

WOMEN READ Book Selections 2017-2018

September 20

The Late Homecomer by Kao Kalia Yang (277 pg)

A Hmong family escapes from Laos to America in the 1980s. Through the eyes of the grandmother, the reader learns about Hmong culture and traditions and how generations of one family struggle to adapt and grow in a new culture.

October 18

The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks (302 pg)

A rich and utterly absorbing novel about the life of King David, one of literature's richest and most enigmatic figures, a man who shimmers between history and legend. Tracing the arc of his story from obscurity to fame, shepherd to soldier, hero to traitor, beloved king to murderous despot, and finally into his remorseful and diminished dotage, Brooks provides new context for some of the best-known episodes of David's life while also focusing on others, even more remarkable and emotionally intense, that have been neglected.

November 15

A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan (340 pg)

An aging former punk rocker/record executive and a troubled young woman confront their pasts in this powerful story about how rebellion ages, influence corrupts, habits turn to addictions, and lifelong friendships fluctuate and turn, and how art and music have the power to redeem.

December: No meeting

January 17

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult (470 pg)

A woman and her husband, white supremacists, are admitted to a hospital to have a baby but request that their nurse be reassigned from Ruth, who is black. The hospital complies, but the baby later goes into cardiac distress when Ruth is on duty. She hesitates before rushing in to perform CPR. When her indecision ends in tragedy, Ruth finds herself on trial, represented by a white public defender who warns against bringing race into a courtroom. As the two come to develop a truer understanding of each other's lives, they begin to doubt the beliefs they each hold most dear.

February 21

Becoming George Washington by Steven Yoch (378 pg)

Long before Washington was the old man on the dollar bill, he was a fatherless boy with few resources and even less education. So how did he become the most famous person in American history? *Becoming George Washington* tells the story of a young man with boundless energy, bravery, and passion who grew into a self-confident leader. At the same time, he struggled to suppress both an awful temper and his love for a married woman, Sally Fairfax. A courageous war hero, Washington rose to the pinnacle

of Virginia politics. His experiences as a young man allowed him, decades later, to lead the American Revolution. This compelling historical novel reveals the person behind the famous face and how he became America's leading Founding Father.

March 21

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi (228 pg)

When a young neurosurgeon is faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis, the future he and his wife envisioned evaporates. In this memoir, he attempts to answer the question "What makes a life worth living?" as he transforms from a naïve medical student to a cancer patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

April 18

The Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison (581 pg)

An African-American man's search for success and the American dream leads him out of college to Harlem and a growing sense of personal rejection and social invisibility. This nightmare journey across the racial divide tells unparalleled truths about the nature of bigotry and its effects on the mind.

May 16

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce (343 pg)

Harold Fry is convinced that he must journey across England to deliver a letter to an old love to save her. He meets various characters along the way and reminisces about the events of his past and people he has known, as he tries to find peace and acceptance.