

Grand Canyon PWP Reading List

2021-2022

The criteria for the selection of the books were: to enlighten our minds, to nourish our spirits, challenge our consciences, 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



Anxious People, Fredrik Backman. Looking at real estate isn't usually a life-or-death situation, but an apartment open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage.



The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek, Kim Michele Richardson. The poor folks of Troublesome Creek Kentucky have to scarp for everything except books. They have their own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter. The problem is that her skin is blue.



Peace Like a River, Leif Enger. Asthmatic eleven-year-old Reuben Land, along with his sister and father, sets out on a cross-country search for his outlaw older brother who has been charged with murder. Their journey unfolds like a revelation. Its conclusion shows how family, love, and faith can stand up to enemies.



Where the Crawdads Sing, Delia Owens. For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" haunted Barkley Cove. Kya Clark, a born naturalist, was deserted by her parents when she was a child. Living in the marshes alone she is barefoot and wild. When the popular Chase Andrews is found dead, locals right away suspect her.



American Princess, A Novel of First Daughter Alice Roosevelt, Stephanie Marie Thornton. As bold as her signature color Alice Blue, the gum-chewing, cigarette-smoking, poker-playing First Daughter discovers that the only way for a woman to stand out in Washington is to make waves—oceans of them.



Code Name Helene, Ariel Lahan. This historical novel is inspired by the real story of Nancy Grace Augusta Wake, a woman so extraordinary that your first instinct might be to believe she is imaginary, like James Bond. It is named for one of the four code names under which Wake operated as one of the most fearless and effective leaders of the French Resistance in 1936.

NONFICTION



The Color of Law, A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America, Richard Rothstein. Federal, state, and local governments started and reinforced neighborhood segregation with racial zoning, public housing, tax exemptions, and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods.



Devil's Daughters, The Women Who Fought Slavery in San Francisco's China Town, Julia Flynn Siler. As Presbyterian women we know Donaldina Cameron who was one of the courageous women who ran a house on the edge of San Francisco's Chinatown. It served as a gateway to freedom for thousands of enslaved and vulnerable young Chinese women and girls.



The Killers of the Flower Moon, the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI, David Grann. A bonechilling story of the killing of members of the Osage Indian Tribe in Oklahoma. One man was the brains behind the scheme to steal oil money from the Osage Indians. An agent of the newly organized FBI, Tom White, stayed on the dangerous case until it was solved.



One Small Candle, the Pilgrims First Year in America, Francis J. Bremer. Four hundred years ago, a group of men and women challenged the religious establishment of England, struggled as refugees in the Netherlands, risked everything to build a home in America. Their story has been retold many times, but religious practices of these settlers has frequently been neglected or misunderstood.



She Come By It Natural, Dolly Parton and the Women Who Lived Her Songs, Sarah Smarsh. If you love Dolly you will love this book. If you scoff at Dolly you will love this book. It is the story of how she became the person we see and how she is a voice for poor, working class, and undervalued women.



Memorial Drive, a Daughter's Memoir, Natasha Trethewey. A heart-rending account of the life of a woman who was the child of a black woman and a white man. Her mother was murdered by her second husband. The book tells not only the story of Natasha's struggle with her mother's death, but also with the effects of racism in the South.

Book Committee: Judy Beacon, Barbara Hoyle, Marjorie Matthews, Beverly Phillips, Donna Yordy.