

The Life of Pi – Yann Martel*

Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for America, but when the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain. (Jan 2010)

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers

Mary Roach {611 ROACH}*

A look inside the world of forensics examines the use of human cadavers in a wide range of endeavors, including research into new surgical procedures, space exploration, and a Tennessee human decay research facility. (Feb 2010)

To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

Lee's Pulitzer prizewinning classic tells two deftly paired stories set in a small Southern town: one focused on lawyer Atticus Finch's defense of an unjustly accused man, the other on his bright, bratty daughter's gradual discovery of her own goodness. (Mar 2010)

Persepolis – Marjane Satrapi*

The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life. (Apr 2010)

Shannon: A Poem of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Campbell McGrath {811.6 MCGRATH}*

The youngest member of Lewis and Clark's adventure, George Shannon rode off by himself to retrieve some lost horses, but got lost amid the endless buffalo pastures in what is now Nebraska. McGrath's book-length poem follows Shannon's thoughts, hopes and observations during his time alone. (Aug 2010)

Astoria and Empire – James P. Ronda

{979.546 RONDA}

A history of the not-quite-successful Astoria expedition to create a fur trading empire in the Pacific Northwest, including the exploration of southern Idaho, and the stories of the personalities, and rivals, involved. (Sep 2011)

Blood Harvest – S. J. Bolton

Something isn't quite right in Heptonclough, including the mysterious accidental deaths of three toddlers over the last ten years. It is not until Tom Fletcher's siblings, two-year-old Milly and five-year-old Joe Fletcher, go missing in turn that the little village's evil secret turns his family's dreams of an English paradise into a nightmare. (Oct 2011)

Beginner's Greek – James Collins

Falling hopelessly in love with a woman whose contact information he loses, Peter Russell perpetuates a series of events involving a woman's complicated marriage to a man in love with someone else, a man's debauchery, and an evil boss. (Nov 2011)

Marcelo in the Real World – Francisco Stork

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. (Dec 2011)



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TFPL Book Club

2010 - 2011



Since its inception in July of 2007, the TFPL Book Club has read a diverse range of books, including mysteries, westerns, science-fiction, and classics. Listed here are the titles we have chosen during this time.

* Titles are available in our BOOK CLUB KITS for check out for your Book Club.

Annotations are courtesy of NoveList Plus. Check out NoveList Plus, part of the TFPL databases, for more book information.

Water for Elephants – Sara Gruen

Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope. (Jun 2010)

I Dead in Attic: After Katrina – Chris Rose

{976.335 ROSE}*

A journalist offers a collection of his columns detailing his own experiences living through Hurricane Katrina, the stories of other city inhabitants, and the struggle to rebuild in the wake of destruction, tragedy, and death. (Jul 2010)

The Big Over Easy – Jasper Fforde*

Unconvinced that a former convict and millionaire philanthropist has been murdered by his suicide-victim ex-wife, detective inspector Jack Spratt and his assistant, Mary Mary, uncover a plot involving money laundering and asylum-seeking titans. The first book in the Nursery Crime series. (Sep 2010)

Enchantment – Orson Scott Card*

Follows one man from ninth-century Russia to present-day America as he struggles to rescue a princess and her kingdom, find true love, and overcome the blackest of evil. (May 2010)

The Help – Kathryn Stockett

Limited and persecuted by racial divides in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, three women, including an African-American maid, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend, and a recently graduated white woman, team up for a clandestine project. (Aug 2011)

The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon – David Grann {918.1104 GRANN}*

Interweaves the story of British explorer Percy Fawcett, who vanished during a 1925 expedition into the Amazon, with the author's own quest to uncover the mysteries surrounding Fawcett's final journey and the secrets of what lies deep in the Amazon jungle. (Oct 2010)

Ella Minnow Pea – Mark Dunn*

Recounts what happens when the citizens of an island must rely on all their ingenuity to communicate in an increasingly limited language when the government progressively bans letters from the alphabet. (Nov 2010)

The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. (Dec 2010)

Finn – Jon Clinch

A novel inspired by Mark Twain's classic tales explores the mysterious life and strange death of Huckleberry Finn's infamous father, describing Finn's fearsome father, the Judge; his brother, the sickly, sycophantic Will; and young Huck. (Jan 2011)

Wait Till Next Year – Doris Kearns Goodwin

An eccentric cast of characters populates the autobiography of a young girl who roots for the Brooklyn Dodgers with her father, while her mother suffers from a debilitating illness. (Feb 2011)

The Call of the Wild – Jack London

Abducted from his comfortable home and sold as a sled dog, Buck battles the elements to become leader of the pack. This story of his struggle for survival is an unforgettable adventure. (Mar 2011)

A Long Way Down – Nick Hornby

Meeting on New Year's Eve on the roof of Topper's House, a London destination infamous as a last stop for suicidal people, a talk show host, a musician, a teenage girl, and a mother share stories about their circumstances and decisions. (Apr 2011)

Open Season – C.J. Box

As Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett races against time to save an endangered species, he finds himself plunged into a deadly mystery that soon threatens his family and the life he loves. (May 2011)

Breathing Lessons – Anne Tyler

During a ninety-mile drive to her best friend's husband's funeral, Maggie and her husband, Ira, recall and reevaluate the details of their twenty-eight-year marriage. (Jun 2011)

Dark Star Safari: Overland from Cairo to Cape Town

Paul Theroux {916.04 THEROUX}

The author recounts his odyssey down the length of Africa, from Cairo to South Africa, describing the bad food, many delays, discomforts, and dangers of his trip, along with the people and places of the real Africa. (Jul 2011)