

Suggestions for Great Books Readings

Bill's comments in brackets [].

Duffie

Arcady Ostrovsky, The Invention of Russia: From Gorbachev's Freedom to Putin's War (384 pages)

Kay

Carolina de Robertis, The Invisible Mountain (408 pages) [Uruguay]

Mark Twain, Letters from the Earth (240 pages)

Philip Caputo, A Rumor of War (356 pages) Vietnam War memoir

Citizens of the World: Readings in Human Rights, Expanded Edition (430 pages)

Andrew Ross Sorkin, Too Big to Fail (640 pages)

Rick

Mo Yan, Sandalwood Death (409 pages)

Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass (124 pages)

Daniel Kahneman, Thinking Fast and Slow (499 pages - behavioral economics)

Jonathan Aldred, The Skeptical Economist: Revealing the Ethics Inside Economics (288 pages)

Huizinga's Waning of the Middle Ages (352 pages) and Burckhardt's The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy (400 pages) [history - probably in that order]

Paul Kennedy, The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers (704 pages)

Nancy

Karen Hesse, Out of the Dust (240 pages) [Newberry Prize winner]

Jeannie

Michael Chabon, The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay (656 pages)

J. K. Toole, A Confederacy of Dunces (338 pages)

Jill G

Markus Zusak, The Book Thief (576 pages)

Michael Dorris, A Yellow Raft in Blue Water (384 pages)

Ronald Blythe, Akenfield: Portrait of an English Village (287 pages)

Trygve Gulbrandsen, Beyond Sing the Woods (313 pages) [Norway]

Sequel: Wind from the Mountains (412 pages).

Archibald MacLeish, J.B.: a Play in Verse (153 pages) [retelling of Job]

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Jonathan Safran Froer (368 pages)

Willem

Robert Pirsig, Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance (464 pages)

Kate

Voltaire, Candide (144 pages) [Dover thrift translation is not good.]

James Welch, Winter in the Blood (176 pages) [Look up Blackfeet “Old Man” and “Old Woman” stories.]

Alex

Janet Fitch White Oleander (390 pages)

Carol

Sena Jeter Naslund – Ahab’s Wife: Or, the Star Gazer (688 pages)

Carolyn

Michael Frayn, “Copenhagen” (144 pages) [Heisenberg and Margrethe and Niels Bohr]

Ginger

Alice Sebold – The Lovely Bones (288 pages) [Coming of age novel.]

Beth

Dostoevsky - The Insulted and the Injured

<http://eserver.org/fiction/insulted-and-injured.txt> (278 pages)

"Fear No Evil" by Natan Sharansky (1998 - 464 pages) (do with politics theme)

A Course in Miracles (1249 pages) From an Amazon review: The sections on 'Special Relationships' and seeking within rather than in worldly changes are vivid and eloquently stated. [There's a 53 page Intro to Course in Miracles for \$3.]

Beth suggests: One very good paragraph in the section "Cause and Effect", Chapter 2, last paragraph of that section starting, "Everyone experiences fear. Yet..."

Section "The Function of Time", Chapter 13. Section "The Body as Means or End", Chapter 8. Section "The Power of Holiness", Chapter 16

Elizabeth

Richard Russo, Empire Falls (496 pages)

Jane Austen, Lady Susan (224 pages) Mansfield Park (480 pages)

John Steinbeck, The Pearl (96 pages)

Eloisa

Faulkner: "The Bear" (in Go Down Moses)

Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964) "The Circle in the Fire"

Luis Urrea, The Devil's Highway (272 pages)

Edith Pearlman, Short Stories: Binocular Vision.

Eleonore

Suggests Brecht's play Galileo to go along with Galileo's "Two New Sciences".

Nadine Gordimer, None to Accompany Me (324 pages) society in transition. (Another good one for when we do the GBF Politics book?)

Nadine Gordimer, The Late Bourgeois World (120 pages)

Borges, "Amazons", "The South"

Heinrich Boll, "Murke's Collected Silence", "The Throwaway"

Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener" and "Benito Cereno" (Dover Thrift)

R. K. Narayan, The Vendor of Sweets [out of print]

Antonio Tabucchi, Pereira Declares : A Testimony (136 pages)

Philip Roth, Patrimony (238 pages)

Max Frisch's (Swiss), "Andorra" or "Firebugs"

Duerrenmat (Swiss), "The Visit"

Brecht, "Mother Courage and Her Children" (126 pages)

Arthur Miller, "The Price" (116 pages), "Incident at Vichy" (80 pages)

Annie Dillard, The Maytrees (240 pages) [novel set in Cape Cod]

Deborah

Brian Greene - Fabric of the Cosmos (576 pages)

K.C. Cole – The Universe and the Teacup: The Mathematics of Truth and Beauty (224 pages)

Chris Kraft – Flight: My Life in Mission Control (337 pages)

Jerri Nielsen – Ice Bound: A Doctor's Incredible Battle for Survival at the South Pole (377 pages)

Eve Curie – Madame Curie: A Biography (393 pages)

Steve Fiffer, Robert T. Bakker – Tyrannosaurus Sue (248 pages)

F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby (180 pages)

Heather

Victor Hugo, Hunchback of Notre Dame (496 pages)

Salman Rushdie, Shame (320 pages)

Elizabeth Rosner, The Speed of Light (241 pages)

Susanna Kaysen, Girl Interrupted (192 pages) psychology

Gary Shteyngart, The Russian Debutante's Handbook (476 pages)

Ran

Faulkner, Light in August 521 pages

Yukio Mishima, The Temple of the Golden Pavilion (288 pages)

Kobo Abe, The Woman in the Dunes 238 pages [Japanese Sisyphus]

Bruce

Epicurus

Alexis De Tocqueville, Democracy in America (800 pages) [It is in the 60 volume set of the Great Books (volume 44)]

Will

Hermann Hesse, Steppenwolf (224 pages)

Kristi

James Loewen, Lies My Teacher Told Me (384 pages)

H Zinn, People's History of the United States (752 pages)

Justin Evans, A Good and Happy Child (336 pages)

Sean

James Clavell, Shogun (1210 pages)

Tale of the Heike (transl Helen Craig McCullough – 438 pages) Medieval Japanese history.

John

Jonathan Bennett - Rationality : an essay towards an analysis (123 pages)

Joi

Jeffrey Eugenides – Middlesex (544 pages) [His first novel, The Virgin Suicides is shorter, 256 pages.]

Vicky

Alvaro Mutis, Adventures and Misadventures of Maqroll (768 pages) [Seven novellas so perhaps one? “Amirbar” is 102 pages. Mutis is a favorite of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. See what Martin has in Journeys Through the Labyrinth. Reviews favor the first, “Snow of the Admiral” (97 pages).]

Octavia Butler, Dawn (256 pages)

Kiki Dimoula, The Brazen Plagiarist (392 pages - poetry, Greek & English translations)

Hank

Stendahl, The Red and the Black (352 pages)

Bill

Manil Suri, The Death of Vishnu (304 pages) Reading guide at
<http://www.wwnorton.com/trade/external/suri/questions.htm>

Jessica Hagedorn, Dogeaters (251 pages) Filipino life during the Marcos era.

Kalidasa's play - Shakuntala (recommended by Goethe, used in Mehta's River Sutra)

<http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/love-in-the-arts/sakuntala.html>

Covers The Recognition of Sakuntala in Kalidasa: The Loom of Time. Penguin Books.
(It's also in The Great Ideas Today for 1987.)

A.S. Byatt, in On Histories and Stories recommends

Sybille Bedford A Legacy (320 pages) a historical novel about early 1900s Germany.

Anita Brookner – The Debut (192 pages)

Falling Slowly (240 pages) [There is a guide for this at Novelist.]

Altered States (229 pages) [Fear of facing old age alone.]

Karl Popper - Open Society and Its Enemies (800 pages in 2 vols)

A selection from this when we do Politics? [Don't forget to look at notes on white index card under "R" also (Weil).]

Czeslaw Milosz, The Captive Mind (251 pages), another selection for GBF Politics. [Rumor has it that it is as difficult as Aristotle, so try some before saying doable in one discussion.]

Keith Devlin, Mathematics: The Science of Patterns (224 pages)

Four Maupassant stories at

<http://members.multimania.co.uk/shortstories/index.html>

Evil in Modern Thought : An Alternative History of Philosophy

by Susan Neiman (398 pages) [When it comes out in paperback, do the last chapter (it has sections on "Earthquakes: Why Lisbon", "Mass Murders: Why Auschwitz?", "Terror: After September 11". Neiman was on Bill Moyers "Now."]

George Johnson A Shortcut Through Time: the Path to a Quantum Computer (256 pages)

Descent into Illusions by Paul Omeziri (215 pages). [Nature of consciousness.]

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911) was, by far, the most popular poet of her time. Her poetry reflected her views on the abolition of slavery, women's rights and other social ills of her time period. (<http://library.thinkquest.org/3337/harper.html>)

Her short story "The Two Offers" is at <http://ee.1asphost.com/shortstoryclassics/index.html>

The Fenian Cycle - <http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~dc920/darmuid.html>

Hochswender, Martin, & Marino - The Buddha in Your Mirror (238 pages)
<http://www.readinggroupchoices.com/search/details.cfm?id=99>

Geoffrey Moorhouse, Calcutta (384 pages) Travel.

Euclides da Cunha, Rebellion in the Backlands (562 pages) [Brazil 1896]

[Joao Guimaraes Rosa, Grande Sertao (Brazilian-Portugese) sounds good but unfortunately it doesn't look like there's a good translation into English.]

Eugenio Montale, The Storm and Other Poems (141 pages) [Translated from Italian by Charles Wright. Montale won Nobel Prize in 1975. The Arrowsmith translation is supposedly better and includes the Italian but not available on Amazon. Maybe an excerpt? Norlin has both.]

Friedrich de la Motte Foque, Undine (128 pages) [Mentioned in Fitzgerald's Tender is the Night. A fairy tale.]

Louis-Ferdinand Celine, Journey to the End of the Night (446 pages) Pessimism – the dark side of humanity. [Get the John Marks translation.]

Antonya Nelson, In the Land of Men: Stories (240 pages)

Dervla Murphy, Full Tilt: Ireland to India with a Bicycle (256 pages). Travel diary.

Rose MacAulay, The Towers of Trebizond (288 pages) [For clashes of culture.]

Dorothy Richardson, Pointed Roofs (164 pages) First stream of consciousness novel in English. First of 14 novels in her Pilgrimage sequence.

Kalevala (Finnish epic poem – if we do it we have to find an audio in Finnish)
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/kveng/index.htm>

Grace Paley, The Little Disturbances of Man (192 pages). Discussion guide at <http://www.greatbooks.org/library/guides/the-little-disturbances-of-man.html>

Rabindranath Tagore, The Home and the World (200 pages)

[Wittgenstein liked Tagore's play "The King of the Dark Chamber" (112 pages)]

G. E. Moore, Principia Ethica (237 pages)

G.E. Moore, "The Refutation of Idealism" (16 pages)

<http://www.ditext.com/moore/refute.html>

Yann Martel, "The Time I Heard the Private Donald J. Rankin String Concerto with One Discordant Violin, by the American Composer John Morton" (45 pages – 1993)

Henrik Ibsen, "The Master Builder" (120 pages) Dover Thrift Edition

Helen Maria Viramontes, Their Dogs Came with Them (336 pages) ['60s barrio of East LA]

Frances Harper, Iola Leroy; or, Shadows uplifted (288 pages)

Paule Marshall, Brown Girl, Brownstones (304 pages) [Barbadian immigrant in Brooklyn]

Saul Bellow, Seize the Day (144 pages) <http://www.greatbooks.org/library/guides/seize-the-day.html>

Simone de Beauvoir, She Came to Stay (404 pages) [Hazel Barnes notes that most of the ideas in Sartre's Being and Nothingness were presented in this de Beauvoir novel.]

Haruki Murakami, "Thailand" (27 pages) in after the quake [death and dying]

Junichiro Tanizaki, The Makioka Sisters (544 pages)

Hilary Mantel, Fludd (181 pages)

Ismail Kadare, Palace of Dreams (208 pages) [Albanian author.]

Ruth Rendell, "The Strawberry Tree" (103 large print pages in Blood Lines)

Romain Gary, The Roots of Heaven (372 pages) [Plenty of copies in Prospector]

Deborah Eisenberg - short stories: "The Custodian", "Some Other, Better Otto", "Window".

Marilyn Krysl has a story “The Thing Around Them” (<http://www.marilynkrysl.com/krysl/thething.html>) that would be good to do if we ever have a theme of war/occupation.

Lan Samantha Chang, Hunger: A Novella and Stories (193 pages (the novella is 105 pages))

Katherine Anne Porter, Noon Wine (80 pages in Pale Horse, Pale Rider)

Andrea Barrett, “Ship Fever” (97 pages)

Dorothy Allison, Bastard Out of Carolina (336 pages) [child abuse]

Björnstjerne Björnson, A Happy Boy (1860 story. Björnson won the 1903 Nobel Prize.)

Elizabeth Spencer, “On the Hill” and “Blackie” from Starting Over and The Voice at the Back Door (257 pages) [better than To Kill a Mockingbird?]

Bertolt Brecht, “Mother Courage and Her Children” Great Books v60, pp397-445 [war]

Marilynne Robinson, Lila (272 pages) [About the wife of minister John Ames, set in Gilead.]

Sheila Heti, How Should a Person Be? (320 pages) [Recommended by [Time](#)]

Simone Weil, Oppression and Liberty (184 pages - might be able to select just a few of the essays to get the gist - see the [reviews](#)) [A good continuation for our 2017 history theme.]

From 500 Great Books by Women (Bauermeister, Larsen, and Smith):

Susan Straight - I Been in Sorrow’s Kitchen and Licked Out All the Pots (368 pages)

Natalia Ginzburg – The Little Virtues (essays)

Mary Lavin – Mary O’Grady (391 pages)

Mary Belenky – Women’s Ways of Knowing (288 pages)

Shulamith Hareven – Twilight and Other Stories (156 pages) Jerusalem [perhaps a few essays from her [The Vocabulary of Peace](#) instead?].

Agnes Smedley – Daughter of Earth (429 pages) [Good with Chopin’s Awakening.]

Robyn Davidson – Tracks (256 pages) Australian outback.

Janet Frame – Owls Do Cry (217 pages) New Zealand.

Ngahua Te Awekotuku – Tahuri (104 pages) New Zealand short stories.

2003 CU Conference on World Affairs recommendations:

Chellis Glendinning My Name is Chellis & I'm in Recovery from Western Civilization (240 pages).

Mario Praz essay "Flesh and the Devil in Romantic Literature"

Phyllis

The Big Aiiieeeee! : An Anthology of Chinese-American and Japanese-American Literature by Jeffery Paul Chan, et al. (619 pages)

Charlie Chan is Dead by Jessica Tarahata Hagedorn (569 pages) -

excerpts by 48 Asian American writers. Nearly half of the pieces are published here for the first time, including work by Meena Alexander, Fiona Cheong, Walter Lew, Marianne Villanueva, and John Yau.

Lois-Ann Yamanaka

Garrett Hongo's poetry

Heeja

Thomas Mann, Doctor Faustus (544 pages)

Lawrence, Sons and Lovers (464 pages)

J Conrad, Lord Jim (288 pages – Dover Thrift) [Ask Heeja about this – I can't get into it. How about Youth (47 pages) <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/9361> ?]

Carl Sagan & Carol Sagan, Pale Blue Dot : A Vision of the Human Future in Space (384 pages, 429 pages hardcover) [Get the hardcover edition. The paperback deleted the nice pictures in the hardcover version but not the references in the text to them – arg!]

Mavis Gallant - Canadian short story writer, Paris Stories 350 pages.

Haruki Murakami, A Wild Sheep Chase (368 pages)

Kim

Barbara Tuchman - March of Folly : From Troy to Vietnam 450 pages

[she also won Pulitzers for Guns of August (WW I - 511 pages) and

Stilwell and the American experience in China, 1911-45 (611 pages)]

Michele

Hilton Als - The Women (160 pages) [What it means to be black, gay, and female in U.S. culture.]

Maureen (New Vista):

Toni Morrison

Gary DeSoto.

Anissa (New Vista):

Maxine Hong Kingston "White Tiger", "At the Western Palace" (Western influences on China)

Tripmaster Monkey: His Fakebook.

Judy

Carson McCullers Member of the Wedding (118 pages)

Bob

Isaiah Berlin - 40 page essay "Crooked Timber of Mankind" in book of same name.

Coetzee - Disgrace (220 pages) [South African teacher sleeps with student and loses job. His interactions with his daughter make this an amazingly powerful book.]

Joseph Conrad Victory (412 pages), Secret Agent (317 pages)

Henry James The Princess Casamassima (511 pages) [If we do this one we might also do Turgenev's Virgin Soil (355 pages) which inspired Henry James' Casamassima.]

When we do the GBF Politics book, with Sharansky and Koestler, how about a book about the perils of corporate monopolies? Naomi Klein's No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies (512 pages)?

Lord Byron – Don Juan (400+ page poem)

Flannery O'Connor "The Displaced Person"

Susan Glaspell won the 1931 Drama Pulitzer for "Alison's House" (a play about the life of Emily Dickinson) but I can't find that in print, Griff recommends "Trifles" (20 pages) -

<http://www.sackett.net/GlaspellTrifles.pdf> .

Reference: <http://www.webenglishteacher.com/glaspell.html>

Franz Kafka, The Trial (272 pages, ISBN: 0805209999)

Thomas Mann – “Death in Venice” (68 page novella) [Vladimir Nabokov thinks it stinks.]

Ovid’s Metamorphosis (461 pages)

Arthur Koestler Darkness at Noon (224 pages)

Samuel Butler The Way of All Flesh (448 pages)

If we ever do anything by Knut Hamsun, do the Mary Chavelita Dunne Bright short story <http://www.shortstories.computed.net/egertonwedlock.html> (she did the first English translation of a Hamsun novel – Hunger)

Kingsley Amis, Lucky Jim (272 pages) [picaresque humour]

Mike

Agee, James Let Us Now Praise Famous Men (432 pages) exploration of sharecroppers’ lives in the South in 1936.

Sinclair, Upton The Jungle (352 pages)

Faulkner, William The Snopes Trilogy (1088 pages, ISBN: 0679600922) (The Hamlet; The Town; The Mansion)

Catton, Bruce A Stillness At Appomattox (448 pages) History.

Hafen (Ed.) The Fremont Disaster

Anne Tyler, Anne Rice, Alice Walker Color Purple (295 pages), Eudora Welty, Isabelle Allende.

Erskine Caldwell, Tobacco Road (184 pages)

Wallace Stegner, Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs (272 pages – 17 essays)

Eugene

Henry Fielding Joseph Andrews (288 pages) Dover Thrift.

Return of the Native T Hardy (432 pages)

Pilgrims Progress J. Bunyan (200 pages) More appropriate to politics?

Erewhon S. Butler (270 pages)

Praise of Folly Erasmus (roughly 50 pages)

<http://smith2.sewanee.edu/Erasmus/pof.html>

Reveries of the Solitary Walker Rousseau (154 pages Penguin, 266 pages Hackett Publishing) <http://abu.cnam.fr/cgi-bin/go?reveries3> (in French)

Fern

The Sewing Circles of Herat: A Personal Voyage Through Afghanistan Christina Lamb (384 pages)

Ram

Untouchable Mulk Raj Anand (160 pages)

Malgudi Days (Twentieth-Century Classics) (254 pages)
R. K. Narayan / Paperback / Published 1995

Stolen Lives : Twenty Year Struggle in a Desert Jail

by Malika Oufkir, Michele Fitoussi, Ros Schwartz (Translator) (304 pages)

Gandhi An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments With Truth (528 pages)

Bharati Mukherjee recommends Narayan, R. Raj Rao, and
Ranjit Hoskote.

Dr. Krista Comer (Rice University - spoke at the Boulder Public Library Kingsolver discussion. She suggested some authors, the specifics are from Amazon searches):
Louise Erdrich, Judith Freeman (The Chinchilla Farm, 308 pages, Mormon marriage turns sour so off to Calif), Leslie Marmon Silko (esp. Ceremony, 262 pages), Mary Clearman Blew (esp All but the Waltz: A Memoir of Five Generations in the Life of a Montana Family, 223 pages), Amy Tan, Fae Ng (Bone, 208 pages), Gretel Ehrlich, Terry McMillan.

Susan

Turgenev, Fathers and Sons
Tolstoy, The Cossacks (205 pages)
Gogol, Dead Souls (432 pages)

For poets, she suggests:

Yevtushenko (she didn't give me a title)

Etty Hillesum, An Interrupted Life (366 pages – 233 if you don't do the Letters from Westerbork)

Annie Wood Besant, The Ancient Wisdom,
<http://www.theosophical.ca/AncientWisdom1.htm> (328 pages, an introduction to Theosophy).

Jennifer Egan, Look at Me (544 pages)

Saul Bellow, Henderson the Rain King (341 pages)

Susan suggested Goethe. How about Sorrows of Young Werther (108 pages)?

Amos Oz –My Michael (287 pages) [A disintegrating relationship in 1950s Jerusalem.]
The Black Box (259 pages) [Epistolary novel.]

Helen Waddell – Peter Abelard (304 pages)

A.B. Yehoshua – The Liberated Bride (544 pages) [Israel in the 1990s.]

Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis – Dom Casmurro (288 pages) [Brazilian]

Eca de Queiroz - The Relic (294 pages, Late 19th C. Portugal) [in print?]
Eca de Queiroz, “The Mandarin” (short story)

David Ebershoff – The Danish Girl (270 pages)

Philip Roth, Ghost Writer (192 pages) and Counterlife (336 pages)
[These two novels concern the character Nathan Zuckerman. Portnoy’s Complaint (304 pages) is supposed to be his best and after our discussion of Freud On Dreams, takes place appropriately on the psychoanalyst’s couch.]

Laplace, A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities (196 pages - Dover)

Reference: “MÉMOIRE SUR LES PROBABILITÉS”

http://cerebro.xu.edu/math/Sources/Laplace/memoir_probabilities.pdf

Ayn Rand, We the Living (464 pages). [Why not a selection of essays from Philosophy, Who Needs It? (240 pages). (Susan will say that it’s because she’s a better novelist than a philosopher.)]

Mari Sandoz, Crazy Horse (512 pages) biography

Tim O’Brien, The Things They Carried (272 pages)

Helene Cooper, The House at Sugar Beach (384 pages) [Memoir about Liberia]

Susan R

E. M. Forster, Howard's End (336 pages), Where Angels Fear to Tread (128 pages – Dover Thrift), Room With a View (256 pages)

Alexander McCall Smith, 44 Scotland Street (352 pages)

Seth

Malcom Lowry Under the Volcano (432 pages) [A good one to accompany Graham Greene's The Power and the Glory.]

Richard F. Burton Personal Narrative of a Pilgrimage to Al Medinah and Mecca (480 pages)

Andrew Malcolm Making Names (425 pages - philosophy)

Lawrence Durrell's Alexandria Quartet: Justine (229 pages), Balthazar (250 pages), Mount Olive (320 pages), Clea (287 pages)

Ivar Ekeland, The Best of All Possible Worlds: Mathematics and Destiny (208 pages)

Stuart

Haruki Murakami The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle (607 pages)

[How about After the Quake (160 pages)? Short stories (“Thailand” was my favorite).]

Yukio Mishima Runaway Horses (421 pages)

Eyvånd Johnson, The Days of His Grace (319 pages) Charlemagne.

Verna

Wicked : The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West

by Gregory Maguire, Douglas Smith (Illustrator). Paperback (416 pages - October 1996)

Duchess of Malfi, Webster (96 pages – Dover Thrift)

Kalimataan, Godschalk British Colonizing Borneo

The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression Andrew Solomon (576 pages)

Liza

Francine Prose, Carravagio: Painter of Miracles (161 pages)

Henry James, The Ambassadors (528 pages)

[For something shorter by him – “The Beast in the Jungle”

<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/1093> (43 pages) and/or “The Altar of the Dead”

<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/642> (35 pages)]

W. Somerset Maugham, The Razor's Edge (320 pages)

Ronald Wright A Short History of Progress

(about Sumer, Rome, Easter Island, and the Maya – 224 pages)

Bill Bryson, A Short History of Nearly Everything (560 pages)

Lisa Tucker, The Cure for Modern Life (368 pages)

Julie

Nigerian author Ben Okri's Famished Road (512 pages) Won 1991 Booker. Sequel is Songs of Enchantment (297 pages). [A shorter one that sounds good is Astonishing the Gods (158 pages - 1999).] Amazon.com reviews lead to another promising one, about Uganda – Moses Isegawa's Abyssinian Chronicles (462 pages).

Chela

Ken McLeod, Wake Up to Your Life: Discovering the Buddhist Path of Attention (448 pages)
Eliot Pattison, Skull Mantra (448 pages) First in a mystery series set in Tibet.

Paul

Stephen Jay Gould, Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History (352 pages).

Donna

Recommends historian Peter Gay.

Rosamunde Pilcher

In her Shell Seekers, recommends Irish poet Louis MacNeice's Autumn Journal.

Katherine Anne Porter (in an interview with Barbara Thompson) “three almost perfect novels if we're talking about form.” Richard Hughes, A High Wind in Jamaica, E.M. Forster, A Passage to India, and Virginia Woolf, To the Lighthouse.

Tennessee Williams recommends Carson McCullers' “Ballad of the Sad Café” (72 page novella). [And he's in good company because so does **Susan R.**]

Rita Mae Brown:

annotated chronological reading list in her book Starting from Scratch (BPL 808.02 B).

1650 – Ann Bradstreet The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America.

1684 – Aphra Behn The Adventures of the Black Lady

1686 – Aphra Behn The Lover's Watch

1714 – Alexander Pope The Rape of the Lock

1936 – Djuna Barnes Nightwood (153 pages)

1940 – Christina Stead The Man Who Loved Children (576 pages)

1952 – Mary McCarthy The Groves of Academe (302 pages)

Sarah

Short Story Anthologies:

The Penguin Book of International Women's Stories

by Kate Figes (Editor)

453 pp. 33 stories

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0140261885/qid%3D922577413/002-670597>

Global Cultures : A Transnational Short Fiction Reader

by Elisabeth Young-Bruehl (Editor),

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0819562823/qid=922577230/sr=1-2/002-6705972-1334018>

The Art of the Tale : An International Anthology of Short Stories

by Daniel Halpern (Editor)

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0140079491/qid=922578783/sr=1-2/002-6705972-1334018>

Some from **John Updike**'s [Best American Short Stories](#) of the 20th Century:

1951 J.F. Powers – Death of a Favorite (18 pages)

1951 Tennessee Williams – The Resemblance Between a Violin Case and a Coffin (14 pages)

1955 John Cheever – The Country Husband (24 pages)

Gish Jen recommends Rebecca West – [Return of the Soldier](#) (112 pages). [Sounds like a good one to go along with Pat Barker's WWI trilogy.]

Italo Calvino recommends:

Uwe Johnson

Michel Butor

E M Cioran

For Butor see what *Perpetuum Mobile: A Study of the Novels and Aesthetics of Michel Butor* suggests and look for Butor's essay on Zola's Rougon-Macquart cycle (296 pages in French – translated to English?).

For the nihilist Cioran try the essay "Beyond the Novel" in [Temptation to Exist](#).

From **The Book Club Cookbook** by Judy Gelman and Vicki Levy Krupp:

Andrea Brown – [Church Folk](#) (368 pages)

Maxine Clair – [October Suite](#) (336 pages)

Anne Fadiman – [The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down](#) (341 pages) [Clashes of Culture.]

Helen Fremont – [After Long Silence](#) (368 pages)

Julia Glass - [Three Junes](#) (368 pages)

Sue Monk Kidd – [Secret Life of Bees](#) (336 pages)

Elinor Lipman - Inn at Lake Devine (272 pages)

Bernice McFadden - Sugar (229 pages)

Suzan Lori Parks – Getting Mother’s Body (280 pages)

Katy Robinson - A Single Square Picture: A Korean Adoptee's Search for Her Roots (297 pages) [This led to Helie Lee – Still Life with Rice (320 pages) Similar theme.]

Mary Doria Russell - The Sparrow (432 pages)

[the sequel is – Children of God (464 pages) reviews say Sparrow is better.]

Jane Smiley – A Thousand Acres (384 pages)

Betty Smith – A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (496 pages)

Donna Tartt - The Secret History (512 pages)

Nancy Turner These is my Words (400 pages)

Mahfouz was influenced by Strindberg. How about “The Father” (76 pages)?

Pearl Buck <http://www.nobel.se/literature/laureates/1938/buck-lecture.html> -

The Chinese have always demanded of their novel character above all else. *Shui Hu Chuan* they have considered one of their three greatest novels, not primarily because it is full of the flash and fire of action, but because it portrays so distinctly one hundred and eight characters that each is to be seen separate from the others.

San Kuo

Shui Hu Chuan is in partial translation in French under the title *Les Chevaliers Chinois*, and the seventy-chapter version is in complete English translation by myself under the title *All Men Are Brothers*.

Hung Lou Meng, or *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, the latest and most modern of these three greatest of Chinese novels, was written originally as an autobiographical novel by Ts'ao Hsüeh Ching, an official highly in favor during the Manchu regime and indeed considered by the Manchus as one of themselves. [ISBN: 0385093799 is a 352 page abridgement of the 2000 page Story of the Stone, the full translation.]

Hsi YüChi, or *Record of Travels in the West*, almost as popular as these three. I might mention *Feng Shen Chuan*, the story of a deified warrior, the author unknown but said to be a writer in the time of Ming. I must mention *Ru Ling Wai Shi*, a satire upon the evils of the Tsing dynasty, particularly of the scholars, full of a double-edged though not malicious dialogue, rich with incident, pathetic and humorous.

Yea Shou Pei Yin, or *An Old Hermit Talks in the Sun*, written by a famous man disappointed in official preferment, Shia of Kiang-yin, and there is that strangest of

books, *Ching Hua Yuen*, a fantasy of women, whose ruler was an empress, whose scholars were all women.

Lee Smolin recommends:

Richard Dawkins – Selfish Gene (368 pages)

Azar Nafisi recommends (In Reading Lolita in Tehran):

Anne Tyler – Back When We were Grownups (304 pages)

Marjane Satrapi – Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (160 pages – autobiography - Iran).

Katherine Kressman Taylor – Address Unknown (64 pages - 1938) Nazi warning.

Orhan Pamuk. [Perhaps The New Life (304 pages)?]

Ray Bradbury recommends: Jessamyn West, The Friendly Persuasion (228 pages) Quaker stories about a Civil War time family in Indiana.

Jodi Picoult recommends: Alice Hoffman, The Ice Queen (224 pages)

[Maybe do it along with Tarjei Vesaas's Ice Palace?]

Ted Cohen recommends: Russell Hoban, Amaryllis Night and Day (192 pages - 2001), Kleinzeit (191 pages – 1974), and The Mouse and His Child (256 pages - 1967)

Lee Siegel (in the 05/09/2005 Nation) recommends: Saul Bellow, “Mosby’s Memoirs” (28 pages, 1968)

Graham Greene recommends: Narayan’s Bachelor of Arts (266 pages).

Zulfikar Ghose recommends: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Chronicles of a Death Foretold (128 pages)

W. Somerset Maugham in his Great Novelists and Their Novels (1948), listed his selection of the 10 greatest novels ever written:

- 1 Leo Tolstoy War and Peace. 1866
- 2 Honore de Balzac Pere Goriot. 1834
- 3 Henry Fielding Tom Jones. 1749
- 4 Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice. 1813
- 5 Stendahl The Red and Black. 1831
- 6 Emily Bronte Wuthering Heights. 1848
- 7 Gustave Flaubert Madame Bovary. 1857
- 8 Charles Dickens David Copperfield. 1849-50
- 9 Fyodor Dostoevsky The Brothers Karamazov. 1851
- 10 Herman Melville Moby Dick. 1851

Modern Library's 100 best non-fiction and novels of 20th century:

<http://www.harnikbk.com/print100non.htm>

<http://www.harnikbk.com/print100.htm> (

<http://www.harnikbk.com/century1.htm>)

From the Observer's 100 Greatest Novels

<http://www.librarything.com/bookaward/The%20Observer%27s%20100%20Greatest%20Novels%20of%20All%20Time>

Nancy Mitford, The Pursuit of Love (214 pages)

Beryl Bainbridge, The Bottle Factory Outing (179 pages) [Try The Dressmaker (192 pages) as well and see which one is better.]

Times Literary Supplement #5357 – 12/02/2005:

Jonathan Bates recommends The Word that Causes Death's Defeat (352 pages) [Akhmatova biography and poetry].

Nadine Gordimer recommends Fuentes' This I Believe (352 pages).

<http://www.goodbookslately.com>

Jane Smiley, The Greenlanders (582 pages)

Joanna Scott, Make Believe (246 pages) Inside a young child's head.

Michele Roberts, The Looking Glass (288 pages) 1900s Normandy.

Z.Z. Packer, Drinking Coffee Elsewhere (238 pages)

Mary Beth Hughes, Wavemaker II (208 pages) Summer, NY in 1964.

Julia Glass, Three Junes (353 pages) The 3 Junes are Scottish. Family life.

Galaxy Craze, By the Shore (231 pages) British girl's coming of age.

Chang Rea Lee, A Gesture Life (356 pages)

Edwidge Danticat, Krik? Krak! (224 pages) Short stories.

Junot Diaz, Drown (208 pages) Dominican Republic immigrant short stories. Read with Krik? Krak!.

Rosina Lippi, Homestead (210 pages) Austrian Alpine village short stories.

Christina Adams, Any Small Thing Can Save You (223 pages) Bestiary.

Diane Freund, Four Corners (256 pages) 10 year old narrator.

Jane Gardam, Flight of the Maidens (288 pages) 3 women come of age in post-WWII Britian.

Cassandra King's desert island picks (from Same Sweet Girls):

Cross Creek (M.K. Rawlings, 384 pages), Great Gatsby, Pride & Prejudice, David Copperfield, Jane Eyre, Zelda: A Biography (Nancy Milford, 426 pages), Angelou's Caged Bird, Kill a Mockingbird, Gift from the Sea.

George Saunders – Isaac Babel’s Red Cavalry (352 pages) and “Hunters in the Snow” by Tobias Wolff.

From <http://readingtrails.com> (now defunct)
Magic for Beginners, Kelly Link (9 short stories)
Olive Kitteridge, Elizabeth Strout (13 short stories, set in small-town Maine)

From This is My Best:

Gish Jen, “Who’s Irish” (11 pages)
Mary Karr, Cherry (288 pages)
Faulkner, “That Evening Sun Go Down”
P D James, A Taste for Death (480 pages)
David Sedaris, “Repeat After Me”

Oliver Sacks – Richard Holmes, The Age of Wonder (576 pages)

Arthur Schopenhauer (from the essay in Gateway to the Great Books Vol 5 “On Some Forms of Literature”) says the four greatest novels are Miguel de Cervantes, Don Quixote, Laurence Sterne, Tristram Shandy, Johann von Goethe, Wilhelm Meister, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, La Nouvelle Heloise.
[I couldn’t find a date for Schopenhauer’s essay but am guessing it was around 1851.]

Anne Tyler recommended Mary Lawson, Crow Lake (306 pages)

Francine Prose in her Reading Like a Writer appendix suggests:
Jane Bowles, Two Serious Ladies (234 pages)
Henry Green, Loving (229 pages, as an example of well-written dialogue)
ZZ Packer, Drinking Coffee Elsewhere (256 pages, 8 short stories)
Christina Stead, The Man Who Loved Children (576 pages)
Tatyana Tolstaya, Sleepwalker in a Fog (204 pages, 8 short stories)
Rebecca West, The Birds Fall Down (432 pages)
Joy Williams, Escapes (168 pages, short stories)
[It is annoying that Reading Like a Writer does not have an index but you can find relevant pages for references using a search in google books:
http://books.google.com/books?id=Wz0CkgVGS8EC&printsec=frontcover&dq=prose+reading+like+a+writer&hl=en&src=bmrr&sa=X&ei=V_59T7rYA8etiAL5v7n5DQ&ved=0CEQ_Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=prose%20reading%20like%20a%20writer&f=false]

Tracy Chevalier at <http://www.tchevalier.com/author.html#>

says Helen Simpson is one of her favorite short story writers.

Simpson's story, "The Tipping Point" (11 pages) is in Ox-tales Air.

The Classic of Odes The Classic of Odes is the first poem collection covering 305 poems from the early Western Zhou Dynasty (11th century BC - 711 BC) to the middle Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC - 476 BC). As the starting point of Chinese literature, it enjoys a high reputation of artistic value and had a great influence on the works that followed. The works can be divided into three parts: Feng, Ya, and Song (Ode), which derived its name from music items. Feng indicates the local tune and collected folk songs of 15 states, Ya including Daya and Xiaoya are the movements for nobles; and Song is the music used during sacraments in temple. The writing skills rely on the 'Fu' (narrative), 'Bi' (figuration (simile and metaphor)), and 'Xing' (symbolization, and contrast), and give aesthetic feelings in tone. Throughout the book you can read by means of the connotation between the lines the reality of people of different classes.

<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/literature/classical1.htm>

Eowen Ivey (author of The Snow Child): Olena Kalaytiak Davis, And Her Soul out of Nothing (112 pages, poetry). [Ivey has a new book out: To the Bright Edge of the World]

Short story authors give their favorites: <http://storyvilleapp.com/top-10s/> .

From a list of "10 best" historical novels:

George Eliot, Romola (584 pages).

Teaching Company, A Day's Read:

Lecture 10 - Italo Calvino, Invisible Cities [would be good to read with Borges]

Lecture 26 - Lu Xun, Short Story Selections (Ah-Q is 44 pages)

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1921/12/ah-q/ch01.htm>

Lecture 33 - Jataka Story Selections [life of the Buddha]

Lecture 35 - Basho, The Narrow Road of the Interior

Perhaps with Robert Aitken, A Zen Wave: Basho's Haiku & Zen

No on Lecture 2 - Abbe Prevost's Manon Lescault, Lecture 17 - Huysman's Against the Grain,

Possible Yes on Lecture 15 - Balzac, "The Girl with the Golden Eyes"

Jane Smiley's list of 100 novels that illustrate 13 Ways of Looking at the Novel:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/kvpa/smiley100/list.html> .

Dr. Moalem (Survival of the Sickest): 1) Dr. Lown, The Lost Art of Healing,
2) Dr. Golem, How to Think About Medicine, 3) James Burke, Connections,
4) Buckminster Fuller, Critical Path.

David Benioff's favorite Yeats poems: "The Circus Animals' Desertion" and "Politics." He also likes Georges Simenon's [Dirty Snow](#) (272 pages). (From a NYTimes [article](#).)

Lone Tree Great Books Group (Douglas County, Colorado)

Dorothy Parker, "The Custard Heart" (9 page short story in The Portable Dorothy Parker)

Rose Tremain, "My Wife is a White Russian" (8 pages in [Penguin British Short Stories](#))

Jane Addams, "The Devil Baby at Hull-House" ([The Best American Essays of the Century](#) - 16 pages)

Alison Lurie, "Fat People" ([The Penguin Book of International Women's Stories](#) - 14 pages)