

“Good Reads”

Lambda State Book List

All book titles are shared by Lambda State members and compiled by the Literacy Committee.

This list does not reflect the personal recommendations of the Literacy Committee.

Book Title	Author	Brief Synopsis/Comments
<i>A Lantern in Her Hand</i>	Bess Streeter Aldrich	Life on the prairie.
<i>A Secret Kept</i>	Tatiana De Rosnay	
<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	Betty Smith	
<i>Angela's Ashes</i>	Frank McCort	Gives you an appreciation of the plight of the desperately poor.
<i>Ape House</i>	Sara Gruen	
<i>Becoming Queen Victoria</i>	Kate Williams	A look at the endless intrigue that brought young Victoria to the throne of England, beginning before she was born.
<i>Bitsy's Bait & BBQ</i>	Pamela Morsi	Emma Collins cannot believe her sister Katy had used her divorce settlement money to buy a Bed and Breakfast on a lake in rural Missouri. She is even more horrified to find upon their arrival that B&B stands for Bait & BBQ. The fun predictable read continues with money problems and Katy's ex-husband appearing on the scene.
<i>Black Potatoes</i>	Susan Campbell Bartoletti	The Irish famine (1845-1850)
<i>Boys Adrift</i> <i>Girls on the Edge</i> <i>Why Gender Matters</i>	Dr. Leonard Sax, M.D. PhD.	If I could afford it, I would give every teacher and parent this book. It should be required reading. It will definitely impact our teaching and our parenting.
<i>Charms for the Easy Life</i>	Kay Gibbons	A family of unique, headstrong women and their battle against misery that follows them despite a wise matriarch that holds it all together.
<i>Clara and Mr. Tiffany</i>	Susan Vreeland	A fictionalized account of Clara Driscoll, head of the women's division of the Tiffany Glass Studio in New York, who conceived and designed most of the Tiffany lamps, yet never received any public recognition for her work.
<i>Culture of Opportunity</i>	Rebecca Janowitz	An excellent portrait of Hyde Park – President Obama's Chicago neighborhood.
<i>Devil and the White City</i>	Lee Child	Spellbinding!! The true tale of the brilliant architect behind the 1873 Chicago World's Fair who tried to make a name for the city and the serial killer who used the fair to lure victims to their death; non-fiction, but reads like fiction.
<i>Dragon Bones</i>	Lisa See	
<i>Eat, Pray, Love</i>	Elizabeth Gilbert	A woman goes on a journey for one year to find herself.
<i>Eli</i>	Bill Myers	What if Jesus had not come until today? Who would follow him? Who would kill him? A fiery car crash hurls TV journalist Conrad Davis in another world just like ours, except for one detail – Jesus Christ did not come 2,000 years ago, but today. Starting with angels heralding a birth in the back of a motel laundry room, David watches the gospel unfold in today's society as a Messiah in t-shirt and blue jeans.
<i>Every Last One</i>	Anna Quindlan	Tragedy strikes a family – any more information gives it away.
<i>Fablehaven (Series)</i>	Brandon Mull	This 5-8 series is amazing. It is similar to Harry Potter in that it deals with children learning in a magical world, but it will appeal to all because of the spectacular writing! Very imaginative!
<i>Flight to Heaven: A Plane Crash...A Lone Survivor...A Journey to</i>	Capt. Dale Black	An accident victim in a coma really travels to heaven, and then returns to earth for a special reason.

<i>Heaven—and Back</i>		
<i>Flower Net</i>	Lisa See	
<i>Girl in Translation</i>	Jean Kwok	An eloquent story about a Chinese family and the problems they have when moving to America.
<i>Glass Castles</i>	Jeannette Walls	Story about the author's family and her life. Family owned property but chose to be homeless.
<i>Half Broke Horses</i>	Jeannette Walls	Biography of the author's grandmother. She leaves home at 15 to teach in a town 500 miles away.
<i>Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet</i>	Jamie Ford	During WWII many Japanese Americans were placed in internment camps. This is the story of a Korean boy and his schoolmate who were separated, but never forgot each other.
<i>House Rules</i>	Judy Picoult	A story of a family torn apart by an accusation of murder.
<i>Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins	A novel from the future; a reality show that means real life and death to the participants.
<i>Ladies of Liberty</i>	Cokie Roberts	Outstanding history lesson.
<i>Lincoln's Ladies: The Women in the Life of the Sixteenth President</i>	H. Donald Winkler	An easy-to-read reflection on the women in Abraham Lincoln's life – his mother, stepmother, sister, Ann Rutledge, and of course Mary Todd – and how they influenced the man and President he became.
<i>Little Bee: A Novel</i>	Chris Cleave	Two strangers, a British woman and a Nigerian girl, meet on a lonely African beach and become inextricably bound through the horror imprinted on their encounter.
<i>Loving Frank</i>	Nancy Horan	Fact and fiction blend in a historical novel that chronicles the relationship between seminal architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney.
<i>Mansfield Park</i>	Jane Austen	Classic Austen heroine maintaining her values while falling in love.
<i>Mere Christianity</i>	C. S. Lewis	Basic reasons for Christianity (old but good).
<i>Midnight Angels</i>	Lorenzo Carcaterra	Art theft mystery and adventure in Florence, Italy. Great read!
<i>Mitford Series</i>	Jan Karon	Delightful stories of an Episcopal priest and his congregation. You'll laugh and you'll cry.
<i>Modoc: The True Story of the Greatest Elephant That Ever Lived</i>	Ralph Helfer	
<i>Old Man Deceived</i>	Martha Grimes	Excellent character descriptions. She's been called the new A. Christie or Dorothy Sayers. Her first 10 novels are also "good reads." Great mysteries.
<i>Olive Kitteridge</i>	Elizabeth Strout	
<i>One Amazing Thing</i>	Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni	Nine people in the passport office in the basement of the Indian Consulate in San Francisco are yoked together by fate when an earthquake hits.
<i>One Thousand White Women</i>	Jim Fergus	In order to civilize the Native Americans of the 1800's, the government asked for 1,000 white women volunteers to travel west to marry the natives. Many were released from mental institutions, and other dead end situations for a chance at a new life. A good novel for Historical Fiction fans.
<i>Out to Pasture</i>	Effie Leland Wilder	Lots of laughs for senior citizens.
<i>Percy Jackson (Series)</i>	Rick Riordan	I love this series because the main character is a hero, but has ADD and dyslexia.
<i>Rainwater</i>	Sandra Brown	(Nothing like her other books!) A woman struggles to raise her handicapped child, and a new boarder helps her. A wonderful book!
<i>Reckoning at Eagle Creek</i>	Jeff Biggers	Historical perspective of coal mining in Illinois communities.
<i>Return to Sawyertown Springs</i>	A. Andrews	Small town happenings; life choices
<i>Sarah's Key</i>	Tatiana De Rosnay	In 1942, in Paris, a 10-year old girl locked her brother in a cupboard

		to save him from the police in a wartime roundup. She is taken away with the rest of her family and fights to get back to release him.
<i>Saving CeeCee Honeycutt</i>	Beth Hoffman	How CeeCee deals with a bipolar mother, a father who travels, and living with her great aunt.
<i>Skulduggery Pleasant</i>	Derek Landy	Great young adult series. The author is a black belt and writes great fight scenes. A skeleton image vanquishes evil with the help of a teen girl.
<i>Snow Flower and the Secret Fan</i>	Lisa See	
<i>South of Broad</i>	Pat Conroy	Set in South Carolina during 1970s – deals with family conflicts in several parallel stories.
<i>Stephanie Plum Series</i>	Janet Evanovich	It will give you a few laughs.
<i>Stones Into Schools</i>	Greg Mortenson	Sequel to “Three Cups of Tea”; wonderful non-fiction.
<i>Team of Rivals</i>	Doris K. Goodwin	Analysis of Abraham Lincoln’s political career
<i>Text Me If You’re Breathing</i>	Greg Schwem	Technically challenged Dad accounts his mishaps and struggles with parenting in today’s digital world.
<i>The Advocate</i>	John Grisham	
<i>The Alexandria Link</i>	Steve Berry	Involved mystery.
<i>The Apothecary’s Daughter</i>	Julie Klassen	
<i>The Book Thief</i>	Markus Zusak	
<i>The Bridge of Peach (Ada’s House Series #2)</i>	Cindy Woodsmall	An Amish novel
<i>The Captive Queen</i>	Alison Weir	Story of Henry II and Eleanor
<i>The Centurion’s Wife</i>	David Bunn & Janette Oke	The Centurion and his wife to be search for answers after the crucifixion. What happened to Christ’s body?
<i>The Choice (#1) and The Waiting (#2)</i>	Suzanne Words Fisher	Amish novels
<i>The Girl Who Played with Fire</i>	Stieg Larsson	The continuing story of the 24-year old tattooed genius hacker from <i>The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo</i> .
<i>The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo</i>	Stieg Larsson	Here’s a great mystery. A shamed journalist and a 24-year old tattooed genius hacker join forces to solve a 40-year old disappearance case.
<i>The Gospel of Joy</i>	Amanda Gore	The book has 12 chapters that are a marvelous source of questions and activities. It includes chapters on Gratitude, Grace/Compassion, Hope, Forgiveness, etc.
<i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i>	Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows	Tales from the English island during WWII.
<i>The Help</i>	Kathryn Stockett	Historical fiction of the treatment of African American maids in the 1960s. A journalist interviews the “help” in the South during the Civil Rights movement.
<i>The Host</i>	Stephanie Meyer	Alien adventure
<i>The Interior</i>	Lisa See	
<i>The Kitchen House</i>	Kathleen Grissom	A young orphaned girl from Ireland lives and works with slaves on a southern plantation.
<i>The Lacuna</i>	Barbara Kingsolver	
<i>The Longest Trip Home</i>	John Grogan (author of Marley and Me)	This autobiographical story of John’s life, growing up in the 60’s, getting into trouble at his Catholic School, was a mixture of laughter and tears for me. Strict Catholic parents, who expected their children to follow in their footsteps, raised John, his sister, and brothers. John’s love for his parents is shown through many stories he tells about life when them. Despite their obvious philosophical

		differences, this book shows that the love of a family triumphs in the end.
<i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i>	Kate DiCamillo	It will give you a few tears. It is the sweet story with great lessons, a Youth book.
<i>The Postmistress</i>	Sarah Blake	The Postmistress is a sweeping novel about the loss of innocence of two extraordinary women, and of two countries torn apart by war.
<i>The Princess Trilogies</i>	Jean Sasson	
<i>The Shack</i>	Wm. Paul Young	Man coping with child's death.
<i>The Shadow of Your Smile</i>	Mary Higgins Clark	A thriller about a family secret that threatens lives.
<i>The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music</i>	Steve Lopez	A street musician's story.
<i>The Supreme Court</i>	C-Span	Interviews of the Justices, reporters who cover the court, Court Historian, and others.
<i>The Thirteenth Tale</i>	Diane Setterfield	This story involves the past and the present, as the narrator explores the life of an eccentric author, and learns secrets about herself.
<i>The Zookeeper's Wife</i>	Diane Ackerman	A diary tells the story of life in Poland during WWII by a family who lived through it.
<i>These Is My Words: The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine, 1881-1901 Arizona Territories</i>	Turner, Nancy	Historical Fiction lovers – a great read for you!! The setting is Arizona Territory in the late 1800's. The story is full of authentic details of daily life; this novel grabs you from cover to cover.
<i>Three Cups of Tea</i>	Greg Mortenson	Outstanding non-fiction.
<i>Unbroken</i>	Laura Hillenbrand	WWII pilot's history
<i>Under the Banner of Heaven</i>	Jon Krakauer	
<i>Water for Elephants</i>	Sara Gruen	
<i>When Crickets Cry</i>	Charles Martin	A doctor loses faith in his ability – memories of his wife's death haunt him. A very readable book in the style of Nicholas Sparks.
<i>Winter Garden</i>	Kristin Hannah	A modern family with Russian history in it.
<i>Winter Solstice</i>	Rosamunde Pilcher	Light reading.