All titles are shelved in Fiction under the author’s last name, unless otherwise noted.

2013 Book Club Favorites

And the Mountains Echoed – Hosseini, Khaled
A story of family love and choices that resonate through subsequent generations.

Burial Rites – Kent, Hannah
Set in Iceland, Agnes awaits her own execution for the murder of her master.

A Constellation of Vital Phenomena – Marra, Anthony - A tough-minded doctor harbors a hunted young girl.

Goldfinch – Tartt, Donna
Motherless teenaged Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend.

The Husband’s Secret – Moriarty, Liane
Cecelia discovers a secret that shatters her life and the lives of two other women.

Life After Life – Atkinson, Kate
What if you could live again and again, until you got it right?

Lowland – Lahiri, Jhumpa
Two brothers pursue vastly different lives until a shattering tragedy reunites them.

Signature of All Things – Gilbert, Elizabeth
A sweeping family saga follows enterprising Henry and his brilliant daughter Alma.

Someone – McDermott, Alice
An ordinary life—of sharp pains and startling joys—lived by an ordinary woman.

Tale for the Time Being – Ozeki, Ruth
An inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

Transatlantic – McCann, Colum
History is reimagined through the lives of four generations of Irish women.

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves – Fowler, Karen Joy - Rosemary remembers a close family relative—a chimpanzee.

Non-fiction

The Boys in the Boat: nine Americans and their epic quest for gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics – 797.125 Brown, Daniel James

Five Days at Memorial: life and death in a storm-ravaged hospital – 363.392 Fink, Sheri

Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the prison of belief – 299.936 Wright, Lawrence

A House in the Sky – Biography Lindhout, Amanda

Knocking on Heaven’s Door: the path to a better way of death – 616.029 Butler, Katy

Lean in: women, work, and the will to lead – 658.4092 Sandberg, Sheryl

The Reason I Jump: the inner voice of a thirteen-year-old boy with autism – 616.8588 Higashida, Naoki

Zealot: the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth – 232.901 Aslan, Reza

Marilyn’s Book Club Favorites with citations by Marilyn (the Librarian)

Before I Go to Sleep – Watson, S.J.
Creepy, scary, mesmerizing. A woman “forgets” everything one day to the next.

The Buddha in the Attic – Otsuka, Julie
A moving collection of vignettes following Japanese war brides from the ship through internment and beyond.

Dog Stars – Heller, Peter
Calling this post-apocalyptic sells it short. Themes of friendship, loss, grief and love prevail. Driven by both character and plot.

God’s Hotel – Biography Sweet, Victoria
A memoir of Laguna Honda Hospital and the lost practice of “slow medicine.”

Language of Flowers – Diffenbaugh, Vanessa
A feel good book featuring homelessness, flowers and young love.

Let the Great World Spin – McCann, Colum
Impact of a Twin Towers tightrope walker and other ‘60s happenings come together in a disjointed way. Pay attention to detail.

Light Between Oceans – Stedman, M.L.
A young couple finds a baby. The impact of their decisions changes the lives of many.

Lost Memory of Skin – Russell Banks
Homelessness, adversity, coming of age, and perhaps unfair application of the law are themes prevalent in this novel. Great character development.

Orchardist – Coplin, Amanda
Saving two abused girls changes the lives of all involved. Quietly intriguing.

The Pickup – Nadine Gordimer
A rich white woman falls for a mechanic, an Arab illegal immigrant in South Africa.

Silent Wife – Harrison, A.S.A
Like Gone Girl, but more psychological.

Tell the Wolves I’m Home – Brunt, Carol Rifka
This enjoyable story of friendship between generations and sexual orientations can be interpreted on more than one level.

Turn of Mind – LaPlante, Alice
Did the physician with early dementia really kill her friend? Does anyone care, as long as someone is held accountable?

We Need To Talk about Kevin – Shriver, Lionel
- This is way too close to reality. A disturbed boy acts out in capital letters. Not for the faint of heart.

Wild – Biography Strayed, Cheryl
The author explores relationships and self-awareness hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. Makes you want to get off your backside and do something important.

Woman Upstairs – Messud, Claire
The woman who does everything right suddenly does everything wrong.
Book Club Titles: Tried and True
Older titles with lasting appeal

Bel Canto - Patchett, Ann
The Book Thief - Zusak, Markus
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time - Haddon, Mark
Cutting for Stone - Verghese, Abraham
The Devil in the White City - Larson, Erik
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society - Shaffer, Mary Ann
The Help - Stockett, Kathryn
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet - Ford, Jamie
Life of Pi - Martel, Yann
Olive Kitteridge - Ford, Jamie
Out Stealing Horses - Petroff, Per
The Poisonwood Bible - Kingsolver, Barbara
The Road - McCarthy, Cormac
The Secret Life of Bees - Kidd, Sue Monk
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan - See, Lisa

Try These Too
More popular titles

Beautiful Ruins - Walter, Jess
City of Thieves - Benioff, David
Cloud Atlas - Mitchell, David
Disgrace - Coetzee, J. M.
The Fault in Our Stars - Teen Fiction Green, John
Forgotten Garden - Morton, Kate
Housekeeping - Robinson, Marilynne
Lonesome Dove - McMurtry, Larry
Me Before You - Moyes, Jojo
The Night Circus - Morgenstern, Erin
Peace Like a River - Enger, Leif
The Red Tent - Diamant, Anita
The Samurai’s Garden - Tsukiyama, Gail
A Visit from the Good Squad - Egan, Jennifer
Wolf Hall - Mantel, Hilary
Year of Wonders - Brooks, Geraldine

Biography and Memoir

The Color of Water - Biography McBride, James
Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight - Biography Alexandra Fuller
The End of Your Life Book Club - Biography Schwab, Will
Glass Castle - Biography, Walls, Jeannette
Infidel - Biography Hirsi Ali, Ayaan
Into the Wild - Biography McCandless - by Jon Krakauer
Just Kids - 782.4261 Smith, Patti
Lit - Biography Karr, Mary
Mountains Beyond Mountains - Biography Farmer - by Tracy Kidder
My Beloved World - Biography Sotomayor, Sonia
Tender Bar - Biography Moehringer, J.R.
Truth & Beauty - Biography Patchett, Ann
Unbroken - Biography Zamperini - by Laura Hillenbrand
The Year of Magical Thinking - Biography Didion, Joan
My Antonia - Cather, Willa
1984 - Orwell, George
One Hundred Years of Solitude - Garcia Marquez, Gabriel
Rebecca - du Maurier, Daphne
A Room with a View - Forster, E. M.
The Sun Also Rises - Hemingway, Ernest
Their Eyes Were Watching God - Hurston, Zora Neale
To Kill a Mockingbird - Lee, Harper
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn - Smith, Betty
Wuthering Heights - Bronte, Emily

Dark but Compelling Books

Defending Jacob - Mystery Landay, William
Gone Girl - Flynn, Gillian
The Handmaid’s Tale - Atwood, Margaret
The Kite Runner - Hosseini, Khaled
Little Bee - Cleave, Chris
Never Let Me Go - Ishiguro, Kazuo
Room - Donoghue, Emma
Round House - Erdrich, Louise
The Secret History - Tartt, Donna
The Secret Scripture - Barry, Sebastian
Sophie’s Choice - Styron, William
The Sparrow - Science Fiction Russell, Mary Doria
The Thirteenth Tale - Settler, Diane

General Nonfiction

Botany of Desire - 306.45 Pollan, Michael
Destiny of the Republic - 973.84 Dumas, Candide
Farm City - 630.917 Carpenter, Novella
Freakonomics - 330 Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner
The Hare with Amber Eyes - 909.049 de Waal, Edmund
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks - Biography Lacks

Don’t see your favorite book? Let us know and we may add it to our list!
These lists were influential by lists found on GoodReads.com, LitLovers.com, BookClubClassics.com and NovelList (a database available through the library).
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