

New England Great Books Seasonal Readings 1982-2025

1982: Shadow and Substance

The Hollow Men, T.S. Eliot

Persuasion, Jane Austen

Beckett, Jean Anouilh

1983: Keys to the Treasure

Analytical Psychology, Carl Jung

Dunyazadiad, John Barth

The Manticore, Robertson Davies

1984: The Dancer and the Dance

The Wisdom of Insecurity, Alan Watts

Zorba the Greek, Nikos Kazantzakis

Riddley Walker, Russell Hoben

1985: Masks and Mirrors

Richard II, William Shakespeare

Masks, Fumiko Enchi

Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror, John Ashbery

1986: Our Gods, Ourselves

Saviors of God, Nikos Kazantzakis

A Burnt-Out Case, Graham Greene

Till We Have Faces, C.S. Lewis

1987: Taming the Past

Free Fall, William Golding

The Fifth Son, Elie Wiesel

Feila's Child, Dalene Matthee

1988: Perhaps Love

On Love, Alfred Richard Orage

Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston

We, Robert Johnson

1989: Unfettered

Book of Exodus, Old Testament

Beloved, Toni Morrison

The Road Less Traveled, M. Scott Peck

1990: Another Time

Stones for Iberrra, Harriet Doerr

Our Town, Thornton Wilder

Duino Elegies, Rainer Maria Rilke

1991: Life Sentences

Language and Myth, Ernst Cassirer

A Defense of Poetry, Percy Bysshe Shelley

Eagle or Sun, Octavio Paz

1992: Legacies

Human Nature and Conduct, John Dewey

The Price, Arthur Miller

Oscar and Lucinda, Peter Carey

1993: Reason Unrequited

Critique of Pure Reason, Immanuel Kant

Phedre, Jean Racine

Immortality, Milan Kundera

1994: Eye of the Beholder

Ways of Seeing, John Berger

Fifth Business, Robertson Davies

An Ordinary Evening in New Haven, Wallace Stevens

1995: Soul Survivors

Long Day's Journey into Night, Eugene O'Neill

The English Patient, Michael Ondaatje

#41 from *Proverbs and Song Verse*, Antonio Machado

1996: Love and Deception

The Mayor of Casterbridge, Thomas Hardy

M. Butterfly, David Hwang

Truth, Robert Louis Stevenson

1997: Still Lives

The Fall, Albert Camus

Fra Lippo Lippi, Robert Browning

Six Degrees of Separation, John Guare

1998: The Mystery of Knowing

Mrs. Dalloway, Virginia Woolf

The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, Thomas Kuhn

Arcadia, Tom Stoppard

1999: Charisma

The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Prince, Niccolo Machiavelli

Autumn of the Patriarch, Gabriel Garcia Marques

2000: Grace Under Pressure

God, A Biography, John Miles

The Warden, Anthony Trollope

A Man for All Seasons, Robert Bolt

2001: True Believers

The Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver

Gorgias, Plato

Saint Joan, George Bernard Shaw

2002: Hero Today...

Beowulf, translated by Seamus Heaney

Lysistrata, Aristophanes

Henry V, William Shakespeare

2003: Manifest Destiny

The Sparrow, Mary Doria Russell

Summa Theologica, Thomas Aquinas

A Way in the World, V.S. Naipaul

2004: Being and Seeming

The Alchemist, Ben Jonson

The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, T.S. Eliot

Last Report of the Miracles at Little No Horse, Louise Erdrich

2005: Power and Morality

Faust, Part I, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The Royal Physician's Visit, Per Olav Enquist

An Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals, David Hume

2006: Divided Loyalties

The Burial at Thebes, Seamus Heaney *A Tale of*

Two Cities, Charles Dickens

Regeneration, Pat Barker

2007: Would You Believe

Gilgamesh, translated by Stephen Mitchell

The Future of an Illusion, Sigmund Freud

The Hummingbird's Daughter, Luis Alberto Urrea

2008: Good, Bad, and Optimist

Vanity Fair, William Makepeace Thackeray
Memoirs of Hadrian, Marguerite Yourcenar
Candide, Voltaire

2009: Journeys

The Aeneid, Virgil
The Sibyl, Par Lagerkvist
Out of Africa, Isak Dinesen

2010: Ways of Seeing

One Hundred Years of Solitude, Gabriel Garcia Marquez
The Piano Lesson, August Wilson
The Labyrinth of Solitude, Octavio Paz

2011: All in the Family

The Sound and the Fury, William Faulkner
Selected Readings, Carl Jung
Gilead, Marilynne Robinson

2012: Coming of Age

Daniel Deronda, George Eliot
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, Junot Diaz;
The Education of Henry Adams, Henry Adams

2013: The New England Mind

The Shipping News, E. Annie Proulx
The Turn of the Screw, Henry James
The Varieties of Religious Experience, William James

2014: American Expatriates

The Paris Wife, Paula McLain
Tender is the Night, F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Good Soldier, Ford Maddox Ford

2015: No Institute during reorganization of the Council

2016: Making Sense of the Civil War

Civil War Commemorative Edition, Atlantic Magazine
The Fiery Trial, Eric Foner
The Killer Angels, Michael Shaara
The March, E. L. Doctorow

2017: Women Under Duress

A Doll's House, Henrik Ibsen

Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy

The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

Mrs. Warren's Profession, George Bernard Shaw

2018: Mystical Tales

White Noise, Don DeLillo

Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie

Prometheus Bound, Aeschylus, and *Prometheus Unbound*, Percy Bysshe Shelley

The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde

2019: The Great War In Prose and Poetry

Selected Poems by the Great War Poets

Testament of Youth, Vera Bradley

Regeneration, Pat Barker

Birdsong, Sebastian Faulks

2020: Spring Retreat Postponed to 2021

2021: Voices from the Harlem Renaissance

Preview Event: *When Harlem Was In Vogue*, David Levering

Spring Retreat:

Selected Poetry of the Period

Two Essays: "The New Negro," Alain Locke and "The Man Who Led the Harlem Renaissance -- And His Hidden Hungers," Tobi Haslett.

Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo," Zora Neale Hurston

Plus Excerpts from her autobiography *Dust Tracks on a Road*

Passing, Nella Larsen

2022: The Immigrant Experience

Preview Event: *The Warmth of Other Suns*, Isabel Wilkerson

Winter Weekend:

Everything Inside: Stories, Edwidge Danticat

Brooklyn: A Novel, Colm Toibin

Spring Retreat:

"America and I," Anzia Yezierska

Brother, I'm Dying, Edwidge Danticat

Americanah, Chimimanda Ngozi Adichie

My Antonia, Willa Cather

2023: The Highs and Lows of a Silver Age: Germany Between the Wars Preview

Event: *The Weimar Republic: Promise and Tragedy*, Eric D. Weitz **Winter Weekend:**

What I Saw and The Wandering Jews, Joseph Roth

Wolf Among Wolves, Hans Fallada

Spring Retreat:

The Death of Democracy, Benjamin Carter Hett

Going to the Dogs, Erich Kastner

Berlin Alexanderplatz, Alfred Döblin

The Threepenny Opera, Bertolt Brecht

2024: The Waste Land and Some Forgotten Masterpieces of the Early Modernist Period

Preview Event: *The Waste Land and Other Poems*, T.S. Eliot

Winter Weekend:

Babbalanza, Sinclair Lewis

One of Ours, Willa Cather

Spring Retreat:

Selected Tales from *Tales of the Jazz Age*, F. Scott Fitzgerald

Selected Tales from *The Garden Party and Other Stories*, Katherine Mansfield

The Glimpses of the Moon, Edith Wharton

Henry IV, Luigi Pirandello

2025: France from Proust to Modiano: A Century of Culture Clashes in Paris and Beyond

Preview Event: *For the Soul of France*, Frederick Brown

J'accuse, Émile Zola

Winter Weekend:

Swann in Love, Marcel Proust

Chéri and the End of Chéri, Willa Cather

Spring Retreat:

The Fall, Albert Camus

No Exit, Jean-Paul Sartre

The Years, Annie Ernaux

The Night Watch, Patrick Modiano