

Fiction News



The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter

October 2016

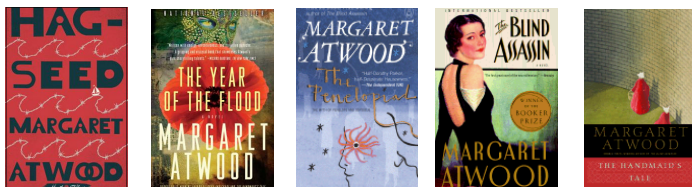
AUTHORS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Margaret Atwood

Margaret Atwood's literary fiction often incorporates mythical/fairy tale images into past, present, and future worlds that remain recognizably modern. Her protagonists are primarily women (often artists or writers) in difficult situations but who are never passive victims. Graceful, polished prose describes complex characters and storylines. Atwood weaves serious feminist concerns into highly

readable stories, leavened by wit and humor.



Partial List

***The Hag-Seed* (2016)**

William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* retold. Felix is at the top of his game as Artistic Director of the Makeshiweg Theatre Festival. Now he's staging a *Tempest* like no other: not only will it boost his reputation, it will heal emotional wounds.

***The Year of the Flood* (2009)**

The times and species have been changing at a rapid rate, and the social compact is wearing as thin as environmental stability. Adam One, the kindly leader of the God's Gardeners--a religion devoted to the melding of science and religion, as well as the preservation of all plant and animal life--has long predicted a natural disaster that will alter Earth as we know it.

***The Penelopiad* (2005)**

Presents the cycle of stories about Penelope, wife of Odysseus, through the eyes of the twelve maids hanged for disloyalty to Odysseus in his absence.

***The Blind Assassin* (2000)**

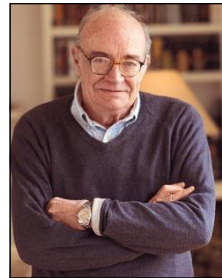
Iris Chase Griffen, married at eighteen to a wealthy industrialist but now poor and eighty-two, recalls her far from exemplary life, and the events leading up to her sisters death gradually revealing the carefully guarded Chase family secrets.

***The Robber Bride* (1993)**

The story of three women living in Toronto explores the paradox of woman as villain.

***The Handmaid's Tale* (1986)**

In a future world where the birth rate has declined, fertile women are rounded up, indoctrinated as "handmaids," and forced to bear children to prominent men.



Ward Just

Ward Just writes literary fiction that combines elements of politics, psychological suspense, and espionage. His complex protagonists are frequently creative, introspective men who find themselves grappling with ethical and emotional issues, whether it's avenging the death of a loved one or coping with the disintegration of a marriage. Though

Just's novels can take place seemingly anywhere in the world, his elegantly written work is always haunting and atmosphere thought-provoking.



Partial List

***American Romantic* (2014)**

While on duty as a young foreign service officer in Indochina in the 1960s, Harry Sanders briefly meets a young German woman who changes the course of his life.

***Rodin's Debutante* (2011)**

Sculptor Lee Goodell reflects on his time at a Chicago boys' school, as well as on the sexual assault of a childhood friend, who has no memory of the attack on her.

***Exiles in the Garden* (2009)**

Settling in Georgetown after rejecting his family's life in politics, newspaper photographer Alec witnesses the gatherings of émigrés and exiles at the home of his next-door neighbors and watches the disintegration of his marriage upon his refusal of an assignment in Vietnam.

***An Unfinished Season* (2004)**

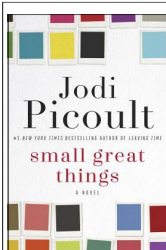
Class struggle and family tensions explode in this novel of life in a Chicago suburb in the 1950s, as a teenager watches his father's psyche crumble in the wake of union problems and marital difficulties.

***The Weather in Berlin* (2002)**

Tired of the studio intrigues of Hollywood, film director Dixon Greenwood heads for post-war Germany and becomes involved in the production of a television program that reunites him with an actress with whom he had worked thirty years before.

NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters & NovelList)

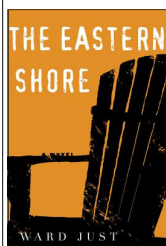
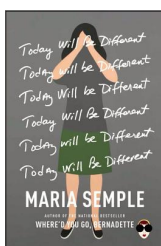


Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult.

An African-American neonatal nurse is charged with causing the death of a white supremacist's newborn baby. The story is told from the points of view of the nurse, her attorney, and the baby's heartbroken father. As always, Picoult's attention to legal, organizational, and medical details help the tale ring true. - Laurie Van Court for *Library Reads*.

Today Will Be Different by Maria Semple.

A brilliant novel from the author of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* about a day in the life of Eleanor Flood, forced to abandon her small ambitions and awake to a strange, new future. This is a hilarious, heart-filled story about reinvention, sisterhood, and how sometimes it takes facing up to our former selves to truly begin living.

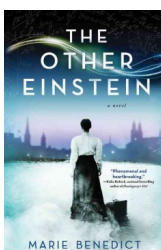


The Eastern Shore by Ward Just.

From an American master comes another beautifully languid, emotionally intense tale. Pursuing journalism and rising to the position of city editor in spite of his judge father's disapproval, Ned exposes the criminal past of a town haberdasher with ramifications that haunt him throughout his career.

The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict.

The Other Einstein offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow. It is the story of Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated and may have been inspired by her own profound and very personal insight.

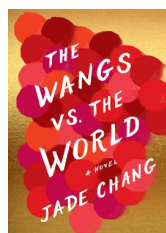


The Girl from Venice by Martin Cruz Smith.

The highly anticipated new standalone novel from Martin Cruz Smith is a suspenseful World War II love story set against the beauty, mystery, and danger of occupied Venice. *The Girl from Venice* is a thriller, a mystery and a retelling of Italian history that will take your breath away.

The Wings vs. the World by Jade Chang.

A hilarious debut novel about a wealthy but fractured Chinese immigrant family that had it all, only to lose every last cent and about the road trip they take across America that binds them back together.



The Trespasser by Tana French.

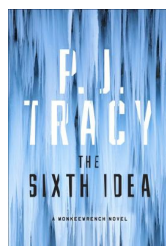
A brilliant new novel from the *New York Times* bestselling author, whom Gillian Flynn calls "mesmerizing" and Stephen King calls "incandescent."

STAFF PICKS

Elise's Picks

Wilde Lake by Laura Lippman.

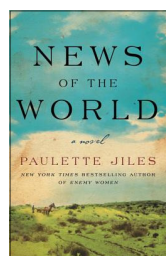
Following in the footsteps of her legendary father, Luisa "Lu" Brant is elected state's attorney for Howard County, MD. A formidable prosecutor in her own right, smart and relentless, Lu eagerly pursues the first murder that comes across her desk, but what looks like an open and shut case takes a disturbing turn when she discovers that the suspect was a High School classmate of her older brother, someone he claims not to remember. Weaving back and forth in time between Lu's childhood memories, when she tagged along after her popular brother and his band of friends, and the current murder investigation, *Wilde Lake* is both a compelling coming-of-age story and a morally complex crime novel. A perennial *New York Times* bestselling author, Laura Lippman is widely admired by critics and peers alike for her psychologically powerful mysteries.



The Sixth Idea by P.J. Tracy.

The long-awaited seventh entry in the fascinating Monkeywrench mystery series finds the eccentric computer geniuses once again teaming up with the Minneapolis police to solve a seemingly unsolvable case. This time the baffling case involves the murder of two recent online friends, the stalking of young portrait artist, and the kidnapping and disappearance of two elderly gentlemen. With the aid of the Monkeywrench team, the police gradually realize that the elusive connection among these apparently unrelated crimes stretches all the way back to the development of the atomic bomb and an alternative doomsday theory known as "The Sixth Idea." This highly entertaining, tech savvy series is known for its intriguing, clever plots, witty banter, and colorful, truly unique and endearing characters.

Dorothy's Picks

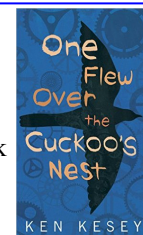


News of the World by Paulette Jiles.

In northern Texas of 1870, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd is an elderly widower who travels from town to town delivering news through readings to live audiences. He has lived through three wars and fought in two. Now, he is called upon to bring a ten-year old girl, rescued from captivity by the Kiowa tribe, back to what is left of her extended family in southern Texas. But the young girl has no memory of life before her kidnapping and no desire to give up her Kiowa ways. Slowly, during their treacherous 400-mile journey, the two form a lasting bond that will impact both their lives going forward. This historical novel of the post-Civil War west captures the challenges of life on the frontier, but what will remain with the reader is the evocation of the bond that develops between Captain Kidd and his young charge.

Books Building Bridges

Each fall the Ridgefield Library and Ridgefield High School choose one book from the curriculum for an intergenerational exploration, including book chats, lectures and other activities. The 2016 selection is *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey. Check our website to learn more about scheduled lectures and book chats in October and November.



For a more extensive list of new fiction, mystery, and science fiction and fantasy titles, visit our website at www.ridgefieldlibrary.org.