Looking Ahead for Your Next Pick

Need some ideas to spark your book club discussion choices for the next few months? Your group might want to try discussing a book connected to a day falling within these meeting months. Some snack ideas are also included.

February:

Valentine’s Day (February 14) Try a classic: Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte, Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte or Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. Snack: chocolates.

Mardi Gras (February 17)
Try: The Moviegoer by Walker Percy or Fat Tuesday by Sandra Brown.
Snack: Beignets (sweet fritters).

March:

St. Patrick’s Day (March 17) try: An Irish Country Doctor by Patrick Taylor or Ellis Island by Kate Kerrigan.
Snack: Irish Soda Bread.

Ides of March (March 15 – first day of the Roman New Year) try: I, Claudius by Robert Graves or Imperium by Robert Harris.
Snack: Italian Cheesecake.

April:

April Fool’s Day (April 1) Try something funny: Catch-22 by Joseph Heller or Where’d You Go, Bernadette? by Maria Semple. Snack: Prank snacks (desserts disguised as other foods).


- Sonia Grgas, Reference Librarian
The Book Club Insider

The Book Club in a Bag Consortium has added the following books to their collection for our lending pleasure:

**Freedom** by Jonathan Franzen  The idyllic lives of civic-minded environmentalists Patty and Walter Berglund come into question when their son moves in with aggressive Republican neighbors, green lawyer Walter takes a job in the coal industry, and go-getter Patty becomes increasingly unstable and enraged.

**The Snow Child** by Eowyn Ivey  A childless couple working a farm in the brutal landscape of 1920 Alaska discover a little girl living in the wilderness, with a red fox as a companion, and begin to love the strange, almost-supernatural child as their own.

**Where’d You Go Bernadette** by Maria Semple  When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her.

**The Woman Upstairs** by Claire Messud  Relegated to the status of schoolteacher after abandoning her dreams of becoming an artist, Nora advocates on behalf of a Lebanese student and is drawn into the child's family until his mother's ambition leads to betrayal.

**The Signature of All Things** by Elizabeth Gilbert  Traces the multi-generational saga of the Whittaker family, whose progenitor makes a fortune in the quinine trade before his daughter, a gifted botanist, researches the mysteries of evolution while falling in love with an artist.

(All summaries by the publishers)

Let us provide everything you need for a successful book discussion. We can supply you with 10 copies of the book and a discussion binder. The binder contains discussion questions, biographical information and critical material. Please contact Readers’ Services, 921-7161, ext 239 to reserve a book for your Book Club.  

- Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian

New Releases For The New Year

Here is a sampling of new releases for 2015 from some of our favorite authors:

**The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah – In this epic novel, set in France in World War II, two sisters who live in a small village find themselves estranged when they disagree about the imminent threat of occupation. Publish Date February 2015.

**The Buried Giant** by Kazuo Ishiguro – The novel opens as a couple set off across a troubled land of mist and rain in the hope of finding a son they have not seen in years. Publish Date March 2015.

**Dead Wake** by Erik Larson – Published to coincide with the 100 anniversary of the sinking of the luxury ocean liner the Lusitania, Larson brings to life an array of characters as well as the heightening war. Publish date March 2015.

**The Wright Brothers** by David McCullough – Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize David McCullough tells the dramatic story about the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly. Publish Date May 2015.

**The Children’s Crusade** by Ann Packer – A sweeping, masterful new novel that explores the secrets and desires of one California family, over the course of five decades. Publish Date April 2015.

**A Spool of Blue Thread** by Anne Tyler – Tyler’s latest chronicles the Whitshank family through several generations in Baltimore, Md. Publish Date February 2015.

(All summaries by the publishers)

Best wishes for a very Happy, Healthy New Year!

- Lisa J., Readers’ Services Librarian