



Centennial Reading List Recommended by the FWC Book Sections

The FWC Book Sections are pleased to suggest this reading list that includes books popular over the past 100 years. These books, all by women authors, start in the 1920s, when FWC began, and continue to the present. We invite you to enjoy one, several, or all the titles listed here.

1920s

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd - Agatha Christie
One of Ours - Willa Cather (recommended by Contemporaries Meet Classics)

1930s

The Good Earth - Pearl S. Buck
Their Eyes Were Watching God - Zora Neale Hurston

1940s

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter - Carson McCullers
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn - Betty Smith

1950s

Eloise in Paris - Kay Thompson
Peyton Place - Grace Metalious
Wise Blood - Flannery O'Connor

1960s

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath
The Golden Notebook - Doris Lessing
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou
To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee

1970s

The Bluest Eye - Toni Morrison
Song of Solomon - Toni Morrison
The Woman Warrior - Maxine Hong Kingston

1980s

The Color Purple - Alice Walker
Housekeeping - Marilynne Robinson
The Joy Luck Club - Amy Tan



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1990s

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents - Julia Alvarez
The Orchid Thief - Susan Orlean (recommended by Afternoon Readers)
The Poisonwood Bible - Barbara Kingsolver
The Shipping News - Annie Proulx
A Superior Death - Nevada Barr (recommended by Mystery Books)
A Thousand Acres - Jane Smiley
Waiting to Exhale - Terry McMillan
Winter Study - Nevada Barr (recommended by Mystery Books)

2000s

Bel Canto - Ann Patchett
The Year of Magical Thinking - Joan Didion

2010s to the present

An American Marriage - Tayari Jones
Braiding Sweetgrass - Robin Wall Kimmerer (recommended by Newcomers+ Book Group)
Circe - Madeline Miller (recommended by Monday Afternoon Book Review)
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks - Rebecca Skloot
The Warmth of Other Suns - Isabel Wilkerson (recommended by Evening Enrichment)
The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote - Elaine Weiss

Note: this non-fiction book, published in 2018, details the 1920s fight to pass the 19th amendment with the ratification in Tennessee, bringing our recommendations full circle to the decade of FWC's founding.