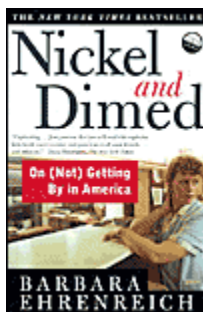


Great Books For Your Book Group
Non-Fiction
Suggestions From the Librarians at the Milford Public Library



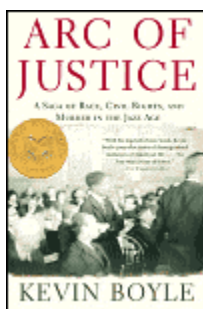
Gladwell, Malcolm - Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking - 153.44 GLA - 277 pages

How do we make decisions--good and bad--and why are some people so much better at it than others? Utilizing case studies as diverse as speed dating, pop music, and the shooting of Amadou Diallo, Gladwell reveals that what we think of as decisions made in the blink of an eye are much more complicated than assumed. Drawing on cutting-edge neuroscience and psychology, he shows how the difference between good decision-making and bad has nothing to do with how much information we can process quickly, but on the few particular details on which we focus.



Ehrenreich, Barbara - Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By In America - 305.569 EHR - 221 pages

Millions of Americans work for poverty-level wages, and one day Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that any job equals a better life. But how can anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 to \$7 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich moved from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, taking the cheapest lodgings available and accepting work as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing-home aide, and Wal-Mart salesperson. She soon discovered that even the "lowliest" occupations require exhausting mental and physical efforts. And one job is not enough; you need at least two if you intend to live indoors.



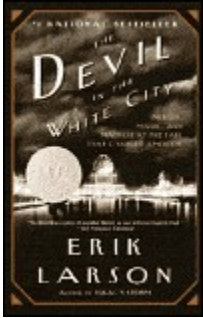
Boyle, Kevin - Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age - 345.73 BOY - 448 pages

In the Roaring Twenties, neon lit the night, jazz played, and in northern cities glistening new skyscrapers beckoned Negroes worn down by southern terrors. Ossian Sweet was among them, carrying his parents' dreams for his future and little else. The grandson of a slave, the young physician arrived alone in Detroit -- a smoky swirl of speakeasies and sprawling factories where progress and Henry Ford had pumped competition to fever pitch. As Sweet moved beneath the glittering chandeliers of Michigan Central Station, he could not have known that he would establish a thriving practice and find a wife to love. Nor could he have envisioned that his struggle to hold on to his home, his greatest pride, would lead to his indictment in a murder case that would put him and his wife in prison, bring the famous Clarence Darrow to defend them, and launch a landmark battle that helped ignite the struggle for civil rights._



Capote, Truman - In Cold Blood - 364.1 CAP - 410 pages

With the publication of this book, Capote permanently ripped through the barrier separating crime reportage from serious literature. As he reconstructs the 1959 murder of a Kansas farm family and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers, Capote generates suspense and empathy.



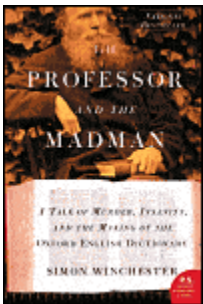
Larson, Erik - Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America - 364.15 LAR - 447 pages

A gripping tale about two men -- one a creative genius, the other a mass murderer -- who turned the 1893 Chicago World's Fair into their playground. Set against the dazzle of a dream city whose technological marvels presaged the coming century, this real-life drama of good and evil unfolds with all the narrative tension of a fictional thriller.



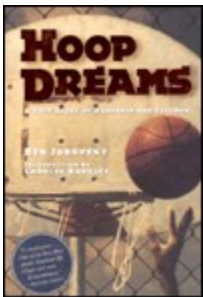
Oufkir, Malika - Stolen Lives: Twenty Years In A Desert Jail - 365 OUF - 294 pages

Malika Oufkir was born into extreme privilege as the daughter of the king of Morocco's closest aide. But in 1972, her life of luxury came to a crashing halt. Her father was executed for attempting to assassinate the king, and she and her family were imprisoned for two decades. Stolen Lives is the story of their resilience and their resolve to live in freedom.



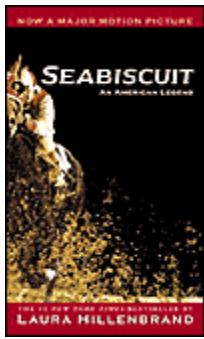
Winchester, Simon - The Professor and the Madman - 423 WIN - 242 pages

The compilation of the Oxford English Dictionary, begun in 1857, was one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken. As definitions were collected, the overseeing committee discovered that one man, Dr. W.C. Minor, had submitted more than ten thousand. When the committee insisted on honoring him, a shocking truth came to light: Dr. Minor, an American Civil War veteran, was also an inmate at an asylum for the criminally insane.



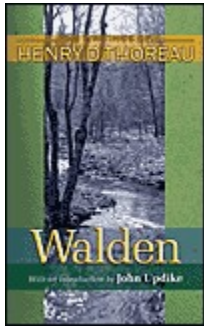
Joravksy, Ben - Hoop Dreams - 796.323 JOR - 301 pages

Based on the documentary film of the same name, this book looks at the dream of ghetto youths to play in the NBA. The only way to do that, according to the author, is to attend the appropriate high school, like St. Joseph's in suburban Chicago. St. Joseph's is a school where academics come first. Into this environment are recruited two freshmen guards from the ghetto, Arthur Agee and William Gates.



Hillenbrand, Laura - Seabiscuit - 798.4 HIL - 399 pages

Seabiscuit was an unlikely champion: a roughhewn, undersized horse with a sad little tail and knees that wouldn't straighten all the way. But, thanks to the efforts of three men, Seabiscuit became one of the most spectacular performers in sports history. The rags-to-riches horse emerged as an American cultural icon, drawing an immense following and becoming the single biggest newsmaker of 1938 -- receiving more coverage than FDR or Hitler.



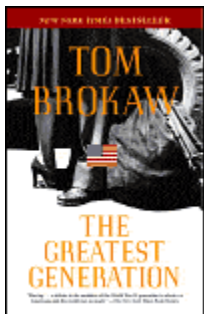
Thoreau, Henry David - Walden - 818 T - 409 pages

Recounts the author's experiences living in a small house in the woods around Walden Pond near Concord in Massachusetts. Thoreau constructed the house himself, with the help of a few friends, and one of the reasons why he moved into it was in an attempt to see if he could live independently and away from society.



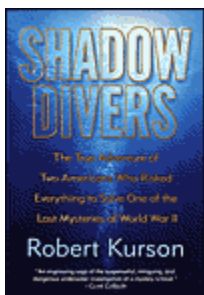
Schumacher, Michael - Mighty Fitz: The Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald - 910.45 SCH - 243 pages

The disappearance of the Edmund Fitzgerald remains one of the great unsolved mysteries in maritime history. Michael Schumacher relays in vivid detail the story of the Edmund Fitzgerald, its many productive years on the waters of the Great Lakes, its tragic demise, the search effort and investigation, as well as the speculation and the controversy that followed in the wake of the disaster.



Brokaw, Tom - The Greatest Generation - 940.54 BRO - 412 pages

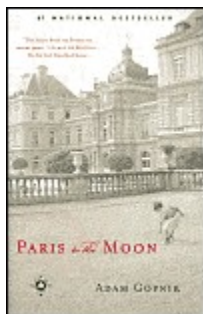
Veteran reporter and NBC Nightly News anchor Tom Brokaw went to France to make a documentary marking the 40th anniversary of D-day in 1984. Although he was thoroughly briefed on the historical background of the invasion, he was totally unprepared for how it would affect him emotionally. Flooded with childhood memories of World War II, Brokaw began asking veterans at the ceremony to revisit their past and talk about what happened, triggering a chain reaction of war-torn confessions and Brokaw's compulsion to capture their experiences in what he terms "the permanence a book would represent."



Kurson, Robert - Shadow Divers: The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II - 940.54 KUR - 375 pages

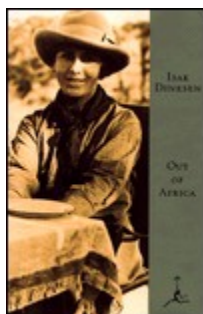
In the fall of 1991, experienced deep sea divers John Chatterton and Richie Kohler were not prepared for what they found 230 feet below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New Jersey: a World War II German U-boat. No identifying marks were visible on the submarine or the few artifacts brought to the surface. No historian, expert, or government

had a clue as to which U-boat the men had found. In fact, the official records all agreed that there simply could not be a sunken U-boat and crew at that location. Over the next six years, an elite team of divers risked their lives to solve the mystery.



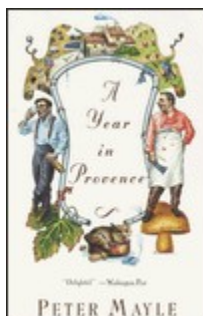
Gopnik, Adam - Paris to the Moon - 944.36 GOP - 338 pages

Many Americans are smitten by the allure of an expatriate's life in Paris, but few of us go so far as to indulge that fancy. In 1995, longtime writer for The New Yorker Adam Gopnik did just that, however, taking his wife and infant son along as he followed in the footsteps of Ernest Hemingway, Berenice Abbott, and so many other restless Americans of the past century who have made their way to the City of Light.



Dinensen, Isak - Out of Africa - 967.62 DIN - 389 pages

A memoir of the author's years in Africa, from 1914 to 1931, on a four-thousand-acre coffee plantation in the hills near Nairobi. She had come to Kenya from Denmark with her husband, and when they separated she stayed on to manage the farm by herself. In Africa, "I learned how to tell tales," she recalled many years later. "The natives have an ear still. I told stories constantly to them, all kinds."



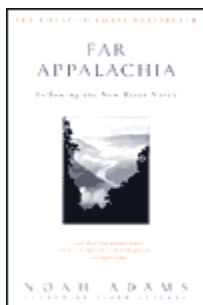
Mayle, Peter - A Year in Provence - 944.9 M - 207 pages

The month-by-month account of the charms and frustrations that Mayle and his wife experience their first year in the remote country of the Lubéron restoring a two-centuries-old stone farmhouse that they bought on sight.



Junger, Sebastian - The Perfect Storm - 974.45 J - 227 pages

When the storm struck in October 1991, there was virtually no warning. "She's comin' on, boys, and she's comin' on strong," radioed Captain Billy Tyne of the Andrea Gail from off the coast of Nova Scotia. Soon afterward, the boat and its crew of six disappeared without a trace.



Adams, Noah - Far Appalachia - 975.47 ADA - 238 pages

Adams takes us on a river journey through the heart of Appalachia - a journey shared by pioneers and preachers, white water daredevils, bluegrass musicians, and an unforgettable cast of vivid historical characters.



Berendt, John - Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil- 975.872 BER - 388 pages

Shots rang out in Savannah's grandest mansion in the misty, early morning hours of May 2, 1982. Was it murder or self defense? For nearly a decade, the shooting and its aftermath reverberated throughout this hauntingly beautiful city of moss-hung oaks and shaded squares.