

Philadelphia Great Books Council Spring Institute 1960-2025

1960: Valley Council Day (1st Spring Institute)

The Ambassadors, Henry James

Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville

1966: Ends and Means

Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals, Immanuel Kant

The Deputy, Rolf Hochhuth

1967: After Revolution . . . What?

Ordeal of Change, Eric Hoffer

Marat/Sade, Peter Weiss

1968: Through the Thinking Glass

The Function of Reason, Alfred North Whitehead

Alice in Wonderland, Through the Looking Glass, Lewis Carroll

1969: Man: Angel or Brute?

On Aggression, Konrad Lorenz

Walden Two, B.F. Skinner

1970: Fire and Ice

Science and Survival, Barry Commoner

Cat's Cradle, Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

1971:

1972:

1973:

1974:

1975: Human Lib

The French Lieutenant's Woman, John Fowles

Man's World, Woman's Place, Elizabeth Janeway

1976: God Seekers

Bhagavad-Gita

Murder in the Cathedral, T.S. Eliot

1977: Love and Power

Caesar and Cleopatra, Bernard Shaw

Antony and Cleopatra, William Shakespeare

1978:

1979: The Unlimited Personality

Toward a Recognition of Androgyny, Carolyn G. Heilbrun

The Left Hand of Darkness, Ursula K. LeGuin

1980: Unpopular Mechanics

Small Is Beautiful, E.F. Schumacher

Erewhon, Samuel Butler

1981: Ghost Chasers

The Woman Warrior, Maxine Hong Kingston

Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison

1982: Survival

Love, Power and Justice,

Paul Tillich *Love in the Ruins*, Walker Percy

1983: True or False

Lying, Sissela Bok

The Iceman Cometh, Eugene O'Neill

1984: Body and Soul

Meditations, Marcus Aurelius

The Death of Artemio Cruz, Carlos Fuentes

1985: Sense of Self

The Conservationist, Nadine Gordimer

The Life and Times of Michael K, J.M. Coetzee

1986: The Bookworm Turns or The Reader Rampant

If On A Winter's Night A Traveler, Italo Calvino

Good Readers and Good Writers from *Lectures on Literature*, Vladimir Nabokov

Moral Fiction, John Gardner

The Egg in the Cage from *Living By Fiction*, Annie Dillard

1987: Truth Lies in What You Read: Tragedy or Thriller Diller

Richard the Third, William Shakespeare

The Daughter of Time, Josephine Tey

1988: Double Image *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte

Wide Sargasso Sea, Jean Rhys

1989: The Soul of Wit *Hamlet*,

William Shakespeare

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Tom Stoppard

1990: Triangles

The Age of Innocence, Edith Wharton

The Heart of the Matter, Graham Greene

1991:

The Tempest, William Shakespeare

Staying On, Paul Scott

1992:

Henderson the Rain King, Saul Bellow

Four Footed Poetry

1993: River Tales

A River Runs Through It, Norman Maclean

Old Man, William Faulkner

1994: Pursuing Immortality

The Epic of Gilgamesh

Memento Mori, Muriel Spark

1995: The Struggle for Earthly Power

End Game, a play by Samuel Beckett

July's People, a novel by Nadine Gordimer

1996: The Cold and the Bold

The Birthday Boys, a novel by Beryl Bainbridge

Sur, a short story by Ursula Le Guin

The Imaginary Iceberg, a poem by Elizabeth Bishop

1997: Lighten Up!

The Importance of Being Earnest, a play by Oscar Wilde
Travesties, a play by Tom Stoppard

1998:

Robinson Crusoe, Daniel Defoe
Pincher Martin, William Golding

1999:

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

2000: Women versus Men in a Man's World

The Birthmark, Nathaniel Hawthorne
A Rose for Emily, William Faulkner
Stupid Girl, Louis Berney
Faithless, Joyce Carol Oates

2001: National Liberty Museum Tour

American Pastoral, Philip Roth

2002: Ancient Accounts

Genesis, Chapters 28-36, Old Testament
The Red Tent, Anita Diamant

2003: The Eternal Now

Mrs. Dalloway, Virginia Woolf
The Hours, Michael Cunningham

2004: History in Words and Words that Made History

Cold Mountain, Charles Frazier
Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America, Garry Wills

2005: Connections and Missed Connections

Bel Canto, Ann Patchett
Death and the King's Horseman, Wole Soyinka

2006: The Clash of Civilizations

Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad
Season of Migration to the North, Tayeb Salih

2007: A Time to Love

The Time Traveler's Wife, Audrey Niffenegger

Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston

2008: Fathers and Sons

Gilead, Marilyn E Robinson

The Road, Cormac McCarthy

2009: The American Mythos

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain

Finn, Jon Clinch

2010: Adulteress or Harami (Bastard): Society's Scapegoats

The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne

A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Hosseini

2011: Is Penelope the Real Hero of *The Odyssey*?

The Odyssey, Homer (Robert Fagles translation)

The Penelopiad, Margaret Atwood

2012: What Does It Mean to Be Human in the Modern World

Nature, Ralph Waldo Emerson

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Annie Dillard

2013: Epicureanism and our Modern World

The Nature of Things, Lucretius

The Swerve: How the World Became Modern, Stephen Greenblatt

2014: Renaissance Duplicity

The Prince, Niccolo Machiavelli

Richard III, William Shakespeare

2015: The Trials and Tribulations of War

Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand

The Yellow Birds, Kevin Powers

2016: Ideas Worth Noting

Notes from the Underground, Fyodor Dostoevsky

Notes from the Café, R.F. Georgy

2017: Points of View

Robinson Crusoe, Daniel Defoe

Foe, J.M. Coetzee

2018: Justice in America

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson

2019: Gender Blenders, Gender Blunders

The Left Hand of Darkness, Ursula LeGuin

Twelfth Night, William Shakespeare

2020: (Cancelled because of Covid)

2021: Orwell on the Demise of Truth

Three Essays, George Orwell

1984, George Orwell

Poems on Democracy

2022: The Narrow Road to the Deep North *The*

Narrow Road to the Deep North, Basho

The Narrow Road to the Deep North, Richard Flanagan

2023: Cultures in Collision

House Made of Dawn, N. Scott Momaday

Winter in the Blood, James Welch

2024: Memory & Imagination

The Immense Journey, Loren Eiseley

Invisible Cities, Italo Calvino

2025: Leaving on Our Own Terms

Housekeeping, Marilynne Robinson

Tinkers, Paul Harding