World Lit Book Club (List of Book Choices)

**Herman Hesse, Siddhartha**

A modern adaptation of the story of Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, and founder of one of the East's most prominent faiths.

**John Brant, The Boy Who Runs**

Biography, Africa, sports, running, social activists, overcoming tragedy

The true story of Julius Achon, who was forced to be a child soldier in Uganda. He overcame hardship and went on to be a world-renowned runner, then the director of an African children’s charity

**Saroo Brierley, A Long Way Home**

Memoir, India, Australia, adoption

Made into the movie *Lion*. True story of Saroo, who got lost on a train in India and was adopted by a family in Australia. As a young man, he used Google Earth to find his childhood home and family

**Candace Fleming, The Family Romanov**

Nonfiction, history, Russia, Rasputin, Bolshevik Revolution

Tells the story of the last royal family in Russia, the Romanovs. Alternates between their very pampered lives and those of peasants in Russia, leading up to the Russian Revolution in which all of the Romanovs were murdered, which ended in Russia becoming the USSR and the first Communist state.

**Neal Bascomb, The Nazi Hunters**

Historical nonfiction

How a team of spies and survivors captured the world’s most notorious Nazi. He was responsible for the deaths of millions and he escaped being caught. This is the story of the spy activity that was involved in the search. Find out what happens!

**Malala Yousafzai, I am Malala**

Memoir, Taliban, Pakistan

Tells the true story of Malala Yousafzai, youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. After Malala spoke out against the Taliban and advocated for the right of girls to get an education, she was shot by the Taliban and almost died. This is an inspiring story about her survival and continuing of her campaign for education for girls.

**Pamela Turner, Samurai Rising**

True story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history. Discusses the history of rival samurai clans and samurai code. Lots of action and excitement.

**Mark Mathabane, Kaffir Boy**

A memoir set in South Africa’ apartheid era (1990s), Mark experiences poverty and through his courage and a determination to get an education, he manages to overcome extreme poverty and racism and write to tell about it.

**Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid’s Tale**

Dystopian

Written by Canadian author Margaret Atwood. Set in Gilead, the United States of the near future. Most women can no longer bear children; those who can must bear children for the powerful families. Focuses on the character Offred, who is determined to survive and find the daughter who was taken from her. Miniseries was based on the novel.

**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Americanah**

Nigeria, America, Romance, Race

Switches point of view between Ifemelu and Obinze, who were once deeply in love but are now apart from one another. Both are living lives in which they’ve lost some of their senses of self. Can they find their way back to one another?

**Liane Moriarty, Big Little Lies**

Mystery, thriller, Australia

Now a series on HBO. A murder, a tragic accident, or just parents behaving badly? What’s indisputable is that someone is dead. Three women are all at a crossroads, but they all end up at the same shocking place.

**Mohsin Hamid, Exit West**

Refugees, fantasy

Nadia and Saeed are students at a business school. Their country erupts in war, and they hear of windows that can become portals to escape the violence. They travel from country to country, meeting up with other characters and refugees and struggling to find their place.

**Nina George, Little Paris Bookshop**

Travel, romance

Monsieur Perdu owns a floating bookstore in Paris, and he prescribes books to people based on helping them to overcome their broken hearts and sadnesses. Lots of colorful characters are in this feel-good story about love lost and love found.

**Leila Slimani, The Perfect Nanny**

Thriller, Mystery

Described as the French Gone Girl. Based on the real-life murder of two children at the hands of their nanny in New York. Set in Paris, tells the story of Louise, who seemed like the perfect nanny until she does the unthinkable. The real mystery is why.

**David Grossman, A Horse Walks into a Bar**

First published in Hebrew; takes place in Israel. The novel is structured around the main character’s stand-up comedy routine, in which he talks about his life--growing up, his time in a military camp, an abusive father, etc.

**Salman Rushdie, Joseph Anton**

Memoir, Murder, Politics

Tells the true story of the author’s life after the leader of Iran called for a fatwa, or death decree, on Salman Rushdie after his fourth novel, The Satanic Verses, was published. During this time, the British government paid for the author to have round-the-clock security, and he lived in hiding. During this time, his Japanese translator was killed and his Italian translator and Norwegian publisher endured near-fatal attacks.

**Naomi Alderman, The Power**

Gender politics, paranormal abilities, science fiction

Women develop a mysterious ability to cause physical harm through an electric-current-like power, and it causes ripple effects as the power dynamics between men and women shift.

**Ishmael Beah, A Long Way Gone**

A young boy from West Africa is horrifically made to fight in an army, the same army that killed his parents. This was the fate of too many young boys in Sierra Leone in the 1980s. This young man survives and writes about his memories at the age of 26 looking back on how he reached where he is today.

**Mark Haddon, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time**

Fiction, Disabilities, Family Issues, Realistic

Set in London, a young man discovers a dog murdered. The police can not find the killer, so he gathers evidence himself. The main character has characteristics (he thinks in a different way) that set him apart from his peers that present tough challenges on his journey to find the killer. Recently, this book was made into a best selling play internationally.

**Art Spiegelman, Maus I and Maus II**

Historical, Graphic novel, Family and societal issues

The Holocaust told through graphic novel from the perspective of a son of a survivor. Tremendously powerful story where the main character shares his feelings about his father, stereotypes, and his own exploration of his father’s story shared in the context of cartoon-like cats and dogs. Don’t let this fool you though! It is a seriously powerful book. When you get to the end of Maus 1, you will be compelled to read Maus 2.

**Sonia Nazario, Enrique’s Journey**

Memoir, Realistic, Family and societal issues

Enrique’s mother leaves Honduras and enters the US illegally in order to feed her children. Enrique’s journey is to find his mother, he heads out with little to no resources into the hostile world.

**Michela DePrince, Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina**

Memoir, ballet, adoption, uplifting, overcoming tragedy

Michaela DePrince tells her story, which starts out with her childhood as an orphan in war-torn Sierra Lione. She is adopted by an American family, and is a rising star in the ballet world, even appearing in Beyonce’s Lemonade video.