



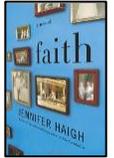
Season's Readings 2011

Library Staff of the Post Learning Commons and Drexel Library

Evelyn Minick

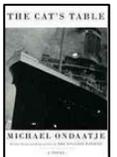
Faith: A Novel by Jennifer Haigh

The year is 2002 and across the Boston archdiocese trusted priests have been accused of the worst possible betrayal. Haigh explores the corrosive consequences on one of the accused priests and his family. The McGann family members react differently: estranged sister, Sheila rushes home to defend her brother, younger brother Mike condemns him, and his devout mother is in angry denial. All are forced to face some long-buried family secrets. A very compelling story by a wonderful Pennsylvania author.



The Cat's Table by Michael Ondaatje

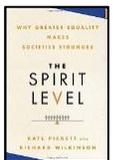
Eleven year old Michael is put on an ocean liner in Ceylon traveling to England by way of the Suez Canal. He and his two young companions are assigned to the "Cat's Table," the farthest distance from the Captain's Table, with a collection of eccentric and low-status characters. During the voyage Michael encounters his first taste of European racism, exposure to a convicted murderer, and his first brief experience of love and desire. Ondaatje takes readers on a masterfully crafted and paced journey.



Pat McAvinue

The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger
by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett

This book gives support to the cause of Occupiers of Wall Street no matter where they pitch their tents. A study on social economics that offers a wealth of research evidence showing that when people live in relative economic equality, good health, security, freedom, and happiness are more accessible to all, not just a small percentage of society.



Naomi Cohen

My Russian Grandmother and Her American Vacuum Cleaner by Meir Shalev

Can you imagine someone who is so obsessive-compulsive that she locks away her vacuum cleaner forever after discovering that it actually gets *DIRTY* in the process of cleaning? This memoir by a noted Israeli novelist explores the hardworking pioneer generation through family lore and his memories of visits to the farming village where his mother grew up.

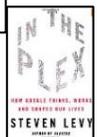
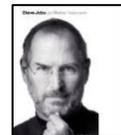


Cynthia Slater

Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson

In The Plex: How Google Thinks, Works, and Shapes Our Lives
by Steven Levy

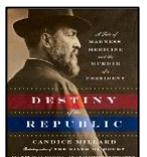
Native Philadelphian Steven Levy is a senior writer at Wired. This book was the result of a two-year "deep dive" into the company and hundreds of interviews with past and current employees.



Christopher Dixon

Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President
by Candice Millard

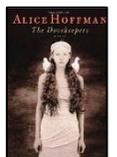
The people of the United States watched and waited for 11 agonizing weeks during the summer of 1881 while President James A. Garfield fought for his life after being shot by an assassin. Was the gunman insane? Could new medical procedures dismissed at the time have saved the President? Did Garfield's death change the course of the nation? These are only a few of the questions raised by Millard's very human retelling of the historical events that often end up being remembered as trivia 130 years later.



Lisa Molinelli

The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman

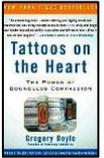
This historical novel puts the reader in the middle of Rome's siege on Masada in the 1st Century. The fears, struggles, and even joys of Masada's inhabitants are expressed through the perspectives of four very different women who tended the surprisingly vital doves of this doomed stronghold. This transportive novel would make an excellent holiday read



Marian Courtney

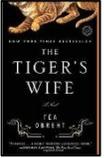
Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle, S.J.

For over twenty years, Fr. Boyle has lived and worked in what is possibly the most gang-infested area of the country. Through personal vignettes both tragic and comic between the homies and “G,” as they affectionately call him, we see the powerful difference one person can make in the lives of others. And in this case, it is for the better.



The Tiger's Wife by Téa Obreht

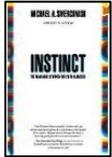
In this compelling novel, the narrator relates stories told to her by her grandfather of his childhood village. A well-educated man, his stories have overtones of allegory and folktale and seep into the present time, with superstitions of its own.



Michael Brooks

Instinct: The Man Who Stopped the 20th Hijacker by Michael Smerconish

Instinct is an insightful look and at Jose Melendez-Perez, the US Customs and Border Inspector who refused entry into the US the man who would have been the twentieth hijacker on United Flight 93. The book focuses on what it takes for someone with the instinctual talents of Jose Melendez-Perez, and others like him, to perform the job of keeping others safe. Smerconish's book looks at the debate over interrogation techniques and discusses what steps are being taken to improve detection methods by honing the skills of the people charged with stopping those who would do harm to others.



Martha VanAuken

The Strain, The Fall and The Night Eternal (all three books of the Strain Trilogy)

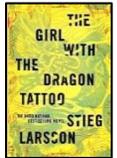
by Guillermo Del Toro & Chuck Hogan



Linda Kubala

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson

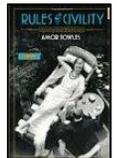
This is the first book in the Swedish crime/mystery trilogy known as the “Millennium series”. We are introduced to the primary characters, Lisbeth Salander, a bright, eccentric woman in her twenties with poor social skills, and Mikael Blomkvist, an investigative journalist and editor of a magazine called Millennium. Together they form a team to solve a 40-year-old murder in the powerful and secretive Vanger family.



Marjorie Rathbone

Rules of Civility by Amor Towles

Centered around Katey Kontent, a transplant from small town to midtown, this atmospheric novel details life among the upper echelons of Manhattan society in the 1930's. Towles' crisp prose captures that unique time between the Great Depression and World War II in one of the world's most vibrant cities and has been called reminiscent of Fitzgerald and Capote but with a pitch all its own. Combining history, social commentary, a doomed love story and a complicated gal pal relationship, *Rules of Civility* is engaging from beginning to end.



Mary Martinson

Crashing Through: A True Story of Risk, Adventure, and the Man Who Dared to See

by Robert Kurson

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America

by Erik Larson

