

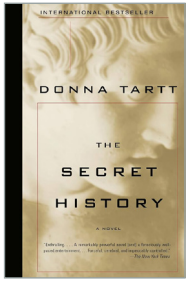


SHATTUCK-ST. MARY'S

ALUMNI

Book Club

2026 BOOK LIST

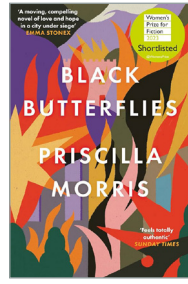


JANUARY

The Secret History
by Donna Tartt

A 2025 Summer Read for AP Literature students and the SSM English Faculty, this debut novel by Pulitzer Prize

winning author of *The Goldfinch* reads like a slow-burning psychological thriller while exploring themes of privilege, madness, and the problem of the fatal flaw.

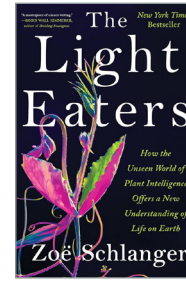


FEBRUARY

Black Butterflies
by Priscilla Morris

Shortlisted for the 2023 Women's Prize for Fiction and picked as a choice book for Don Scheel's Advanced World

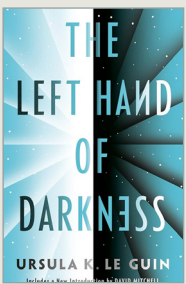
Literature class, this debut novel by an English author with Bosnian heritage narrates an artist's resilience and care for her family during the Siege of Sarajevo in 1992.



MARCH

The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth
by Zoë Schlanger

Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award for Natural History, Schlanger explores new discoveries in botany told in equal parts "detective story, field trip, and philosophy" and offers "a profound new understanding of the sophistication of underappreciated plants," writes author of *Braiding Sweetgrass* Robin Wall Kimmerer.

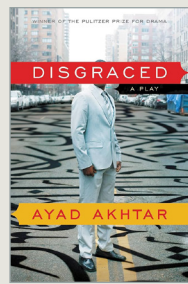


APRIL

The Left Hand of Darkness
by Ursula K. Le Guin

In this seminal feminist sci-fi novel, an Earthling narrator is sent on a diplomatic mission to the planet Gethen,

inhabited by a race of ambisexual humans. Incisively exploring the complexities of gender roles in society, this AP Literature choice book won the Hugo and Nebula Awards in 1969 and 1970.

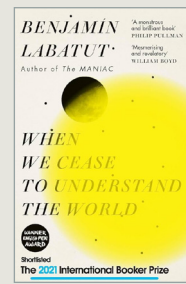


MAY

Disgraced: A Play
by Ayad Akhtar

Centering on a Manhattan dinner party of successful professionals with distinct ethnic backgrounds, this short,

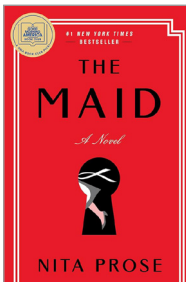
explosive 2013 Pulitzer Prize winning play and anchor text for AP Literature "reveals how tenuous self-image can be for people born into one way of being who have embraced another" (*The New York Times*).



JUNE

When We Cease to Understand the World
by Benjamin Labatut

Blending biography with fiction, Labatut depicts the fascinating, sometimes disturbing psyches of several major mathematical and scientific minds of the modern era, including Schrodinger, Heisenberg and Grothendieck. Nominated for the International Booker Prize and National Book Award, this book grapples with the uncomfortable relationship between paradigm-shifting discoveries and insanity.

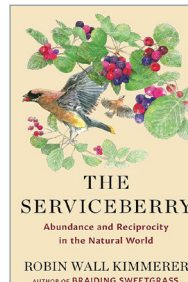


JULY

The Maid
by Nita Prose

Recommended by SSM alumnus Bob Hauck '53 as a "lighter, fun, and engaging read," this whodunit told from the perspective of a

neurodivergent hotel maid was nominated for several Mystery genre awards and won the 2022 Ned Kelly Award for International Crime Fiction.

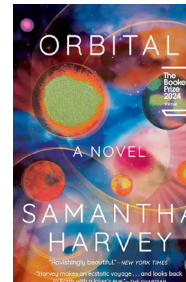


AUGUST

The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

By the author of best-seller *Braiding Sweetgrass*, this short, beautifully illustrated

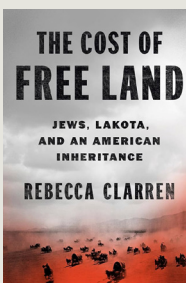
meditation on serviceberries, recommended by Director of Library Services Marika Belusa, invites us to reconsider our relationships - with the economy, each other, and nature - by using Indigenous teaching that helps us see the natural world's "abundance that already surrounds us."



SEPTEMBER

Orbital: A Novel
by Samantha Harvey

A concise but poetically written series of vignettes told by six astronauts while they orbit Earth, this 2024 Booker Prize winner and recommendation from founding ABC member Courtney Cavellier will give you an invigorated sense of wonder and renewed perspective of what it is to live on a rock hurtling through space.

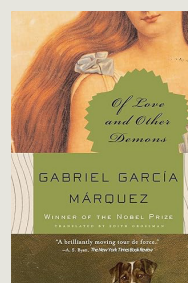


OCTOBER

The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance
by Rebecca Clarren

Raising profound questions about our duty to know our histories, both personal and

national, Clarren's fusion of history and family memoir narrates the federal mistreatment of the Lakota people alongside an unflinching search for answers and connections to her own family's immigrant history in western South Dakota.



NOVEMBER

Of Love and Other Demons
by Gabriel García Márquez

Included as a Choice Book in AP Literature, this equally troubling and humorous novel by the Nobel Prize-winning Colombian author and

undisputed giant of world literature illustrates the absurdities of Spanish Colonization while recasting the trope of star-crossed lovers with Márquez's quintessentially lush prose.



DECEMBER

Good for a Girl: A Woman Running in a Man's World
by Lauren Fleshman

Winner of the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award, this sports memoir written by an elite and accomplished collegiate athlete, professional track competitor and now coach, is an "eye opening look at the sexism in sports," according to SSM Athletic Trainer and ABC regular Kennedy Appleton.

Meetings will be held over Zoom every third Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. CST. unless otherwise noted. For more information, please visit: s-sm.org/alumni/book-club