

FWC Newcomers+ Book Group: Reading Lists by Year

2026-2027: B-Side: Lesser-Known Books by Well-Known Authors

Homage to Catalonia, George Orwell
The Dog of the South, Charles Portis
Tenth of December, George Saunders
The Penelopiad, Margaret Atwood
Hear the Wind Sign, Haruki Murakami
The Snakehead, Patrick Radden Keefe
Look at Me, Anita Brookner
The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Anne Bronte
Erasure, Percival Everett

2025-2026: The Art World

All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me, Patrick Bringley
The Moon & Sixpence, Somerset Maugham
Life Class, Pat Barker
Gabriële, Anne Berest and Claire Berest
A Month in the Country, J.L. Carr
Adventures in the Louvre: How to Fall in Love with the World's Greatest Museum, Elaine Sciolino
Get the Picture: A Mind-Bending Journey Among the Inspired Artists and Obsessive Art Fiends Who Taught Me How to See, Bianca Bosker
Perspectives, Laurent Binet
The Art of Rivalry: Four Friendships, Betrayals, and Breakthroughs in Modern Art, Sebastian Smee
The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance, Edmund De Waal

2024-2025: The American West: Women's Stories

True Grit, Charles Portis
My Antonia, Willa Cather
How Much of These Mountains Is Gold, C. Pam Zhang
The Last Report of the Miracles of Little No Horse, Louise Erdrich
The Buddha in the Attic, Julie Otsuka
The Bean Trees, Barbara Kingsolver
Perma Red, Debra Magpie Earling

Sabrina & Corina: Stories, Kali Fajardo-Anstine
Paradise, Toni Morrison

2023-2024: Retellings of Classic Stories

A Thousand Acres, Jane Smiley
Wide Sargossa Sea, Jean Rhys
Circe, Madeline Miller
Demon Copperhead, Barbara Kingsolver
Longbourn, Jo Baker
March, Geraldine Brooks
On Beauty, Zadie Smith
Hagseed, Margaret Atwood
Girl Meets Boy, Ali Smith

2022-2023: Arts and Artists

The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe's Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War, Lynn Nicholas
An Artist of the Floating World, Kazuo Ishiguro
Infinity Net: The Autobiography of Yayoi Kusama, Yayoi Kusama
My Name is Red, Orhan Pamuk
Just Kids, Patti Smith
Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies, Ross King
The Forger's Spell: A True Story of Vermeer, Nazis, and the Greatest Art Hoax of the 20th C., Edward Dolnick (primary title to read is non-fiction. And/or *The Art Forger: A Novel*, B.A. Shapiro (secondary title to read instead of or in addition, fiction)
SHY: The Alarming Outspoken Memoirs of Mary Rodgers, Mary Rodgers and Jesse Green

2021-2022: Books with Movie Adaptions

News of the World, Paulette Jiles
Chocolat: A Novel, Joanne Harris
The Painted Veil, W. Somerset Maugham
Devil in a Blue Dress: An Easy Rawlins Novel, Walter Mosley
Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood, Marjane Satrapi

A Man Called Ove, Fredrik Backman
Postcards from the Edge, Carrie Fisher
A Room with a View by E.M. Forster
Remains of the Day, Kazuo Ishiguro
The Elegance of the Hedgehog, Muriel Barbery

2020-2021: Struggle Around Identity

Girl, Woman, Other, Bernadine Evaristo
Deacon King Kong, James McBride
The Shadow King, Maaza Mengiste
Americanah, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Dark Emu, Bruce Pascoe
The Distance Between Us, Reyna Grande
Kindred, Octavia Butler
The Testaments, Margaret Atwood
The Cooking Gene: Journey Through Afro-American Culinary History in the Old South, Michael Twitty
The Glass Palace, Amitav Ghosh

2019-2020: In the Americas

Interpreters of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri
The Secret Book of Fredo Kahlo by F.G. Haghenbeck
The Roundhouse by Louise Erdrich
The Overstory by Richard Powers
The Line Becomes a River by Francisco Cantú
Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

2018-2019: Strong and Courageous Women

Maya Angelou - choose any of her autobiographies.
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
The Woman Who Smashed Codes by Jason Fagone
Final Confession of Mabel Stark by Robert Hough
Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley by Charlotte Gordon
Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover
My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor

2017-2018: Immigration

I Begin My Life All Over: The Hmong & The American Immigration Experience by Lillian Faderman
Behold The Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue
The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears by Dinaw Mengestu
The Refugees by Viet Thanh Nguyen
The Cooked Seed by Anchee Min
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez
Little Failure by Gary Shteyngart

2016-2017: Travel Memoirs

In Patagonia by Bruce Chatwin
All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes by Maya Angelou
Without Reservations by Alice Steinbach
The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson
Into the Heart of Borneo by Redmond O'Hanlon
Dark Star Safari: Overland from Cairo to Capetown by Paul Theroux
Blue Highways: A Journey into America by William Least Heat Moon
Undress Me in the Temple of Heaven by Susan Jane Gilman

2015-2016: Memoirs by Food Writers or Chefs

Between Meals: An Appetite for Paris by A.J. Libeling
Yes, Chef: A Memoir by Marcus Samuelsson and Veronica Chambers
Climbing the Mango Trees: A Memoir of a Childhood in India by Madhur Jaffrey
Mastering The Art of Soviet Cooking: A Memoir of Food and Longing by Anya Von Bremzen
Apricots on the Nile A Memoir with Recipes by Colette Rossant
Day of Honey: A Memoir of Food, Love, and War by Annia Ciezadlo