

WOMEN READ - - - 2015-2016

September

Molokai by Alan Brennert

In 1890s Honolulu, young Rachel contracts leprosy and is removed from her home and forced to live in a settlement. She loses many friends until medical discoveries allow her to re-enter the world. A remarkable tale of the resilience of the human spirit, this historical novel explores a little-known era with warmth, humor, and compassion.

October

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

In the 1930s, Scout is a child in a sleepy southern town, concerned with playing ball with her brother and being scared by a spooky reclusive neighbor. Her world changes when her lawyer father defends a black man accused of raping a white woman. The prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy of the townspeople contrast with the compassion, gentleness, and justice her father teaches her.

November

Gilead by Marilyn Robinson

An intimate tale of three generations from the Civil War to the 20th century. The sacred bond between fathers and sons is challenged by the tension and spiritual battles that rage in the story of America. History lives through generations even when betrayed and forgotten.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

January

Fly While You Still Have Wings by Joyce Rupp
(not available at Ramsey County library)

In this heartfelt memoir after her mother's death, the author shares intimate details of their relationship, the

lessons her mother taught, and her own failure to listen and understand. The story evolves in stages to show the mother's resilience and the universal spirit of hope, reconciliation, and peace.

February

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving
(limited availability at Ramsey County library)

Eleven-year-old Owen Meany is playing baseball with his best friend in the summer of 1953. He hits a foul ball that kills his friend's mother. Owen believes it was not an accident but that he is God's instrument. The story of the extraordinary and terrifying events that follow is heartbreaking.

March

Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters by N. T. Wright
(not available at Ramsey County library)

Leading Bible scholar N. T. Wright summarizes modern Biblical scholarship and demonstrates how Christians can continue to tell the story. Wright offers provocative ideas for understanding who Jesus was and breaks down the barriers that prevent Christians from sharing His story.

April

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
(Ramsey County library book club in a bag)

Janie Crawford is a fair-skinned black woman whose sense of self and resilience evolves through three difficult marriages and a life of poverty, racism, discrimination, and loss. Hurston uses wit and pathos to present this soulful story of love, cruelty, and sympathy.

May

The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman

A young childless couple tends the lighthouse on a remote island in post-war Australia. Suddenly a baby washes ashore in a boat that also contains a dead man. Is this a gift from God? Or are they blind to the morality of the choice they make?

(also celebrate the year, collect children/young adult books for Solid Ground, and discuss suggestions for next year)