



## Book Groups: Available Books and Facilitators for Spring/Summer 2021

This list contains the current facilitators and the books available for discussion groups from New Hampshire Humanities. Click on the links for information about each facilitator and book. See below for instructions on how to apply to host a book group at your library.



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**Facilitator:** [Kiki Berk](#)

**PHILOSOPHY**

Leo Tolstoy, [The Death of Ivan Ilyich & Other Stories](#)

Eleven stories—some autobiographical, others, moral parables—all told with Tolstoy’s evocative power.

Kieran Setiya, [Midlife: A Philosophical Guide](#)

Philosophical wisdom and practical advice for overcoming the problems of middle age.

Massimo Pigliucci, [How to be a Stoic: Using Ancient Philosophy to Live a Modern Life](#)

A philosopher asks how ancient Stoicism can help us flourish today.

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**Facilitator:** [Carrie Brown](#)

**HISTORY**

Katherine Sharp Landdeck, [The Women with Silver Wings](#)

The inspiring true story about American women pilots in World War II.

David McCullough, [Brave Companions](#)

Portraits of Americans of courage and vision, including explorer Alexander von Humboldt, novelist Harriet Beecher Stowe, and aviators Charles & Anne Lindbergh.

Mark Twain, [A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court](#)

A fictional mash-up of time travel, social commentary, and romance.

Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner, [The Gilded Age](#)

A novel satirizing greed and political corruption in 1870s America.

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**Facilitator:** [Damian Costello](#)

**HISTORY and LITERATURE**

Nicholas Black Elk and John G. Neihardt, [Black Elk Speaks](#)

The life story of Nicholas Black Elk (1863–1950), the Oglala Lakota visionary and healer.

Jack Kerouac, [Visions of Gerard](#)

Set in Kerouac's hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts, an unsettling, beautiful, and sad exploration of the meaning and precariousness of existence.

Elie Wiesel, [Night](#)

The autobiographical story of Wiesel's Holocaust experiences with his father in the Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

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**Facilitator:** [Alice Fogel](#)

**LITERATURE**

Matt Haig, [The Humans](#)

When an extra-terrestrial visitor arrives on Earth, his first impressions of the human species are less than positive.

Meredith Hall, [Beneficence](#)

The story of a family overcoming tragedy on their isolated dairy farm in Maine after World War II.

Richard Powers, [The Overstory](#)

A novel about five trees whose unique life experiences with nine Americans bring them together to address the destruction of forests.

Mohsin Hamid, [Exit West](#)

An unforgettable story of love, loyalty, and courage.

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**Facilitator:** [Katherine Gaudet](#)

**HISTORY and SCI-FI**

Albert Camus, [The Plague](#)

Gripping 1940s novel of a plague in North Africa which gradually becomes an omnipresent reality, obliterating all traces of the past.

Johann Hari, [Chasing the Scream](#)

A book by a British journalist examining the history and impact of drug criminalization.

Michelle Alexander, [The New Jim Crow](#)

A stunning account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans relegated to a permanent second-class status.

Ling Ma, [Severance](#)

A satirical science fiction novel about a millennial Chinese-American woman in the apocalypse.

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**Facilitator:** [Mary Kelly](#)

**HISTORY**

Doris Kearns Goodwin, [Leadership: In Turbulent Times](#)

An overview of historical leadership as represented by Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson.

Fintan O'Toole, [The Politics of Pain: Postwar England and the Rise of Nationalism](#)

A study of England's political and popular culture between WWII and the present.

Patrick Radden Keefe, [Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland](#)

A bestselling account that focuses on a murder in Northern Ireland as a lens to explore Northern Ireland's political culture and relationship with the United Kingdom.

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**Facilitator:** [Ann McClellan](#)

**HISTORY and LITERATURE**

Arthur Conan Doyle, [The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes](#)

Short stories relating the adventures of the most famous detective in literary history.

Kazuo Ishiguro, [The Remains of the Day](#)

A compelling portrait of Stevens, the perfect butler, and of his fading, insular world in post-World War II England.

Laurie R. King, [The Beekeeper's Apprentice](#)

In 1915, Sherlock Holmes is retired and quietly engaged in the study of honeybees in Sussex when a young woman literally stumbles onto him on the Sussex Downs.

Sherry Thomas, [A Study in Scarlet Women](#)

A mystery novel in which the author gender-flips Sherlock Holmes into Charlotte Holmes.

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**Facilitator:** [Liz Tentarelli](#)

**HISTORY and LITERATURE**

Elaine Weiss, [The Woman's Hour](#)

The story of how American women won the right to vote, and the opening campaign in the great twentieth-century battles for civil rights.

Johanna Neuman, [Gilded Suffragists](#)

In the early twentieth century over two hundred of New York's most glamorous socialites joined the suffrage movement and turned a feminist cause into a fashionable revolution.

Dave Eggers, [Zeitoun](#)

The true story of Abdulrahman Zeitoun, the Syrian-American owner of a painting and contracting company in New Orleans who chose to ride out Hurricane Katrina in his home.

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**Facilitator:** [Joshua Tepley](#)

**PHILOSOPHY and SCI-FI**

Ted Chiang, [Exhalation](#)

A collection of science fiction short stories that will change the way you think, feel, and see the world.

Octavia Butler, [Bloodchild and Other Stories](#)

Short stories by the incomparable Octavia Butler, these works of the imagination are parables of the contemporary world.

Various authors, [The Science Fiction Hall of Fame: Volume I](#)

First published in 1970, it contains over 25 of the “greatest” science fiction short stories of all time. All of them are classics, and many of them are philosophical and worthy of discussion.

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**Facilitator:** [Tammi Truax](#)

**POETRY and LITERATURE**

Mariko Nagai, [Dust of Eden](#)

A verse novel for young people about the internment of a Japanese-American family.

Mariko Nagai, [Irradiated Cities](#)

A book of prose poetry.

Mariko Nagai, [Georgic](#)

A book of short stories blending Japanese folktale and historical events.

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To apply to host a book group at your library, please contact the facilitator to arrange a time and date for your event. Once you have confirmed a book and facilitator, contact New Hampshire Humanities and we will arrange payment for the book copies and facilitator’s stipend.

More information is available on our website: <https://www.nhhumanities.org/bookgroups>

Contact Mary Nolin at New Hampshire Humanities with questions about setting up your program.  
(email: [mnolin@nhhumanities.org](mailto:mnolin@nhhumanities.org)).



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