

## **Grand Canyon PWP Reading List**

### **2019-2020**

The criteria for the selection of the books are: to enlighten our minds, to nourish our spirits, to challenge our consciences, and to entertain us. As you choose which ones you will read we hope we have met these goals, not all of them in one book, but in the whole of them.

#### **Fiction**

***Behold the Dreamers*, Imbolo Mbue.** Jende longa, a Camaroonian immigrant living in Harlem, came to the United States to provide a better life for himself and his family. They are working hard and doing well until the 2008 financial crisis affects their wealthy employers.

***The Women in the Castle*, Jessica Shattuck.** Marianne von Lingenfels is the widow of one of the men who was executed for planning to assassinate Hitler. As they are making their plan, Marianne promises her husband she will take care of the women and children in case they fail. She keeps her promise with courage, determination and ingenuity. Through all the hardship there are glimmers of hope and joy.

***The Chilbury Ladies Choir*, Jennifer Ryan.** When the Vicar of the church in a small village in England decrees there will no longer be a choir because all the men are away at the war the women choir members take charge. Their choir without men persists through wartime challenges and becomes a prize winning choir.

***The Great Alone*, Kristin Hannah.** Thirteen-year-old Leni Allbright's volatile father, Ernt, moves the family to Alaska, where he believes they will live off the land and prosper. Totally unprepared for life in the wilderness the family survives with the help of neighbors until Ernt's fragile mental state puts Leni and her mother in danger for their lives.

***Little Fires Everywhere*, Celeste Ng.** When Mia Warren and her daughter Pearl rent an apartment from Elena Richardson, the matriarch of a successful Shaker Heights, Ohio family, it sets in motion a series of events, that culminate in a fire that burns down the Richardson home, and transforms the lives of both families.

***Last Bus to Wisdom*, Ivan Doig.** Donal Cameron, an eleven-year-old boy, is being raised by his grandmother in Montana when she has to have surgery. He is sent alone on a Greyhound bus from Montana to Wisconsin to live with a great aunt and her husband for the summer. Before long he is back on a Greyhound bus heading back west under wildly different conditions.

***Beneath a Scarlet Sky*, Mark T. Sullivan.** Pino, a normal Italian teenager, joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps. Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier where he becomes the personal driver for one of the Nazi's important officers.

***Daughters of the Night Sky***,\_Aimie K. Runyan. It is love at first sight when Katya Ivanova sees an airplane for the first time. She becomes one of the Russian women pilots who terrorize the Nazi troops so much that they are nicknamed the “Night Witches.”

## Nonfiction

***In Order to Live, A North Korean Girl’s Journey to Freedom***, Yeonmi Park. Park, who fled North Korea with her mother in 2007 at age 13, reveals the most intimate details of the repressive society she was raised in and the enormous price she paid to escape.

***Code Girls, The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II***, Liza Mundy. Code Girls reveals a hidden army of female cryptographers, whose work played a crucial role in ending World War II. This is another piece of forgotten women who made history.

***Lincoln and Whitman, Parallel Lives in Civil War Washington***, Daniel Mark Epstein. Despite their differences in position, Abraham Lincoln and Walt Whitman shared a vision of the democratic character. They had read or listened to each other’s words and both were utterly transformed by the tragedy of the Civil War.

***Evicted, Poverty and Profit in the American City***,\_Matthew Desmond. Set in the poorest areas of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the book follows eight families struggling to pay rent to their landlords around the 2008 financial crisis. It highlights the issues of extreme poverty, affordable housing, and economic exploitation in the United States

***Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans***,\_Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger. In 1812 the British knew that taking the mouth of the Mississippi River was the key to crippling their former colony. Capturing the city of New Orleans and stopping trade up the river sounded like a simple task, but they had to face Andrew Jackson.

***First Women, the Grace and Power of America’s Modern First Ladies***, Kate Anderson Brower. How women from Jackie Kennedy to Michelle Obama have negotiated the personal and political challenges of being married to the president of the United States.

***Disturbed in Their Nests, a Journey from Sudan’s Dinkaland to San Diego’s City Heights***, Alephonsion Deng and Judy Bernstein. One of the Lost Boys of Sudan and a suburban housewife forge a heartwarming partnership.

***Educated. A Memoir***, Tara Westover. The seventh child of her isolationist, survivalist parents, Tara grew up in rural Idaho in a filthy, ramshackle house with no conveniences, no medical care and no schooling. The family survived on income from a junk yard and herbal medicines her mother made. With no prior education Tara entered Brigham Young University when she was 16.