

The Bay School Faculty & Staff LIFE READING LIST



A Bay School Tradition

The founding class of 2008 asked each faculty and staff member to share their favorite books and/or tidbits of wisdom. Here it is...updated for the Class of 2011.

Vanessa Alfaro

- *Waiting for the Barbarians*, J.M. Coetzee
- *Pillars of the Earth*, Ken Follett
- *The Corrections*, Jonathan Franzen
- *A Game of Thrones: A Song of Ice and Fire*, George R.R. Martin

Scott Bell

- *All the Pretty Horses*, Cormac McCarthy
- *No More Prisons*, William Upsi
- *On the Road*, Jack Kerouac
- *A River Runs Through It*, Norman Maclean
- *Civil Disobedience*, Henry David Thoreau
- *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, Robert Pirsig
- *Three Cups of Tea*, Greg Mortenson

Kim Bennett

- *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again*, David Foster Wallace
- *Self Portrait in a Convex Mirror*, John Ashbery
- *The Idiot*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- *The Granite Pail, Selected Poems of Lorine Niedecker*
- *Housekeeping*, Marilynne Robinson
- *The Art of Eating*, M.F.K. Fisher
- *The Left Hand of Darkness*, Ursula Le Guinn

Mio Berk

This is just a small selection of books that have made some sort of impact in my heart:

- *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden (the book is far better than the movie!!)
- *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett
- *The Help* by Katherine Stockett

A few of my favorite authors:

- Roald Dahl (he writes novels for adults, too!)
- David Sedaris
- Malcolm Gladwell

Raul Betancourt

Some must reads for Science Fiction- which aren't really about the future at all, but our own fears, hopes, dreams in the present: our humanity, really.

- *2001 A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C Clarke is a thoughtful, and well written meditation on meeting life from another place.
- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card is just genius and insightful.
- *Hyperion* by Dan Simmons – He creates such an amazing future and mythology.
- *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K Le Guin is an amazing imagining of a world where gender can be changed at will.
- *Consider Phlebas, or Matter-* anything really- by Ian M. Banks. His imaginings of what he calls the Culture is brilliant.
- Kurt Vonnegut. Read everything if you can.

Fiction

- *Short Stories* by Raymond Carver. He is a master of description and humanity.
- *The Doctor Stories* by William Carlos Williams. The esteemed poet was a doctor!

Non-Fiction

- *The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi. Do yourself a favor and read this brilliant, Pulitzer winning story of a chemist's life before and after his internment at Auschwitz.
- *Becoming Mexican American* by George J. Sanchez is one of the best history books I've read.
- Lewis Thomas' *The Lives of a Cell: the poetry of biology!*
- *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* by Sogyal Rinpoche is amazing.
- *Peace is Every Step* by Thich Nhat Hanh changed my life.

Darrick Broudy

- *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Jared Diamond
- *Collapse*, Jared Diamond
- *April 4, 1968*, Michael Eric Dyson
- *Weep Not, Child*, Ngugi wa Thiong'o
- *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*, Jeff Chang
- *The Five Percenters: Islam, Hip Hop and the Gods of New York*, Michael Muhammad Knight
- *The Dead Emcee Scrolls*, Saul Williams
- *Into Thin Air*, John Krakauer
- *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*, D.T. Niane
- *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, James W. Loewen
- *The Dragons of Eden*, Carl Sagan
- *Race Matters*, Cornel West
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley

Bill Brown

- *What is the What*, Dave Eggers
- *A Short History of Myth*, Karen Armstrong
- *The Great Transformation*, Karen Armstrong
- *Measure for Measure*, Shakespeare
- *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, Thomas Cahill
- *The Right Hand of Sleep*, John Wray (former student)
- *Personal Days*, Ed Park (former student)
- *Jesus and Mohammed: The Parallel Sayings*, ed., Joey Green
- *How to Read a Poem*, Edward Hirsch
- *The Gift*, Hafiz
- *The Case for God*, Karen Armstrong
- *Standing by Words*, Wendell Berry

Craig Butz

Fiction:

- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien - A moving, somewhat post-modern account of a soldier's experience in and after the Vietnam War
- *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut - Black comedy about the end of the world
- *The Neverending Story* by Michael Ende - Yes, an 80s kids film was made from this. It's a wonderful escape and much more involved than the movie.

Nonfiction:

- *Mind Wide Open: Your Brain and the Neuroscience of Everyday Life* by Steven Johnson
- *Class: A Guide through the American Status System* by Paul Fussell
- *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America* by Dan Savage

Miles Chen

- *Dune*, Brian Herbert
- *The World According to Garp*, John Irving

Cello Cibrian

- Autobiography of New York Yankees
- Autobiography of the Three Stooges
- All American Recipe Book
- *Spiderman*
- *Superman*

Lori Cohen

This isn't everything, but it should help...

- *Bird by Bird*, Anne Lamott
- *Song of Solomon*, Toni Morrison
- *Beloved*, Toni Morrison
- *The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver
- *Small Wonder* (collection of essays), Barbara Kingsolver
- *House of the Spirits*, Isabel Allende
- *Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison
- "Politics and the English Language" (Essay), George Orwell
- *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, Jonathan Safran Foer
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee, (even if you've read it, read it again!)
- *The Hours*, Michael Cunningham
- *Ulysses* by James Joyce, (for someone who has that kind of time and energy on their hands)
- *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf
- *Education and the Significance of Life*, Krishnamurti
- *Midnight's Children*, Salman Rushdie
- *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, Lynne Truss
- *Black Boy*, Richard Wright
- "On Self Respect" (Essay), Joan Didion
- "Richard Wright's Blues" (Essay) from *Shadow and Act*, Ralph Ellison,

- *Refuge*, Terry Tempest Williams
- *Hunger for Memory*, Richard Rodriguez
- "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens" (Essay), Alice Walker
- *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker
- *Mama Day*, Gloria Naylor
- "Wild Geese" (poem), Mary Oliver
- *Collected Poems*, Czeslaw Milosz
- *Doubt*, John Patrick Shanley
- *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, Junot Diaz
- *Let the Great World Spin*, Colum McCann

Robin Cunningham

- *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, Carson McCullers
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
- *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck
- *Motorcycle Diaries*, Ernesto Guevara

Nic Fizsman

A Dangerous Place: California's Unsettling Fate, Marc Reisner

Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Water, Robert Glennon

Rivers for Life: Managing Water for People and Nature, Sandra Postel

The Control of Nature, John McPhee

Encounters with the Archdruid, John McPhee

Noah's Flood, William Ryan and Walter Pitman

Advice:

Be alive! Pay attention! Never take your surroundings for granted: look, observe and be present. Be humble! Never assume that you know everything. Things are ALWAYS more complicated than they seem. Observe and learn as much as you can from your observation before tinkering with anything. Foster stewardship not ownership. Remember: life is NOT about you it is about you AMIDST everything else.

Steve Glass

- *Wooden: A Lifetime of Observations and Reflections on and off the Court*, Coach John Wooden
- *Wilderness and the American Mind*, Roderick Nash (3rd Edition)

Ellen Greenblatt

- *Anna Karenina*, Leo Tolstoy
- *In Pharo's Army*, Tobias Wolff
- *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen
- *100 Years of Solitude*, Gabriel García Márquez
- *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens

POETS:

- W. H. Auden
- Wislawa Szymborska (Nobel prize winning poetry)

Matt Hannibal

Devil in a Blue Dress, Walter Moseley
The Outlander, Gil Adamson
Gates of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae, Stephen Pressfield
Many Lives Many Masters, Brian L. Weiss
I Like You, Sandol Stoddard Warburg
The Road, Cormac McCarthy

Dennis Hartzell

- *Team of Rivals*, Doris Kearns Goodwin
- *Bonfire of the Vanities*, Tom Wolfe
- *My Name is Charlotte Simmons*, Tom Wolfe
- *The March of Folly*, Barbara Tuchman
- *The First Salute*, Barbara Tuchman
- *The Control of Nature*, John McPhee
- *Assembling California*, John McPhee
- *Self-Renewal*, John Gardner
- *A Portrait of the Artist As A Young Man*, James Joyce
- *Lord Jim*, Joseph Conrad
- *The Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad
- *David Copperfield*, Charles Dickens
- *Bleak House*, Charles Dickens
- *A Passage to India*, E.M. Forster
- *The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway
- *Light in August*, William Faulkner
- *As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner

I'm afraid I could keep going and be tiresome. (These are all books that have been important in my life.)
Enough for now.

Karen Hellyer

- *The Adventures of Johnny Bunko: the Last Career Guide You'll Ever Need*, Daniel Pink
- *In Defense of Food*, Michael Pollen
- *In Fitness and In Health*, Dr. Philip Maffetone - A practical guide to healthy diet and nutrition, exercise, injury prevention and avoiding disease.
- *I Will Teach You to Be Rich*, Ramit Sethi

Holly Hirshfield

- *The Agony and the Ecstasy* by Irving Stone – because everyone should read a book about Italy
- *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen – because the message still resonates and the dialogue is superb
- *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller – because the characters and writing are so clever
- *Song of the Exile* by Kiana Davenport – because it's a history you probably don't know about
- *The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal – because these questions about right and wrong, judgment and justice, will never go away
- *Master Harold and the Boys* by Athol Fugard – because it is heartbreaking and compelling to see Apartheid from this light
- *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers – because Eggers is a master storyteller and *Zeitoun* is the best of what Americans can be
- *Bossypants* by Tina Fey – because she worked hard, is clever, and her 5 rules of improve really might change your life

And, like Ms. Cohen.....

- *Extremely Loud, Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran – because Foer is an amazing writer and this story about 9-11 is so uniquely Foer
- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver – because history and time are exacting judges

Tim Johnson

- *Theodore Rex* by Edmund Morris
- *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
- *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* by Dave Eggers
- *Biko* by Donald Woods
- *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac
- *The Dubliners* by James Joyce
- *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
- *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

Eric Krieger

Epic adventure novels that you can lose yourself in:

- *Shantaram*, David Gregory Roberts
- *Lonesome Dove*, Larry McMurtry
- *Shogun*, James Cavell

Other Fiction:

- *The Other Half of the Yellow Sun*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *Exodus*, Leon Uris

Memoirs:

- *Angela's Ashes*, Frank McCourt
- *The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls
- *Nina Neither Here nor There: My Journey Beyond Gender*, Nick Krieger - This is my brother's memoir about his journey of discovering his gender identity. Graphic but well-written and very close to my heart.
- *Open*, Andre Agassi

Krissa Lebacqz

- *After The Ecstasy, The Laundry* by Jack Kornfield
- *When Things Fall Apart* by Pema Chödrön
- *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron
- *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy
- *The River Why* by David James Duncan
- *House of Light* by Mary Oliver
- *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey (really anything by him - *The Monkey Wrench Gang* is great)
- *The Practice of the Wild* by Gary Snyder
- *The Tracker* by Tom Brown (okay the writing isn't that great but it's a really good story)
- *The Third Chimpanzee* by Jared Diamond
- *Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris

Malcolm Manson

These are some of the ones I come back to over and over.

- *The Bacchae* by Euripides
- *Lives of the Caesars* by Suetonius
- *I, Claudius*, and *Claudius the God* by Robert Graves
- *Morte d'Arthur* by Thomas Malory
- *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White
- Everything except *Timon of Athens* by Shakespeare
- *Lycidas* by John Milton
- *The Dark Night of the Soul* by John of the Cross
- Everything except *The Old Curiosity Shop* by Charles Dickens
- Everything by Jane Austen
- All the Barchester and all the Palliser novels by Anthony Trollope
- *Kidnapped* and *The Master of Ballantrae* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Forsyte Saga* and sequels by John Galsworthy
- *Huntingtower* and *Castle Gay* and *House of the Four Winds* by John Buchan
- Everything, over and over by T.S. Eliot
- *Mystery Mile*, *The Fear Sign* and the other Albert Campion novels by Marjorie Allingham
- *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate* by Nancy Mitford
- *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons
- *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien

Jeremy Marshman

- *Letters to a Young Poet* by Rilke

Craig Miller

- *The Power of Myth* by Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers - Full of wisdom from conversations with a master teacher who finds lessons for modern mortals in ancient mythology.
- *The Art of Loving* by Erich Fromm - Fromm's insights may help you navigate the challenging waters of human relationships.
- *The End of Poverty* by Jeffrey Sachs - Your generation has the power to end extreme poverty. Will you be bold enough to take up the challenge?
- *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Rellin - Some failures lead to phenomenal successes as Mortenson's harrowing experiences in the Himalayas prove time and again. One person can make a difference.
- *Mexico* by John Noble (Lonely Planet Travel Guides) - The best guide to exploring our neighbor to the south. Travel the beaten track of tourist beaches and ancient ruins, but do find the time and courage to venture into the lesser known parts of this fascinating country. You will be richly rewarded. Don't stop there. Get your hands on, AND USE, as many of Lonely Planet's

guides as you can. Travel will offer you an education school cannot.

Tony Pickering

- *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller - Hilarious but serious, too
- *Lucky Jim* by Kingsley Amis - Just funny, not serious
- *Master and Commander* by Patrick O'Brian - They made a decent movie of it recently. Terrific historical fiction with violent naval battles, salt beef, grog and some interesting natural history. If you like it, there are another 18 or so in the series.

Katherine Riley

- *Slouching Toward Bethlehem* by Joan Didion
- *Motherless Brooklyn* by Jonathan Lethem
- *The Girls Guide to Hunting and Fishing* by Melissa Banks
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

Mary Ann Rodgers

For memories of California:

- *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner
- *Grapes of Wrath* and *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck

For inspiration:

- *The Joseph Campbell Companion: Reflections on the Art of Living*
- *The Element* by Ken Robinson

For merriness of heart:

- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

Forever:

- All of Shakespeare – Arden or Royal Shakespeare Company editions

Felix H. Roíz

- *El Amanecer* by Rubén Darío
- All books by Sergio Ramírez Mercado

Rachel Shaw

- *White Like Me: Reflections on Race by a Privileged Son*, Tim Wise
- *How Good People Make Tough Choices: Resolving the Dilemmas of Ethical Living*, Rushworth Kidder
- *Nothing Special*, Charlotte Joko Beck
- *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*, Ronald Takaki
- *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, Carol Dweck
- *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates (any of his books, really)
- *Pastoralia*, George Saunders

Alan Siu

- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley - Malcolm X is the most inspiring human I have ever read about. I hope one day to be even 1/10th the person he was. This is a great way to get to know him.
- *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell - Yes, it's a bestseller, but it's still good! Gladwell makes a great case for not underestimating our instincts... or overestimating them, depending on the situation—an interesting glimpse into human nature and a good impetus for self-reflection.
- *Cerebus* by Dave Sim - Some of the most beautiful artwork ever created by Canadians, and some interesting philosophical and religious discussions.
- *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan - Groundbreaking feminist work of the 1960s. Many parts of this book are sadly relevant even forty years later.
- *Femininity* by Susan Brownmiller - An amazing analysis of femininity as it has played out in various cultures and time periods.
- *Get Your Tongue Out of My Mouth, I'm Kissing You Goodbye!* by Cynthia Heimel - Whoever thinks feminists don't have a sense of humor hasn't read Cynthia Heimel.
- *The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades Before Roe v. Wade* by Ann Fessler - These stories are tragic and very real. Unfortunately, they do not get told very often. As a follow-up, you may want to watch the film *Loggerheads*.
- *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart* by Peter J. Gomes - Even if you're not a Christian, you may often wonder what goes into interpreting the Bible. Read this to find out.
- *Good News for Women: A Biblical Picture of Gender Equality* by Rebecca Merrill Groothuis - Again, even if you're not a Christian, this is a must-read, as it dispels the myth of the Bible espousing sexism.
- *Hardcore* by Linda Williams - I guess you're supposed to wait until you're 18 to read this book, but this is the most intelligently argued feminist deconstruction of pornography ever written, and it embraces ambiguity and complexity.
- *How the Irish Became White* by Noel Ignatiev - A great entry point into seeing how, particularly in the US, race as we know it now has not always been what it is today. Forget what you know, and come with an open mind for learning some history.
- *I Never Called It Rape* by Robin Warshaw - Everybody knows rape is bad, but this was one of the big wake-up calls to the general public about acquaintance and date rape.
- *Just for Fun: The Story of an Accidental Revolutionary* by Linus Torvalds - We have Windows laptops at Bay and a handful of Mac computers in the media lab, but you should probably know the history behind the operating system that powers Google's servers and your TiVo, and made its way onto the new "netbooks."
- *Men, Women, and Chainsaws* by Carol J. Clover - When's the last time you read some good film criticism? Was it about horror/slasher films? Well, if it wasn't, you should read this.
- *Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why* by Bart D. Ehrman - Even though this book is boring and repetitive, it's an important book for Christians and non-Christians alike to read. Ehrman is a former Christian (now Agnostic), who has had extensive seminary training, and he really knows his stuff.
- *M. Butterfly* by David Henry Hwang - Wonderful, humorous, and extremely subversive play to read. If you can get a hold of the audio recording of B.D. Wong and John Lithgow, even better. Do not ever see the David Cronenberg film adaptation.
- *On Writing* by Stephen King - If you've ever considered becoming a serious creative writer (or writing fiction for a living), you have to read this book. Stephen King isn't pretentious or hoity-toity. He gets straight to the point and tells you everything you need to know to be a successful writer.
- *The Slave* by Isaac Bashevis Singer - This is the most beautiful love story I have ever read. Jews and gentiles alike should enjoy it.
- *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons - This is absolutely the best comic book ever written. It's a shame what Hollywood did to it.
- *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Harold Kushner - A very well-argued piece that helps us understand one of the most difficult of life's questions.
- "Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?": A Psychologist Explains the Development of Racial Identity by Beverly Daniel Tatum - I don't know if all the black kids sit together in the Dining Hall, but it's certainly a phenomenon at a lot of other schools. Read this book to find out why (and more)

Teah Strozer

Rilke's poetry: *The Selected Poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke* translated by Stephen Mitchell (not anyone else), as well as poems by David Whyte are favorites.

Buddhist books I've tried to live my life by -- *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind* by Suzuki Roshi is a book that gets deeper and deeper and is always relevant even as my understanding matures. Lately I've been reading Adyashanti whose book *Emptiness Dancing* points directly to the truth. When I was learning the practice Joko Beck's book *Everyday Zen* was helpful as well as *The Issue at Hand* by Gil Fronsdal. *Cutting Through Spiritual Materialism* by Chogyam Trungpa is a gem.

As you know, the one I've been giving out at school is Diana Winston's book *Wide Awake*.

Virginia Woolf--*To the Lighthouse*, *Mrs. Dalloway*, and *A Room of One's Own* or the very erudite Carolyn Heilbrun's *Writing A Woman's Life* are books I've enjoyed, the later being a revelation when I read it years ago.

You all have such wonderful delicious pleasures in front of you. I remember the joy of discovery, of certain pieces of music, pieces of art that brought such delight I could hardly bare it. Take lots of risks. Be emotionally smart. If you know how, if you are honest with yourself, if you don't make drama's or resist life as it comes to you, always you'll learn most from the difficulties life will inevitably bring. And then, what joy, what happiness awaits...

Julie Taufaasau

- *Three Cups of Tea*, Greg Mortenson
- *The Fountainhead*, Ayn Rand
- *Pillars of the Earth*, Ken Follet
- *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, Dr. Seuss
- *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker
- *Mindset*, Carol Dweck
- *Enders Game*, Orson Scott Card
- *Veronika Decides to Die*, Paolo Coelho

Colin Williams

- *Iliad of Homer* - Greek heroes act like children. Beautiful poetry. Lots of violence. Fascinating, ambiguous morality. My absolute favorite piece of literature.
- *Metamorphoses* by Ovid - Skip the first chapter and read hilarious parodies on Greek myths.
- *Ramayana* by Valmiki, Trans. William Buck - If you like digressions, you'll love this! Every possible view of religion is presented.
- *Fup* by Jim Dodge - Really short, really inspiring, also quite funny.

- *An Ordinary Man* by Paul Russesabagina - His account of the Rwandan genocide. Insights into what it is to be human.

Robin Workman

Fiction:

- *The #1 Ladies Detective Agency*, Alexander McCall Smith - Features Precious Ramotswe, one of the most memorable, sassy characters in literature. Read the entire series.
- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver - Excellent historical fiction.
- *House of Spirits; Daughter of Fortune and Portrait in Sepia* by Isabelle Allende - Also excellent historical fiction.
- *100 Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez - All encompassing: a philosophical, political and psychological exploration of the human condition.

Non-fiction:

- *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan
- *The Future of Freedom* by Fareed Zakaria
- *The Human Condition (in parts); The Life of the Mind* by Hannah Arendt
- *The Myth of Sisyphus* by Albert Camus
- *The Second Sex and Ethics of Ambiguity* by Simone de Beauvoir
- Wang Yang Ming (brilliant Chinese philosopher who elegantly synthesizes Buddhism and Confucianism)
- *Anything* by Krishnamurti
- *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran