

Beach Books

What Do Colleges and Universities Want Students to Read Outside Class?

2011-2012

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**A Report by the
National Association of Scholars**

September 2011



*"To come to college means to come into a new relationship with books."
– Southern Methodist University website*

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Executive Summary

Many colleges and universities assign a book, either to their incoming freshman or to the student body at large, as “common reading.” In 2010 the National Association of Scholars compiled the most comprehensive report to-date on these initiatives. We offer an updated edition for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Common reading programs are a recent phenomenon; they became popular only in the last decade. Their rise seems to correspond to the decline of core curricula in higher education—as colleges distance themselves from core curricula they find that students still need to have something in common academically. Campus common reading programs are a popular answer to that need. The books they select are often seen as representative of the colleges’ values, and controversies sometimes arise when a college picks a book with a political or ideological slant.

What books do colleges and universities assign as common reading? What themes do the books contain? Are they old books or recent ones? What kinds of colleges and universities have common reading programs? What does a typical common reading program look like? What does all this tell us about the state of American higher education today?

To find out, we examined books assigned by 245 colleges and universities for the academic year 2011-2012. We found that they are, on the whole, recent, personal, race-focused, and unchallenging. Our main findings are:

1. Recent books trump the classics. Almost 90 percent of colleges chose books published since January 2000, and all but two selected books published since January 1972.
2. Only two books—one by Mark Twain and one by Aldous Huxley—are “classics” even in a broad sense.
3. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (2010) by Rebecca Skloot is by far the most popular book.
4. Of the 100 colleges that selected books with a racial or ethnic theme, 60 chose books that focused on African Americans.

Among the ways this year differs from last: more colleges assigned books with a Native American theme, fewer colleges assigned books about the Islamic World, and fewer colleges assigned classics.

Colleges continue to ignore the best books when they make their selections for common reading. One likely reason for this is that Americans have eroded the distinction between high and low culture. Author Joseph Epstein writes in a recent *Wall Street Journal* book review that this distinction “started to break down once the works of contemporary authors began to be taught in universities.” Its breakdown progressed with the rise of multiculturalism and the study of popular culture.

We encourage colleges to continue and to improve their common reading programs. We offer 11 recommendations to colleges for choosing better books and making the most of the common reading experience. We also offer a list of books we recommend for common reading.

Controversies

Common readings often spark controversy, and this year was no exception. In August 2010, Brooklyn College announced its selection: *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America*, by Moustafa Bayoumi, a Brooklyn College professor of post-colonial literature and a disciple of Edward Said. The book aims to establish Arab and Muslim Americans as victims and indict American society for making them so. Controversy arose when several concerned academics each challenged the College's decision to select this particular book.

A professor at the University of British Columbia wrote to the Brooklyn College president, "While much of it is interesting and informative, the 'afterword' is a harshly-worded polemic against US foreign policy and against Israel. To believe the author, the problems of Brooklyn Arabs arise from U.S. imperialism." A Brooklyn College professor wrote, "It smacks of indoctrination."¹ And one alumnus actually wrote the College out of his will² after learning of the book assignment.

(Brooklyn College picked a different book for 2011-2012, but the University of North Carolina-Charlotte was undeterred by the controversy and selected *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?* this year.)

Then in April 2011, *60 Minutes* ran an exposé on Greg Mortenson, whose books *Three Cups of Tea* (a *New York Times* bestseller) and *Stones Into Schools*, have been popular as common reading assignments. The program provided compelling evidence in support of allegations that Mortenson fabricated or exaggerated key points in his books. The *60 Minutes* segment put some colleges that had intended to honor Mortenson and have him speak on campus in an awkward position. This year not one college selected a book by Mortenson as common reading.

Common reading programs are extra-curricular and may seem peripheral to campus academic life, but the choice of a single book for this purpose is often (and probably rightly) understood as emblematic of a college's values. Critics "read" the selections as indicating what a college truly considers important.

¹ Rosenthal, Abigail L. "Brooklyn College-stan: Letter From a Faculty Member." *JERUSALEM CENTRAL*. 24 Aug. 2010. http://www.jerusalemcentral.com/2010/08/brooklyn-college-stan-letter-from.html?utm_source=feedburner

² Kesler, Bruce. "I Just Disinherited My Alma Mater - Maggie's Farm." *Maggie's Farm*. 27 Aug. 2010. <http://maggiesfarm.anotherdotcom.com/archives/15284-I-Just-Disinherited-My-Alma-Mater.html>

This may not be a fair view; colleges and universities do not necessarily embrace the views expressed in the books they assign, and some institutions choose controversial books in order to promote healthy debate. Other times, however, colleges do select books specifically because they contain views they believe students should adopt. In any case, it's worth taking note of the books colleges select for common reading programs and considering what these trends tell us about contemporary American higher education.

Methods

This is intended to be a comprehensive inventory, and we have included all common reading programs for which we could find up-to-date information.

We used the 2010 list, which we compiled from others' previous lists and our own online research, as the starting point for the 2011 list. Eighty-two of the colleges in last year's study discontinued their common reading programs or failed to update their websites and could not be reached by email or phone for information on this year's selection.³

We also found new programs that we did not know about last year and added them to our updated edition. We invite other colleges and universities we may have missed to inform us of the books they have selected and send their contact information so that we can include them next year.

Our 2011-2012 list covers 245 colleges and universities, 148 books, and 137 authors. We have listed the programs in several ways:

1. Alphabetically by book author
2. Alphabetically by institution
3. By institution type: public (127), community (28), non-sectarian private (70), and sectarian (20)⁴
4. By institutions listed by *U.S. News & World Report* in the top 100 of its National Universities list (42) and its Liberal Arts Colleges list (18)

³ A list of programs that were included in the 2010 *Beach Books* report but have since been discontinued is available at <http://www.nas.org/userfiles/file/Colleges%20Without%202011%20Common%20Reading%201.xls>.

⁴ We also noted here that one historically black university (Lincoln University) and five women's colleges (Mount Holyoke College, Peace College, Smith College, Sweet Briar College, and Cedar Crest College) have common reading programs.

To see the lists organized these four ways, click on the tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet labeled “By Author,” “By Institution,” “By Institution Type,” and “Nationally Ranked.”

For each listing we have included the name of the common reading program and a link to the page on the college’s website that tells about the program.

After gathering the data, we collected information about the books. We have provided the year in which the book was published and we have identified which books are written as memoirs, biographies, fiction, histories, and plays. See “Book Genres” below (page 8). We looked for recurring motifs among the books selected and classified all of them according to categories. See “Book Categories” below (page 8). We also identified emphases on particular racial and ethnic groups and emphases on Hurricane Katrina. See “Book Themes” below (page 16).

The Mechanics of Common Reading Programs

As we noted last year, college common reading programs, a relatively new phenomenon, are a sort of proxy for core curricula, which are now all but extinct at most institutions. Without an ordered, sequential curriculum shared by the student body, colleges have felt the need to give students something academic “in common.” Otherwise, students have only the corporal aspects of campus life in common: freshman orientation, sports, cafeterias, geographic location, etc. Reading the same book gives them something to talk about by way of *ideas*.

Colleges’ have various names for their common reading programs; this year’s set includes One Book, Writer as Witness Colloquium, iRead, and Interregnum. Often the readings are part of a yearlong theme chosen by the college. Where these themes were readily apparent, we noted them in the column “Theme.” Here is a sampling of the themes we observed:

- Public Health: Promoting Wellness for Self and Community (Bluffton University)
- The Year of China (Brown University)
- Living on the Borders: Migration, Identity and Survival (Chandler-Gilbert Community College)
- Civility (Hiram College)
- Ways of Knowing (James Madison University)

- Righting Civil Wrongs (Lafayette College)
- The Pursuit of Innovation (The College of New Jersey)
- Creating and Living in a Sustainable World (University of Arkansas)

The departments in charge of common reading programs also vary. Usually the sponsor is either the college's new student program, the library, or the English department. Often a committee determines each year's selection by vote, student consensus, or pre-established criteria. For example, Brooklyn College's dean has said that the College typically chooses "memoirs (a genre familiar to students) set in New York City, often reflecting an immigrant experience, and written by authors who are available to visit campus." Southern New Hampshire University selected *Water for Elephants* this year simply "because of its high interest and its potential for satisfying discussion."

Sometimes the assignment is accompanied by an essay prompt or comprehension test, but often the reading is optional and the book selection is superficial – it doesn't matter as much that students actually read the book as it is that the campus puts out press releases announcing its choice and a scheduled speech by the author. Indeed, the availability of the author for a campus visit appears to have become a major factor for most colleges in making their choices.

That may contribute to the extraordinarily low number of selections (two) published before 1972.

Hot Off the Press: Book Publication Dates

Colleges seek recently published books for common reading programs because:

- They hope to invite the author to speak on campus.
- They assume current books are more accessible to students.
- They believe students will be more enthusiastic about contemporary themes.
- They want the college itself to be identified with fashionable ideas.
- They hope to pick up on the momentum of a book that is popular with the general public, and trust that more students will actually read it.
- A movie version may be available or due soon.

219 out of 245 colleges (89 percent) chose books published in the year 2000 or later. Only two chose books published before 1972: Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska with *Brave New World* (1932) and The King's

College in New York, New York with *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889). The most widely assigned book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, was published in 2010.

Book Genres

Seventy-nine colleges and universities assigned memoirs, 62 assigned biographies, 48 assigned fiction, 4 assigned histories, and 1 assigned a play. Ten assigned graphic novels (comic books). The number that assigned biographies may be artificially inflated by the popularity of *Henrietta Lacks*. Of the 62 biography-assigning schools, 39 chose *Henrietta Lacks*. The memoir genre comprises by far the greatest variety of books selected for common reading programs: 11 different biographies and 42 different memoirs were selected.

Why memoirs? As the Brooklyn College dean said, memoirs are “a genre familiar to students.” In high school English courses, students are taught to base their interpretation of works of literature on their own personal experiences. A recent study on high school literary study finds that this emphasis on the personal “may be contributing to the high remediation rates in post-secondary English and reading courses.”⁵

Training students to write from the perspective of personal reflection gives them a taste for more of the same. This is one explanation for the popularity of the memoir in common reading programs.

Another is that our society has an appetite for true stories. The growing number of reality TV shows is evidence of this. Getting to hear from the author in person at a scheduled campus speech is part of the allure of the memoir.

The emphasis on memoir may also reflect the rise of post-modern sensibilities in American higher education. A memoir often presents “my truth,” rather than “the truth.” It is a way of asserting the primacy of self and the importance of opinion as trumping common judgment, authority, and hard-won facts.

Book Categories

⁵ *Literary Study in Grades 9, 10, and 11: A National Survey*, Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers (ALSCW), Fall 2010. <http://www.alsew.org/Forum4.pdf>

As we collected book titles for this year’s set, we observed some trends emerging in terms of genre and topic. We designated categories for the books according to these trends. Below is a list of the categories we identified and the distribution of books in each. As can be seen, the top three motifs of books selected by colleges for common reading programs were “Historical Depictions of American Society” (with *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* comprising the bulk of this category), “Multiculturalism/Immigration/Racism,” and “Environmentalism/Animal Rights/Food.” In 2010, the two latter categories were the most prominent.

Key	#
Historical Depictions of American Society	49
Multiculturalism/Immigration/Racism	43
Environmentalism/Animal Rights/Food	24
War/Disaster/Genocide/Holocaust	24
Spiritual/Philosophy/New Age	17
Poverty	15
Coming of Age	12
Disability/Disease	9
Islamic World	9
Women	8
Self-Help/Pursuit of Happiness	8
Fantasy, Sci-Fi	6
Economics	6
Science	4
Internet/Technology	4
Forgiveness/Redemption	4
Slavery	2
Classics	2
Homosexuality	2
Rapacious Capitalism	1

These categories are provisional. We made our best judgment of where to place each book, usually based on what we could find out about the book from publisher’s blurbs and reviews—it being impossible for us to read all 148 books. Many of the books clearly have more than one theme and, since we are listing each book only once, we had to choose which among its several themes was most salient. For example, *The Pact* is a memoir about three young men from inner city Newark who, while attending a magnet school, make a pact to attend and complete college. We could have classified this as “Self-Help/Pursuit of Happiness,” “Coming of Age,” or even “Forgiveness/Redemption.” But we chose to put *The Pact* in our “Poverty” category because the most prominent theme in the book is

overcoming the conditions of the impoverished neighborhoods in which they grew up.

Only a few of our categorization choices were as many-branched as this one, but books are by their nature many-sided. Our aim is to offer a broad overview of the kinds of books colleges are assigning, not to pigeonhole individual books.

The books we assigned to each category are:

Historical Depictions of American Society

Water for Elephants

The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation

The Value of Hawaii: Knowing the Past, Shaping the Future

Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project

Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong

Let the Great World Spin

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

The Optimist's Daughter

The Post-American World

Multiculturalism/Immigration/Racism

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Flight: A Novel

War Dances

Little Bee: A Novel

Brother, I'm Dying

Life is So Good: One Man's Extraordinary Journey through the 20th Century and How He Learned to Read at Age 98

Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel

Sarah Canary

On the Rez

The Red Umbrella

The Freedom Writers Diary

I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches That Changed the World

Interpreter of Maladies
The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother
Zoli
How to Read the Air
Enrique's Journey
The Grace of Silence: A Memoir
A Country for All: An Immigrant Manifesto
Ceremony
Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town
The Help
Make the Impossible Possible: One Man's Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger and Achieve the Extraordinary
A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School
The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration
My Maasai Life

Environmentalism/Animal Rights/Food

No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process
Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization
Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer
The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America
Farewell, My Subaru: An Epic Adventure in Local Living
Eating Animals
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope
The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and our Health—and a Vision for Change
Greasy Rider: Two Dudes, One Fry-Oil-Powered Car, and a Cross-Country Search for a Greener Future
The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World
In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto
The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals
Saints at the River

War/Disaster/Genocide/Holocaust

Beyond Fundamentalism: Confronting Religious Extremism in the Age of Globalization
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier
Zeitoun
The Good Soldiers
The Cellist of Sarajevo
September 11, 2001: American Writers Respond
Strength in What Remains
Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History
Ransom
The Things They Carried
When the Emperor Was Divine
City of Refuge
The Complete Maus
Soft Spots: A Marine's Memoir of Combat and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Spiritual/Philosophy/New Age

This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women
This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women
The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen
Ways of Knowing
The Good Life: Truths That Last in Time of Need
Life of Pi: A Novel
The Wolf at Twilight: An Indian Elder's Journey through a Land of Ghosts
Six Questions of Socrates: A Modern-Day Journey of Discovery through World Philosophy
Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know--And Doesn't
Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?

Poverty

The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream
Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal
The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates
Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream
The Working Poor: Invisible in America
A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League
In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir

Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism

Coming of Age

The Perks of Being a Wallflower
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close
Into the Wild
A Gate at the Stairs
Between a Rock and a Hard Place
The Glass Castle: A Memoir

Disability/Disease

Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague
Homer and Langley
The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures
Emergence: Labeled Autistic
Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music
The Last Town on Earth: A Novel
Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's

Islamic World

How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America
Journey From the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran
Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation
Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran
Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood

Women

Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China
Woman Hollering Creek
Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean
How to Breathe Underwater
Packhouse Daughter: A Memoir

Self-Help/Pursuit of Happiness

Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson
Choosing Civility - The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct
Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen
The Last Lecture
The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything
Life Safari
29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life

Fantasy/Sci-Fi

Oryx and Crake
World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War
Everything Matters!: A Novel
Nowhere
Kabuki: The Alchemy

Economics

How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas
Outliers: The Story of Success
SuperFreakonomics: Global Warming, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance
Midnight Ride, Industrial Dawn: Paul Revere and the Growth of American Enterprise
The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade
Where Am I Wearing: A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes

Science

The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist

Physics for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines
Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife
Bonobo Handshake: A Memoir of Love and Adventure in the Congo

Internet/Technology

The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains
The Victorian Internet: The Remarkable Story of the Telegraph and the Nineteenth Century's On-line Pioneers
Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other
And Then There's This: How Stories Live and Die in Viral Culture

Forgiveness/Redemption

A Human Being Died That Night: A South African Woman Confronts the Legacy of Apartheid
Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption
Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption

Slavery

Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves
The Known World

Classics

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
Brave New World

Homosexuality

Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic
The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed

Rapacious Capitalism

The Legend of Colton H. Bryant

Book Themes

We observed that many books—even those not focused on multiculturalism—paid particular attention to various racial and ethnic groups. These we noted with a symbol, as seen in the chart below.

△ Indicates an African American theme	60
☀ Indicates an African theme	18
◆ Indicates Native American theme	10
* Indicates a Latino theme	7
⌘ Indicates an East Asian theme	5

Books with an African American theme far outnumbered those with other racial and ethnic themes. Of the 100 colleges that selected books with a racial or ethnic theme, 60 chose books that focused on African Americans.

We also kept track of three other trends: books for which a movie version exists or is in production, comic books/graphic novels, and books with a Hurricane Katrina theme.

□ Indicates that a film version exists or is in production	64
HK Indicates Hurricane Katrina theme	10
† Indicates comic book or graphic novel	10

What's Different This Year

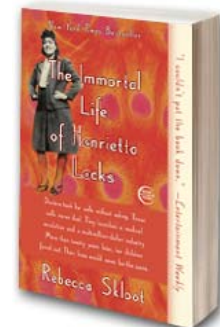
Comparing this year's set of books with 2010's, we noticed a number of changes.

- The book generally seen as the quintessential common reading text, Barbara Ehrenreich's indictment of capitalism *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, has finally retired.
- Thanks to the *60 Minutes* exposé alleging false and fabricated information in them, books by Greg Mortenson, including the formerly popular *Three Cups of Tea*, are now being shunned. Last year it was the third most widely assigned book.

- Books that focus on the Islamic world are no longer popular choices for common reading. The loss of Greg Mortenson’s books and the controversy at Brooklyn College over *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?* may have contributed to this decline.
- Only two “classics” have been selected: *Brave New World* and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*. These are also the only two common reading books published before 1972. Last year, by contrast, colleges selected *Frankenstein*, *Walden*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Communist Manifesto*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Crime and Punishment*; two of these were chosen by more than one college. We use the word “classic” in this context with some hesitation. See “Missing Classics” below (page 19).
- More books with a Native American theme have been chosen. The Native American author Sherman Alexie is particularly popular this year; colleges have selected three of his books for common reading.
- Books with an African American theme are hugely popular. This theme is bolstered, not only by *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, but also by books about overcoming obstacles to success presented by life in the inner city, such as *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*, *Make the Impossible Possible*, *A Hope in the Unseen*, and *The Pact*.
- Memoirs are the dominant genre. One possible reason for this is that high schools teach writing from the perspective of personal experiences, and many universities like to stick to a genre familiar to new students. See “Book Genres” above (page 8).

Henrietta Lacks

The top choice for college common reading programs can tell us a few things about colleges’ current values. This year, one book not only topped the list but did so by a huge margin. Thirty-nine colleges and universities selected *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (2010) by Rebecca Skloot. The next most popular books, Dave Eggers’ *Zeitoun* (2009) and the two-volume anthology *This I Believe* (2007, 2008) – which was last year’s top choice – didn’t



even come close. They were each selected by only nine colleges and universities.

When we recognized the dominance of this book in college common reading programs, we decided to read it in its 328-page entirety. It chronicles the story of a person whose cells were the first to survive in culture so that scientists could test their behavior. The cell line, named HeLa, came from a sample of cervical cancer in an African American woman named Henrietta Lacks, who died from the cancer in 1951. HeLa revolutionized medical research and resulted in thousands of the vaccines and medicines we take for granted today. Oprah Winfrey will produce an HBO film version of the book.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks raises a number of questions, such as whether it was ethical for doctors to have taken the cell sample without Henrietta's informed consent, whether anyone should have profited from their sale, whether the Lacks family should have been given a share of the profits, whether doctors, scientists, and journalists took advantage of the Lacks family because of their race, and whether Henrietta the person was nearly forgotten.

At one point, Deborah Lacks, Henrietta's daughter, said she rejected the racism narrative that others pushed on her:

“Everybody always yellin, ‘Racism! Racism! That white man stole that black woman’s cells! That white man killed that black woman!’ That’s crazy talk,” she told me. “We all black and white and everything else—this isn’t a race thing. There’s two sides to the story, and that’s what we want to bring out. Nothing about my mother is truth if it’s about wantin to fry the researchers. It’s not about punish the doctors or slander the hospital. I don’t want that.”

But Deborah later wrote this poem:

*cancer
check up
can't afford
white and rich get it
my mother was black
black poor people don't have the money to pay for it
mad yes I am mad
we were used by taking our blood and lied to*

*We had to pay for our own medical, can you relieve [sic] that.
John Hopkin Hospital and all other places, that has my mother cells, don't
give her
Nothing.*

A major question in the book is *Do people have rights over their former body parts?* Skloot explains that hospitals usually don't throw away tissues, organs, and body parts removed from patients in medical procedures, but keep them for research. A relatively new "tissue rights" movement has begun by those who believe that people should have either property rights to—or at least a say in the use of—anything removed from their bodies. A counter-argument is that once something has been removed, it no longer belongs to the patient whose body it was taken from.

This is an interesting if rather odd debate. It may become part of a real policy debate in years to come; at the moment it has a degree of artificiality: something that the book has stirred up rather than something that was already in the air.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks can thus be taken in two ways:

- A. As introducing a scientific breakthrough that after the fact gave rise to a social controversy.
- B. An effort to create a social controversy on the basis of a long-since settled scientific accomplishment.

The book does make a history of complex scientific research accessible to average readers, and Skloot explains biological jargon in simple terms. Readers will come away from the book having learned new things, but the writing itself is journalistic, not intellectual.

Judging by what they say about it, some colleges seem to have chosen *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* in part because it can be read as a story of racial injustice. Skloot herself is coy about this. The book has numerous allusions to the theme but Skloot never expresses it overtly. North Carolina State University says on its website that it chose *Henrietta Lacks* because it "touches on a number of academic and personal issues, including ethics, economics, racism, community, science, research, politics, education and History."⁶ Adelphi University notes that

⁶ "New Student Orientation | First-Year Students." *North Carolina State University :: Welcome to North Carolina State University*. <http://www.ncsu.edu/orientation/firstyear/commonreading.php>

“Her story is at times uncomfortable and forces the reader to confront many issues: bioethics, science, racism, poverty, faith and more.”⁷

Southern Methodist University has on its [website](#) a list of reasons to persuade students to read the book:⁸

Why Should You Care? THE TOP TEN REASONS

1. Law & Order used it for the basis of an episode.
2. Her story shaped the ethical process for Medical Experimentation & Informed Consent. Now doctors must follow strict legal and ethical guidelines.
3. HeLa cells were the first ever cloned and help developed the Polio vaccine.
4. We use HeLa cells in our research on the SMU campus!
5. More than 60 critics named *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* as one of the Best Books of 2010, and over 30 colleges have selected it for its [sic] Common Reading.
6. Her cells were commercialized and have generated millions of dollars in profit for the medical researchers who patented her tissue.
7. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* is being adapted into an HBO film produced by Oprah Winfrey and Alan Ball.
8. In 1960 Henrietta’s cells went up in the second satellite ever in orbit!
9. If all the HeLa cells that have been produced were weighed, they would add up to 50 million metric tones and if laid out, they would wrap around the earth three times. [sic]
10. According to Wired, HeLa Cells are the most popularly used cell lines for research.

Missing Classics

Out of 245 colleges and universities, only two selected books that could loosely be termed “classics.” These are Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* (1932) and Mark Twain’s *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*. The former is more of a classic than the latter, which earns the status primarily for its author’s reputation, not its own. The two books are also the only two on this list published before 1972.

⁷ "First Year Reading: Getting Started at AU: Adelphi University." *Campus Life at Adelphi University*. Adelphi University. <http://students.adelphi.edu/gettingstarted/reading.php>

⁸ "2011 Common Reading: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* - Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility - SMU." Southern Methodist University. <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/Ethics/CommonReading.aspx>

Last year, by contrast, 9 colleges selected books that could be deemed classics. What accounts for the decline in our colleges' already languishing engagement with great—or even important—books?

Let's note first that the world of books that are tacitly excluded from common reading is very large. Nothing from classical antiquity; nothing from the Renaissance; nothing from the great age of English essays or the rise of the modern novel; and nothing that would in even a mildly restrictive use of the term be considered a true classic makes the list. When we raised some concern about this last year, we received some responses along the lines that all those sorts of books are to be found in the regular curriculum so that there is no need to select among them for common readings. This argument looks shaky. There may be colleges that have general education requirements that include books of enduring philosophy, history, or literature. Apart from the few "great books" programs, such as St. John's, these are difficult to find. (NAS is planning a separate investigation of this.)

So there is something here that needs to be explained: why is American higher education paying so little attention to common readings of books traditionally held in high esteem among educated people?

Perhaps the problem is that colleges are simply being practical. Classic books are more challenging than non-classics, and they require the reader to insert himself into a different era than his own. Both these qualities pose problems for many contemporary American college students. A journalist inquiring at NAS about this study asked, "Where is the balance between high standards and realism?"

While it is better for college students to read *something* rather than nothing, realism doesn't have to mean catering to students' comfort zones. It should be realistic to expect students who aspire to a college education to read challenging books. As it says on the Southern Methodist University website, "To come to college means to come into a new relationship with books."

If colleges are admitting students who dislike reading or are incapable of reading moderately challenging books, this is a fundamental disconnect between the purpose of higher education and colleges' actual behavior. But colleges have a good opportunity to remedy the problem using common reading programs – to introduce students to college-level reading and instill in them a taste for time-tested books. Unfortunately for most, it is a missed opportunity.

Literature's Fall

Some books are better than others. One reason colleges and universities have drifted away from the best books is precisely because they deny those books' superiority. Joseph Epstein, former editor of *The American Scholar* and author of many essay collections and books, chronicles literature's decline in his August 27, 2011 book review of a new anthology, *The Cambridge History of the American Novel*.⁹ Epstein faults the book for promoting a stiff view of literature in which race, class, and gender are always the leading themes and America is a cruel empire full of bigots. He writes that this view asserted itself only "after the death of the once-crucial distinction between high and low culture, a distinction that, until 40 or so years ago, dominated the criticism of literature and all the other arts." Epstein explains:

Under the rule of this distinction, critics felt it their job to close the gates on inferior artistic products. The distinction started to break down once the works of contemporary authors began to be taught in universities.

The study of popular culture—courses in movies, science fiction, detective fiction, works at first thought less worthy of study in themselves than for what they said about the life of their times—made the next incursion against the exclusivity of high culture. Multiculturalism, which assigned an equivalence of value to the works of all cultures, irrespective of the quality of those works, finished off the distinction between high and low culture, a distinction whose linchpin was seriousness.

In today's university, no one is any longer in a position to say which books are or aren't fit to teach; no one any longer has the authority to decide what is the best in American writing.

⁹ Epstein, Joseph. "What Killed American Lit." *Wall Street Journal*. 27 Aug. 2011. http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903999904576468011530847064.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion.

Epstein observes that the number of students choosing to major in English is rapidly declining. He quotes English professor William Chace on this point, who wrote in a 2009 article¹⁰:

What are the causes for this decline? There are several, but at the root is the failure of departments of English across the country to champion, with passion, the books they teach and to make a strong case to undergraduates that the knowledge of those books and the tradition in which they exist is a human good in and of itself. What departments have done instead is dismember the curriculum, drift away from the notion that historical chronology is important, and substitute for the books themselves a scattered array of secondary considerations (identity studies, abstruse theory, sexuality, film and popular culture). In so doing, they have distanced themselves from the young people interested in good books.

Most college common reading programs repeat English departments' mistakes: they fail to distinguish between high and low culture; they pay service to multiculturalism, relativism, popular culture, and the primacy of self; they extol books that are critical of America and the West; and they alienate students who can appreciate really good books.

In so doing, colleges exacerbate some of the key problems that plague both higher education and American society at large:

1. An inability to distinguish "the truth" from "my truth"
2. A tendency to ignore aspects of the world that fall outside the bounds of race, class, and gender
3. A shallow understanding of the human heart
4. A lack of humility and willingness to learn
5. A sense of resentment toward those who are prosperous

Colleges should, in principle, distinguish among excellent books, good ones, the merely mediocre, and dross. And, in the limited time that colleges have the chance to influence students, they should try to form their taste for the better.

¹⁰ Chace, William M. "The Decline of the English Department: How It Happened and What Could Be Done to Reverse It." *The American Scholar*. 22 Sept. 2009. <http://theamericanscholar.org/the-decline-of-the-english-department/>.

Recommendations

We applaud colleges and universities that assign a single book to freshmen or the whole student body as a common reading experience. This is an initiative that should continue, but should also improve if it is to be effective in raising students' sights to what is really "higher" in their higher education.

In 2010, the National Association of Scholars offered a list of books we recommend for college common reading programs. See Appendix G: Recommended Books for College Common Reading (page 77) for the full list and the reasons we picked each one. We recommended 37 books appropriate for any college common book program, and six choices that are more ambitious either because of length or intrinsic difficulty.

We regret that no college accepted our invitation to use this resource. None of the books we recommended was actually chosen. Nevertheless we again invite colleges to draw on our suggestions.

In addition to recommending specific books, we have some additional general recommendations for common reading programs.

To choose better books, we recommend that colleges:

1. Choose books that challenge students intellectually.
2. Pay deliberate attention to important books from earlier eras.
3. Choose the chooser(s) wisely. Consult those who read widely and well and who are intimately acquainted with good books.
4. Consult outside sources, such as the National Association of Scholars' list (See Appendix G: Recommended Books for College Common Reading, page 77) or the National Endowment for the Arts program The Big Read.
5. Ask alumni, "Which book that you read in college influenced you the most?" and consider their answers as candidates for common reading.
6. Break bad habits. Choosing books that cheerlead for popular causes or reinforce a political sensibility is a bad habit.
7. Mix it up. Alienation and oppression are important themes but so are courage, fidelity, redemption, self-sacrifice, fellowship, and truth, among others.

To make the most of the common reading experience, we recommend that colleges:

8. Make reading the book mandatory, and enforce the assignment with a test.
9. Require that students submit a list of new words they learn from the book.
10. Stage dramatic readings of the book by professors who can do voices.
11. Bring in an impersonator or an expert on the writings of a deceased author to speak and answer questions.

Appendix A: Key and Totals

Key	#
Historical Depictions of American Society	49
Multiculturalism/Immigration/Racism	43
Environmentalism/Animal Rights/Food	24
War/Disaster/Genocide/Holocaust	24
Spiritual/Philosophy/New Age	17
Poverty	15
Coming of Age	12
Disability/Disease	9
Islamic World	9
Women	8
Self-Help/Pursuit of Happiness	8
Fantasy, Sci-Fi	6
Economics	6
Science	4
Internet/Technology	4
Forgiveness/Redemption	4
Slavery	2
Classics	2
Homosexuality	2
Rapacious Capitalism	1
△ Indicates an African American theme	58
☀ Indicates an African theme	18
◆ Indicates Native American theme	10
* Indicates a Latino theme	7
⌘ Indicates an East Asian theme	5
□ Indicates that a film version exists or is in production	64
HK Indicates Hurricane Katrina theme	10
† Indicates comic book or graphic novel	10
M=Memoir	79
B=Biography	62
F=Fiction	48
H=History	4
P=Play	1

Appendix B: By Author

College/University		Book	Author	Year	Type	Program Name
Lindsey Wilson College	☐	Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson	Albom, Mitch	1997	M	Common Text
Adams State College	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009		Common Reading Experience
Chesapeake College	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	One Maryland, One Book
University of California, Davis	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Campus Community Book Project
University of Wisconsin, Parkside	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Ranger Read Program
Washburn University	◆	War Dances	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	iRead
Sierra Nevada College	◆	Flight: A Novel	Alexie, Sherman	2007	F	One Book One Campus/Common Reading
Aquinas College		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Reading Experience
Longwood University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	First Year Reading Experience
Louisiana Tech University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Read Program
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Book
Cedar Crest College		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Shared Reading
Kent State University		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Summer Reading
Shepherd University		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Common Reading
University of Dayton		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	First Year Read
University of Louisiana-Monroe		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	ULM Summer Reading
Rice University		The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen	Appiah, Kwame Anthony	2010		Common Reading Program
James Madison University		Ways of Knowing	Article Collection			Preface
Sweet Briar College		Beyond Fundamentalism: Confronting Religious	Aslan, Reza	2010		Common Reading

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		Extremism in the Age of Globalization				
University of Pittsburgh		Oryx and Crake	Atwood, Margaret	2004	F	Freshman Common Reader
Chandler-Gilbert Community College		Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves	Bales, Kevin	2007		Common Books
University of North Carolina, Charlotte		How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America	Bayoumi, Moustafa	2009		Common Reading Experience
Henderson State University	☀	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Beah, Ishmael	2007	M	Common Book Program
Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg	☀	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Beah, Ishmael	2007	M	Summer Reading Program
Atlantic Cape Community College	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	College-Wide Book Project
Bowling Green State University	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	Common Reading Experience
Northern Arizona University	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	NAUReads
University of Arkansas	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	One Book, One Community
University of Rhode Island	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	URI Common Reading
University of South Carolina	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	First-Year Reading Experience
Brandeis University	†	Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic	Bechdel, Alison	2007	M	New Student Forum
Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis		How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas	Bornstein, David	2007		Common Theme
Fairmont State		Year of Wonders: A Novel of	Brooks,	2001	F	Common Book

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University		the Plague	Geraldine			Project
Florida Southern College		World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War	Brooks, Max	2006	F	Common Reading
Barry University		Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization	Brown, Lester Russell	2009		Common Reader
Butler University		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	Welcome Week Book
Cornell College		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	One Book One Campus One Community
Cuesta College		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	Book of the Year
Wheaton College (Massachusetts)		The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains	Carr, Nicholas	2010		Summer Reading Assignment
Brown University	⌘	Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China	Chang, Leslie	2009		First Readings
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania	☐	The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Chbosky, Stephen C	1999	F	Summer Book Program
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	*	Woman Hollering Creek	Cisneros, Sandra	1991		Common Books
Pace University	☀	Little Bee: A Novel	Cleave, Chris	2008	F	Common Reading
University of Toledo		Everything Matters!: A Novel	Currie, Ron Jr.	2009	F	First Read
Brooklyn College		Brother, I'm Dying	Danticat, Edwidge	2007	M	Common Reading
The College of Wooster		Brother, I'm Dying	Danticat, Edwidge	2007	M	Summer Reading
Lincoln University	△	The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream	Davis, Sampson, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and Lisa Frazier Page	2003	M	Common Read Program
Eastfield College	△	Life is So Good: One Man's Extraordinary Journey through the 20th Century and How He Learned to Read at Age 98	Dawson, George and Richard Glaubman	2000	M	Common Book Project
Midlands Technical College	△	Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years	Delaney, Sarah L., A. Elizabeth Delaney, and Amy Hill Hearth	1997	M	MTC Reads
Cornell University		Homer and Langley	Doctorow, E.L.	2009	F	New Student Reading Project
Abilene Christian University		Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America	Dumas, Firoozeh	2003	M	Freshman Common Reading
University of Idaho		The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America	Egan, Timothy	2009	H	Common Read Program
California State University, Chico	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Book in Common
Catawba College	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading
Kansas State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	K-State Book Network
Parkland College	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Parkland Reads
Tufts University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading

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University of Missouri	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Mizzou Reads
University of North Carolina, Wilmington	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading Experience
Utah State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Literature Experience
Wright State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Text
Whitman College	⌘	The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures	Fadiman, Anne	1997		Summer Reading
University of Washington		The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist	Feynman, Richard	2005		UW Common Book
University of Texas, San Antonio		Farewell, My Subaru: An Epic Adventure in Local Living	Fine, Doug	2009	M	Summer Common Reading Experience
Kalamazoo College		The Good Soldiers	Finkel, David	2010		Summer Common Reading
American University		The Good Soldiers	Finkel, David	2009		Writer as Witness
Duke University		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	Summer Reading
Saint Michael's College		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	First Year Seminar Common Text
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
Amarillo College	☐	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	Common Reader
Baruch College	☐	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	Freshman Text
Georgia State University	☐	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	First-Year Book Program
Michigan State University	☐	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	One Book One Community
Villanova University	⌘	Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel	Ford, Jamie	2009	F	One Book Villanova
Pennsylvania State University, Berks		Choosing Civility - The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct	Forni, P.M.	2003		Common Reading Program
Trinity University	⌘	Sarah Canary	Fowler, Karen Joy	1991	F	Reading TUgether
Bellevue College	◆	On the Rez	Frazier, Ian	2001		BCC Reads
Marietta College		The Legend of Colton H. Bryant	Fuller, Alexandra	2009	B	Common Reading
DePaul University		Neverwhere	Gaiman, Neil	1996	F	One Book One Chicago
Washington University in St. Louis		The Cellist of Sarajevo	Galloway, Steven	2008	F	First Year Reading Program
Ventura College		Outliers: The Story of Success	Gladwell, Malcolm	2008		One Book, One Campus
St. Mary's College of Maryland	☀	A Human Being Died That Night: A South African Woman Confronts the Legacy of Apartheid	Gobodo-Madikizela, Pumla	2004	M	Summer Reading

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Vanderbilt University		The Good Life: Truths That Last in Time of Need	Gomes, Peter J.	2003		Commons Reading
Florida International University	*	The Red Umbrella	Gonzales, Christina	2010	F	FIU Common Reading
University of Alabama at Birmingham		Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism	Grandin, Temple	1995	M	Discussion Book
State University of New York, Brockport		Emergence: Labeled Autistic	Grandin, Temple	1986	M	Freshman Summer Reading Program
St. Bonaventure University		Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal	Grennan, Conor	2011	M	All Bonaventure Reads
Southern New Hampshire University		Water for Elephants	Gruen, Sara	2007	F	Common Book Program
Indiana State University		The Freedom Writers Diary	Gruwell, Erin	1999	M	Fall Read
Eastern Kentucky University		The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Haddon, Mark	2003	F	EKU Reads
Peace College	†	Journey From the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran	Hakakian, Roya	2004	M	Common Summer Reading
Texas State University	†	The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation	Hennessy, Jonathan	2008/1787		Common Experience Summer Reading
Owensboro Community and Technical College		September 11, 2001: American Writers Respond	Heyen, William	2002		Common Reading
Grace College		Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption	Hillenbrand, Laura	2010	B	Summer Reading
Hawaii Pacific University		The Value of Hawaii: Knowing the Past, Shaping the Future	Howes, Craig and Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwoole Osorio	2010	H	HPU Reads: Common Book
Metropolitan Community College	☐	Brave New World	Huxley, Aldous	1932	F	Common Reading Project
Middle Tennessee State University		Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project	Isay, Dave	2007	M	Community Reading Program
College of Charleston	△	The Known World	Jones, Edward P.	2003	F	College Reads
Miami University	☀	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope	Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	2009	M	Summer Reading Program
Thomas College	☀	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope	Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	2009	M	Common Read
Bluffton University	☀	Strength in What Remains	Kidder, Tracy	2009	B	Civic Engagement: Summer Reading
Georgia Institute of Technology		I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches That Changed the World	King, Jr., Martin Luther	1992		Freshman Reading Project
University of Montana, Missoula		Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change	Kolbert, Elizabeth	2006		First-Year Reading Experience

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University of the Sciences in Philadelphia	☐	Into the Wild	Krakauer, John	1997	B	One Book, One Campus
Eastern Illinois University		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		Eastern Reads
Mount Holyoke College		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		Common Reading
University of Richmond		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		One Book, One Campus
Illinois Wesleyan University		Interpreter of Maladies	Lahiri, Jhumpa	1999	F	Summer Reading Program
Sam Houston State University		Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History	Larson, Erik	2000	H	Bearkats Read to Succeed Program
Linfield College		Hector and the Search for Happiness	Lelord, François	2010 (trans. into English)	F	Summer Common Reading
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign		The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and our Health—and a Vision for Change	Leonard, Annie	2010		One Book, One Campus
Salem State College		SuperFreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance	Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner	2010		First Year Reading Experience
Ramapo College		Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong	Loewen, James W.	2007		Summer Reading
Austin Peay State University	☐	The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music	Lopez, Steve	2008	B	The Peay Read
Northern Kentucky University	†	Kabuki: The Alchemy	Mack, David	2004	F	Book Connection
Ithaca College		Ransom	Malouf, David	2009	F	First Year Reading Initiative
University of Texas, Tyler		Life of Pi: A Novel	Martel, Yann	2001	F	Freshman Summer Reading Program
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering		Midnight Ride, Industrial Dawn: Paul Revere and the Growth of American Enterprise	Martello, Robert	2010	B	Summer Reading
University of Kentucky	△	The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother	McBride, James	1996	M	Common Reading Experience
Carroll College (Montana)		Let the Great World Spin	McCann, Colum	2009	F	Alpha Seminar Summer Reading
Kingsborough Community College		Let the Great World Spin	McCann, Colum	2009	F	KCC Reads
Concordia College		Zoli	McCann, Colum	2000	F	Summer Book Read

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Appalachian State University	◆	Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen	McDougall, Christopher	2009	M	Summer Reading
Xavier University		A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean	McLure, Tori Murden	2009	M	Common Reading Experience
Johnson State College		Greasy Rider: Two Dudes, One Fry-Oil-Powered Car, and a Cross-Country Search for a Greener Future	Melville, Greg	2008	M	Common Reading Initiative
Georgetown University	☀	How to Read the Air	Mengestu, Dinaw	2010	F	First-Year Academic Workshop
Skidmore College		A Gate at the Stairs	Moore, Lorrie	2009	F	Summer Reading
Berry College	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
Goucher College	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading
Marian University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Common Read
Marquette University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	First Year Reading Project
New College of Florida	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Common Summer Book
University of Louisville	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Book in Common
Virginia Commonwealth University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
University of South Carolina, Aiken		The Last Town on Earth: A Novel	Mullen, Thomas	2006	F	First Year Reading Experience
Washington State University		Physics for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines	Muller, Richard A.	2008		Common Reading
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Common Books
Jacksonville University	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Common Reading Program
Meredith College	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Summer Reading Program
Millersville University	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	One Book, One Campus
University of Wisconsin, Madison	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Go Big Read
Gustavus Adolphus College	◆	The Wolf at Twilight: An Indian Elder's Journey through a Land of Ghosts	Nerburn, Kent	2010	M	Reading in Common
California State University, Sacramento		The Grace of Silence: A Memoir	Norris, Michele	2010	M	One Book
University of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac	□	The Things They Carried	O'Brien, Tim	1990	F	Common Read

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Agnes Scott College		How to Breathe Underwater	Orringer, Julie	2003	F	Common Reading
Saint Louis University	⌘	When the Emperor Was Divine	Otsuka, Julie	2003	F	First-Year Summer Reading
Loras College		Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation	Patel, Eboo	2010	M	Common Reading
Triton College		The Last Lecture	Pausch, Randy & Jeffrey Zaslow	2008	M	One Book One Triton
Rutgers (School of Arts and Sciences)		Six Questions of Socrates: A Modern-Day Journey of Discovery through World Philosophy	Phillips, Christopher	2004		Summer Reading
Otterbein College	HK	City of Refuge	Piazza, Tom	2009	F	Common Book Program
Texas Tech University		In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto	Pollan, Michael	2007		Summer Reading Program
University of Maine, honors college		The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals	Pollan, Michael	2006		The Honors Read
Chaffey College		The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World	Pollan, Michael	2001		One Book One College
Western Washington University		Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know--And Doesn't	Prothero, Stephen	2007		Western Reads
Montana State University	□	Between a Rock and a Hard Place	Ralston, Aron	2005	M	Summer Reading
Indiana University, Southeast		A Country for All: An Immigrant Manifesto	Ramos, Jorge	2010		Common Experience
Clemson University		Saints at the River	Rash, Ron	2005	F	Freshman Summer Reading Program
Winona State University		Packinghouse Daughter: A Memoir	Register, Cheri	2001	M	Common Book Project
Dartmouth College		The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade	Rivoli, Pietra	2009		First-Year Summer Reading
Spokane Falls Community College		Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife	Roach, Mary	2005		Common Reader
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown		The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything	Robinson, Ken	2009		One Community, One Book
Montcalm Community College		Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's	Robison, John Elder	2007	M	One Book One Community
Moraine Valley Community College		Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran	Saberi, Roxana	2010	M	One Book One College
Case Western Reserve University		Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?	Sandel, Michael	2009		Common Reading Program
Hamline University	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Summer Reading
Hiram College	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Common Reading
Mars Hill College	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Summer Reading Program

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Murray State University	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	MSU Reading Experience
Wartburg College	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Readings in Common
Methodist University		Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream	Shepard, Adam	2007	M	Freshman Reading Program
University at Buffalo, SUNY		The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed	Shepard, Judy	2009	M	UB Reads
Indiana University, Southeast		The Working Poor: Invisible in America	Shipler, David K.	2004		Common Experience
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	◆	Ceremony	Silko, Leslie Marmon	1977	F	Common Books
Adelphi University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Reading
Albion College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Experience
Boise State University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Campus Read
Central College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Reading in Common
Cleveland State University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Experience
Coastal Carolina University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Big Read
Community College of Baltimore County	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Community Book Connection
Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Florida State University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	One Book One Campus
Framingham State College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
George Washington University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Chapter: The Freshman Reading Program
Hamilton College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Lafayette College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Enlightenment Summer Reading
Laguardia Community College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Le Moyne College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
Lehigh University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
Massbay Community College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	OneBook
Missouri State University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reader
Mountain View College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Book Project

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North Carolina State University	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Initiative
Northwestern University	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	One Book One Northwestern
Philadelphia University	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
Purdue University	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
San Jose State University	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Campus Reading Program
Santa Barbara City College	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	SBC Reads
Smith College	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Southern Methodist University	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Texas Christian University	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Tulane University	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Reading Project
University of Arizona, honors college	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
University of California, Los Angeles	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	The Common Book
University of California, Santa Barbara	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	UCSB Reads
University of Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Common Reader
University of Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Book Program
University of Tennessee, Knoxville	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Life of the Mind
University of Texas, Arlington	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	OneBook
University of Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
Wagner College	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
William Woods University	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	New Student Summer Reading
Occidental College		Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992	Smith, Anna Deavere	1994	P	First-Year Reading
Edgewood College	†	The Complete Maus	Spiegelman, Art	1987		Common Reading
Fort Lewis College	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reading Experience
Kennesaw State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reader
Ohio State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Buckeye Book Community
Oklahoma City University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		OCUReads
South Dakota State	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Read

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University		Team, An American Town				
University of Florida	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reading Program
University of Northern Florida	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		UNF Reads
The College of New Jersey		The Victorian Internet: The Remarkable Story of the Telegraph and the Nineteenth Century's On-line Pioneers	Standage, Tom	1998	H	Summer Reading
College of the Redwoods	☐△	The Help	Stockett, Kathryn	2011	F	Book of the Year
Humboldt State University	☐△	The Help	Stockett, Kathryn	2011	F	Book of the Year
Florida Gulf Coast University	☀	Life Safari	Strelecky, John	2007	F	First Year Reading Project
Winthrop University	△	Make the Impossible Possible: One Man's Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger and Achieve the Extraordinary	Strickland, Bill	2007	M	Common Book Project
North Georgia College and State University	△	A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Suskind, Ron	1999	B	Common Reading Program
Western New England College	△	A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Suskind, Ron	1999	B	Summer Reading Assignment
East Carolina University	△	Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption	Thompson-Cannino, Jennifer Ronald Cotton, Erin Torneo	2009	M	Pirate Read
Salisbury University	△	Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption	Thompson-Cannino, Jennifer Ronald Cotton, Erin Torneo	2009	M	New Student Reader
West Texas A&M University		Where Am I Wearing: A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes	Timmerman, Kelsey	2008		Readership WT
Hampshire College		Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other	Turkle, Sherry	2011		Common Reading for New Students
The King's College	☐	A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	Twain, Mark	1889	F	Interregnum
Collin College		Soft Spots: A Marine's Memoir of Combat and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	Van Winkle, Clint	2009	M	Book in Common
State Fair Community College		29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life	Walker, Cami	2009		One Book One Community
Colorado Mountain College	△	A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School	Walls LaNier, Carlotta	2009	M	Common Reader
Ball State University		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Freshman Common Reader
California State University, Northridge		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Common Reading

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Michigan Technological University		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Summer Reading
University of Akron		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Common Reading
Western Illinois University		And Then There's This: How Stories Live and Die in Viral Culture	Wasik, Bill	2009		FYE Common Reading
Mississippi State University		The Optimist's Daughter	Welty, Eudora	1972	F	Maroon Edition
Davidson College		In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir	White, Neil	2009	M	New Student Orientation Book
Grand Valley State University	△	The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration	Wilkerson, Isabel	1995	B	Community Reading Project
Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington	☀	My Maasai Life	Wisowaty, Robin	2009	M	Summer Reading Program
State University of New York, Oswego	☀	Bonobo Handshake: A Memoir of Love and Adventure in the Congo	Woods, Vanessa	2010	M	Oswego Reading Initiative
Elon University		Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism	Yunus, Muhammad	1999		Common Reading
Indiana University, South Bend		The Post-American World	Zakaria, Fareed	2008		One Book One Campus
Ohio University		6 books + Common Experience Reader				Common Experience Project

Appendix C: By Institution Name

College/University		Book	Author	Year	Type	Program Name
Abilene Christian University		Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America	Dumas, Firoozeh	2003	M	Freshman Common Reading
Adams State College	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Common Reading Experience
Adelphi University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Reading
Agnes Scott College		How to Breathe Underwater	Orringer, Julie	2003	F	Common Reading
Albion College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Experience
Amarillo College	□	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	Common Reader
American University		The Good Soldiers	Finkel, David	2009		Writer as Witness
Appalachian State University	◆	Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen	McDougall, Christopher	2009	M	Summer Reading
Aquinas College		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Reading Experience
Atlantic Cape Community College	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	College-Wide Book Project
Austin Peay State University	□	The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music	Lopez, Steve	2008	B	The Peay Read
Ball State University		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Freshman Common Reader
Barry University		Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization	Brown, Lester Russell	2009		Common Reader
Baruch College	□	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	Freshman Text
Bellevue College	◆	On the Rez	Frazier, Ian	2001		BCC Reads
Berry College	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
Bluffton University	☀	Strength in What Remains	Kidder, Tracy	2009	B	Civic Engagement: Summer Reading
Boise State University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Campus Read
Bowling Green State University	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	Common Reading Experience

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Brandeis University	†	Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic	Bechdel, Alison	2007	M	New Student Forum
Brooklyn College		Brother, I'm Dying	Danticat, Edwidge	2007	M	Common Reading
Brown University	⌘	Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China	Chang, Leslie	2009		First Readings
Butler University		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	Welcome Week Book
California State University, Chico	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Book in Common
California State University, Northridge		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Common Reading
California State University, Sacramento		The Grace of Silence: A Memoir	Norris, Michele	2010	M	One Book
Carroll College (Montana)		Let the Great World Spin	McCann, Colum	2009	F	Alpha Seminar Summer Reading
Case Western Reserve University		Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?	Sandel, Michael	2009		Common Reading Program
Catawba College	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading
Cedar Crest College		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Shared Reading
Central College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Reading in Common
Chaffey College		The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World	Pollan, Michael	2001		One Book One College
Chandler-Gilbert Community College		Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves	Bales, Kevin	2007		Common Books
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	*	Woman Hollering Creek	Cisneros, Sandra	1991		Common Books
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Common Books
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	◆	Ceremony	Silko, Leslie Marmon	1977	F	Common Books
Chesapeake College	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	One Maryland, One Book
Clemson University		Saints at the River	Rash, Ron	2005	F	Freshman Summer Reading Program
Cleveland State University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Experience
Coastal Carolina University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Big Read
College of Charleston	△	The Known World	Jones, Edward P.	2003	F	College Reads
College of the Redwoods	□△	The Help	Stockett, Kathryn	2011	F	Book of the Year
Collin College		Soft Spots: A Marine's Memoir of Combat and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	Van Winkle, Clint	2009	M	Book in Common
Colorado Mountain College	△	A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little	Walls LaNier, Carlotta	2009	M	Common Reader

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		Rock Central High School				
Community College of Baltimore County	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Community Book Connection
Concordia College		Zoli	McCann, Colum	2000	F	Summer Book Read
Cornell College		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	One Book One Campus One Community
Cornell University		Homer and Langley	Doctorow, E.L.	2009	F	New Student Reading Project
Cuesta College		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	Book of the Year
Dartmouth College		The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade	Rivoli, Pietra	2009		First-Year Summer Reading
Davidson College		In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir	White, Neil	2009	M	New Student Orientation Book
DePaul University		Neverwhere	Gaiman, Neil	1996	F	One Book One Chicago
Duke University		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	Summer Reading
East Carolina University	△	Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption	Thompson-Cannino, Jennifer Ronald Cotton, Erin Torneo	2009	M	Pirate Read
Eastern Illinois University		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		Eastern Reads
Eastern Kentucky University		The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Haddon, Mark	2003	F	EKU Reads
Eastfield College	△	Life is So Good: One Man's Extraordinary Journey through the 20th Century and How He Learned to Read at Age 98	Dawson, George and Richard Glaubman	2000	M	Common Book Project
Edgewood College	†	The Complete Maus	Spiegelman, Art	1987		Common Reading
Elon University		Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism	Yunus, Muhammad	1999		Common Reading
Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Fairmont State University		Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague	Brooks, Geraldine	2001	F	Common Book Project
Florida Gulf Coast University	☀	Life Safari	Strelecky, John	2007	F	First Year Reading Project
Florida International University	*	The Red Umbrella	Gonzales, Christina	2010	F	FIU Common Reading
Florida Southern College		World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War	Brooks, Max	2006	F	Common Reading
Florida State University	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	One Book One Campus

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Fort Lewis College	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reading Experience
Framingham State College	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering		Midnight Ride, Industrial Dawn: Paul Revere and the Growth of American Enterprise	Martello, Robert	2010	B	Summer Reading
George Washington University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Chapter: The Freshman Reading Program
Georgetown University	☀	How to Read the Air	Mengestu, Dinaw	2010	F	First-Year Academic Workshop
Georgia Institute of Technology		I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches That Changed the World	King, Jr., Martin Luther	1992		Freshman Reading Project
Georgia State University	☐	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	First-Year Book Program
Goucher College	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading
Grace College		Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption	Hillenbrand, Laura	2010	B	Summer Reading
Grand Valley State University	△	The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration	Wilkinson, Isabel	1995	B	Community Reading Project
Gustavus Adolphus College	◆	The Wolf at Twilight: An Indian Elder's Journey through a Land of Ghosts	Nerburn, Kent	2010	M	Reading in Common
Hamilton College	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Hamline University	†☐	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Summer Reading
Hampshire College		Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other	Turkle, Sherry	2011		Common Reading for New Students
Hawaii Pacific University		The Value of Hawaii: Knowing the Past, Shaping the Future	Howes, Craig and Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwoole Osorio	2010	H	HPU Reads: Common Book
Henderson State University	☀	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Beah, Ishmael	2007	M	Common Book Program
Hiram College	†☐	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Common Reading
Humboldt State University	☐△	The Help	Stockett, Kathryn	2011	F	Book of the Year
Illinois Wesleyan University		Interpreter of Maladies	Lahiri, Jhumpa	1999	F	Summer Reading Program
Indiana State University		The Freedom Writers Diary	Gruwell, Erin	1999	M	Fall Read
Indiana University Purdue University of		How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the	Bornstein, David	2007		Common Theme

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Indianapolis		Power of New Ideas				
Indiana University, South Bend		The Post-American World	Zakaria, Fareed	2008		One Book One Campus
Indiana University, Southeast		A Country for All: An Immigrant Manifesto	Ramos, Jorge	2010		Common Experience
Indiana University, Southeast		The Working Poor: Invisible in America	Shipler, David K.	2004		Common Experience
Ithaca College		Ransom	Malouf, David	2009	F	First Year Reading Initiative
Jacksonville University	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Common Reading Program
James Madison University		Ways of Knowing	Article Collection			Preface
Johnson State College		Greasy Rider: Two Dudes, One Fry-Oil-Powered Car, and a Cross-Country Search for a Greener Future	Melville, Greg	2008	M	Common Reading Initiative
Kalamazoo College		The Good Soldiers	Finkel, David	2010		Summer Common Reading
Kansas State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	K-State Book Network
Kennesaw State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reader
Kent State University		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Summer Reading
Kingsborough Community College		Let the Great World Spin	McCann, Colum	2009	F	KCC Reads
Lafayette College	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Enlightenment Summer Reading
Laguardia Community College	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Le Moyne College	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
Lehigh University	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
Lincoln University	△	The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream	Davis, Sampson, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and Lisa Frazier Page	2003	M	Common Read Program
Lindsey Wilson College	☐	Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson	Albom, Mitch	1997	M	Common Text
Linfield College		Hector and the Search for Happiness	Lelord, François	2010 (trans. into English)	F	Summer Common Reading

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Longwood University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	First Year Reading Experience
Loras College		Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation	Patel, Eboo	2010	M	Common Reading
Louisiana Tech University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Read Program
Marian University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Common Read
Marietta College		The Legend of Colton H. Bryant	Fuller, Alexandra	2009	B	Common Reading
Marquette University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	First Year Reading Project
Mars Hill College	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Summer Reading Program
Massbay Community College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	OneBook
Meredith College	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Summer Reading Program
Methodist University		Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream	Shepard, Adam	2007	M	Freshman Reading Program
Metropolitan Community College	□	Brave New World	Huxley, Aldous	1932	F	Common Reading Project
Miami University	☀	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope	Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	2009	M	Summer Reading Program
Michigan State University	□	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	One Book One Community
Michigan Technological University		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Summer Reading
Middle Tennessee State University		Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project	Isay, Dave	2007	M	Community Reading Program
Midlands Technical College	△	Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years	Delaney, Sarah L., A. Elizabeth Delaney, and Amy Hill Hearth	1997	M	MTC Reads
Millersville University	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	One Book, One Campus
Mississippi State University		The Optimist's Daughter	Welty, Eudora	1972	F	Maroon Edition
Missouri State University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reader
Montana State University	□	Between a Rock and a Hard Place	Ralston, Aron	2005	M	Summer Reading
Montcalm Community College		Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's	Robison, John Elder	2007	M	One Book One Community

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Moraine Valley Community College		Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran	Saberi, Roxana	2010	M	One Book One College
Mount Holyoke College		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		Common Reading
Mountain View College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Book Project
Murray State University	† □	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	MSU Reading Experience
New College of Florida	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Common Summer Book
North Carolina State University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Initiative
North Georgia College and State University	△	A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Suskind, Ron	1999	B	Common Reading Program
Northern Arizona University	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	NAUReads
Northern Kentucky University	†	Kabuki: The Alchemy	Mack, David	2004	F	Book Connection
Northwestern University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	One Book One Northwestern
Occidental College		Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992	Smith, Anna Deavere	1994	P	First-Year Reading
Ohio State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Buckeye Book Community
Ohio University		6 books + Common Experience Reader				Common Experience Project
Oklahoma City University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		OCUReads
Otterbein College	HK	City of Refuge	Piazza, Tom	2009	F	Common Book Program
Owensboro Community and Technical College		September 11, 2001: American Writers Respond	Heyen, William	2002		Common Reading
Pace University	☀	Little Bee: A Novel	Cleave, Chris	2008	F	Common Reading
Parkland College	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Parkland Reads
Peace College	†	Journey From the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran	Hakakian, Roya	2004	M	Common Summer Reading
Pennsylvania State University, Berks		Choosing Civility - The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct	Forni, P.M.	2003		Common Reading Program
Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg	☀	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Beah, Ishmael	2007	M	Summer Reading Program
Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington	☀	My Maasai Life	Wisowaty, Robin	2009	M	Summer Reading Program

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Philadelphia University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
Purdue University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
Ramapo College		Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong	Loewen, James W.	2007		Summer Reading
Rice University		The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen	Appiah, Kwame Anthony	2010		Common Reading Program
Rutgers (School of Arts and Sciences)		Six Questions of Socrates: A Modern-Day Journey of Discovery through World Philosophy	Phillips, Christopher	2004		Summer Reading
Saint Louis University	⌘	When the Emperor Was Divine	Otsuka, Julie	2003	F	First-Year Summer Reading
Saint Michael's College		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	First Year Seminar Common Text
Salem State College		SuperFreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance	Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner	2010		First Year Reading Experience
Salisbury University	△	Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption	Thompson-Cannino, Jennifer Ronald Cotton, Erin Torneo	2009	M	New Student Reader
Sam Houston State University		Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History	Larson, Erik	2000	H	Bearkats Read to Succeed Program
San Jose State University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Campus Reading Program
Santa Barbara City College	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	SBCC Reads
Shepherd University		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Common Reading
Sierra Nevada College	◆	Flight: A Novel	Alexie, Sherman	2007	F	One Book One Campus/Common Reading
Skidmore College		A Gate at the Stairs	Moore, Lorrie	2009	F	Summer Reading
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania	☐	The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Chbosky, Stephen C	1999	F	Summer Book Program
Smith College	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
South Dakota State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Read
Southern Methodist University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Southern New Hampshire University		Water for Elephants	Gruen, Sara	2007	F	Common Book Program

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Spokane Falls Community College		Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife	Roach, Mary	2005		Common Reader
St. Bonaventure University		Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal	Grennan, Conor	2011	M	All Bonaventure Reads
St. Mary's College of Maryland	☀	A Human Being Died That Night: A South African Woman Confronts the Legacy of Apartheid	Gobodo-Madikizela, Pumla	2004	M	Summer Reading
State Fair Community College		29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life	Walker, Cami	2009		One Book One Community
State University of New York, Brockport		Emergence: Labeled Autistic	Grandin, Temple	1986	M	Freshman Summer Reading Program
State University of New York, Oswego	☀	Bonobo Handshake: A Memoir of Love and Adventure in the Congo	Woods, Vanessa	2010	M	Oswego Reading Initiative
Sweet Briar College		Beyond Fundamentalism: Confronting Religious Extremism in the Age of Globalization	Aslan, Reza	2010		Common Reading
Texas Christian University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Texas State University	†	The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation	Hennessy, Jonathan	2008/1787		Common Experience Summer Reading
Texas Tech University		In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto	Pollan, Michael	2007		Summer Reading Program
The College of New Jersey		The Victorian Internet: The Remarkable Story of the Telegraph and the Nineteenth Century's On-line Pioneers	Standage, Tom	1998	H	Summer Reading
The College of Wooster		Brother, I'm Dying	Danticat, Edwidge	2007	M	Summer Reading
The King's College	☐	A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	Twain, Mark	1889	F	Interregnum
Thomas College	☀	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope	Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	2009	M	Common Read
Trinity University	⌘	Sarah Canary	Fowler, Karen Joy	1991	F	Reading TUgether
Triton College		The Last Lecture	Pausch, Randy & Jeffrey Zaslow	2008	M	One Book One Triton
Tufts University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading
Tulane University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Reading Project
University at Buffalo, SUNY		The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed	Shepard, Judy	2009	M	UB Reads
University of Akron		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Common Reading
University of Alabama at Birmingham		Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism	Grandin, Temple	1995	M	Discussion Book

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University of Arizona, honors college	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
University of Arkansas	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	One Book, One Community
University of California, Davis	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Campus Community Book Project
University of California, Los Angeles	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	The Common Book
University of California, Santa Barbara	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	UCSB Reads
University of Dayton		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	First Year Read
University of Delaware	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Common Reader
University of Florida	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reading Program
University of Idaho		The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America	Egan, Timothy	2009	H	Common Read Program
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign		The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and our Health—and a Vision for Change	Leonard, Annie	2010		One Book, One Campus
University of Kentucky	△	The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother	McBride, James	1996	M	Common Reading Experience
University of Louisville	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Book in Common
University of Louisiana-Monroe		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	ULM Summer Reading
University of Maine, honors college		The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals	Pollan, Michael	2006		The Honors Read
University of Maryland	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Book Program
University of Missouri	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Mizzou Reads
University of Montana, Missoula		Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change	Kolbert, Elizabeth	2006		First-Year Reading Experience
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
University of North Carolina, Charlotte		How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and	Bayoumi, Moustafa	2009		Common Reading Experience

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		Arab in America				
University of North Carolina, Wilmington	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading Experience
University of Northern Florida	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		UNF Reads
University of Pittsburgh		Oryx and Crake	Atwood, Margaret	2004	F	Freshman Common Reader
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown		The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything	Robinson, Ken	2009		One Community, One Book
University of Rhode Island	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	URI Common Reading
University of Richmond		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		One Book, One Campus
University of South Carolina	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	First-Year Reading Experience
University of South Carolina, Aiken		The Last Town on Earth: A Novel	Mullen, Thomas	2006	F	First Year Reading Experience
University of Tennessee, Knoxville	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Life of the Mind
University of Texas, Arlington	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	OneBook
University of Texas, San Antonio		Farewell, My Subaru: An Epic Adventure in Local Living	Fine, Doug	2009	M	Summer Common Reading Experience
University of Texas, Tyler		Life of Pi: A Novel	Martel, Yann	2001	F	Freshman Summer Reading Program
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia	☐	Into the Wild	Krakauer, John	1997	B	One Book, One Campus
University of Toledo		Everything Matters!: A Novel	Currie, Ron Jr.	2009	F	First Read
University of Vermont	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
University of Washington		The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist	Feynman, Richard	2005		UW Common Book
University of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac	☐	The Things They Carried	O'Brien, Tim	1990	F	Common Read
University of Wisconsin, Madison	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Go Big Read
University of Wisconsin, Parkside	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Ranger Read Program

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Utah State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Literature Experience
Vanderbilt University		The Good Life: Truths That Last in Time of Need	Gomes, Peter J.	2003		Commons Reading
Ventura College		Outliers: The Story of Success	Gladwell, Malcolm	2008		One Book, One Campus
Villanova University	⌘	Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel	Ford, Jamie	2009	F	One Book Villanova
Virginia Commonwealth University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Book
Wagner College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Wartburg College	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Readings in Common
Washburn University	◆	War Dances	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	iRead
Washington State University		Physics for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines	Muller, Richard A.	2008		Common Reading
Washington University in St. Louis		The Cellist of Sarajevo	Galloway, Steven	2008	F	First Year Reading Program
West Texas A&M University		Where Am I Wearing: A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes	Timmerman, Kelsey	2008		Readership WT
Western Illinois University		And Then There's This: How Stories Live and Die in Viral Culture	Wasik, Bill	2009		FYE Common Reading
Western New England College	△	A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Suskind, Ron	1999	B	Summer Reading Assignment
Western Washington University		Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know--And Doesn't	Prothero, Stephen	2007		Western Reads
Wheaton College (Massachusetts)		The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains	Carr, Nicholas	2010		Summer Reading Assignment
Whitman College	⌘	The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures	Fadiman, Anne	1997		Summer Reading
William Woods University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	New Student Summer Reading
Winona State University		Packinghouse Daughter: A Memoir	Register, Cheri	2001	M	Common Book Project
Winthrop University	△	Make the Impossible Possible: One Man's Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger and Achieve the Extraordinary	Strickland, Bill	2007	M	Common Book Project
Wright State	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Text

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University						
Xavier University		A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean	McLure, Tori Murden	2009	M	Common Reading Experience

Appendix D: By Institution Type

College/University		Book	Author	Year	Type	Program Name
Public Institutions						
Adams State College	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Common Reading Experience
Appalachian State University	◆	Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen	McDougall, Christopher	2009	M	Summer Reading
Austin Peay State University	□	The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music	Lopez, Steve	2008	B	The Peay Read
Ball State University		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Freshman Common Reader
Barry University		Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization	Brown, Lester Russell	2009		Common Reader
Baruch College	□	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	Freshman Text
Boise State University	△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Campus Read
Bowling Green State University	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	Common Reading Experience
Brooklyn College		Brother, I'm Dying	Danticat, Edwidge	2007	M	Common Reading
California State University, Chico	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Book in Common
California State University, Northridge		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Common Reading
California State University, Sacramento		The Grace of Silence: A Memoir	Norris, Michele	2010	M	One Book
Clemson University		Saints at the River	Rash, Ron	2005	F	Freshman Summer Reading Program
Cleveland State University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Experience
Coastal Carolina University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Big Read
College of Charleston	△	The Known World	Jones, Edward P.	2003	F	College Reads
Colorado Mountain College	△	A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School	Walls LaNier, Carlotta	2009	M	Common Reader
East Carolina University	△	Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption	Thompson-Cannino, Jennifer Ronald Cotton, Erin Torneo	2009	M	Pirate Read

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Eastern Illinois University		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		Eastern Reads
Eastern Kentucky University		The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Haddon, Mark	2003	F	EKU Reads
Fairmont State University		Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague	Brooks, Geraldine	2001	F	Common Book Project
Florida Gulf Coast University	☀	Life Safari	Strelecky, John	2007	F	First Year Reading Project
Florida International University	*	The Red Umbrella	Gonzales, Christina	2010	F	FIU Common Reading
Florida State University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	One Book One Campus
Fort Lewis College	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reading Experience
Framingham State College	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Georgia Institute of Technology		I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches That Changed the World	King, Jr., Martin Luther	1992		Freshman Reading Project
Georgia State University	☐	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	First-Year Book Program
Grand Valley State University	△	The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration	Wilkerson, Isabel	1995	B	Community Reading Project
Hamilton College	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Henderson State University	☀	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Beah, Ishmael	2007	M	Common Book Program
Humboldt State University	☐△	The Help	Stockett, Kathryn	2011	F	Book of the Year
Indiana State University		The Freedom Writers Diary	Gruwell, Erin	1999	M	Fall Read
Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis		How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas	Bornstein, David	2007		Common Theme
Indiana University, South Bend		The Post-American World	Zakaria, Fareed	2008		One Book One Campus
Indiana University, Southeast		A Country for All: An Immigrant Manifesto	Ramos, Jorge	2010		Common Experience
Indiana University, Southeast		The Working Poor: Invisible in America	Shipler, David K.	2004		Common Experience
James Madison University		Ways of Knowing	Article Collection			Preface
Johnson State College		Greasy Rider: Two Dudes, One Fry-Oil-Powered Car, and a Cross-Country Search for a Greener Future	Melville, Greg	2008	M	Common Reading Initiative
Kansas State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	K-State Book Network
Kennesaw State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reader
Kent State University		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Summer Reading

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		Men and Women				
Lincoln University	△	The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream	Davis, Sampson, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and Lisa Frazier Page	2003	M	Common Read Program
Longwood University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	First Year Reading Experience
Louisiana Tech University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Read Program
Miami University	☀	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope	Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	2009	M	Summer Reading Program
Michigan State University	☐	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	One Book One Community
Michigan Technological University		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Summer Reading
Middle Tennessee State University		Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project	Isay, Dave	2007	M	Community Reading Program
Midlands Technical College	△	Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years	Delaney, Sarah L., A. Elizabeth Delaney, and Amy Hill Hearth	1997	M	MTC Reads
Millersville University	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	One Book, One Campus
Mississippi State University		The Optimist's Daughter	Welty, Eudora	1972	F	Maroon Edition
Missouri State University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reader
Montana State University	☐	Between a Rock and a Hard Place	Ralston, Aron	2005	M	Summer Reading
Murray State University	†☐	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	MSU Reading Experience
New College of Florida	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Common Summer Book
North Carolina State University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Initiative
Northern Arizona University	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	NAUReads
Northern Kentucky University	†	Kabuki: The Alchemy	Mack, David	2004	F	Book Connection
North Georgia College and State University	△	A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Suskind, Ron	1999	B	Common Reading Program
Ohio State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Buckeye Book Community

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Ohio University		6 books + Common Experience Reader				Common Experience Project
Pennsylvania State University, Berks		Choosing Civility - The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct	Forni, P.M.	2003		Common Reading Program
Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg	☀	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Beah, Ishmael	2007	M	Summer Reading Program
Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington	☀	My Maasai Life	Wiszwaty, Robin	2009	M	Summer Reading Program
Purdue University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
Ramapo College		Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong	Loewen, James W.	2007		Summer Reading
Rutgers (School of Arts and Sciences)		Six Questions of Socrates: A Modern-Day Journey of Discovery through World Philosophy	Phillips, Christopher	2004		Summer Reading
Salem State College		SuperFreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance	Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner	2010		First Year Reading Experience
Sam Houston State University		Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History	Larson, Erik	2000	H	Bearcats Read to Succeed Program
San Jose State University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Campus Reading Program
Shepherd University		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Common Reading
South Dakota State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Read
State University of New York, Brockport		Emergence: Labeled Autistic	Grandin, Temple	1986	M	Freshman Summer Reading Program
State University of New York, Oswego	☀	Bonobo Handshake: A Memoir of Love and Adventure in the Congo	Woods, Vanessa	2010	M	Oswego Reading Initiative
Texas State University	†	The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation	Hennessy, Jonathan	2008/1787		Common Experience Summer Reading
Texas Tech University		In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto	Pollan, Michael	2007		Summer Reading Program
The College of New Jersey		The Victorian Internet: The Remarkable Story of the Telegraph and the Nineteenth Century's On-line Pioneers	Standage, Tom	1998	H	Summer Reading
University at Buffalo, SUNY		The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed	Shepard, Judy	2009	M	UB Reads
University of Akron		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Common Reading
University of		Thinking in Pictures: My Life	Grandin, Temple	1995	M	Discussion Book

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Alabama at Birmingham		with Autism				
University of Arizona, honors college	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
University of Arkansas	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	One Book, One Community
University of California, Davis	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Campus Community Book Project
University of California, Los Angeles	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	The Common Book
University of California, Santa Barbara	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	UCSB Reads
University of Delaware	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Common Reader
University of Florida	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reading Program
University of Idaho		The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America	Egan, Timothy	2009	H	Common Read Program
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign		The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and our Health—and a Vision for Change	Leonard, Annie	2010		One Book, One Campus
University of Kentucky	△	The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother	McBride, James	1996	M	Common Reading Experience
University of Louisville	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Book in Common
University of Louisiana-Monroe		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	ULM Summer Reading
University of Maine, honors college		The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals	Pollan, Michael	2006		The Honors Read
University of Maryland	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Book Program
University of Missouri	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Mizzou Reads
University of Montana, Missoula		Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change	Kolbert, Elizabeth	2006		First-Year Reading Experience
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
University of North Carolina, Charlotte		How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America	Bayoumi, Moustafa	2009		Common Reading Experience
University of North	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading

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Carolina, Wilmington						Experience
University of Northern Florida	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		UNF Reads
University of Pittsburgh		Oryx and Crake	Atwood, Margaret	2004	F	Freshman Common Reader
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown		The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything	Robinson, Ken	2009		One Community, One Book
University of Rhode Island	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	URI Common Reading
University of Richmond		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		One Book, One Campus
University of South Carolina	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	First-Year Reading Experience
University of South Carolina, Aiken		The Last Town on Earth: A Novel	Mullen, Thomas	2006	F	First Year Reading Experience
University of Tennessee, Knoxville	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Life of the Mind
University of Texas, Arlington	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	OneBook
University of Texas, San Antonio		Farewell, My Subaru: An Epic Adventure in Local Living	Fine, Doug	2009	M	Summer Common Reading Experience
University of Texas, Tyler		Life of Pi: A Novel	Martel, Yann	2001	F	Freshman Summer Reading Program
University of Toledo		Everything Matters!: A Novel	Currie, Ron Jr.	2009	F	First Read
University of Vermont	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
University of Washington		The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist	Feynman, Richard	2005		UW Common Book
University of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac	☐	The Things They Carried	O'Brien, Tim	1990	F	Common Read
University of Wisconsin, Madison	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Go Big Read
University of Wisconsin, Parkside	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Ranger Read Program
Utah State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Literature Experience
Virginia Commonwealth University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading Program

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Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Book
Washburn University	◆	War Dances	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	iRead
Washington State University		Physics for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines	Muller, Richard A.	2008		Common Reading
West Texas A&M University		Where Am I Wearing: A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes	Timmerman, Kelsey	2008		Readership WT
Western Illinois University		And Then There's This: How Stories Live and Die in Viral Culture	Wasik, Bill	2009		FYE Common Reading
Western Washington University		Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know--And Doesn't	Prothero, Stephen	2007		Western Reads
Winona State University		Packinghouse Daughter: A Memoir	Register, Cheri	2001	M	Common Book Project
Winthrop University	△	Make the Impossible Possible: One Man's Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger and Achieve the Extraordinary	Strickland, Bill	2007	M	Common Book Project
Wright State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Text
Community Colleges						
Amarillo College	□	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	Common Reader
Atlantic Cape Community College	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	College-Wide Book Project
Bellevue College	◆	On the Rez	Frazier, Ian	2001		BCC Reads
Chaffey College		The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World	Pollan, Michael	2001		One Book One College
Chandler-Gilbert Community College		Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves	Bales, Kevin	2007		Common Books
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	*	Woman Hollering Creek	Cisneros, Sandra	1991		Common Books
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Common Books
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	◆	Ceremony	Silko, Leslie Marmon	1977	F	Common Books
Chesapeake College	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	One Maryland, One Book
College of the Redwoods	□△	The Help	Stockett, Kathryn	2011	F	Book of the Year
Collin College		Soft Spots: A Marine's Memoir of Combat and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	Van Winkle, Clint	2009	M	Book in Common

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Community College of Baltimore County	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Community Book Connection
Cuesta College		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	Book of the Year
Eastfield College	△	Life is So Good: One Man's Extraordinary Journey through the 20th Century and How He Learned to Read at Age 98	Dawson, George and Richard Glaubman	2000	M	Common Book Project
Kingsborough Community College		Let the Great World Spin	McCann, Colum	2009	F	KCC Reads
Laguardia Community College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Massbay Community College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	OneBook
Metropolitan Community College	□	Brave New World	Huxley, Aldous	1932	F	Common Reading Project
Montcalm Community College		Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's	Robison, John Elder	2007	M	One Book One Community
Moraine Valley Community College		Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran	Saberi, Roxana	2010	M	One Book One College
Mountain View College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Book Project
Owensboro Community and Technical College		September 11, 2001: American Writers Respond	Heyen, William	2002		Common Reading
Parkland College	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Parkland Reads
Saint Louis University	⌘	When the Emperor Was Divine	Otsuka, Julie	2003	F	First-Year Summer Reading
Salisbury University	△	Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption	Thompson-Cannino, Jennifer Ronald Cotton, Erin Torneo	2009	M	New Student Reader
Santa Barbara City College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	SBCC Reads
Spokane Falls Community College		Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife	Roach, Mary	2005		Common Reader
State Fair Community College		29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life	Walker, Cami	2009		One Book One Community
Triton College		The Last Lecture	Pausch, Randy & Jeffrey Zaslow	2008	M	One Book One Triton
Ventura College		Outliers: The Story of Success	Gladwell, Malcolm	2008		One Book, One Campus
Wartburg College	† □	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Readings in Common
Private Institutions (Non-Sectarian)						
Adelphi University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Reading
Agnes Scott College		How to Breathe Underwater	Orringer, Julie	2003	F	Common Reading
Albion College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Experience
American University		The Good Soldiers	Finkel, David	2009		Writer as Witness
Berry College	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading Program

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Brandeis University	†	Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic	Bechdel, Alison	2007	M	New Student Forum
Brown University	⌘	Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China	Chang, Leslie	2009		First Readings
Butler University		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	Welcome Week Book
Case Western Reserve University		Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?	Sandel, Michael	2009		Common Reading Program
Catawba College	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading
Cedar Crest College		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Shared Reading
Central College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Reading in Common
Cornell College		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	One Book One Campus One Community
Cornell University		Homer and Langley	Doctorow, E.L.	2009	F	New Student Reading Project
Dartmouth College		The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade	Rivoli, Pietra	2009		First-Year Summer Reading
Davidson College		In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir	White, Neil	2009	M	New Student Orientation Book
Duke University		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	Summer Reading
Elon University		Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism	Yunus, Muhammad	1999		Common Reading
Florida Southern College		World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War	Brooks, Max	2006	F	Common Reading
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering		Midnight Ride, Industrial Dawn: Paul Revere and the Growth of American Enterprise	Martello, Robert	2010	B	Summer Reading
George Washington University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Chapter: The Freshman Reading Program
Goucher College	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading
Gustavus Adolphus College	◆	The Wolf at Twilight: An Indian Elder's Journey through a Land of Ghosts	Nerburn, Kent	2010	M	Reading in Common
Hamline University	† □	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Summer Reading
Hampshire College		Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other	Turkle, Sherry	2011		Common Reading for New Students
Hawaii Pacific University		The Value of Hawaii: Knowing the Past, Shaping the Future	Howes, Craig and Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwoole Osorio	2010	H	HPU Reads: Common Book

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Hiram College	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Common Reading
Illinois Wesleyan University		Interpreter of Maladies	Lahiri, Jhumpa	1999	F	Summer Reading Program
Ithaca College		Ransom	Malouf, David	2009	F	First Year Reading Initiative
Jacksonville University	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Common Reading Program
Kalamazoo College		The Good Soldiers	Finkel, David	2010		Summer Common Reading
Lafayette College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Enlightenment Summer Reading
Lehigh University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
Lindsey Wilson College	□	Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson	Albom, Mitch	1997	M	Common Text
Linfield College		Hector and the Search for Happiness	Lelord, François	2010 (trans. into English)	F	Summer Common Reading
Marietta College		The Legend of Colton H. Bryant	Fuller, Alexandra	2009	B	Common Reading
Mars Hill College	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Summer Reading Program
Meredith College	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Summer Reading Program
Methodist University		Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream	Shepard, Adam	2007	M	Freshman Reading Program
Mount Holyoke College		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		Common Reading
Northwestern University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	One Book One Northwestern
Occidental College		Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992	Smith, Anna Deavere	1994	P	First-Year Reading
Oklahoma City University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		OCUReads
Otterbein College	HK	City of Refuge	Piazza, Tom	2009	F	Common Book Program
Pace University	☀	Little Bee: A Novel	Cleave, Chris	2008	F	Common Reading
Peace College	†	Journey From the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran	Hakakian, Roya	2004	M	Common Summer Reading
Philadelphia University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
Rice University		The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen	Appiah, Kwame Anthony	2010		Common Reading Program
Sierra Nevada College	◆	Flight: A Novel	Alexie, Sherman	2007	F	One Book One Campus/Common Reading
Skidmore College		A Gate at the Stairs	Moore, Lorrie	2009	F	Summer Reading

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Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania	☐	The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Chbosky, Stephen C	1999	F	Summer Book Program
Smith College	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Southern Methodist University	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Southern New Hampshire University		Water for Elephants	Gruen, Sara	2007	F	Common Book Program
St. Mary's College of Maryland	☀	A Human Being Died That Night: A South African Woman Confronts the Legacy of Apartheid	Gobodo-Madikizela, Pumla	2004	M	Summer Reading
Sweet Briar College		Beyond Fundamentalism: Confronting Religious Extremism in the Age of Globalization	Aslan, Reza	2010		Common Reading
Texas Christian University	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
The College of Wooster		Brother, I'm Dying	Danticat, Edwidge	2007	M	Summer Reading
Thomas College	☀	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope	Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	2009	M	Common Read
Trinity University	⌘	Sarah Canary	Fowler, Karen Joy	1991	F	Reading TUgether
Tufts University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading
Tulane University	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Reading Project
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia	☐	Into the Wild	Krakauer, John	1997	B	One Book, One Campus
Vanderbilt University		The Good Life: Truths That Last in Time of Need	Gomes, Peter J.	2003		Commons Reading
Wagner College	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Washington University in St. Louis		The Cellist of Sarajevo	Galloway, Steven	2008	F	First Year Reading Program
Western New England College	△	A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Suskind, Ron	1999	B	Summer Reading Assignment
Wheaton College (Massachusetts)		The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains	Carr, Nicholas	2010		Summer Reading Assignment
Whitman College	⌘	The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures	Fadiman, Anne	1997		Summer Reading
William Woods University	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	New Student Summer Reading
Private Institutions (Sectarian)						
Abilene Christian		Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of	Dumas, Firoozeh	2003	M	Freshman

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University		Growing Up Iranian in America				Common Reading
Aquinas College		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Reading Experience
Bluffton University	☀	Strength in What Remains	Kidder, Tracy	2009	B	Civic Engagement: Summer Reading
Carroll College (Montana)		Let the Great World Spin	McCann, Colum	2009	F	Alpha Seminar Summer Reading
Concordia College		Zoli	McCann, Colum	2000	F	Summer Book Read
DePaul University		Neverwhere	Gaiman, Neil	1996	F	One Book One Chicago
Edgewood College	†	The Complete Maus	Spiegelman, Art	1987		Common Reading
Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Georgetown University	☀	How to Read the Air	Mengestu, Dinaw	2010	F	First-Year Academic Workshop
Grace College		Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption	Hillenbrand, Laura	2010	B	Summer Reading
Le Moyne College	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
Loras College		Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation	Patel, Eboo	2010	M	Common Reading
Marian University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Common Read
Marquette University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	First Year Reading Project
Saint Michael's College		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	First Year Seminar Common Text
St. Bonaventure University		Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal	Grennan, Conor	2011	M	All Bonaventure Reads
The King's College	☐	A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	Twain, Mark	1889	F	Interregnum
University of Dayton		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	First Year Read
Villanova University	⌘	Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel	Ford, Jamie	2009	F	One Book Villanova
Xavier University		A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean	McLure, Tori Murden	2009	M	Common Reading Experience
Historically Black Institutions						
Lincoln University	△	The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream	Davis, Sampson, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt,	2003	M	Common Read Program

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			and Lisa Frazier Page			
Women's Colleges						
Mount Holyoke College		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		Common Reading
Peace College	†	Journey From the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran	Hakakian, Roya	2004	M	Common Summer Reading
Smith College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Sweet Briar College		Beyond Fundamentalism: Confronting Religious Extremism in the Age of Globalization	Aslan, Reza	2010		Common Reading
Cedar Crest College		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Shared Reading

Appendix E: Nationally Ranked Institutions (Listed by U.S. News & World Report)

College/University		Book	Author	Year	Type	Program Name
National Universities						
American University		The Good Soldiers	Finkel, David	2009		Writer as Witness
Brandeis University	†	Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic	Bechdel, Alison	2007	M	New Student Forum
Brown University	⌘	Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China	Chang, Leslie	2009		First Readings
Case Western Reserve University		Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?	Sandel, Michael	2009		Common Reading Program
Clemson University		Saints at the River	Rash, Ron	2005	F	Freshman Summer Reading Program
Cornell University		Homer and Langley	Doctorow, E.L.	2009	F	New Student Reading Project
Dartmouth College		The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade	Rivoli, Pietra	2009		First-Year Summer Reading
Duke University		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	Summer Reading
Georgetown University	☀	How to Read the Air	Mengestu, Dinaw	2010	F	First-Year Academic Workshop
George Washington University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Chapter: The Freshman Reading Program
Georgia Institute of Technology		I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches That Changed the World	King, Jr., Martin Luther	1992		Freshman Reading Project
Lehigh University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
Marquette University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	First Year Reading Project
Michigan State University	☐	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	One Book One Community
Northwestern University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	One Book One Northwestern
Ohio State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Buckeye Book Community
Pace University	☀	Little Bee: A Novel	Cleave, Chris	2008	F	Common Reading
Purdue University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
Rice University		The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen	Appiah, Kwame Anthony	2010		Common Reading Program
Rutgers (School of Arts and Sciences)		Six Questions of Socrates: A Modern-Day Journey of	Phillips, Christopher	2004		Summer Reading

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		Discovery through World Philosophy				
Saint Louis University	⌘	When the Emperor Was Divine	Otsuka, Julie	2003	F	First-Year Summer Reading
Southern Methodist University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Texas Christian University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Tulane University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Reading Project
University of California, Davis	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Campus Community Book Project
University of California, Los Angeles	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	The Common Book
University of California, Santa Barbara	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	UCSB Reads
University of Dayton		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	First Year Read
University of Delaware	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Common Reader
University of Florida	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reading Program
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign		The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and our Health—and a Vision for Change	Leonard, Annie	2010		One Book, One Campus
University of Maryland	△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Book Program
University of Missouri	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Mizzou Reads
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
University of Pittsburgh		Oryx and Crake	Atwood, Margaret	2004	F	Freshman Common Reader
University of Vermont	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
University of Washington		The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist	Feynman, Richard	2005		UW Common Book
University of Wisconsin, Madison	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Go Big Read
Utah State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Literature Experience
Vanderbilt University		The Good Life: Truths That Last in Time of Need	Gomes, Peter J.	2003		Commons Reading
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Book
Washington		The Cellist of Sarajevo	Galloway, Steven	2008	F	First Year

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University in St. Louis						Reading Program
Liberal Arts Colleges						
Agnes Scott College		How to Breathe Underwater	Orringer, Julie	2003	F	Common Reading
Cornell College		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	One Book One Campus One Community
Davidson College		In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir	White, Neil	2009	M	New Student Orientation Book
Gustavus Adolphus College	◆	The Wolf at Twilight: An Indian Elder's Journey through a Land of Ghosts	Nerburn, Kent	2010	M	Reading in Common
Hamilton College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Illinois Wesleyan University		Interpreter of Maladies	Lahiri, Jhumpa	1999	F	Summer Reading Program
Kalamazoo College		The Good Soldiers	Finkel, David	2010		Summer Common Reading
Lafayette College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Enlightenment Summer Reading
Mount Holyoke College		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		Common Reading
New College of Florida	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Common Summer Book
Occidental College		Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992	Smith, Anna Deavere	1994	P	First-Year Reading
Skidmore College		A Gate at the Stairs	Moore, Lorrie	2009	F	Summer Reading
Smith College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
St. Mary's College of Maryland	☀	A Human Being Died That Night: A South African Woman Confronts the Legacy of Apartheid	Gobodo-Madikizela, Pumla	2004	M	Summer Reading
The College of Wooster		Brother, I'm Dying	Danticat, Edwidge	2007	M	Summer Reading
University of Richmond		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		One Book, One Campus
Wheaton College (Massachusetts)		The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains	Carr, Nicholas	2010		Summer Reading Assignment
Whitman College	⌘	The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures	Fadiman, Anne	1997		Summer Reading
Unranked						
Abilene Christian University		Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America	Dumas, Firoozeh	2003	M	Freshman Common Reading
Adams State College	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Common Reading Experience

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Adelphi University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	First Year Reading
Albion College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Experience
Amarillo College	□	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	Common Reader
Appalachian State University	◆	Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen	McDougall, Christopher	2009	M	Summer Reading
Aquinas College		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Reading Experience
Atlantic Cape Community College	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	College-Wide Book Project
Austin Peay State University	□	The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music	Lopez, Steve	2008	B	The Peay Read
Ball State University		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Freshman Common Reader
Barry University		Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization	Brown, Lester Russell	2009		Common Reader
Baruch College	□	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	Freshman Text
Bellevue College	◆	On the Rez	Frazier, Ian	2001		BCC Reads
Berry College	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
Bluffton University	☀	Strength in What Remains	Kidder, Tracy	2009	B	Civic Engagement: Summer Reading
Boise State University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Campus Read
Bowling Green State University	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	Common Reading Experience
Brooklyn College		Brother, I'm Dying	Danticat, Edwidge	2007	M	Common Reading
Butler University		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	Welcome Week Book
California State University, Chico	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Book in Common
California State University, Northridge		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Common Reading
California State University, Sacramento		The Grace of Silence: A Memoir	Norris, Michele	2010	M	One Book
Carroll College		Let the Great World Spin	McCann, Colum	2009	F	Alpha Seminar

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(Montana)						Summer Reading
Catawba College	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading
Cedar Crest College		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Shared Reading
Central College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Reading in Common
Chaffey College		The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World	Pollan, Michael	2001		One Book One College
Chandler-Gilbert Community College		Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves	Bales, Kevin	2007		Common Books
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	*	Woman Hollering Creek	Cisneros, Sandra	1991		Common Books
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Common Books
Chandler-Gilbert Community College	◆	Ceremony	Silko, Leslie Marmon	1977	F	Common Books
Chesapeake College	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	One Maryland, One Book
Cleveland State University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Experience
Coastal Carolina University	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Big Read
College of Charleston	△	The Known World	Jones, Edward P.	2003	F	College Reads
College of the Redwoods	□ △	The Help	Stockett, Kathryn	2011	F	Book of the Year
Collin College		Soft Spots: A Marine's Memoir of Combat and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	Van Winkle, Clint	2009	M	Book in Common
Colorado Mountain College	△	A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School	Walls LaNier, Carlotta	2009	M	Common Reader
Community College of Baltimore County	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Community Book Connection
Concordia College		Zoli	McCann, Colum	2000	F	Summer Book Read
Cuesta College		Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer	Carpenter, Novella	2010	M	Book of the Year
DePaul University		Neverwhere	Gaiman, Neil	1996	F	One Book One Chicago
East Carolina University	△	Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption	Thompson-Cannino, Jennifer Ronald Cotton, Erin Torneo	2009	M	Pirate Read
Eastern Illinois University		Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide	Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn	2008		Eastern Reads
Eastern Kentucky University		The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Haddon, Mark	2003	F	EKU Reads
Eastfield College	△	Life is So Good: One Man's Extraordinary Journey through the 20th Century and How He Learned to Read at Age 98	Dawson, George and Richard Glaubman	2000	M	Common Book Project
Edgewood College	†	The Complete Maus	Spiegelman, Art	1987		Common Reading

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Elon University		Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism	Yunus, Muhammad	1999		Common Reading
Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Fairmont State University		Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague	Brooks, Geraldine	2001	F	Common Book Project
Florida Gulf Coast University	☀	Life Safari	Strelecky, John	2007	F	First Year Reading Project
Florida International University	*	The Red Umbrella	Gonzales, Christina	2010	F	FIU Common Reading
Florida Southern College		World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War	Brooks, Max	2006	F	Common Reading
Florida State University	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	One Book One Campus
Fort Lewis College	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reading Experience
Framingham State College	☐ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering		Midnight Ride, Industrial Dawn: Paul Revere and the Growth of American Enterprise	Martello, Robert	2010	B	Summer Reading
Georgia State University	☐	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2005	F	First-Year Book Program
Goucher College	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading
Grace College		Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption	Hillenbrand, Laura	2010	B	Summer Reading
Grand Valley State University	△	The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration	Wilkerson, Isabel	1995	B	Community Reading Project
Hamline University	† ☐	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Summer Reading
Hampshire College		Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other	Turkle, Sherry	2011		Common Reading for New Students
Hawaii Pacific University		The Value of Hawaii: Knowing the Past, Shaping the Future	Howes, Craig and Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwoole Osorio	2010	H	HPU Reads: Common Book
Henderson State University	☀	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Beah, Ishmael	2007	M	Common Book Program
Hiram College	† ☐	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Common Reading
Humboldt State University	☐ △	The Help	Stockett, Kathryn	2011	F	Book of the Year
Indiana State University		The Freedom Writers Diary	Gruwell, Erin	1999	M	Fall Read
Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis		How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas	Bornstein, David	2007		Common Theme
Indiana University,		The Post-American World	Zakaria, Fareed	2008		One Book One

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South Bend						Campus
Indiana University, Southeast		A Country for All: An Immigrant Manifesto	Ramos, Jorge	2010		Common Experience
Indiana University, Southeast		The Working Poor: Invisible in America	Shipler, David K.	2004		Common Experience
Ithaca College		Ransom	Malouf, David	2009	F	First Year Reading Initiative
Jacksonville University	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Common Reading Program
James Madison University		Ways of Knowing	Article Collection			Preface
Johnson State College		Greasy Rider: Two Dudes, One Fry-Oil-Powered Car, and a Cross-Country Search for a Greener Future	Melville, Greg	2008	M	Common Reading Initiative
Kansas State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	K-State Book Network
Kennesaw State University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Reader
Kent State University		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Summer Reading
Kingsborough Community College		Let the Great World Spin	McCann, Colum	2009	F	KCC Reads
Laguardia Community College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading
Le Moyne College	□ △	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
Lincoln University	△	The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream	Davis, Sampson, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and Lisa Frazier Page	2003	M	Common Read Program
Lindsey Wilson College	□	Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson	Albom, Mitch	1997	M	Common Text
Linfield College		Hector and the Search for Happiness	Lelord, François	2010 (trans. into English)	F	Summer Common Reading
Longwood University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	First Year Reading Experience
Loras College		Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation	Patel, Eboo	2010	M	Common Reading
Louisiana Tech University		This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2008	M	Common Read Program
Marian University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Common Read
Marietta College		The Legend of Colton H. Bryant	Fuller, Alexandra	2009	B	Common Reading

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Mars Hill College	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Summer Reading Program
Massbay Community College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	OneBook
Meredith College	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	Summer Reading Program
Methodist University		Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream	Shepard, Adam	2007	M	Freshman Reading Program
Metropolitan Community College	□	Brave New World	Huxley, Aldous	1932	F	Common Reading Project
Miami University	☀	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope	Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	2009	M	Summer Reading Program
Michigan Technological University		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Summer Reading
Middle Tennessee State University		Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project	Isay, Dave	2007	M	Community Reading Program
Midlands Technical College	△	Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years	Delaney, Sarah L., A. Elizabeth Delaney, and Amy Hill Hearth	1997	M	MTC Reads
Millersville University	*	Enrique's Journey	Nazario, Sonia	2006	B	One Book, One Campus
Mississippi State University		The Optimist's Daughter	Welty, Eudora	1972	F	Maroon Edition
Missouri State University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reader
Montana State University	□	Between a Rock and a Hard Place	Ralston, Aron	2005	M	Summer Reading
Montcalm Community College		Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's	Robison, John Elder	2007	M	One Book One Community
Moraine Valley Community College		Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran	Saberi, Roxana	2010	M	One Book One College
Mountain View College	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Book Project
Murray State University	†□	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	MSU Reading Experience
North Carolina State University	□△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Initiative
North Georgia College and State University	△	A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Suskind, Ron	1999	B	Common Reading Program
Northern Arizona University	□	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	NAUReads
Northern Kentucky University	†	Kabuki: The Alchemy	Mack, David	2004	F	Book Connection
Ohio University		6 books + Common				Common

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		Experience Reader				Experience Project
Oklahoma City University	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		OCUReads
Otterbein College	HK	City of Refuge	Piazza, Tom	2009	F	Common Book Program
Owensboro Community and Technical College		September 11, 2001: American Writers Respond	Heyen, William	2002		Common Reading
Pace University	☀	Little Bee: A Novel	Cleave, Chris	2008	F	Common Reading
Parkland College	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Parkland Reads
Peace College	†	Journey From the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran	Hakakian, Roya	2004	M	Common Summer Reading
Pennsylvania State University, Berks		Choosing Civility - The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct	Forni, P.M.	2003		Common Reading Program
Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg	☀	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Beah, Ishmael	2007	M	Summer Reading Program
Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington	☀	My Maasai Life	Wisowaty, Robin	2009	M	Summer Reading Program
Philadelphia University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading Program
Ramapo College		Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong	Loewen, James W.	2007		Summer Reading
Saint Michael's College		Eating Animals	Foer, Jonathon Safran	2010	M	First Year Seminar Common Text
Salem State College		SuperFreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance	Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner	2010		First Year Reading Experience
Salisbury University	△	Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption	Thompson-Cannino, Jennifer Ronald Cotton, Erin Torneo	2009	M	New Student Reader
Sam Houston State University		Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History	Larson, Erik	2000	H	Bearkats Read to Succeed Program
San Jose State University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Campus Reading Program
Santa Barbara City College	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	SBCC Reads
Shepherd University		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	Common Reading
Sierra Nevada College	◆	Flight: A Novel	Alexie, Sherman	2007	F	One Book One Campus/Common Reading
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania	☐	The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Chbosky, Stephen C	1999	F	Summer Book Program
South Dakota State	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee	St. John, Warren	2009		Common Read

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University		Team, An American Town				
Southern New Hampshire University		Water for Elephants	Gruen, Sara	2007	F	Common Book Program
Spokane Falls Community College		Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife	Roach, Mary	2005		Common Reader
St. Bonaventure University		Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal	Grennan, Conor	2011	M	All Bonaventure Reads
State Fair Community College		29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life	Walker, Cami	2009		One Book One Community
State University of New York, Brockport		Emergence: Labeled Autistic	Grandin, Temple	1986	M	Freshman Summer Reading Program
State University of New York, Oswego	☀	Bonobo Handshake: A Memoir of Love and Adventure in the Congo	Woods, Vanessa	2010	M	Oswego Reading Initiative
Sweet Briar College		Beyond Fundamentalism: Confronting Religious Extremism in the Age of Globalization	Aslan, Reza	2010		Common Reading
Texas State University	†	The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation	Hennessy, Jonathan	2008/1787		Common Experience Summer Reading
Texas Tech University		In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto	Pollan, Michael	2007		Summer Reading Program
The College of New Jersey		The Victorian Internet: The Remarkable Story of the Telegraph and the Nineteenth Century's On-line Pioneers	Standage, Tom	1998	H	Summer Reading
The King's College	☐	A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	Twain, Mark	1889	F	Interregnum
Thomas College	☀	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope	Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	2009	M	Common Read
Trinity University	⌘	Sarah Canary	Fowler, Karen Joy	1991	F	Reading TUgether
Triton College		The Last Lecture	Pausch, Randy & Jeffrey Zaslow	2008	M	One Book One Triton
Tufts University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading
University at Buffalo, SUNY		The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed	Shepard, Judy	2009	M	UB Reads
University of Akron		The Glass Castle: A Memoir	Walls, Jeannette	2006	M	Common Reading
University of Alabama at Birmingham		Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism	Grandin, Temple	1995	M	Discussion Book
University of Arizona, honors college	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Common Reading Program
University of Arkansas	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	One Book, One Community

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University of Idaho		The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America	Egan, Timothy	2009	H	Common Read Program
University of Kentucky	△	The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother	McBride, James	1996	M	Common Reading Experience
University of Louisville	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Book in Common
University of Louisiana-Monroe		This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Allison, Jay and Dan Gediman	2007	M	ULM Summer Reading
University of Maine, honors college		The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals	Pollan, Michael	2006		The Honors Read
University of Montana, Missoula		Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change	Kolbert, Elizabeth	2006		First-Year Reading Experience
University of North Carolina, Charlotte		How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America	Bayoumi, Moustafa	2009		Common Reading Experience
University of North Carolina, Wilmington	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Reading Experience
University of Northern Florida	☀	Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town	St. John, Warren	2009		UNF Reads
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown		The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything	Robinson, Ken	2009		One Community, One Book
University of Rhode Island	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	URI Common Reading
University of South Carolina	☐	No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process	Beavan, Colin	2009	M	First-Year Reading Experience
University of South Carolina, Aiken		The Last Town on Earth: A Novel	Mullen, Thomas	2006	F	First Year Reading Experience
University of Tennessee, Knoxville	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Life of the Mind
University of Texas, Arlington	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	OneBook
University of Texas, San Antonio		Farewell, My Subaru: An Epic Adventure in Local Living	Fine, Doug	2009	M	Summer Common Reading Experience
University of Texas, Tyler		Life of Pi: A Novel	Martel, Yann	2001	F	Freshman Summer Reading Program
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia	☐	Into the Wild	Krakauer, John	1997	B	One Book, One Campus

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University of Toledo		Everything Matters!: A Novel	Currie, Ron Jr.	2009	F	First Read
University of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac	☐	The Things They Carried	O'Brien, Tim	1990	F	Common Read
University of Wisconsin, Parkside	◆	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	Ranger Read Program
Ventura College		Outliers: The Story of Success	Gladwell, Malcolm	2008		One Book, One Campus
Villanova University	⌘	Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel	Ford, Jamie	2009	F	One Book Villanova
Virginia Commonwealth University	△	The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates	Moore, Wes	2010	M	Summer Reading Program
Wagner College	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	Summer Reading
Wartburg College	†☐	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Satrapi, Marjane	2004	M	Readings in Common
Washburn University	◆	War Dances	Alexie, Sherman	2009	F	iRead
Washington State University		Physics for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines	Muller, Richard A.	2008		Common Reading
West Texas A&M University		Where Am I Wearing: A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes	Timmerman, Kelsey	2008		Readership WT
Western Illinois University		And Then There's This: How Stories Live and Die in Viral Culture	Wasik, Bill	2009		FYE Common Reading
Western New England College	△	A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Suskind, Ron	1999	B	Summer Reading Assignment
Western Washington University		Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know--And Doesn't	Prothero, Stephen	2007		Western Reads
William Woods University	☐△	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Skloot, Rebecca	2010	B	New Student Summer Reading
Winona State University		Packinghouse Daughter: A Memoir	Register, Cheri	2001	M	Common Book Project
Winthrop University	△	Make the Impossible Possible: One Man's Crusade to Inspire Others to Dream Bigger and Achieve the Extraordinary	Strickland, Bill	2007	M	Common Book Project
Wright State University	HK	Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	2009	B	Common Text
Xavier University		A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean	McLure, Tori Murden	2009	M	Common Reading Experience

Appendix F: Books Assigned at Multiple Institutions

<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	39
<i>This I Believe I and II</i>	9
<i>Zeitoun</i>	9
<i>The Other Wes Moore</i>	7
<i>Outcasts United</i>	7
<i>No Impact Man</i>	6
<i>Persepolis</i>	5
<i>Enrique's Journey</i>	5
<i>The Glass Castle</i>	4
<i>Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close</i>	4
<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>	4
<i>Farm City</i>	3
<i>Eating Animals</i>	3
<i>Half the Sky</i>	3
<i>Picking Cotton</i>	2
<i>The Help</i>	2
<i>A Hope in the Unseen</i>	2
<i>Let the Great World Spin</i>	2
<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>	2
<i>The Good Soldiers</i>	2
<i>Brother, I'm Dying</i>	2
<i>A Long Way Gone</i>	2

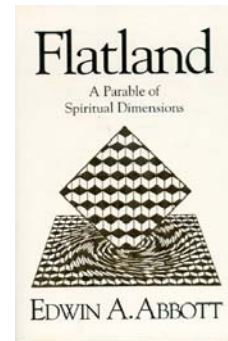
Appendix G: Recommended Books for College Common Reading

Our considerations in compiling this list:

1. We sought diversity—the intellectual kind.
2. We sought books that are neither too long nor too short. “Too long” means a book that would defeat even the able, well-intentioned, and determined pre-freshman reader. No *War and Peace* here. In a few cases we’ve recommended long books but specified that the college should assign selections. “Too short” means a book or essay that would invite the pre-freshman to treat the assignment as a triviality, even though it isn’t. No Kennedy’s “Ask not” inaugural address.
3. We sought texts that are just a bit over students’ heads, but not so far that they are beyond reach. We excluded many works of classical antiquity on this basis. Sophocles is best read with the guidance of an instructor. Nietzsche invites wild misreadings from those who lack the philosophical context.
4. We sought works that are not contemptuous of humanity or dyed in profound cynicism. Some such books belong in the college curriculum but we judge them a poor welcome mat to the pre-freshmen who ought to have a somewhat more positive introduction to why colleges exist and why they are devoting time and money to the enterprise. No Samuel Beckett or H. L. Mencken here.
5. In fiction, we sought works that exemplify elegance of language and a degree of complexity, along with moral seriousness.
6. In non-fiction we looked for works that exemplify important ideas, lucidly argued, and writers who take their rhetorical task seriously.
7. We sought to accommodate colleges that approach common reading assignments at different levels of difficulty. To that end, we divide our list into two parts. Part A is a list of 37 books all of which are appropriate in level of difficulty and length to any college freshman. Part B is a list of six books that would be much more ambitious choices either because of length (*The Aeneid*) or intrinsic difficulty (*The Confidence-Man*.) Our goal is to offer constructive help.

List A: 37 Books Appropriate for Any College Common Book Program

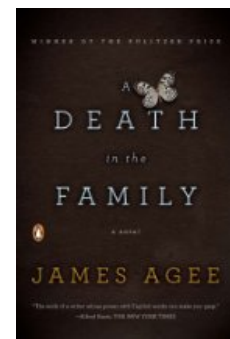
1. Edwin Abbott Abbott. *Flatland*. (1884) This short book is a mathematician's foray into fiction with a story about two-dimensional creatures—squares, triangles, and such—living on a plane. Their conceptual horizons are challenged when a three-dimensional creature, a sphere, drops in. We picked it because (a) it is a deft analogy for us of three-dimensional creatures trying to imagine our four-or-more dimensional universe, (b) it is one of few mathematical classics completely open to math-resistant students, and (c) it is a subtle provocation to students to open their minds to unexpected intellectual possibilities. It also contains some mild but amusing social satire.



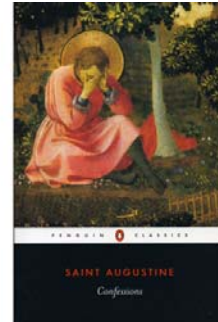
2. Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart*. (1958) Among the first African novels written in English, *Things Fall Apart* depicts the Igbo of southern Nigeria during the period of initial Western colonization. The protagonist is an ambitious young man in a traditional village who gains fame through a feat of wrestling and goes on to become a powerful leader, only to see his world collapse. We picked it because (a) it is a classic indictment of colonialism but comes with the complicating twist that it is written in a colonial language by an author who has thoroughly absorbed a Western aesthetic sensibility; and (b) it puts the real questions of cultural relativism on the table.



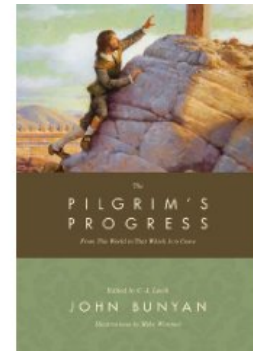
3. James Agee. *A Death in the Family*. (1957) A posthumous autobiographical novel, *A Death in the Family* is based on the death of his father in an automobile accident when Agee was only six. The novel richly depicts life in Knoxville, Tennessee around 1915. We picked it because of (a) the sheer beauty of Agee's writing and its emotional depth, (b) its capacity to become a lasting presence in the lives of its readers, (c) the opportunity it affords independent-minded college students to think about the fragility of family and community and their own rootedness in the world.



4. Augustine. *Confessions*. (398 A.D.) The *Confessions* is perhaps the very first autobiography, at least in the modern sense of someone examining the interior side of his life as well as the external events. We picked it because (a) it shows a smart, ambitious student who thirsts for knowledge and who makes the most of his academic studies, (b) it presents the challenge of taking ideas not just as cold objects of study but as insights that may have life-changing consequences, and (c) it is one of the key books for understanding what is distinctive about Western civilization.



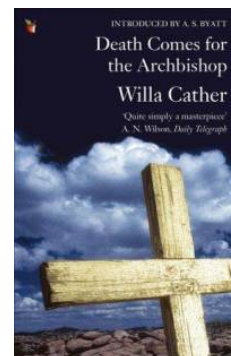
5. John Bunyan. *The Pilgrim's Progress*. (1678) Once the most widely read book in English besides the Bible, *The Pilgrim's Progress* is an astonishingly successful allegory. We picked it because it is (a) a key influence on English fiction, (b) a tour-de-force of metaphor and analogy, and (c) a vivid introduction to Christianity that secular students can grasp. Though accessible to children at one level, *The Pilgrim's Progress* has depths of psychological and moral insight that fully justify it as a reading for college students.



6. Albert Camus. *The Plague*. (1947) The novel depicts a city in French colonial Algeria that is quarantined during an outbreak of the bubonic plague. Camus describes the divergent ways those trapped in the city cope with the situation. We picked it because it is a compelling depiction of some of the great themes of 20th century existential philosophy: the sense of a meaningless void against which humans struggle to achieve a sense of dignity; the feelings of alienation and exile poised against human solidarity and love; and the demand for something better than personal happiness.



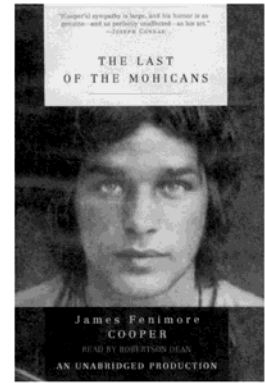
7. Willa Cather. *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. (1927) This episodic novel, based on the life of Jean-Baptiste Lamy, depicts the work of a devout French priest sent to reorganize the Catholic mission in New Mexico after the territory has been annexed by the United States. We picked it because (a) Cather's quietly expansive vision of the American landscape is



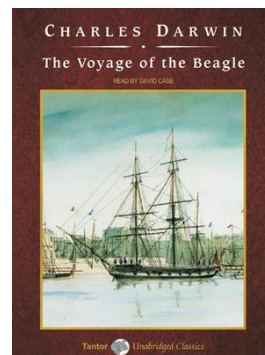
an unsurpassed literary accomplishment, (b) students can gain something vital from this account of steady purpose in the pursuit of an ideal, and (c) the book offers a perspective on the mingling of cultures that strongly contrasts to the currently fashionable accounts of ethnic antagonism.

8. James Fenimore Cooper. *The Last of the Mohicans*.

(1826) By the time Cooper wrote this novel, the French and Indian War was as distant a memory as World War II is today. The story is a complicated account of the sharp-shooting white orphan Hawkeye, raised by Indians to protect the daughters of a British colonel from the perils of war and the unwanted attentions of a treacherous Huron warrior. We picked it because, (a) despite its wildly implausible plot, the book captures America's exuberant vision of itself early in our history, (b) Cooper's romantic sense of place and sense of nostalgia for the lost grandeur of the Native American tribes of the east can also enrich contemporary students' understanding of their national heritage, and (c) the book is one kind of answer to the question, "Who are we?" And the answer involves a lot more cultural and racial "hybridity" than we typically recognize in the writings of America's first professional writers.

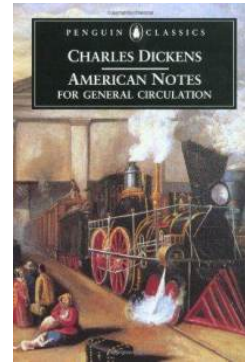


9. Charles Darwin. *The Voyage of the Beagle*. (1839) This is Darwin's classic account of his expedition from 1831 to 1836 around coastal South America to the Galapagos Islands, Tahiti, Australia, across the Indian Ocean to Mauritius, and back to England, on which he made most of the observations that led eventually to his theory of evolution by natural selection. (*The Voyage* went through several editions and one of the augmented later ones might be a better choice.) We picked it because (a) it is a dazzling display of young Darwin's curiosity and his powers of observation of people and places as well as the natural world, (b) students can benefit from a robust example of careful observation and collection of facts as worthy pursuits in their own right, and (c) *The Voyage* offers a fresh point of entry into the intellectual adventure of scientific inquiry.

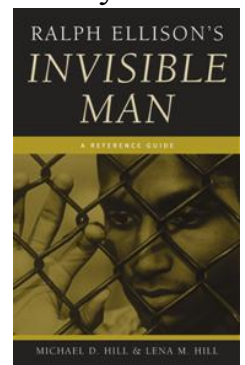


10. Charles Dickens. *American Notes for General Circulation*. (1842) Dickens

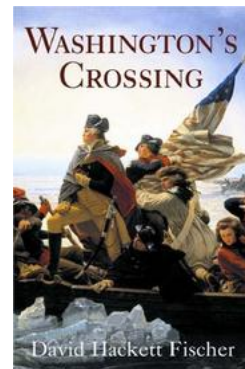
published this account of his travels just after his six-month visit to the United States. It is an unflattering portrait of a country that effusively welcomed him—far too effusively in his judgment. We picked it because (a) Dickens’ account of American character still resonates, (b) the book lampoons qualities in which Americans continue to take pride, and (c) it raises important questions about celebrity, status, travel, crime, law, and a host of other themes that still preoccupy us.



11. Ralph Ellison. *Invisible Man*. (1952) This novel presents the memory of an unnamed African-American character who is currently living as a hermit in the basement of a New York City apartment building. In his youth in a small southern town he was school valedictorian and went on to college but was expelled. As he struggles to make a life for himself, he encounters a succession of people—most of whom see him not as the individual that he is but only in relation to their particular take on race—promoting various responses to white oppression: accommodation, communism, black nationalism, and cynicism. We picked it because (a) it is a powerful evocation of the deadening quality of ideological responses to racism, and (b) it depicts the struggle for individuality in circumstances that strongly reinforce the claims of group identity. These are very much living questions on most college campuses.

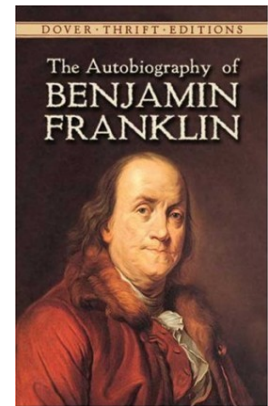


12. David Hackett Fischer. *Washington's Crossing*. (2004) We wanted to include a book about George Washington and had hundreds to pick from. We chose Fischer’s account of a pivotal moment, when General Washington, faced with the imminent collapse of the whole revolution, seized the initiative by crossing the Delaware River on Christmas night and mounting a surprise attack on the Hessian garrison at Trenton. We picked it because (a) Washington is a difficult figure for today’s American students to comprehend, and Fischer succeeds admirably in showing him as a vivid human being, (b) the book takes us out of “the American Revolution” as an abstraction and gives us a sense of the war as a matter of real choices made under life-and-death conditions, and (c) it is the kind of history writing that will whet students’ appetites for more.

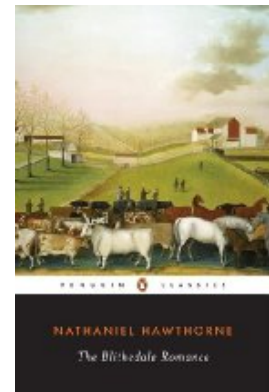


13. Benjamin Franklin. *Autobiography*. (1791) This unfinished autobiography,

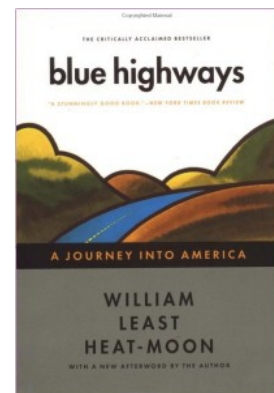
written as a letter to his son, opens a window into the life and mind of one of our nation's most beloved founding fathers. We picked it because (a) it captures Franklin's unique genius as equally accomplished as a scientist, inventor, entrepreneur, publisher, creative writer, aphorist, diplomat, and political thinker, (b) American college students should be familiar with the framers of the country, and Franklin stands out not only as the elder statesman of the Revolution but as one of the shapers of American character, (c) in our new age of thrift, Franklin's wisdom—(He coined the phrase, "Time is money" in his *Advice to a Young Tradesman*, 1748)—bears new attention.



14. Nathaniel Hawthorne. *The Blithedale Romance*. (1852) This is Hawthorne's fictionalized account of the utopian Brook Farm community in which he participated for eight months in 1841. The tale includes characters whose contemporary counterparts will soon be part of the lives of the students entering college: a charismatic hater of the free market, an advocate of "freedom" intent on imposing her own tyranny, weak-willed followers eager to find someone to tell them what to think, aesthetes, and people eager to hide their ordinary appetites behind exotic poses. We picked *The Blithedale Romance* because (a) it is an effective warning against the seductions of utopianism, and (b) it helps us see that longing for social justice needs to be grounded in real understanding of human nature.

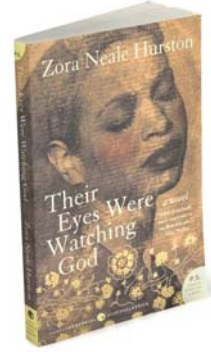


15. William Least Heat-Moon. *Blue Highways*. (1982) Heat-Moon heads out to see America from the vantage point of the back roads—the ones colored blue on highway maps. The book is largely built on the conversations he has with the people he meets: saloon keepers, fishermen, farmers, a prostitute, a Christian hitchhiker, a Hopi medical student and more. We chose it because (a) it is a quietly evocative picture of America—one that has stood the test of time, and (b) it is a model of first-person writing in which the speaker is unobtrusive and doesn't get in the way of what he sees and hears.

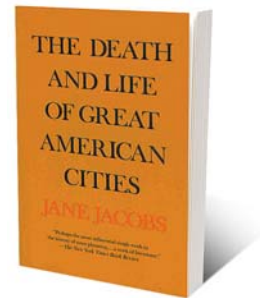


16. Zora Neale Hurston. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. (1937) This novel by African-American folklorist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston depicts the life

of a thrice-married Florida woman who kills her last husband in self-defense. Much of the dialogue is in black dialect and book has often been criticized for trading in stereotypes. We chose it because (a) it is an unromanticized picture of social oppression as well as of some fascinating and vanished American subcultures, and (b) a consummate work of artistry by a writer who defied the conventions of her time.



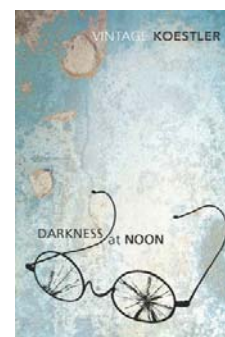
17. Jane Jacobs. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. (1961) This book started the movement for preserving old neighborhoods in America. It was written as a critique of the kind of “urban renewal” that consisted of flattening whole sections of cities and replacing them with sterile modernist structures that had no connection with actual human communities. She was especially opposed to urban expressways. But Jacobs’ book somehow transcends the policy debates that gave birth to it. We chose it because (a) it is a model of public policy advocacy, (b) it remains a compelling vision of the best of urban life, and (c) it can provoke students to think more deeply about the material basis of American life: how our prosperity, our sense of community, depend on our use of space.



18. Rudyard Kipling. *Kim*. (1901) This is a book that vividly portrays British colonial India through a homeless white orphan’s eyes. We picked it because it (a) raises provocative questions about contemporary American views of personal identity, multiculturalism and colonialism, and (b) is an extraordinarily artful tale of political intrigue. American higher education today spends considerable effort denouncing colonialism, post-colonialism, Orientalism, etc. Why not give students a chance to read a masterpiece from the writer who was one of colonialism’s greatest and most sophisticated admirers?

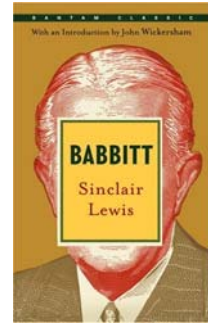


19. Arthur Koestler. *Darkness at Noon*. (1940) In this novel, Koestler, a former communist, depicts the world of Stalin’s show trials. The protagonist, Rubashov, is a true believer in the communist system, but is arrested, interrogated, and struggles with the meaning of his life and loyalties as he awaits his certain execution. The book is one of the classics of anti-totalitarian literature. We picked it because (a) it powerfully portrays the

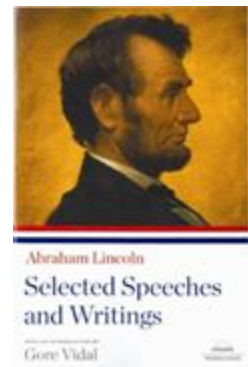


awful system of oppression at the heart of the Soviet system, (b) it is a testimony to the profound importance of individual rights and political freedom—so easily taken for granted by those who have always enjoyed them, and (c) Koestler takes us inside the mind of someone trapped by ideology.

20. Sinclair Lewis. *Babbitt*. (1922) Babbitt is a partner in an upper Midwest real estate firm in this satiric novel. His life is devoted to social climbing until in a moment of crisis he realizes the vapidness of his materialism. At that point he plunges headlong into flouting social conventions, but eventually becomes disillusioned with the emptiness of rebellion as well. We picked this book because it is the classic indictment of American middle class complacency, and students deserve the chance to think this through. Is American life the sum of culturally dead self-seeking Babbitts who conform even in their non-conformity? How true is this picture?



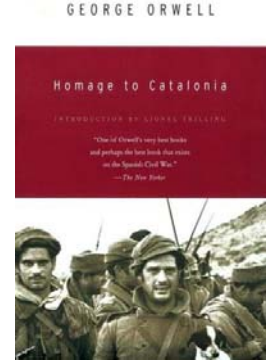
21. Abraham Lincoln. *Selected Speeches and Writings*. (1832-1865, published in this volume in 2009) (Selections) It was the Great Emancipator who held the United States together during the Civil War. His strength of character, sharp wit, and quest for peace made him one of our nation's greatest presidents. Of all Lincoln's speeches, our strongest recommendations for students are these three: the speech on the Kansas-Nebraska Act at Peoria (October 16, 1854); the address to the Washington Temperance Society of Springfield, Illinois (February 22, 1842); and the second inaugural address (March 4, 1865). And one of the best ways to learn the power of persuasive argument is to read some of the Lincoln-Douglas debates on slavery.



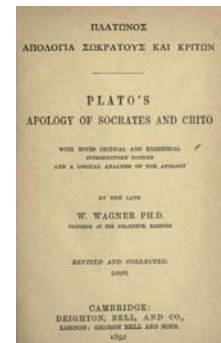
22. John Stuart Mill. *On Liberty*. (1869) This is a short book on the limits of political power. Mill argues, most importantly, for freedom of thought and speech, and points out that partisans who suppress criticism ultimately weaken the views they are trying to protect. We picked *On Liberty* because (a) the substance of the essay bears directly on contemporary higher education, where “political correctness” has limited the liberty to discuss important ideas, and (b) the book is a model of lucid philosophical exposition.



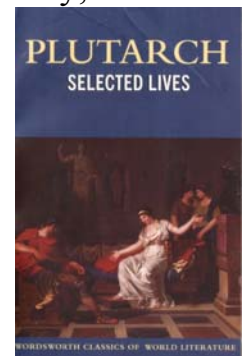
23. George Orwell. *Homage to Catalonia.* (1938) Orwell, a journalist, reflects on his experiences during the Spanish Civil War from December 1936 to June 1937, where he had the misfortune to enlist in a non-Stalinist Marxist militia that Soviet-controlled communists had secretly determined to liquidate. Betrayed by people he mistook as allies, Orwell began a painful reconsideration of his views. He remained a socialist but had grown wise to the lawless nature of totalitarian regimes, and he came to loathe Stalinism. We picked this book because (a) it represents a genuine act of personal courage, (b) it vividly depicts the human reality of the great contest of political ideals that defined the twentieth century, and (c) it exemplifies lucid political writing.



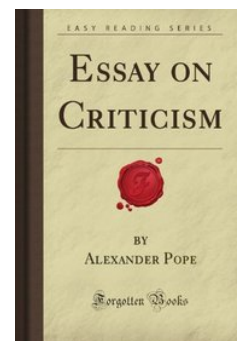
24. Plato. *Apology of Socrates and Crito.* (c. 399-387 B.C.) These are key works of philosophy that students who sign up for a philosophy course will probably read. But they are a common inheritance that everyone should know, and they can be read easily without a teacher's assistance. *The Apology* is Socrates' self-defense when he is charged with corrupting the youth of Athens. *Crito* is Socrates explanation to a friend why he must obey the laws of Athens and accept the death penalty. We picked these two dialogues because together they present a profound debate about the place of the intellectual in society, the pursuit of truth, and the necessity of the law.



25. Plutarch. *Parallel Lives.* (Second century A.D.) (Selections) Plutarch pairs biographies of famous men, one Greek, one Roman, to illuminate their character. We picked it because (a) it gives students a vibrant, narrative view of ancient Greek and Roman culture, (b) it examines what it means to be “good,” and (c) as a commentary on leadership, it influenced the writers of *The Federalist Papers*.

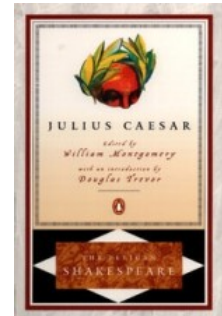


26. Alexander Pope. *Essay on Criticism.* (1711) This is the only English verse on our list. Pope's poem begins with a warning that incompetent criticism poses a greater danger than poor creative writing. The latter “tries our patience,” but poor judgment offered up authoritatively can “mis-lead our Sense.” The *Essay on Criticism* can be read hurriedly and with no profit, but for the reader

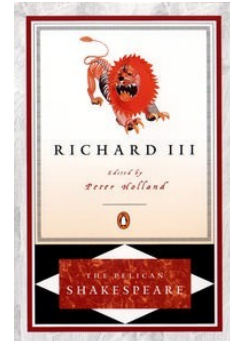


who pays attention, it is a font of good insight. We picked it because (a) it emphasizes the need for a moral seriousness in the critical inquiries that lie ahead for the college student, (b) it is one of those rare works that fully embodies the strictures it lays down: it practices what it preaches, and (c) it just might help some students improve their writing.

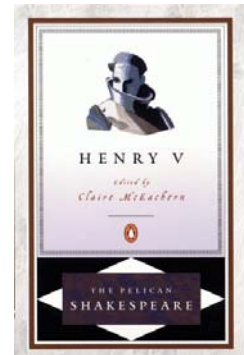
27. William Shakespeare. *Julius Caesar*. (c. 1599) This play once was and should still be a standard part of the high school English curriculum, but it is not. We picked it (a) to restore a vital literary reference point, (b) to invite students to think about demagoguery and the willingness of people to sacrifice freedom to follow a charismatic leader, and (c) to urge students to reflect on conflicts between personal loyalty and public duty.



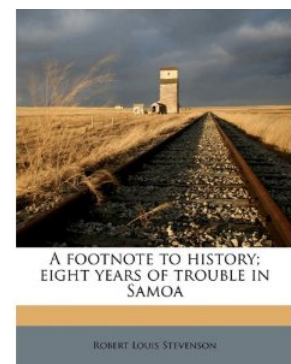
28. William Shakespeare. *Richard III*. (c. 1592) This play offers one of Shakespeare's great villains, who despite his awful deeds somehow wins a share of our sympathy. We picked it because it is English literature's best portrayal of political manipulation and cunning self-advancement, which are qualities that students need to be on guard against in college no less than in the rest of life.



29. William Shakespeare. *Henry V*. (c. 1598) This play is about the maturation of a king and his extraordinary success on the battlefield. The St. Crispin's Day speech is one that every student should know. We picked *Henry V* because it is the richest of Shakespeare's history plays. It has profound things to say about the responsibilities of leadership.

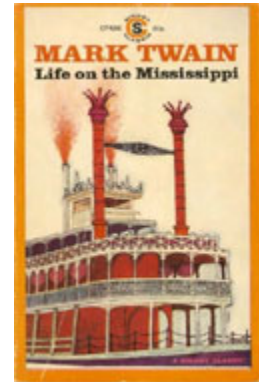


30. Robert Louis Stevenson. *A Footnote to History: Eight Years of Trouble in Samoa*. (1892) The author of *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and other popular works moved to Samoa in 1890 in search of a place to recover his health. This book is his account of the colonial struggle to possess the island, as the United States, Germany, and Britain squabbled with each other and a hopelessly outgunned Samoan king. Stevenson is on the side of the Samoans. The *New York Times* hailed the book on its first publication as "an entertaining and brilliant piece of narrative." We picked it because (a) it is a superbly written work that makes an

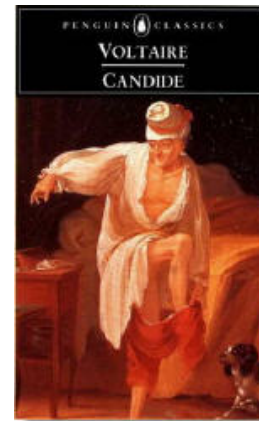


otherwise forgotten episode in colonial history into a lens for the vanities of politics and power, and (b) it is a good benchmark for students to think about American military ventures in faraway places.

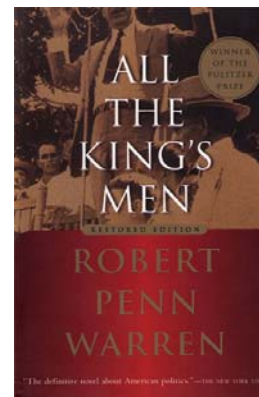
31. Mark Twain. *Life on the Mississippi*. (1883) Twain is remembering his life before the Civil War as an apprentice steamboat pilot. The book is as broad and digressive as the river itself, but we have a charming companion to keep it interesting. We picked it because (a) Twain is one of the great native talents of American literature and *Life on the Mississippi* shows him in a genial mood, (b) the book opens a window on a distinctly American combination of technical expertise, intellectual aspiration, and ironic observation.



32. Voltaire. *Candide*. (1759) This eighteenth century satire of a young man under the spell of a philosophy that glibly treats the order of the world as “all for the best,” would seem to be superfluous counsel in an age where students are more likely to be surrounded by dire warnings that things are bad and about to get much worse. But as a story of progressive (and sometime hilarious) disillusionment, *Candide* still has something to teach. We picked it because it is a timeless warning not to mistake beautiful theories for fact.

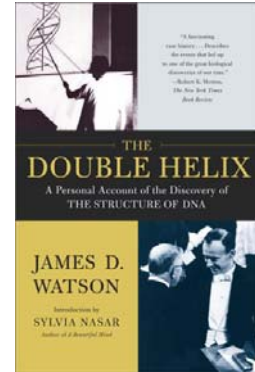


33. Robert Penn Warren. *All the King's Men*. (1946) Warren’s novel about the rise of a populist politician in the South presents the interplay of cynical calculation and idealistic yearning in American life. Based loosely on the life and death of Louisiana governor and senator Huey P. Long, the book is a classic portrayal of one of the weaknesses of our system of governance. We picked it because (a) it presents political corruption but is ultimately a counsel against viewing politics as mere manipulation, (b) it is a rich and vivid depiction of the insider’s view of political life, and (c) it provides students an occasion to come to terms with their own temptation to think of governance as a raw, anything-goes game.

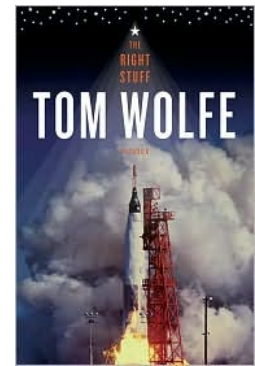


34. James D. Watson. *The Double Helix*. (1968) Watson’s first-person account of the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA continues to provoke controversy, especially over Watson’s cursory treatment of Rosalind Franklin,

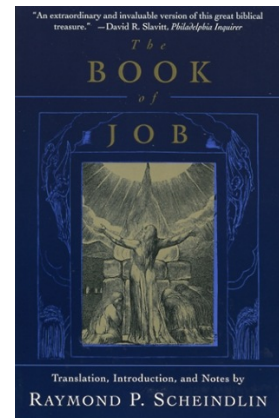
whose x-ray diffraction images of DNA were crucial to the hypothesis that he and his colleague Francis Crick developed. Nonetheless the book is a classic insider account of one of the great scientific breakthroughs of the last century. We picked it because (a) it is a vivid portrayal of how scientific reasoning, personal ambition, and individual character come together in actual research, and (b) students need to know about some of the foundational discoveries that underlie contemporary medicine and technology.



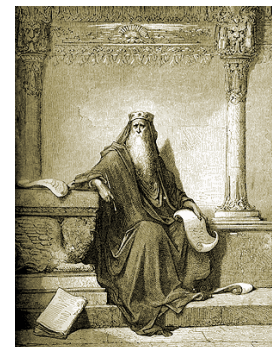
35. Tom Wolfe. *The Right Stuff*. (1979) This book examines the lives of test pilots and astronauts, and chronicles the early years of the U.S. manned space program. We picked it because (a) Wolfe’s sympathetic engagement with the pilots brings to life the human side of this hugely complex scientific and technical accomplishment, (b) the book exemplifies the rhetorical power of the “new journalism” when it was truly new, and (c) it offers a compelling portrait of courage and self-reliance.



36. *The Book of Job*. (c. 1000 B.C.) Among the most profound and unsettling stories in the Bible, the *Book of Job* depicts a righteous man brought to the depths of suffering by the seeming capriciousness of God. Job rejects the counsel of his friends to curse God for his fate, but he does eventually complain. God’s answer is awesome—and frightening. We picked this book because (a) it is among the most accessible points of entry to the Bible for secular students, and (b) it is a terrific story that can lead to important questions about the nature of justice.



37. *The Book of Ecclesiastes*. (c. 970-930 B.C.) A king searches for meaning in life by successively seeking wisdom, pleasure, wealth, sex, and power. Having achieved them, he finds that they fail to fulfill his longings and are ultimately meaningless. We picked this book because it asks many of life’s deepest questions: Why work so hard if it doesn’t bring real happiness and death is inevitable? What is there to live for, really? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why are some people wealthy while others are poor? In this way it also speaks to the rising concern



on college campuses for social justice.

List B: Six More Ambitious Choices

- 1. Harold Bloom. *The Western Canon*.** (1994) Bloom's enthusiasm for great books is infectious. Students won't have read many of the books he discusses but will want to.
- 2. Alexis De Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*.** (1838) De Tocqueville remains the best observer of the American social and political experiment. A long read but not inherently difficult.
- 3. Fyodor Dostoevsky. *Crime and Punishment*.** (1866) A psychological masterpiece. No one regrets reading it, though it is a long journey.
- 4. Herman Melville. *The Confidence-Man*.** (1857) Easy to read but baffling to some readers, since Melville refuses to say exactly who among the large cast of characters aboard the Mississippi steam ship *Fidèle* is *the* confidence man. Is America a confidence game?
- 5. Gary Rose, ed. *Shaping a Nation: 25 Supreme Court Cases*.** (2010) We are a nation of laws—and of Supreme Court opinions. It is a good idea for students to start college having read some of the most important ones.
- 6. Virgil. *The Aeneid*.** (19 B.C., Fagles's translation, 2006) An epic in every sense, *The Aeneid* is one of the masterpieces of Western civilization.