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Books for Adult Book Clubs

The Hibbing Public Library has multiple copies of titles that may be borrowed by local book clubs for 28 days. The books are part of the reading materials selected by the Great Books Foundation.

1984 by George Orwell

Written in 1948, 1984 was George Orwell's chilling prophecy about the future. 1984 presents a "negative utopia," that is at once a startling and haunting vision of the world--so powerful that it is completely convincing from start to finish.

The Accidental Tourist

Macon, a travel writer who hates to travel is the focus as he journeys from lonely self-absorption to an ``accidental" new life with brassy Muriel, a dog trainer from the Meow Bow Animal Hospital.

Age of Iron by J.M. Coetzee

In Cape Town, South Africa, Mrs. Curran recounts the strange events of her dying days. She witnesses the burning of a black township, discovers the body of her servant's son, and a black activist hiding in her house is killed. Through it all, her only companion, the only person she can confess her angers and despair is a homeless alcoholic who appears on her doorstep.

All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren

Set in the '30's and traces the rise and fall of demagogue Willie Stark, a fictional character who resembles the real-life Huey "Kingfish" long of Louisiana. Stark begins his political career as an idealistic man of the people but soon becomes corrupted by success and caught between dreams of service and an insatiable lust for power.

American Prometheus and The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer by KaiBird & Martin Sherwin

J. Robert Oppenheimer is one of the iconic figures of the 20th century, a brilliant physicist who led the effort to build the atomic bomb for his country in a time of war, and who later found himself confronting the moral consequences of scientific progress.

Bang the Drum Slowly by Mark Harris

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Henry Wiggen, the best-known fictional baseball player in America, is back. More than a novel about baseball, it is about the friendship and the lives of a group of men as they each learn that teammate is dying of cancer.

Animal, vegetable, miracle : a year of food life

When Kingsolver and her family move from suburban Arizona to rural Appalachia, they take on a new challenge: to spend a year on a locally produced diet, paying close attention to the provenance of all they consume. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* follows the family through the first year of their experiment.

Bastard out of Carolina by Dorothy Allison

Greenville County, South Carolina, is home of the Boatwright family - rough-hewn men who drink hard and shoot up each other's trucks, and indomitable women who marry young and age all to quickly. At the heart of this novel is Ruth Anne Boatwright, Bone, a South Carolina bastard who observes everything with the mercilessly keen eye of a child.

Billiards at Half-Past Nine by Heinrich Boll

After commanding retreating German forces during WW II Faehmel struggles to re-establish a normal life at war's end. His strict routine includes a daily game of billiards until an old friend forces him to confront both public and private memories.

The Caine Mutiny by Herman Wouk

Herman Wouk's boldly dramatic, brilliantly entertaining novel of life-and mutiny-on a Navy warship in the Pacific theater was immediately embraced as one of the first serious works of American fiction to grapple with the moral complexities and human consequences of World War II.

Confederates in the Attic

A travelogue across ten states, from Gettysburg to Vicksburg, including Charleston, Tony Horwitz humorously show us how the Civil War still influences today's South.

Coup de Grace by Marguerite Yourcenar

Set in the Baltic provinces in the aftermath of World War I, *Coup de Grace* tells the story of an intimacy that grows between three young people hemmed in by civil war: Erick, a Prussian fighting with the White Russians against the Bolsheviks; Conrad, his best friend from childhood; and Sophie, whose unrequited love for Erick becomes an unbearable burden.

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Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather

In 1851 Father Jean Marie Latour comes as the Apostolic Vicar to New Mexico. What he finds is a vast territory of red hills and tortuous arroyos, American by law but Mexican and Indian in custom and belief. In the years that follow, Latour spreads his faith gently, although he must contend with an unforgiving landscape, derelict and sometimes openly rebellious priests, and his own loneliness. *Death Comes for the Archbishop* is an indelible vision of life unfolding in a place where time itself seems suspended.

A Distant Mirror by Barbara W Tuchman

Tuchman's story of the 14th century reveals to us both the great rhythms of history and grain and texture of domestic life as it was lived: what childhood was like; what marriage meant; how money, taxes, and war dominated the lives of serf, noble, and clergy alike.

Emma by Jan Austen

A 18th century English novel depicting the life of a country village. As seen by Emma Woodhouse, whose attempts to play matchmaker backfires.

From Here to Eternity by James Jones

In this magnificent but brutal classic of a soldier's life, James Jones portrays the courage, violence, and passions of men and women who live by unspoken codes and with unutterable despair... in the most important American novel to come out of World War II, a masterpiece that captures as no other the honor and savagery of man.

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck

This moving, classic story of the honest farmer Wang Lung and his selfless wife O-lan is must reading for those who would fully appreciate the sweeping changes that occurred in the lives of the Chinese people during the twentieth century. Pearl S. Buck traces the whole cycle of life; its terrors, its passions, its ambitions and rewards. Her brilliant novel is a universal tale of the destiny of man.

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

This Pulitzer Prize winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930's and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads-driven from their homestead by the "land companies" and forced to travel west to the promised land of

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California. A portrait of conflict between the powerful and the powerless, the novel captures the horrors of the Depression and probes the very nature of equality in America.

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

Features the phantom dog of Dartmoor, which, according to legend, has haunted the Baskervilles for generations. When Sir Charles Baskerville dies suddenly of a heart attack on the grounds of the family estate, the locals are convinced the spectral hound is responsible, and Holmes is called in.

I, Claudius by Robert Graves

An historical fiction account of the life of Tiberius Claudius Drusus Nero Germanicus a Roman Emperor who had been dismissed as a weakling and an idiot due to his physical infirmities.

An Imaginary Life by David Malouf

A book of Nature vs. Civilization set in the first century A.D. Publius Ovidius Naso, a poet, and better known as Ovid, becomes the guardian of a fetal child who has grown up among deer.

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

The story of an African American in the 1950's who travels across America. The book explores the nature of bigotry and its effects on the minds of both victims and perpetrators.

Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid

Bill Bryson re-creates the life of his family and his home in Des Moines, Iowa in the 1950s.

Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov

Nabokov's most famous and controversial novel. Written in first person *Lolita*, tells of Humbert's obsession with his step daughter and nymphet Dolores Haze.

Main Street by Sinclair Lewis

The novel centers on an idealist young woman who marries a country doctor and settles in Gopher Prairie, Minnesota. Caught between her desires for social reform and individual happiness, Carol Kennicott reflects a whole country hesitating between a new sophistication and its traditional insularity.

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Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov

Translated by Diana Burgin and Katherine Tierman O'Conner. A classic modern Russian literature which depicts Soviet life in the 1930's. One hot spring, the devil and his retinue arrives in Moscow to wreak havoc in a city that believes in neither God or Satan.

Middlemarch by George Eliot

Setting her story in England in the provincial town of Middlemarch in 1830, Eliot creates a town that is rich in character and provides a sense of how an individuals destinies are shaped by and shape the community.

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt

At once a true-crime murder story and a hugely entertaining and deliciously perverse travelogue with the eccentric and utterly irresistible residents of Savannah, Georgia.

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

A comedy about contrasting two pairs of lovers in a witty and suspenseful battle of the sexes. Beatrice and Benedick are deadlocked in a lovely war of words until their friends hatch a plot to unite them. While Hero and Claudio fall victim to a malicious plot to part them. Near fatal complications ensue, but in the end the lovers are ultimately united.

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Translated by Gregory Rabassa. The rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Mocondo through the history of Buendia family.

Paradise of the Blind by Duong Thu Huong

Three Vietnamese women struggle to survive in a society where subservience to men is expected and Communist corruption crushes every dream.

Passage to India by E.M. Forster

Passage to India evokes India at the peak of British colonial era, complete with racial tension that underscores every aspect of daily life. Into this setting Forster introduces two very British visitors who are eager for a more savory taste of India.

Persuasion by Jane Austen

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A delightful social satire of England's landed gentry and a moving tale of lovers separated by class distinctions.

Philadelphia Fire by John Edgar Wideman

Based on the 1985 bombing by police of a West Philadelphia row house owned by the Areocentric cult Move, this book tells of Cudjoe, a writer who returns to his old neighborhood after a decade of self-imposed exile, obsessed with finding the lone boy who was seen running from the flames.

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Slaughterhouse-Five is one of the world's great anti-war books. Centering on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know.

Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson

San Pedro Island, north of Puget Sound, is a place so isolated that no one who lives there can afford to make enemies. But in 1954 a local fisherman is found suspiciously drowned, and a Japanese American named Kabuo Miyamoto is charged with murder. Gripping, tragic, and densely atmospheric, *Snow Falling on Cedars* is a masterpiece of suspense - but one that leaves us shaken and changed.

So Big by Edna Ferber

This novel follows the travails of a gamblers daughter as she struggles to maintain her dignity, her family and her sanity in the face of monumental challenges.

Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison

In an effort to hide his Southern, working class roots, Macon Dead, a black businessman, tries to insulate his family from the danger and despair of the rank and file blacks with whom he shares the neighborhood. The plan leads his son, onto a path exactly opposite the one his father had hoped.

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

A simple story of a "strong man" whose life is dominated by fear and anger.

The things they carried : a work of fiction / by Tim O'Brien

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This depicts the men of Alpha Company. They battle the enemy (or maybe more the idea of the enemy), and occasionally each other. In their relationships we see their isolation and loneliness, their rage and fear. They miss their families, their girlfriends and buddies; they miss the lives they left back home. Yet they find sympathy and kindness for strangers (the old man who leads them unscathed through the mine field, the girl who grieves while she dances), and love for each other, because in Vietnam they are the only family they have.

To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf

Written in a stream-of-consciousness style that forces the reader to examine and experience the complexities of individual perceptions. The narrative drifts from point of view to point of view in an apparently random succession of associations as it tells the story of the Ramsey family.

Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte provides the initial inspiration for this book of Mr. Rochester's mad wife, Antoinette Cosway. The novel is divided into three parts. The first is told from the heroine's point of view. The second is told by Mr. Rochester as he tells of his arrival in the West Indies, and his marriage to Antoinette. The third part is narrated by Antoinette from her prison/room in Rochester mansion in England.

Great Books Foundation's 50th Anniversary Series

The Great Books Foundation's 50th Anniversary Series, inaugurated the next half-century of thoughtful discussion about outstanding works for literature with a series of 9 books. Each volume consists of short works by classic and modern authors from around the world, and includes prose, poetry, and discussion questions for each selection.

Clashes of Culture

Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight / Clifford Geertz, The Two Shores / Carlos Fuentes, The Souls of Black Folk / W.E.B. Du Bois, The Anheap / Doris Lessing, A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms / Jonathan Swift, poetry by Derek Walcott

The Evil and the Guilty

After the ball / Leo Tolstoy, On evil, guilt, and power / Friedrich Nietzsche, Moosbrugger / Robert Musil, The sorcerer's apprentice / Charles Johnson, Stavrogin's confession / Fyodor Dostoevsky, Poetry / Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Questions for Coup de grâce / Marguerite Yourcenar, Questions for Philadelphia fire / John Edgar Wideman

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Happiness and Discontent

The highest good / Aristotle, A river sutra (selection) / Gita Mehta, The three lives of Lucie Cabrol / John Berger, Happiness / Mary Lavin, Endless mountains / Reynolds Price, As you like it / William Shakespeare, Poetry / Emily Dickenson, Questions for Middlemarch / George Eliot, Questions for An imaginary life / David Malouf.

Identity and Self Respect

The fire next time / James Baldwin, The apology / Plato, A real life / Alice Munro, A room of one's own / Virginia Woolf, A dull story / Anton Chekhov, Poetry / T.S. Eliot, Questions for Emma / Jane Austen, Questions for Invisible man / Ralph Ellison

Living with the past

Overture / Marcel Proust, The Rat Man / Sigmund Freud, The Island / Gustaw Herling, Momik / David Grossman, An American Childhood / Annie Dillard, poetry by William Wordsworth, Adrienne Rich, and Robert Lowell

Love and Marriage

The Spinoza of Market Street / Isaac Bashevis Singer, Either/Or / Soren Kierkegaard, Emoke / Josef Skvorecky, Tom-Tit-Tot and Caporushes Two English folktales as told by Flora Annie Steel, Patriotism / Yukio Mishima, Symposium / Plato, Poetry by William Shakespeare, Sylvia Plath, Gregory Corso, and Gwendolyn Brooks

Nature of Life

How did life begin? How is it changing? How do we understand our place in the world in relation to other living beings? *The Nature of Life: Readings in Biology* encourages inquiry-based discussion of scientific writings that attempt to answer universal questions about the nature of life. The anthology includes 19 original writings by major scientists, from Aristotle to Stephen Jay Gould, and questions designed to spark lively shared inquiry discussion. *The Nature of Life: Readings in Biology* is ideal for students and adult readers interested in developing a deeper understanding of the life sciences and their connection to ideas that span antiquity to modern times.

Order and chaos

The overcoat / Nikolai Gogol, Bhagavad-Gita : selection, Troth / Gregor von Rezzori, The Bacchae / Euripides, Everything that rises must converge / Flannery O'Connor, Poetry : William



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Butler Yeats, Wallace Stevens, Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, Questions for The master and Margarita / Mickhail Bulgakov, Questions for Things fall apart / Chinua Achebe

Parent and Child

Continuing Silence of a Poet / A.B. Yehoshua, Gwen and Somewhere, Belgium / Jamaica Kincaid, Iphigeneia at Aulis / Euripides, Barn Burning / William Faulkner, New African / Andrea Lee, Letter to His Father and The Judgment / Franz Kafka, Poetry / William Butler Yeats, Poetry / Derek Walcott, Poetry / Randall Jarrell, Poetry / Sharon Olds, Questions for Persuasion / Jane Austen, Questions for Billiards at Half-Past Nine / Heinrich Boll.