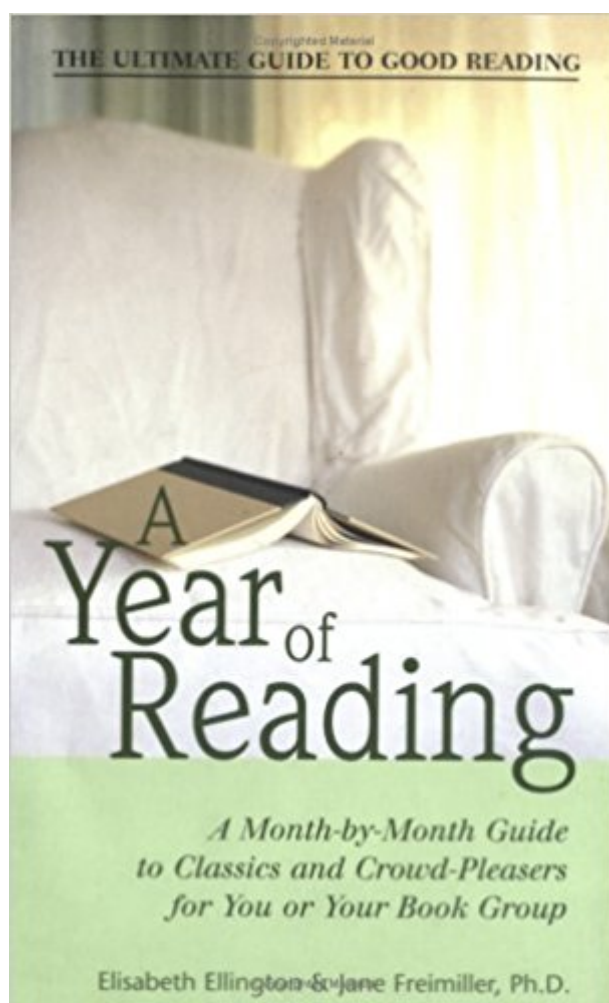


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A Year Of Reading: A Month-by-Month Guide To Classics And Crowd-Pleasers For You Or Your Book Group



Synopsis

There are more than fifty thousand new books published each year. Choosing what to read can seem overwhelming. A Year of Reading relieves the anxiety by helping readers find just the right book for each month of the year. Aimed at individuals and reading groups, A Year of Reading provides five fiction and nonfiction selections for each month with thorough summaries in the following categories: Crowd-Pleasers, Classics, Challenges, Memoirs and Potluck. This book also makes reading more fulfilling by providing additional selections, plus questions about the selections to stimulate thought and discussion. Also included is information on authors, reviews, video and Internet resources and annotated lists of related reading. And if you still think reading is too passive, try one of the many activities suggested, such as author readings, visits to museums, nature hikes and more. The appendices focus on book clubs, from the basics of starting your own to improving a group that has been together for some time.

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Customer Reviews

The authors have fashioned a blueprint for a delightfully varied year of reading, reflection, and discussion. Whether it be for the member of an established book club, a novice attempting to launch a reading group, or an independent reader looking for suggestions, this guide offers something for everyone. It is organized around the calendar year; five titles designated as crowd pleasers, classics, challenges, memoirs, or potluck options are provided for each month. In addition to selections centering on appropriately seasonal themes, there are brief descriptions of each book,

thought-provoking discussion questions, information about the authors, video and Internet resources, and lists of related readings. Literary discussion groups will welcome this invaluable resource. Margaret Flanagan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Elisabeth Ellington grew up in Georgia and graduated from Vesalius College in Brussels, Belgium, in 1995. She has taught at Brandeis University for several years. Her forthcoming doctoral dissertation focuses on biographies of eighteenth-century women writers. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband, Danny Wouters, a dog, two cats, and ten chickens. Her Seacoast New Hampshire book group has been together for seven years. Jane Freimiller grew up in Philadelphia and graduated from Haverford College in 1987. After earning a Ph.D. in philosophy from Boston College, she taught at a university for several years. She has also been a sales clerk, office temp, and Web designer. Jane currently lives in London with her husband, Kevin Connolly, and is a member of a neighborhood book group as well as one sponsored by the National Gallery in London.

I consider this book one of the best purchases I've made on . I just bought it on a whim, trying to expand my reading. I decided to read every book on their list. I'm only about one-third through the books, but I have been so surprised by how wonderful the reading has been, and so glad I got this book because otherwise I would have never even considered these titles. Highly recommended.

Some great suggestions I wasn't aware of, well written reviews of the books and interesting related suggestions (movies, internet sites, similar books/authors). My sister had the book and I searched around several bookstores for it but couldn't find it in stock anywhere. I always try and support local bookstores before I order online!

All heavy readers, and especially all librarians, tend to pick up any volume that purports to recommend other books one ought to read, and promises to tell you why they picked these in particular. The subtitle here is *A Month-by-Month Guide to Classics and Crowd-Pleasers for You or Your Book Group*, which tells you the method they have in mind. There are twelve chapters, one per calendar month, each of which includes suggested titles under five rubrics: Crowd-pleasers, classics, challenges, Memoirs, and *potluck*. Each month is thematic in some -- February for Black History Month, March for Women's History Month, September for *back to school*, etc. However, of the total of sixty books they include, a full third

are "women's books," focused on women and their special concerns in fiction and nonfiction, and another dozen are memoirs of one sort or another, which strikes me as an unbalanced selection for a general audience. There are a number of odd individual choices, too. "Classics" include *Jane Eyre*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *The Good Earth* (all "women's books," please note) -- but also Yeziarska's *Bread Givers*. The fact that it was written in 1925 doesn't make it a "classic." I don't know that I would consider *Jasmine* by Mukherjee a "crowd-pleaser," either. Not for most crowds. I always read a book like this with a notepad at hand, of course, and I came up with a dozen or so titles I wasn't familiar with, but mostly from the fact she also wrote and if you liked this one notes. I don't know: I've put together probably 150 reading lists of one kind and another over the years, all intended for the general public, so I know what's involved. I think this one could have been considerably better. It's determinedly politically correct, with an elitist flavor, and its literary judgments are trite and unoriginal. It may be because Ellington is a Ph.D. in (apparently) literature and women's studies while Freimiller has a doctorate in philosophy. Both are involved in book groups, but they're still essentially amateurs when it comes to recommending entertaining reading for others.

When I received "A Year of Reading" by Elisabeth Ellington I was amazed at the diversity of books she has listed and researched for members of book clubs or individual readers like myself. Her categories under each month allow me to select a writing style that fits my 'personal preference' for that month, whether it is the Crowd Pleaser, a Classic, or an intriguing Memoir. I have shared this book with several people, one of whom is a used book dealer who is planning to help her customers find the right book for their 'personal preference' using Ms. Ellington's book. She finds that many customers are unfamiliar with current authors and she felt this book would be useful to both her customers and to her in stocking her store. I have given it to my daughter who is an avid Classical book reader. Her first love is the literature of the 19th century. She reads with a critical mind even when reading for pleasure. She has also expressed great interest in expanding her reading realm. This book is all about reading to suit your personal preference and I highly recommend it for the insight it will provide its readers.

Good for ladies book club.

I was looking for inspiration for something to read and found this book. The breadth and diversity of the authors and writing styles that Ellington and Freimiller bring to the reader expands ones reading horizon but stays accessible with an array of high quality works. I recommend this book as it will lead to multiple literary discoveries.

If you have ever gone to the public library and wondered what to read, this book will be a great guide. It is full of suggestions, reviews and video resources. It will take you years to read all the books recommended in this well written resource.

I've read them all, and this is about the worst. Trite, cliched way of grouping the books; superficial reviews. I'm glad I got it at the library rather than purchasing it. Took me no more than ten minutes to go through it.

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