

2025-2026 Global Book Group Reading List

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September. Lady Tan's Circle of Women. Lisa See. C 2023, CBCL - AF, 339p. The story begins 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. Discussion led by Carol Kamke.

October. Turning to Stone: Discovering the Subtle Wisdom of Rocks. Marcia Bjornerud. 2024 C. CBCL____. 297p. Yes, this book is about geology, but it is also spiritual, philosophical, pedagogical, a memoir, and a good read about rocks as a living, dynamic force just as is human development. It is organized by types of rock that parallel the author's life. Discussion led by Sharon Rosenkoetter.

November. The Caliph's House. Tahir Shah. 2006C. CBCL 921Shah. 349p. The author decides to move his family to Morocco. He purchases a house formerly owned by a caliph and proceeds to remodel it in spite of the local customs and spirits. Discussion led by Mary Ann Matzke.

December. The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who changed the course of History from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement. Sharon McMahon. 2024C. CBCL, 281p. This is an introduction to twelve improbable American champions who made it great. Discussion led by Renate Schuller.

January. Talk to Me: Lessons from a Family Forged in History. Rich Benjamin. 2025C. CBCL929.37471, 287p. Two weeks before his grandfather's inauguration as president of Haiti, the family was smuggled out of that country to the USA. Grandson Benjamin pieces together the turmoil that affects the family, the human cost of hostilities abroad, the experience of migrants and the ties of family through generations. Discussion led by Ardis Koester.

February. The Paris Express. Emma Donoghue. 2025C. This historical thriller centers on a real French railway disaster of 1895. It is based on a photograph of the disaster. Discussion centers on the effect of trains as a new invention and the cost of technology on our lives. There are several changes in life as a result of the disaster such as centralized time zones and the need for speed. Discussion led by Carol Kamke.

March. In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream. Eric Dregni. C2008. CBCL 914.81045. 189p. This cross-cultural memoir is one family's year-long Norwegian excursion into Scandinavian life where the land of the midnight sun is far stranger than they previously thought. Their encounters show there is much we can learn from other cultures. Discussion led by Isabel Prusinski.

April. Mad Honey. Jodi Picoult. 2022C. CBCL-AF. 432p. This is described as a novel about what we choose to keep from our past and what we choose to leave behind. It has suspense, a love story and an explosion of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves. Discussion led by Mary Ann Matzke.

May. A Long Petal of the Sea. Isabel Allende. 2020 C. CBCL AF. 313p. Set in the late 1930's, Franco has overthrown the Spanish government and thousands flee, including Roser, a pregnant widow and the brother of her deceased love. They embark on a ship to Chile and start over in a new continent. This is described as a work of historical fiction about hope, exile and belonging. Discussion led by Renate Schuller.

June. Circling the Sun. Paula McLain. 2015C. CBCL-AF 359 P. Beryl comes to Kenya from England then her mother leaves and she is raised by her father and the native Kipsigis tribe. She loves all things wild and forges her own life and style. Her adventures are of a woman ahead of her time as a horse trainer and pilot. Discussion led by Isabel Prusinski.