficiaries to reciprocate with gifts and favors that may be of much greater value to us than those with which we feel able to part. More generally, altruism, or agape, helps to build and maintain the psychological, social, and, indeed, environmental fabric that shields, sustains, and enriches us. Given the increasing anger and division in our society, and the state of our planet, we could all do with quite a bit more agape!

### **5. Ludus**

Ludus is playful or uncommitted love. It can involve activities such as teasing and dancing, or more overt flirting, seducing, and conjugating. The focus is on fun, and sometimes on conquest, with no strings attached. Ludus relationships are casual, undemanding, and uncomplicated but, for all that, can be very long-lasting. Ludus works best when both parties are self-sufficient. Problems arise when one party mistakes ludus for eros, whereas ludus is in fact much more compatible with philia.

### **6. Pragma**

Pragma is a kind of practical love founded on reason or duty and one's longer-term interests. Sexual attraction takes a back seat in favor of personal qualities and compatibilities, shared goals, and making it work. In the days of arranged marriages, pragma must have been very common. Although unfashionable, it remains widespread, most visibly in certain high-profile celebrity and political pairings. Many relationships that start off as eros or ludus end up as various combinations of storge and pragma. Pragma may seem opposed to ludus, but the two can co-exist, with the one providing a counterpoint to the other. In the best of cases, the partners in the pragma relationship agree to turn a blind eye or even, as in the case of Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre, a sympathetic eye.

### **7. Philautia**

Philautia is self-love, which can be healthy or unhealthy. Unhealthy self-love is akin to hubris. In ancient Greece, a person could be accused of hubris if he placed himself above the gods, or, like certain modern politicians, above the greater good. Many believed that hubris led to destruction, or *nemesis*. Today, hubris has come to mean an inflated sense of one's status, abilities, or accomplishments, especially when accompanied by haughtiness or arrogance. As it disregards truth, hubris promotes injustice, conflict, and enmity.

Healthy self-love is akin to self-esteem, which is our cognitive and, above all, emotional appraisal of our own worth. More than that, it is the matrix through which we think, feel, and act, and reflects and determines our relation to ourselves, to others, and to the world.

Self-esteem and self-confidence do not always go hand in hand. In particular, it is possible to be highly self-confident and yet to have profoundly low self-esteem, as is the case with many performers and celebrities.

People with high self-esteem do not need to prop themselves up with externals such as income, status, or notoriety, or lean on crutches such as alcohol, drugs, or sex. They are able to invest themselves completely in projects and people because they do not fear failure or rejection. Of course they suffer hurt and disappointment, but their setbacks neither damage nor diminish them. Owing to their resilience, they are open to growth experiences and relationships, tolerant of risk, quick to joy and delight, and accepting and forgiving of themselves and others.

Of course, there is a kind of porosity between the seven types of love, which keep on seeping and passing into one another. For Plato, love aims at beautiful and good things, because the possession of them is happiness, and happiness is an end-in-itself. He whom love touches not walks in darkness.

## Summer Reading Assignment Questions—Rising Seniors 2017

### Questions for *Liars' Club* and *Sister of My Heart*:

1. In one sentence—as if it were a thesis statement—summarize *Liars' Club*, as if you explained it to someone who didn't understand it.
2. Do the same with *Sister of My Heart*.

### Connecting Dr. Lisa Firestone's Article to *Liars' Club* and *Sister of My Heart*:

1. In one sentence—as if it were a thesis—what is the overall summary of Dr. Lisa Firestone's article, “Why We Lie and How We Stop”?
2. In her article, Dr. Firestone explains five types of lies. Summarize each one in a sentence or two that makes it more understandable.

For each type of lie Firestone discusses...

- 3—6. List one example from either *Liars Club* **OR** *Sister of My Heart* that exemplifies this lie. In your response, list at least one direct sentence from the memoir or novel—and ensure you provide context for the sentence and correct MLA parenthetical citation.
- 7—10. After each example and textual evidence, explain why this example qualifies as that type of lie. Ensure you include close analysis.

Because five lies exist in this article, you should have a total of 5 textual evidence pieces and 5 accompanying explanations.

### Connecting Dr. Neel Burton's Article to *Liars' Club* and *Sister of My Heart*:

11. Burton discusses seven types of love in his article. Summarize each type in your own words—a sentence or two.
12. Choose three of these love-types that you consider most prevalent in Mary Karr's *Liars' Club*. For each type, explain why you consider it common in the book, using textual evidence or a specific example from the book, for each type you choose.
13. Do the same for Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *Sister of My Heart*.
14. By now you should have noticed that both books heavily involve lying—a destructive act—and loving—a productive, helpful act. Why would one story contain both of these negative and positive acts? In one MEAL paragraph, with a thesis, use this concept to answer this question: How do either Sudha, Anju, or Mary Karr use their lying as a sign of their love for someone? Your response should contain a one sentence thesis statement that chooses one of the above personas: Sudha, Anju, or Mary Karr.

After your thesis statement, skip a line and write a MEAL paragraph that uses textual evidence from the appropriate book to support your thesis statement. For review, a MEAL paragraph contains:

- \***M**ain idea: State the main idea about what your paragraph is about to discuss. Write a topic sentence.
- \***E**vidence: Include a direct quote, using conventions for essay writing (introduce the quote, cite it properly, among other details)
- \***A**nalysis: Analyze what this quote means; ensure you pick out key words to explain it.
- \***L**ink this quote to your thesis statement.

**Section One: Choose at least one title from these fiction selections. Feel free to read more.**

***The Color Purple***, by Alice Walker

It won a Pulitzer Prize in 1983. A feminist epistolary novel about an abused and uneducated black woman's struggle for empowerment, the novel was praised for the depth of its female characters and for its eloquent use of idiomatic African American English vernacular.

***One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich***, by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Solzhenitsyn's first book, this economical, relentless novel is one of the most forceful artistic indictments of political oppression in the Stalin-era Soviet Union. The simply told story of a typical, grueling day of the title character's life in a labor camp in Siberia is a modern classic and quickly garnered Solzhenitsyn an international reputation.

***Yo! (Yo!)***, by Julia Alvarez (in English or Spanish)

Alvarez's novel happily returns us to the rambunctious Garcia family, who appeared in *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* (1991). Here the focus is on one particular Garcia girl, Yolanda, nicknamed "Yo," who has grown up to be a writer. Alvarez smartly chooses not to have Yo tell her own story, which certainly would have been sufficiently interesting, given that she has followed a colorful path as writer, wife, and teacher. Alvarez selects a different technique: having Yo's life story told by the people around her, including her mother, her cousin, the maid's daughter, her teacher, her third husband, a man who stalks her (!), and her father. This cumulative effect, as each person who knows Yo has his or her say, results in a remarkably multifaceted portrait that will at once provoke, amuse, and warm readers.

***In Country***, by Bobbie Ann Mason

In the summer of 1984, the war in Vietnam comes home to Sam Hughes whose father died there before she was born. This is an extraordinary novel of reconciliation and shared hopes--and a youthful confrontation with the legacy of Vietnam. *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe In direct, almost fable-like prose, the novel depicts the rise and fall of Okonkwo, a Nigerian whose sense of manliness is more akin to that of his warrior ancestors than to that of his fellow clansmen who have converted to Christianity and are appeasing the British administrators who infiltrate their village. The tough, proud, hardworking Okonkwo is at once a quintessential old-order Nigerian and a universal character in which sons of all races have identified the figure of their father. Achebe creates a many-sided picture of village life and a sympathetic hero. This is a seminal work.

***Catch-22***, by Joseph Heller

Set in a World War II American bomber squadron off the coast of Italy, *Catch-22* is the story of John Yossarian, who is furious because thousands of people he has never met are trying to kill him. Yossarian is also trying to decode the meaning of *Catch-22*, a mysterious regulation that proves that insane people are really the sanest, while the supposedly sensible people are the true madmen. And this novel is full of madmen -- Colonel Cathcart, who keeps raising the number of missions the men must fly in order to finish their tour; Milo Minderbinder, a dedicated entrepreneur who bombs his own airfield when the Germans offer him an extra 6 percent; and Major -- de Coverley, whose face is so forbidding no one has dared ask his name.

***The English Patient***, by Michael Ondaatje

With ravishing beauty and unsettling intelligence, Michael Ondaatje's Booker Prize-winning novel traces the intersection of four damaged lives in an Italian villa at the end of World War II. Hana, the exhausted nurse; the maimed thief, Caravaggio; the wary sapper, Kip: each is haunted by the riddle of the English patient, the nameless, burned man who lies in an upstairs room and whose memories of passion, betrayal, and rescue illuminate this book like flashes of heat lightening.

***Fahrenheit 451***, by Ray Bradbury

Bradbury's novel explores the eternal battle between censorship and freedom of thought and continues to be relevant today more than ever. In Bradbury's future, books are illegal and happily so--citizens are too busy watching their wall-sized televisions and listening to their in-ear "seashell" radios to care about the loss of good literature. Guy Montag begins the novel as a fireman who enforces the temperature of the title--that at which books burn--but then transforms and tries to show his society the mistake of censorship.

***Ordinary People***, by Judith Guest

A remarkable book about an ordinary family's response to an extraordinary tragedy; it was so popular in its time precisely because the Jarretts could be any American family and what happened in their family could happen in anyone's family. Well, maybe not in anyone's family; most Americans aren't wealthy enough to live in a McMansion in an upper-middle-class bedroom community, nor do most families own a boat. But, income aside, the Jarretts are like most people one knows: a hardworking father, a mother who wants the best for her family, and two teenage sons, one outgoing and confident, the other quiet and retiring, living in his older brother's shadow. A freak boating accident leaves the older brother dead by drowning, and the family devastated. The parents, Cal and Beth, and their younger son Conrad, are left to cope with the aftermath. *Ordinary People* is the story of how they cope--or fail to.

***Please, Mr. Einstein***, by Jean-Claude Carrière

It is the early 21st century, and a young, nameless student intent on learning more about Einstein finds her way into a mysterious office that houses—Einstein himself, walking and talking, full of generosity and the urge to make his ideas plain. The expected thought-experiments (an elevator with no frame of reference, two trains moving side by side) cover the basics of relativity, but soon the young student presses Einstein, who thought deeply about such questions, to examine the morality of his achievements: could the world after Hiroshima truly be a better place? Carrière's Einstein, like the real one, has mixed feelings on the topic, and one of the novel's few dramatic moments comes when the smartest man in the world is unable to provide all the answers.

***The Life of Pi***, by Yann Martel

The imaginative and unforgettable *Life of Pi* is a magical reading experience, an endless blue expanse of storytelling about adventure, survival, and ultimately, faith. The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries on various faiths for size, attracting "religions the way a dog attracts fleas." Planning a move to Canada, his father packs up the family and their menagerie and they hitch a ride on an enormous freighter. After a harrowing shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with a wounded zebra, a spotted hyena, a seasick orangutan, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker ("His head was the size and color of the lifebuoy, with teeth").

***A Town Like Alice***, by Nevil Shute

Set against the brutal chaos of World War II, a love story begins that will take two lovers through a living nightmare of captivity, across three continents and two decades. From the steamy jungles of Malaya to the dusty and desolate outback of Australia, the novel follows the lives of Jean Paget and Joe Harman. They meet in Malaya--she an attractive young English captive and he a cheerful Australian POW tortured for a simple act of kindness. Separated first by their captors, then by the distance of passing years, the two are finally reunited in the rugged outback of Australia--to face a challenge every bit as demanding as their wartime trials.

***The Shipping News***, by Annie Proulx

In this touching and atmospheric novel set among the fishermen of Newfoundland, Proulx tells the story of Quoye. From all outward appearances, Quoye has gone through his first 36 years on earth as a big loser. He's not attractive, he's not brilliant or witty or talented, and he's not the kind of person who typically assumes the central position in a novel. However, Proulx creates a simple and compelling tale of Quoye's psychological and spiritual growth. Along the way, we get to look in on the maritime beauty of what is probably a disappearing way of life.

***Riding the Bus with My Sister***, by Rachel Simon

When she received an invitation to her mentally retarded sister's annual Plan of Care review, Simon realized that this was Beth's way of attempting to bring her back into her life. Beth challenged the author to give a year of her life to riding "her" buses with her. Even though Simon didn't know where it would take her, she accepted. During that time, she came to see her sister as a person in her own right with strong feelings about how she wanted to live her life, despite what others thought. Not everyone on the buses, drivers or passengers, liked or even tolerated Beth, and it shamed the author to realize that she sometimes felt the same way about her sibling. As the year passed, Simon came to the realization that "No one can be a good sister all the time. I can only try my best. Just because I am not a saint does not mean that I am a demon." The time together became a year of personal discovery, of acceptance, and of renewed sibling love and closeness.

**Section Two: Choose at least one title from these non-fiction selections. Feel free to read more.**

***The Blue Sweater***, by Jacqueline Novogratz

This is the education of a patient capitalist. Novogratz was an idealistic college graduate hired by Chase Manhattan to investigate and write off loans to the Third World. What she discovers in her journey is a blue sweater she gave away to Goodwill many years early on the back of a small Rwandan boy. This sweater becomes a metaphor for the interconnectedness of the world. Later, Novogratz founds The Acumen Fund that underwrites investments to rising entrepreneurs in the Third World to foster economic growth from the bottom of the pyramid up.

***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier***, by Ishmael Beah

A twelve-year old boy first flees from attacking rebels with his friends, but later is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone between 1991 and 1998 and his rehabilitation.

***A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes***, by Stephen W. Hawking

Perhaps the most famous popular science book of recent years, A Brief History of Time even had the distinct honor of being made into a film. This tenth anniversary edition has been revised and updated to reflect discoveries made since its original 1988 publication. It also contains a new introduction and a chapter on wormholes.

***Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers***, by Mary Roach

Those curious or brave enough to find out what really happens to a body that is donated to the scientific community can do so with this book. Bodies are divided into types, including "beating-heart" cadavers for organ transplants, and individual parts--leg and foot segments, for example, are used to test footwear for the effects of exploding land mines. Just as the non-emotional, fact-by-fact descriptions may be getting to be a bit too much, Roach swings into macabre humor. In some cases, it is needed to restore perspective or aid in understanding both what the procedures are accomplishing and what it is hoped will be learned. In all cases, the comic relief welcomes readers back to the world of the living.

***Einstein: The Life and Times***, by Ronald William Clark Ronald W.

Clark's definitive biography of Einstein, the Promethean figure of our age, goes behind the phenomenal intellect to reveal the human side of the legendary absent-minded professor who confidently claimed that space and time were not what they seemed. Here is the classic portrait of the scientist and the man: the boy growing up in the Swiss Alps, the young man caught in an unhappy first marriage, the passionate pacifist who agonized over making The Bomb, the indifferent Zionist asked to head the Israeli state, the physicist who believed in God.

***Eleni***, by Nicholas Gage

In 1948, as civil war ravaged Greece, communists abducted children and sent them to communist "camps" behind the Iron Curtain. Eleni Gatzoyiannis, forty-one, defied the traditions of her small village and the terror of the communist insurgents to arrange for the escape of her three daughters and her son, Nicola. For that act, she was imprisoned, tortured, and executed in cold blood. Nicholas Gage joined his father in Massachusetts at the age of nine and grew up to become a top New York Times investigative reporter, honing his skills with one thought in mind: to return to Greece and uncover the one story he cared about most--the story of his mother. Eleni takes you into the heart a village destroyed in the name of ideals and into the soul of a truly heroic woman.

***Man's Searching for Meaning***, by Viktor Frankl

Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl's memoir has riveted generations of readers with its descriptions of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Between 1942 and 1945 Frankl labored in four different camps, including Auschwitz, while his parents, brother, and pregnant wife perished. Based on his own experience and the experiences of those he treated in his practice, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose. Frankl's theory holds that our primary drive in life is not pleasure, as Freud maintained, but the discovery and pursuit of what we personally find meaningful. A 1991 reader survey by the Library of Congress that asked readers to name a "book that made a difference in your life" found Man's Search for Meaning among the ten most influential books in America.

***In Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton***, by Elizabeth Griffith

The first comprehensive, fully documented biography of the most important woman suffragist and feminist reformer in nineteenth-century America, In Her Own Right restores Elizabeth Cady Stanton to her true place in history. Griffith emphasizes

the significance of role models and female friendships in Stanton's progress toward personal and political independence. In *Her Own Right* is, in the author's words, an "unabashedly 'great woman' biography."

***Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life***, by Anne Lamott

Think you have a book inside of you? Anne Lamott isn't afraid to help you let it out. She will help you find your passion and your voice, beginning from the first crummy draft to the peculiar letdown of publication. Readers will be reminded of the energizing books of writer Natalie Goldberg and will be seduced by Lamott's witty take on the reality of a writer's life, which has little to do with literary parties and a lot to do with jealousy, writer's block and going for broke with each paragraph. Marvelously wise and best of all, great reading.

***Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love***, by Dava Sobel

Galileo's Daughter is a fascinating biography that gives an intimate look at the life of Galileo through the 124 letters written by his eldest daughter, Virginia, published in translation for the first time from the Italian. Virginia was one of Galileo's three children born out of wedlock. Together with her depressive younger sister, she was placed in the Convent of San Matteo near Galileo's Florence home at the age of 13, where she took the name Suor Maria Celeste, in tribute to her father's work. Galileo recognized in Virginia an "exquisite mind," and she, in turn recognized the depth of her father's faith in Catholicism and proved to be an unwavering source of loyalty, support, comfort, and strength for him when he was brought to trial before the Holy Office of the Inquisition in 1633.

***The Biology of Belief***, by Bruce Lipton

This is a groundbreaking work in the field of New Biology. The author is a former medical professor and research scientist. His experiments, and those of other leading-edge scientists, have examined the processes by which cells receive information. The implications of this research radically change our understanding of life. It shows that genes and DNA do not control our biology; that instead, DNA is controlled by signals from outside the cell, including the energetic messages emanating from our positive and negative thoughts. Dr. Lipton's profoundly hopeful synthesis of the latest and best research in cell biology and quantum physics is being hailed as a major breakthrough showing that our bodies can be changed as we retrain our thinking.

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