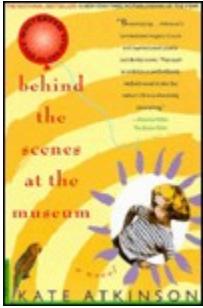
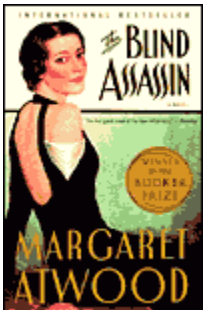


Great Books For Your Book Group
Fiction

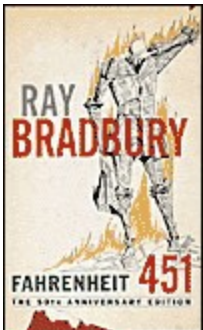
Suggestions From the Librarians at the Milford Public Library



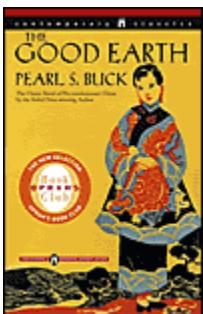
Atkinson, Kate - Behind the Scenes at the Museum - FIC ATK - 332 pages
Kate Atkinson introduces readers to the mind and world of Ruby Lennox, born above a pet shop in York at the halfway point of the twentieth century, and determined to understand both the family that precedes her and the life that awaits her.



Atwood, Margaret - The Blind Assassin - FIC ATW - 521 pages
A tale of two sisters, one of whom dies under ambiguous circumstances in the opening pages. The surviving sister initially seems a little cold-blooded about this death in the family. But as the book unfolds, with several nested narratives and even an entire novel-within-a-novel, we're reminded of just how complicated the familial game of hide-and-seek can be.



Bradbury, Ray - Fahrenheit 451 - SCI FI BRA - 184 pages
Nowadays firemen start fires. Fireman Guy Montag loves to rush to a fire and watch books burn up. Then he met a seventeen-year old girl who told him of a past when people were not afraid, and a professor who told him of a future where people could think. And Guy Montag knew what he had to do....



Buck, Pearl S. - The Good Earth - FIC BUC - 344 pages
Presents a graphic view of a China when the last emperor reigned and the vast political and social upheavals of the twentieth century were but distant rumblings for the ordinary people.

Chabon, Michael - The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay - FIC CHA -



659 pages

Joe Kavalier, a young artist who has also been trained in the art of Houdiniesque escape, has just smuggled himself out of Nazi-invaded Prague and landed in New York City. His Brooklyn cousin Sammy Clay is looking for a partner to create heroes, stories, and art for the latest novelty to his America: the comic book.



Chevalier, Tracy - The Girl With the Pearl Earring - FIC CHE - 233 pages

The story of sixteen-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her brief encounter with genius, even as she herself is immortalized in canvas and oil by the master painter Johannes Vermeer.



Cross, Donna Woolfolk - Pope Joan - FIC CRO - 422 pages

When her older brother dies in a Viking attack, the brilliant young Joan assumes his identity and enters a Benedictine monastery where, as Brother John Anglicus, she distinguishes herself as a scholar and healer. Eventually drawn to Rome, she becomes enmeshed in a dangerous mix of powerful passion and explosive politics that threaten her life even as it elevates her to the highest throne in the Western world.



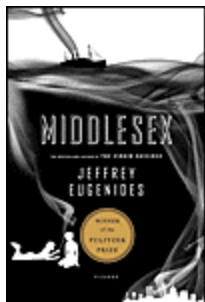
Dai, Sijie - Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress - FIC DAI - 197 pages

From the hopelessness and terror of Mao's infamous Cultural Revolution, two boys are forever transformed when they discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translations. Even their friend the Little Chinese Seamstress will never be the same.



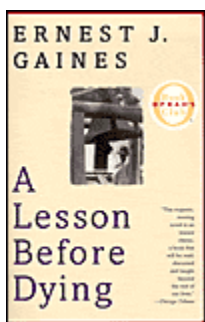
Dunn, Mark - Ella Minnow Pea - FIC DUN - 205 pages

Ella Minnow Pea is a girl living happily on the fictional island of Nollop off the coast of South Carolina. Nollop was named after Nevin Nollop, author of the immortal pangram "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." Now Ella finds herself acting to save her friends, family, and fellow citizens from the encroaching totalitarianism of the island's Council, which has banned the use of certain letters of the alphabet as they fall from a memorial statue of Nevin Nollop. As the letters progressively drop from the statue they also disappear from the novel.



Eugenides, Jeffrey - Middlesex - FIC EUG - 529 pages

“I was born twice: first, as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974...My birth certificate lists my name as Calliope Helen Stephanides. My most recent driver’s license... records my first name simply as Cal.” So begins the breathtaking story of Calliope Stephanides and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family.



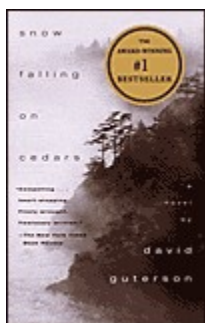
Gaines, Ernest J. - A Lesson Before Dying - FIC GAI - 256 pages

A young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn’t commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting.



Goldberg, Myra - Bee Season - FIC GOL - 274 pages

Eliza Naumann, a seemingly unremarkable nine-year-old, expects never to fit into her gifted family: her autodidact father Saul, absorbed in the study of Jewish mysticism; her brother, Aaron, the vessel of his father’s spiritual ambitions; and her brilliant but distant lawyer mom, Miriam. But when Eliza sweeps her school and district spelling bees in quick succession, Saul takes it as a sign that she is destined for greatness.



Guterson, David - Snow Falling on Cedars - FIC GUT - 345 pages

Set on an island in the straits north of Puget Sound in Washington, where everyone is either a fisherman or a berry farmer, the story is nominally about a murder trial. But since it’s set in the 1950s, lingering memories of World War II, internment camps, and racism fuel suspicion of a Japanese-American fisherman, a lifelong resident of the island.



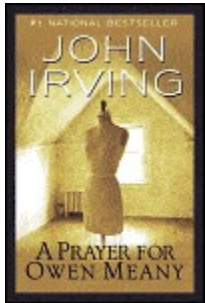
Haddon, Mark - The Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night-Time - FIC HAD - 226 pages

Narrated by a fifteen-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, Haddon weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story, and an excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions.



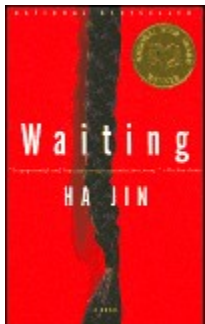
Hosseini, Khalid - The Kite Runner - FIC HOS - 324 pages

Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the present, The Kite Runner is the story of the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Amir is the son of a prominent and wealthy man, while Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant, is a Hazara, member of a shunned ethnic minority. When the Soviets invade and Amir and his father flee the country for a new life in California, Amir thinks that he has escaped his past. And yet he cannot leave the memory of Hassan behind him.



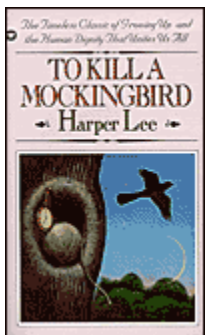
Irving, John - A Prayer for Owen Meany - FIC IRV - 543 pages

Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with a strange voice who accidentally kills his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes - accurately - that he is an instrument of God, to be redeemed by martyrdom.



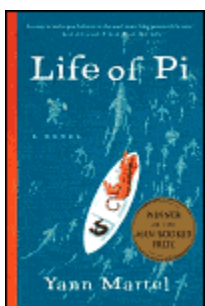
Jin, Ha - Waiting - FIC JIN - 308 pages

The story of Lin Kong, a dedicated doctor torn by his love for two women: one who belongs to the New China of the Cultural Revolution, the other to the ancient traditions of his family's village.



Lee, Harper - To Kill A Mockingbird - FIC LEE - 296 pages

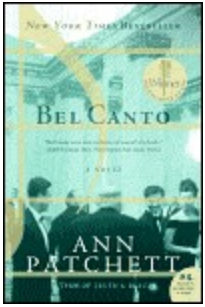
Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, To Kill A Mockingbird follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father Atticus; three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman.



Martel, Yann - Life of Pi - FIC MAR - 319 pages

The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries on various faiths for size, attracting "religions the way a dog attracts fleas." Planning a move to Canada, his father packs up the family and their menagerie and they hitch a ride on an enormous freighter. After a harrowing shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a lifeboat with a wounded zebra, a spotted

hyena, a seasick orangutan, and a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.



Patchett, Ann - Bel Canto - FIC PAT - 318 pages

Somewhere in South America, at the home of the country's vice president, a lavish birthday party is being held in honor of Mr. Hosokawa, a powerful Japanese businessman. Roxanne Coss, opera's most revered soprano, has mesmerized the international guests with her singing. It is a perfect evening -- until a band of gun-wielding terrorists breaks in through the air-conditioning vents and takes the entire party hostage. But what begins as a panicked, life-threatening scenario slowly evolves into something quite different, as terrorists and hostages forge unexpected bonds and people from different countries and continents become compatriots.



See, Lisa - Snow Flower and the Secret Fan - FIC SEE - 288 pages

In nineteenth-century China a girl named Lily, at the tender age of seven, is paired with a laotong, "old same," in an emotional match that will last a lifetime. The laotong, Snow Flower, introduces herself by sending Lily a silk fan on which she's painted a poem in nu shu, a unique language that Chinese women created in order to communicate in secret, away from the influence of men. Their bond continues throughout their marriages and motherhood, until a misunderstanding threatens to tear them apart.