

## Faculty/Staff Book Picks 2009-2010

Looking for a good book to read??

Try one of these books recommended by the WA faculty & staff...

*Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden

“I was fascinated by the hierarchy of the Geisha and the social networking system of Geisha in Japan.” - Mrs. Reilly

*Forever Blue* by Michael D’Antonio

“Any baseball fan will appreciate this book. It has it all, from Jackie Robinson (the first black professional ball player) to the organizations move from Brooklyn to LA.” - Mr. Sacramone

*The Forever War* by Dexter Filkins

“Filkins is a reporter for *The New York Times*. He was stationed in Afghanistan prior to 9/11 and then in Iraq beginning on the day of the invasion. This book is extremely well written and goes a long way to filling in the huge gaps in one’s knowledge about the pre-9/11 Taliban, the chaos that is Afghanistan, and the occupation of Iraq; many, many aspects and angles you’ll never hear on the evening news. It’s hard at times, because there are many tragedies, but the overall impact is quite salutary. The book wakes you up.” - Mr. Chuoke

*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

“Fantastic book about my favorite era in history.” - Ms. Dziedzic

*Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell

“I like it because it combines a classic love story and the Civil War.” - Ms. Dziedzic

*The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

“It is a book that is told from a dog’s perspective. I think students who like dogs or any pet and have always wondered what they were thinking would really enjoy this book. It is about life and the great bond that an owner and a dog have.” - Mrs. Gray

Anything written by Ronald Dahl

“I have always loved anything by Ronald Dahl. I love his adult books and short stories. *Lamb to the Slaughter* may be my favorite.” - Mrs. Rawcliffe

*Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen

“*Pride and Prejudice* transports you to a different time period, lifestyle, and culture. This novel published almost 200 years ago is still popular today, especially among female readers. Though made into a movie, the book captures the best of Austen’s style of writing and portrayal of women at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I found the main character to me most fascinating as she struggles between what is expected of her and what she desires for herself. Pick up the novel and become an Austen fan too.” - Senora Onofrio

*Legacy of Ashes* by Tim Weiner

“History of the CIA post-WWII and the difficulties of being a covert operation. Very interesting.” - Mr. Anderson

*The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman

“This is the true story of a very traditional Hmong family’s struggle with the American medical system to treat their young daughter’s epilepsy. It is an incredibly balanced telling of the story (both family and doctors have the best intentions) and a very detailed portrait of the Hmong culture both in Southeast Asia and in America.” - Mr. Chuoke

*The Last Lion* by Peter Canellos

“A liberal view of Senator Kennedy’s fall from grace after the Chappaquiddick ordeal. A dark cloud hangs over his head for a short period of time but does not derail his political ambitions and he ascends back into the mainstream of politics to become Washington’s most powerful senator.” - Mr. Sacramone

*The Next 100 Years* by George Friedman

Enjoyed by Mr. Lusa.

Anything written by Tony Hillerman

“I enjoy a good mystery and the way he incorporates the Navajo culture makes his books even more interesting.” - Mrs. Johnson

*The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy by Tolkien

“The real “greatest story ever told.” I read all of the books something like eight times in my younger more impressionable years.” - Mr. Landin

*The Eye of the World* by Robert Jordan

“This is my favorite book. It is a fantasy book, and one of the best works of high fantasy ever written.” - Mr. Young.

*The Code Book* by Simon Singh

“A fascinating history and explanation of Cryptology.” - Mr. Young

*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

“A beautiful story about a world so different from ours, but themes we can all understand.”  
- Mr. Smith

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

“Amazingly poignant story of love.” - Mr. Smith

*The Book of Joe* by Jonathan Tropper

“Funny, touching, well told story of love.” - Mr. Smith

*This is Where I Leave You* by Jonathan Tropper

“This family puts the “fun” in dysfunctional. Something we can all relate to!” - Mr. Smith

*The Stand* by Stephen King

“Simply the best book I have ever read!” - Mr. Smith

*The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch

“An uplifting book that explains what is important in life and why.” - Mr. Smith

*Spitfire Women of World War II* by Giles Whittell

“This is a fast paced non-fiction account of the role young adventurous women played during the Second World War in the British Air Force. The women were pilots who were needed to move military aircraft around England and Europe, often operating under conditions that male pilots would not have flown in.” - Dr. Blume

*Olive Kitterage* by Elizabeth Strout

“This book is about life in small-town Maine with many interesting character shifts.”  
- Dr. Powers

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

“I like this novel because of the universal quality of its themes: women both American and Chinese, intersecting and conflicting cultures, and the relationships between mothers and daughters. In addition, the author presented the characters in such a way that it seemed as if you were having a conversation with the character.” - Hui Wang

*Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rothnay

“It is the story of the Holocaust in France during WWII. It connects a character of the present day with a character from the Holocaust. It sounds depressing, but it's not. I think this would be a great book for adults and students. It is part of the history of the Jewish people of which I was unaware. I learned so much and loved it!!” - Mrs. Pritchard (This book was also recommended by Mrs. Field)

*1968: The Year That Rocked the World* by Mark Kurlansky

“It's amazing how many movements were sparked in one year and how many countries were affected.” - Mrs. Jalet

*The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper

“A great historical adventure novel with lots of action.” - Mr. Coderre

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

“A true American classic that everyone should read for leisure and not just as a class assignment.” - Mr. Coderre

*Lucifer's Hammer* by Niven and Pournelle

"This book entails the problems arising from a massive comet hitting the earth. It is full of suspense and adventure." - Mrs. Pratt

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khalid Hosseini

This "tells the story of young women in Afghanistan through recent occupations. Difficult topic but excellent reading." - Mrs. Sandeen

*Twilight Saga* by Stephanie Meyer

"I enjoyed so much feeling like I was back in high school. I think many girls find themselves turned into Bella (the main character) and fall in love with Edward. I also liked how the author used "senses" to describe how characters feel and think to absorb you into this book. I stayed up until 2 am every night to read these books." - Mrs. Ayotte

*Dracula* by Bram Stoker

"This book is one of the best horror novels I have ever read. It is non-stop suspense from the very first chapter to the last. Forget about all the scary Dracula movies you have seen, you MUST read this book. You will get an entirely different perspective on vampires!" - Ms. Goodno

*The Liars Club* by Mary Karr

"This is a memoir that tells the story of the childhood of a girl who grew up in a little town in Texas to eccentric parents. I love the book because it is honest, told clearly and straightforwardly yet artfully, and because it is a true story of someone who has survived a difficult childhood." - Miss Danielson

*The Double Bind* by Chris Bohjalian

"This is a book that takes the characters of the American classic *The Great Gatsby* and weaves them into a modern fiction tale. This book is a quick read that is engaging and well-crafted." - Miss Danielson

*Driving over Lemons: An Optimist in Spain* by Chris Stewart

"I love this book! It makes me want to return to Spain each time I read it!" - Senora Thibodeau

*Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson

"It is an amazing and inspirational book that shows the power of one." - Madame Burke

*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

"The reason why I like this book is it has a lot of action, is futuristic, and tells the story of a gifted child thrust into the responsibility of leading other soldiers into war. The saga continues in future books as he deals with the fact that he never had a childhood and continues to have a lot of responsibility on his soldiers." - Mr. Jordan

*Amazing Grace* by Jonathan Kozol

“Mr. Smith actually gave this book to me as an award for outstanding performance in US History. It is about Mott Haven, which is a neighborhood in the Bronx, and as a sophomore at WA it was a real wake-up call for me.” - Mrs. Cournoyer

*Garden Spells* and *The Sugar Queen* by Sarah Addison Allen

Recommended by Mrs. Derrico