Veterans Day...Honoring All Those Who Served

Veterans Day (November 11th) honors individuals who served in the United States Armed Forces. It marks the anniversary of the end of World War I. The major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. The United States previously observed Armistice Day. The U.S. holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Here is a list of fiction books that explore different aspects of war that your book club may wish to discuss.

- Perfume River by Robert Olen Butler
- All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk by Ben Fountain
- A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
- Hurricane Street by Ron Kovic
- We Come to Our Senses: Stories by Odie Lindsey
- Casualties by Elizabeth Marro
- The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien
- The Yellow Birds by Kevin Powers
- The Lotus Eaters by Tatjana Soli

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. American will never forget their sacrifices.”

– Harry S. Truman

New to Book Club In a Bag

Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf

“In the familiar setting of Holt, Colorado, home to all of Kent Haruf’s inimitable fiction, Addie Moore pays an unexpected visit to a neighbor, Louis Waters. Her husband died years ago, as did his wife, and in such a small town they naturally have known of each other for decades; in fact, Addie was quite fond of Louis’s wife. His daughter lives hours away in Colorado Springs, her son even farther away in Grand Junction, and Addie and Louis have long been living alone in houses now empty of family, the nights so terribly lonely, especially with no one to talk with.

Their brave adventures—their pleasures and their difficulties—are hugely involving and truly resonant, making Our Souls at Night the perfect final installment to this beloved writer’s enduring contribution to American literature.” -from the publisher

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
**2016 Man Booker Prize Winner Announced**

*The Sellout* by Paul Beatty was selected as the 2016 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Paul Beatty is the first American author to win the prize in its 48-year history. In fact, it was not until 2014 that United States authors’ became eligible. This year, two American authors were included in the 2016 shortlist. *The Sellout* is characterized as a searing satire on race relations in contemporary America. The book’s narrator is a resident of the run-down town of Dickens in Los Angeles County, which has been removed from the map to save California from embarrassment.

Bonbon, the narrator, is being tried in the Supreme Court for attempting to reinstate slavery and segregation in the local high school as a means of bringing about civic order. Paul Beatty lives in New York City and is the editor of *Hokum: An Anthology of African-American Humor*. He is the author of three additional novels. Your book club may be interested in reading one of his previous novels: *Slumberland*, *Tuff* or *The White Boy Shuffle*. He has also written two books of poetry: *Big Bank Take Little Bank* and *Joker, Joker, Deuce*.

If you would like more information, you can search [http://themanbookerprize.com/fiction](http://themanbookerprize.com/fiction).

-Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

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**Winter is coming...**

It’s November. Thanksgiving is approaching and will usher in the busy holiday season. Many book groups decide to either skip a December meeting or just make it a holiday meeting and recap the reading year. If your group is planning on the latter, here are some activities you might include at a holiday reading wrap-up get together:

- Compile some year-end lists: best/worst books, best discussions, best book covers, best author discoveries, best discussion points, etc.

- Tie your refreshments to the books you have read during the year.

- Recall your best discussions of the year and try to establish what it was that made them interesting to your particular group. Talking about this will make it likelier that the group will choose books that lead to stimulating, thought-provoking conversation.

- Bookish gift exchange: Members gift a book that they think the others might like. The group can decide whether they want to buy new or just go with “gently used”.

- Perhaps you do want to read something to discuss: many holiday themed books are not very long or you choose to read a short story together.

*Whatever you decide to do may become a holiday tradition! Happy Thanksgiving to All!!*

-Sonia Grgas, Reference Librarian