

Think Warm Thoughts
And Curl Up With a Book

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Given the relentless snowfall and chilling temps, taking a moment to think about summer reading could provide temporary relief.

Many colleges and universities suggest or require incoming first-year students to read a book and use the selection as a theme for the year across disciplines. Some of the reasons for this growing trend include using the book selection to encourage student participation and interaction, promoting critical thinking on a current or emerging topic, offering opportunities to foster appreciation of diversity and diverse perspectives, reinforcing the mission and principles of the college/university, and facilitating an exciting transition to their campus.

The following is a sampling of book selections from this past summer:

The College of New Jersey: The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore

UC Berkeley: Freedom's Orator: Mario Savio and the Radical Legacy of the 1960s by Robert Cohen

Subversives: The FBI's War on Student Radicals, and Reagan's Rise to Power by Seth Rosenfeld

Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide Open: A Free Press for a New Century by Lee C. Bollinger

New York University: Wild by Cheryl Strayed

Brown University: Oil and Water by Francine Strickwerda and Laurel Spellman Smith

Siena College: How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia by Mohsin Hamid

Columbia University: The Iliad by Homer

Virginia Commonwealth University: The Circle by Dave Eggers

Cornell University: Clash of Civilization Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio by Amara Lakhous

Middle Tennessee State University: This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman

Dartmouth College: For Common Things: Irony, Trust, and Commitment in America Today by Jedediah Purdy

Seton Hall University: Radium Girls by D. W. Gregory

Princeton University: Meaning in Life and Why It Matters by Susan Wolf

University of Pennsylvania: The Spirt Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong Child, Her American Doctors and the Collision of Two Cultures by Anne Fadiman

Clemson University: Machine Man by Max Barry

Rollins College: My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student by Rebekah Nathan

Stanford University: How to Breathe Underwater by Julie Orringer

Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Millsaps College: Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

University of Delaware: Thank You For Your Service by David Finkel

Boston College: The Circle by Dave Eggers

Northwestern University: Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do by Claude M. Steele

American University: The Influencing Machine by Brooke Gladstone

University of Texas at Austin: Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

Wake Forest: Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct by P.M. Forni

Run down to the public library and check one or two of them out before the next forecasted storm!

Any predictions of titles likely to appear on the Summer 2015 reading list?

Students and staff at my sons' elementary school have engaged in a school-wide reading the past couple of years. This year's selection was The Mouse and Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary.

If you were asked to suggest a book for your school to read, what would it be and why? (sorry, The Mouse and Motorcycle is already taken!!)

Would your suggestion be selected to encourage student participation and interaction, promote critical thinking on a current or emerging topic, offer opportunities to foster appreciation of diversity and diverse perspectives, reinforce the mission and principles of our school/district, or facilitate exciting transitions? Other reasons? Would your selection be on war, peace, ethics, justice, "the new world", "the old world", technology, hope, despair, discovery, etc.? Other topics/themes?

Identify your reason, pick your choice, curl up, and think warm thoughts.