

Global Book Group Reading List 2024-2025

September 2 Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Knowledge, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants. Robin Wall Kimmerer. C 2021, p. CBCL 305.597. Kimmerer, a botanist studies what underlines human relationships to the natural world. Kimmerer talks about the traditional ecological knowledge of the Potawatomi Nation and how this knowledge can help in shaping scientific research and knowledge

October 1 The Last Resort: A memoir of Mischief and Mayhem on a Family Farm in Africa. Douglas Rogers. 2009 C, 336p. CBCL (Kindle) Rogers is the son of white farmers who live through the tense transition of post-colonial rule in Zimbabwe. His parents own a famous game farm and back-packer lodge that comes under siege during the transition. It is a remarkable story of one family in a country under siege and a testament of the love, perseverance, and resilience of the human spirit

November 5 Luncheon of the Boating Party. Susan Vreeland. C2007. 411p. It is a fictionalized account of how Auguste Renoir came to paint his masterpiece, Luncheon of the Boating Party and the fascinating people who came to pose for it over a period of many weeks. It is also a lighthearted view of Parisian society, outdoor recreation, and the arts during the dawn of Impressionism and before the Revolution blew France apart.

December 3 If I Survive You. Jonathan Escofferey. C 2022. 260p. CBCL- AF. The linked stories center on Miami-based Jamaican family struggling to carve out a place for themselves in a society that refuses to make room. Pulsing with vibrant lyricism and inimitable style, sly commentary and contagious laughter, If I survive you, unravels what it means to be in between homes and cultures in a world at the mercy of capitalism and whiteness.

January 7 Piano Tide. Kathleen Dean Moore. C 2017. 288p. CBCL AF. The town father, Axel Hagerman, has made a killing in this remote Alaskan village by selling off the trees and fish. When he decides to export water from the salmon stream, he runs into Nora Montgomery, who has just arrived on the ferry with her piano and her dog. When Axel's next business proposition turns lethal, Nora has to act. The clash, when it comes, is a spectacular and transformative act of resistance.

February 4

We Could Have Been Friends, My Father and I: A Palestinian Memoir. Raja Shehadeh. 2022 C. 150p. CBCL-921 The Palestinian lawyer and human rights activist revisits his strained relationship with his father, Aziz, a lawyer displaced from Jaffa by the Israelis in 1948. Aziz solutions put him at odds with both Arabs and Israelis leading to his assassination in 1985. Raja's reading of his father's papers surprises him and saddens him in the similarities to his own work.

March 4 Somewhere Inside: One Sister's Captivity in North Korea and the Other's Fight to Bring Her Home. Laura Ling and Lisa Ling. C 2010. CBCL (available on Kindle) . Journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee were working on a documentary on defectors from North Korea when they were captured and held in North Korea. Sister, Lisa Ling, worked to bring them home using her connections in the media and the highest levels of the US government. In the book the two sisters alternate in telling their stories of what was happening.

April 1

A Stone is Most Precious Where It Belongs: A Memoir of Uyghur Exile, Hope, and Survival. Gulcherhra Hoja. C 2023. 301p CBCL 921 Hoja. Gulcherhra's memoir describes the everyday life in this northwest area of China under the Chinese rule. Gulcherhra grew up with a strong family background in the culture and history of the Uyghur people. Her talents, strengths, determination and fame brought both honor and heartbreak to her and her family.

May 6

Lady Tan's Circle of Women. Lisa See. C 2023. 339p. CBCL - AF The story began in 1469 when Tan Yunxian begins to learn the traditions of Chinese medicine from her grandmother. She is sent into an arranged marriage where her mother-in-law forbids her from seeing her childhood friend, Meiling, and from practicing medicine for the women and girls in the new household. Tan Unxian goes against tradition as a woman helping women.

June 3 Covenant of Water . Abraham Verghese. C 2023. 700+p. CBCL - AF The novel tells the story of an Indian Malayali family living in southwest India, in the Kerala state, with the narrative spanning three generations, from 1900 to the 1970's. (Wikipedia)