

SHARED READING: all students must read *The Moor's Account* by Laila Lalami. *Realistic fiction. 2014.* The invented memoir of enslaved person Mustafa al-Zamori follows him through his journey from Morocco to Florida and beyond with the Spanish Narváez expedition that goes horribly awry. **The book will be available in the JBS bookstore this spring.**

In addition to *The Moor's Account*, each student must read TWO books from the list below:

***Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.** *Realistic fiction. 2013.* Explores in savvy, blunt, and often humorous fashion concepts of culture, race, love, and gender in the struggles and triumphs of Nigerian immigrants in America and England.

***Before and After* by Rosellen Brown.** *Mystery. 1992.* When the chief of police comes looking for Jacob one evening to question him about the bludgeoning to death of his teenage girlfriend, the lives of the Reiser family are changed forever.

***In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote.** *Nonfiction; journalism. 1966.* An account of the murders of the four members of the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas, in 1959 by two drifters who fled to Mexico and were later arrested and executed for their crimes.

***The Moonflower Vine* by Jetta Carleton.** *Realistic fiction. 2009.* Missouri author. On a farm in western Missouri during the first half of the twentieth century, Matthew and Callie Soames create a life for themselves and raise four headstrong daughters.

***Donald Duk* by Frank Chin.** *Realistic fiction. 1991.* Donald, the 12-year-old son of a Chinatown chef in San Francisco, hates his name (he isn't a cartoon character); he loves tap dancing; and he struggles to feel comfortable with being Chinese.

***The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant.** *Historical fiction. 2015.* A story of the twentieth century through the life of one woman, Addie Baum, born in 1900 to immigrant parents who are suspicious of America and its effect on their three daughters.

***Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr.** *Historical and speculative fiction. 2021.* An ancient Greek text weaves together the lives of five characters from the Byzantine empire up to a 22nd century starship and celebrates the human desire to dream, preserve, and be remembered.

***The Candy House* by Jennifer Egan.** *Science fiction. 2022.* In the not-so-distant future, numerous characters must face the consequences of living in a world where the boundaries between personal and public lives have largely been broken down.

***Wit: A Play* by Margaret Edson.** *Drama. 1999.* Vivian Bearing, a renowned English professor who has spent years studying and teaching poetry, takes an intellectual approach to her terminal cancer diagnosis for as long as she can.

***The Round House* by Louise Erdrich.** *Adventure fiction. 2012.* When his mother slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, Joe Coutts, an Ojibwe teenager, sets out with his three friends to find the person that injured his family.

***Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.** *Classic; adventure. 1915.* Three male explorers discover an advanced, all-female society in South America and have trouble understanding how it can work so well without men.

***In the Heart of the Heart of the Country and Other Stories* by William Gass.** *Realistic fiction. 1965.* Two novellas and three short stories, set in the Midwest, exhibiting Gass's characteristic and wildly original verbal brilliance and philosophical acuity.

***Less* by Andrew Sean Greer.** *2017. Realistic fiction; satire.* When Arthur Less gets an invitation to his ex-boyfriend's wedding, he responds with all the maturity of his 49 years by going on an international adventure that takes him as far from the event as possible.

***Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson.** *Realistic fiction; courtroom. 1995.* In 1954, in an island community north of Puget Sound, a local fisherman is found suspiciously drowned and a Japanese American citizen is charged with his murder.

***The Last Child* by John Hart.** *Mystery.* 2009. After his twin sister disappears, thirteen-year-old Johnny Merrimon is determined to find her. When a second girl disappears from his rural North Carolina town, Johnny makes a shocking discovery.

***Catch-22* by Joseph Heller.** *Classic; satire.* 1955. Set in the closing months of World War II, *Catch-22* is the story of a bombardier named Yossarian who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he hasn't even met keep trying to kill him.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway.** *Classic; war.* 1940. The Spanish Civil War is in full swing when one man's sense of duty confronts another's self-interest and weariness.

***And We Stay* by Jenny Hubbard.** *Realistic fiction.* 2014. Sent to an Amherst, Massachusetts, boarding school after her ex-boyfriend's death, seventeen-year-old Emily expresses herself through poetry, copes with her guilt, and begins to heal.

***The Crazy* by Ha Jin.** *Realistic fiction.* 2004. When an eminent professor has a stroke in Communist China and begins to rave unconsciously in the hospital, a graduate student enlisted to sit with him must separate truth from fantasy in his wild "confessions."

***The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston.** *Memoir and folktale.* 1976. Kingston works to forge an understanding of her family's past from her present life in California and the conflict between her mother's tales of women warriors in China and the oppressive reality from which they emerged.

***Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools* by Jonathan Kozol.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 1991. An account of the author's visits to schools in over 30 neighborhoods, including East St. Louis, Harlem, and Chicago, and the inequities he found.

***We Are Okay* by Nina LaCour.** *Realistic fiction.* 2017. Printz Award winner. The summer before college was filled with change for Marin--a changing relationship with her best friend, Mabel, and then a sudden bereavement. When Mabel flies coast-to-coast to visit Marin, the two must face the past together and try to move past it.

***Dead Wake* by Erik Larson.** *Non-fiction.* 2016. Grippingly describes the sinking of the *Lusitania* and captures the sheer drama and emotional power of a disaster whose intimate details and true meaning have long been obscured by history.

***All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy.** *Western.* 1992. Presents a cowboy odyssey for modern times and features the travels and toils of a 16 year old East Texan boy. The first volume of the author's Border trilogy.

***Ordinary Monsters* by J.M. Miro.** *Fantasy.* 2022. In a dark, late 19th century, employees from the Cairndale Institute must round up children with "talents" from across the world before they are found by the haunting monster that hunts them.

***A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Stories* by Flannery O'Connor.** *Realistic fiction.* 1953. A ten-story collection of O'Connor's startling and strange characters and plots that populate her country home near Milledgeville, Georgia, in the early 20th century.

***Playing With Fire: The 1968 Election and the Transformation of American Politics* by Lawrence O'Donnell.** *Nonfiction; politics.* 2017. Assassinations, riots, old political machines, war resistance, and shifting loyalties: The 1968 election contained the essence of what makes America different and how we got to where we are now.

***Coal Black Horse* by Robert Olmstead.** *Adventure.* 2007. In the midst of the Civil War, Robey Child's mother sends him to the battlefield to find his father, and the fourteen-year-old is forced to become a man amidst the horrors of war.

***The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin.** *Science fiction.* 1969. In a fictional universe, Genly Ai serves as an envoy to a distant planet where his struggle to understand the culture and ambisexuality of the world places him in grave danger.

***The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan.** *Nonfiction; journalism. 2006.* An ecological and anthropological study of eating offers insight into food production and consumption in the twenty-first century.

***Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser.** *Nonfiction; journalism. 2001.* The book inspires readers to look beneath the surface of our food system, consider its impact on society and, most of all, think for themselves.

***Hyperion* by Dan Simmons.** *Science fiction. 1989.* Twenty-ninth century, intergalactic pilgrims travel to the mysterious and powerful Shrike sect on the far world of Hyperion and by sharing their separate tales try to understand the reason for their potentially deadly journey.

***The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair.** *Nonfiction; journalism. 1906.* Sinclair worked undercover in the meatpacking Chicago stockyards to describe in true detail the horrific conditions among workers and the food they produced.

***Men Explain Things to Me* by Rebecca Solnit.** *Nonfiction; social commentary. 2014.* Solnit humorously explores communication between men who wrongly assume they know things and/or wrongly assume women don't.

***Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut.** *Science fiction. 1966.* The story of Billy Pilgrim who has come unstuck in time and jumps back and forth from life on a distant planet to the horrors of the 1945 fire-bombing of Dresden.

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.** *Realistic fiction. 1983.* Celie is a poor black woman in the South whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, from her endurance of abuse beginning at age 14 to her growth toward independence, creativity, and love.

***All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren.** *Realistic fiction. 1946.* *All the King's Men* traces the rise and fall of demagogue Willie Stark, a fictional character loosely based on Governor Huey "Kingfish" Long of Louisiana.

***Black Boy* by Richard Wright.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 1945.* Wright's unforgettable autobiography of growing up in the Jim Crow South offers an unsurpassed portrait of the struggles against the ingrained racism and poverty faced by African Americans.