

## Great Books at Colby Readings 1957 – 2025

### 1957: Great Issues in Faith

*A Free Man's Worship*, Bertrand Russell  
*Pensées*, Blaise Pascal  
*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, David Hume  
*Fear and Trembling*, Soren Kierkegaard  
*I and Thou*, Martin Buber  
*Gospel according to Matthew*, Bible

### 1958: Modern Man & His Religion

*Ash Wednesday*, T.S. Eliot  
*Modern Man in Search of a Soul*, Carl Jung  
*The Flies*, Jean Paul Sartre  
*Between Man and Man*, Martin Buber  
*Siddhartha*, Herman Hesse  
*The Religious Situation*, Paul Tillich

### 1959: Contemporary Literature & Essays

*Night*, Robinson Jeffers  
*Do Not Go Gently into that Good Night*, Dylan Thomas  
*Magic, Science and Religion*, Bronislaw Malinowski  
*What is Life?* Erwin Schrodinger  
*The Bear*, William Faulkner  
*Language and Myth*, Ernst Cassirer

### 1960: The State

*The Republic*, Plato

### 1961: War and Peace

*Community of Fear*, various authors  
*A World without War*, various authors  
*The Iliad*, Homer  
*City of God* (Part V), Augustine of Hippo  
*Perpetual Peace*, Immanuel Kant  
*Civilization and Its Discontents*, Sigmund Freud

### 1962: Insights into Man

*Essay on Man*, Ernst Cassirer  
*Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer  
*The Tragedy of Dr Faustus*, Christopher Marlowe  
*Notes From the Underground*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*Physics*, Aristotle

**1963: The Cardinal Virtues**

*Protagoras*, Plato

*Inferno*, Dante Alighieri

*Don Quixote*, Miguel de Cervantes

*The Autobiography*, Benjamin Franklin

**1964: Ethics**

*The Red and the Black*, Stendhal

*An Enemy of the People*, Henrik Ibsen

*Foundation of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Immanuel Kant

*Beyond Good and Evil*, Friedrich Nietzsche

*Deuteronomy*, Bible

**1965: Eastern Religions**

*Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*, Alan Watts

*The Way of Life*, Lao Tzu

*The Upanishads*, anonymous

*The Sayings*, Confucius

*The Teachings of the Compassionate Buddha*, anonymous

*Mysticism East and West*, Rudolf Otto

**1966: Crime and Punishment**

*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Samuel Taylor Coleridge

*Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky

*Ghosts*, Henrik Ibsen

*The Trial*, Franz Kafka

**1967: Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics**

*Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle

**1968: The Outsider**

*Victory*, Joseph Conrad

*Steppenwolf*, Hermann Hesse

*The Beast in the Jungle*, Henry James

*Lafcadio's Adventures*, Andre Gide

*The Stranger*, Albert Camus

**1969: Perceiving the External World**

*Some Main Problems of Philosophy*, George Edward Moore  
*The Concept of Mind*, Gilbert Ryle  
*Sense and Sensibility*, John Langshaw Austin  
*The Foundations of Empirical Knowledge*, Alfred J. Ayer  
*Individuals*, Peter Frederick Strawson

**1970: Revolution**

*The Russian Revolution*, Leon Trotsky  
*Man's Fate*, Andre Malraux  
*The Rebel*, Albert Camus  
*The Wretched of the Earth*, Frantz Fanon  
*Marat/Sade*, Peter Weiss

**1971: Counter-Culture**

*Howl*, Allen Ginsberg  
*Revolution for the Hell of It*, Abbie Hoffman  
*The Electric Acid Kool-Aid Test*, Tom Wolfe  
*The Politics of Experience*, R.D. Laing  
*The Making of a Counter-Culture*, Theodore Roszak  
*A Study of History*, Arnold J. Toynbee

**1972: Man's Symbols**

*Mythical Thought*, Ernst Cassirer  
*Black Elk Speaks*, John G. Niehardt  
*Myths, Dreams and Mysteries*, Mircea Eliade  
*Theseus*, Andre Gide  
*Memories, Dreams and Reflections*, Carl Jung

**1973: The World of Art**

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, James Joyce  
*The World of Art*, Paul Weiss  
*Mythical Thought*, Ernst Cassirer  
*The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway  
*Peter Quince at the Clavier*, Wallace Stevens  
*Dear Theo*, Irving Stone

**1974: The World of Shakespeare**

*Henry V, As You Like It, Measure for Measure, Othello, King Lear, The Tempest*, William Shakespeare

**1975: In Search of Self**

*Phaedo*, Plato  
*Song of Myself*, Walt Whitman  
*Introduction to Psychoanalysis*, Sigmund Freud  
*Demian*, Hermann Hesse  
*Childhood and Society*, Eric Erickson

**1976: Ways of Life**

*Patterns of Culture*, Ruth Benedict  
*Communitas*, Paul & Percival Goodman  
*Walden II*, B. F Skinner  
*The Horse's Mouth*, Joyce Carey  
*The Phenomenon of Man*, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

**1977: Man's Quest**

*Between Man and Man*, Martin Buber  
*Man's Search for Meaning*, Victor Frankl  
*The Castle*, Franz Kafka  
*The Doll's House*, Henrik Ibsen  
*The Epic of Gilgamesh*, anonymous  
*Lapis Lazuli*, William Butler Yeats

**1978: The Limits of Reason**

*Mysteries*, Knut Hamsun  
*Reason and Existenz*, Karl Jaspers  
*The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge*, Rainer Maria Rilke  
*A Separate Reality*, Carlos Castaneda  
*Manual of Zen Buddhism*, Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki

**1979: Relationship: A Categorical Imperative**

*Nicomachean*  
*Ethics, Books VIII & IX*, Aristotle  
*No Exit*, Jean Paul Sartre  
*I and Thou*, Martin Buber  
*A Passage to India*, E. M. Forster  
*The Empty Fortress*, Bruno Bettelheim  
*Poems*, Emily Dickinson

**1980: Man and the Sea**

*Typhoon*, Joseph Conrad  
*The Sea Around Us*, Rachel Carson  
*Principles of Psychology*, William James  
*The Voyage of the Argo*, Apollonius of Rhodes  
*Riders to the Sea*, John Millington Synge  
*Dover Beach*, Matthew Arnold

**1981: Modern Visions**

*The Hidden Dimension*, Edward T. Hall  
*The Marriages Between Zones Three, Four, and Five*, Doris Lessing  
*The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, Erving Goffman  
*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, Edward Albee  
*The Meaning of Meaning*, C.K. Ogden & I.A. Richards  
*Poems*, e.e. Cummings

**1982: Communicating across Cultures**

*Communicating across Cultures for What?* Condo & Seito  
*The Grass Roof*, Younghill Kang  
*Tristes Tropiques*, Claude Levi-Strauss  
*One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
*Boesman and Lena*, Athol Fugard  
*The Farce of the Drunk Monk*, Mahendravarman, translated by P. Lal

**1983: Fact and Fancy**

*Dialogues (selections)*, Plato  
*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*, Immanuel Kant  
*The Faerie Queen Book I*, Edmund Spenser  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare  
*The Sybil*, Par Lagerkvist  
*Tree and Leaf*, J.R.R. Tolkien

**1984: Mann's Journey**

*The Tao of Physics*, Fritjof Capra  
*Irrational Man*, William Barrett  
*The Magic Mountain*, Thomas Mann

**1985: The Republic**

*The Republic*, Plato

**1986: The Mind's I**

*An Essay on Comedy*, George Meredith

*Laughter*, Henri Bergson

*The Misanthrope*, Moliere

*The Mind's Eye*, Douglas R. Hofstadter & Daniel C. Dennett

**1987: The Family**

*Culture and Society*, George Peter Murdock

*The House by the Medlar Tree*, Giovanni Verga

*The Politics of the Family*, R. D. Laing

*Howard's End*, E. M. Forster

*The Homecoming*, Harold Pinter

*Intimations of Immortality*, William Wordsworth

**1988: Reason, Love or Faith**

*The Symposium*, Plato

*The Dynamics of Faith*, Paul Tillich

*Physics and Philosophy*, Werner Heisenberg

*The Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky

**1989: Looking Ahead**

*Ecclesiastes*, Bible

*The Skin of Our Teeth*, Thornton Wilder

*The Aquarian Conspiracy*, Marilyn Ferguson

*Wholeness and the Implicate Order*, David Bohm

*The Universe is a Green Dragon*, Brian Swimme

*Fragments*, Heraclitus

**1990: Knowledge** *Theaetetus*,

Plato

*Faust, Part I*, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

*On the Interpretation of Dreams*, Sigmund Freud

*Four Quartets*, T.S. Eliot

*The Aims of Education*, Alfred North Whitehead

*Between Man and Man*, Martin Buber

**1991: Meeting One's Self**

*Remembrance of Things Past*, Marcel Proust  
*King Lear*, William Shakespeare  
*Meditations*, Marcus Aurelius  
*Fathers and Sons*, Ivan Turgenev  
*A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf

**1992: A Different Voice**

*The Treasure of the City of Ladies*, Christine de Pizan  
*Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Mary Wollstonecraft  
*To the Lighthouse*, Virginia Woolf  
*The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir  
*In a Different Voice*, Carol Gilligan  
Poetry in a Different Voice, various authors

**1993: Can the Truth Be Learned**

*Genesis*, The Bible  
*Timaeus*, Plato  
*The Immense Journey*, Loren Eiseley  
*Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel  
*Philosophical Fragments*, Soren Kierkegaard  
*The Death of Virgil*, Hermann Broch

**1994: Solitude**

*Solitude*, Anthony Storr  
*Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe  
*Society and Solitude, The Transcendentalist*, Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*Gift from the Sea*, Anne Morrow Lindbergh  
*Centering*, M.C. Richards  
*Song of Myself*, Walt Whitman

**1995: Democracy in America**

*Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville  
*Daisy Miller*, Henry James  
*Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller  
*Two Cheers for Democracy*, E.M. Forster

**1996: The Future Is an Illusion**

*Phaedo*, Plato  
*Inferno*, Dante Alighieri  
*The Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison  
*Oration on the Dignity of Man*, Giovanni Pico della Mirandola  
*The Future of an Illusion*, Sigmund Freud  
*Sonnets 113, 129, 130, 137, 141, 148*, William Shakespeare

**1997: The Unexamined Life Is Not Worth Living**

*History of the Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides  
*Lysistrata, The Birds, The Clouds*, Aristophanes  
*Politics, Book I*, Aristotle  
*Treatise on Law Questions 90 – 97*, Thomas Aquinas  
*Relish for Good and Evil Depends upon Our Opinion, Of Custom and of Not Changing a Received Law, Of the Education of Children, Of Pedantry, Of Cannibals, Folly to Measure Truth and Error by Our Own Capacity*, Michael de Montaigne  
*The Social Contract, Books I & II*, Jean Jacques Rousseau

**1998: Do Unto Others**

*Metaphysics: On Potency*, Aristotle  
*On Potentiality and Actuality*, Plotinus  
*Signs of Life*, Robert Pollack  
*Meditations I, II, III*, René Descartes  
*The Old Order*, Katherine Anne Porter  
*Identity and the Life Cycle*, Erik Erikson  
*The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, Bashō Matsuo

**1999:**

*Tartuffe*, Moliere  
*Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Immanuel Kant  
*Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*, Philip P. Hallie  
*Major Barbara*, George Bernard Shaw  
*Beyond Good and Evil*, Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche  
*The Dream of a Ridiculous Man*, Fyodor Dostoevsky

**2000: Utopia**



*Utopia*, Thomas More  
*Looking Backwards*, Edward Bellamy  
*Leviathan Book I & II*, Thomas Hobbes  
*R U R (Rossum's Universal Robots)*, Karel Čapek  
*The Book of Revelation, Chapters 20 & 21*, Bible  
*The Journey of the Magi*, T.S. Eliot  
*The Second Coming*, William Butler Yeats

### **2001: The Truth of Myth**

*Images of Good and Evil*, Martin Buber  
*Moby Dick*, Herman Melville  
*Coriolanus*, William Shakespeare  
*Discussions at Tusculum*, Cicero  
*Fate*, Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*Flowers of Evil (Fleurs de Mal)*, Charles Baudelaire

### **2002: Live and Learn**

*The Wisdom of Life*, Arthur Schopenhauer  
*The Way of All Flesh*, Samuel Butler  
*Henry IV Parts 1 & 2*, William Shakespeare  
*The Pupil*, Henry James  
*Poems*, Elizabeth Bishop

### **2003: Doubt and Belief**

*Tragic Sense of Life*, Miguel De Unamuno  
*The Brothers Karamazov (Selections)*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*Thus Spake Zarathustra*, Friedrich Nietzsche  
*The Investigations of a Dog*, Franz Kafka  
*Poems*, Philip Larkin

### **2004: No Ordinary Time**

*Great Speeches*, Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
*The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck  
*The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Hannah Arendt  
*Anarchism & Other Essays*, Emma Goldman  
*Night*, Elie Wiesel  
*Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, James Agee & Walker Evans

### **2005: The Fool**

*Praise of Folly*, Desiderius Erasmus  
*Don Quixote*, Miguel de Cervantes  
*Cato's Letters (Selections)*, John Trenchard & Thomas Gordon  
*Catch 22*, Joseph Heller  
*Gimpel the Fool*, Isaac Bashevis Singer

**2006: Déjà Lu**

*I and Thou*, Martin Buber  
*The Trial*, Franz Kafka  
*Symposium*, Plato  
*The Tempest*, William Shakespeare  
*To the Lighthouse*, Virginia Woolf  
*Song of Myself*, Walt Whitman

**2007: Thresholds of Science**

*Walden*, Henry David Thoreau  
*Origin of Species & Descent of Man*, Charles Darwin  
*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Thomas Kuhn  
*The Country of the Pointed Firs*, Sarah Orne Jewett  
*The End of Nature*, Bill McKibbin  
*An Enemy of the People*, Henrik Ibsen

**2008: Morality of Self**

*Ethics, Part IV*, Benedict de Spinoza  
*Middlemarch*, George Eliot  
*The Art of Writing*, Henry James  
*Eminent Victorians* (General Gordon & Florence Nightingale) Lytton Strachey  
*Andrea Del Sarto & Fri Lippo Lippi*, Robert Browning

**2009: Art of War**

*The Art of War*, Sun Tzu  
*War and Peace*, Leo Tolstoy  
*Three Guineas*, Virginia Woolf  
*The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien  
*Poetry selections*, Owens and Others

**2010: Cultural Collisions**

*Life and Times of Michael K*, J. M. Coetzee  
*The Golden Notebook*, Doris Lessing  
*The Thief and the Dogs*, Naguib Mahfouz  
*A Bend in the River*, V. S. Naipaul  
*The Lion and the Jewel*, Wole Soyinka  
*Selected Poems*, Wislawa Szymborska, Seamus Heaney, Derek Walcott, Octavio Paz & Pablo Neruda

### **2011: The Self-Conscious Imagination**

*Poetics*, Aristotle  
*Concerning Human Understanding Intro, Parts I & II*, John Locke  
*Tristram Shandy*, Lawrence Sterne  
*Eugene Onegin*, Alexander Pushkin  
*Object Lessons*, Eavan Boland  
*Six Characters in Search of an Author*, Luigi Pirandello

### **2012: Method or Madness: The Antic Disposition**

*Madness and Civilization*, Michel Foucault  
*Hamlet*, William Shakespeare  
*Will In the World*, Stephen Greenblatt  
*Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, Tom Stoppard  
*Gertrude and Claudius*, John Updike  
*Shakespeare in the Bush*, Laura Bohannon;  
    *Dead Men's Fingers*, Don Nigro;  
    *Gertrude Talks Back*, Margaret Atwood;  
    *Everything and Nothing*, Jorge Luis Borges

### **2013: Coming of Age**

*The Coming of Age*, Simone De Beauvoir  
*The Professor's House*, Willa Cather  
*Uncle Vanya*, Anton Chekhov  
*All Passion Spent*, Vita Sackville-West  
*Letters from a Stoic*, Lucius Annaeus Seneca

### **2014: Judgment**

*Hippolytus*, Euripides  
*Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*De Profundis*, Oscar Wilde  
*The Fall*, Albert Camus  
*Justice as Fairness* (Parts 1-3). John Rawls  
*I Lock My Door Upon Myself*, Joyce Carol Oates

**2015: The Fall**

*Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe  
*Paradise Lost*, John Milton  
*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, David Hume  
*Absalom, Absalom*, William Faulkner  
*Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley

**2016: The Search for Meaning**

*Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl  
*The Magic Mountain*, Thomas Mann  
*A Month in the Country*, J. L. Carr  
*The Snow Leopard*, Peter Matthiessen  
*Wit*, Margaret Edson

**2017: Family Matters**

*Antigone*, Sophocles & Jean Anouilh  
*Father and Son*, Edmund Gosse  
*Speak Memory*, Vladimir Nabokov  
*Angle of Repose*, Wallace Stegner,  
*The Optimist's Daughter*, Eudora Welty  
*The Moons of Jupiter*;  
*The Progress of Love; Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*, Alice Munro

**2018: Woes of Wooing**

*The Sorrows of Young Werther*, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe  
*A Lover's Discourse*, Roland Barthes  
*Antony and Cleopatra*, William Shakespeare  
*Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, Choderlos de Laclos  
*The Blue Flower*, Penelope Fitzgerald  
*Goodbye, Columbus*, Philip Roth

**2019: Memory & Consciousness**

*In Search of Memory*, Eric Kandel  
*Austerlitz*, W.G. Sebald  
*Missing Person*, Patrick Modiano,  
*Remains of the Day*, Kazuo Ishiguro  
*Moon Tiger*, Penelope Lively,  
*Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abby*, William Wordsworth;  
*The Jilting of Granny Weatherall*, Katherine Anne Porter;  
*Clearances*, Seamus Heaney

**2020: The American Experience (Virtual due to Coronavirus)**

*What Kind of Country Do We Want*, Marilynne Robinson  
*Montana 1948*, Larry Watson  
*Poems on American Democracy*  
*Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller  
*Citizen Kane* (film), Orson Welles

**2021: The American Experience**

*The Imperative of Integration*, Elizabeth Anderson  
*Gilead*, Marilynne Robinson  
*An American Childhood*, Annie Dillard  
*Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Neil Postman  
*American Pastoral*, Phillip Roth  
*Gem of the Ocean*, August Wilson

**2022: Authenticity**

*Nature & Self-Reliance* (Essays), Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison  
*The Moviegoer*, Walker Percy  
*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll  
*The Door*, Magda Szabo  
*Siddhartha*, Hermann Hesse

**2023: The Journey**

*The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Joseph Campbell  
*Gilgamesh*  
*The Odyssey*, Homer  
*The Voyage Out*, Virginia Woolf  
*As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner  
*Ulysses & Selected Poems*, Alfred, Lord Tennyson

**2024: Love & Passion**

*Much Ado About Nothing*, William Shakespeare  
*Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen  
*Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë  
*The Age of Innocence*, Edith Wharton  
*The Feast of Love*, Charles Baxter  
*Bonjour Tristesse*, Françoise Sagan

**2025: Existential Perspectives**

*At the Existential Cafe*, Sarah Bakewell  
*The Stranger*, Albert Camus  
*Catch 22*, Joseph Heller  
*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Milan Kundera  
*An Artist of the Floating World*, Kazuo Ishiguro  
*Pigeon Feathers*, John Updike; *Love*, Clarice Lispector