



## Book Groups: Available Books and Facilitators for July 2021- June 2022

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.

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

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

**PHILOSOPHY**

**Format Preference:** Online or In-Person

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.

Brit Bennett, [The Vanishing Half](#)

Explores the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins.

Mary Doria Russell, [The Sparrow](#)

The story of a charismatic Jesuit priest and linguist, Emilio Sandoz, who leads a twenty-first-century scientific mission to a newly discovered extraterrestrial culture.

Haruki Murakami, [Kafka on the Shore](#)

Structured around the alternating stories of Kafka Tamura, a fifteen-year-old boy who runs away from home to escape an awful oedipal prophecy, and Nakata, an aging and illiterate simpleton who has never completely recovered from a wartime affliction.

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

**HISTORY and LITERATURE**

**Format Preference:** Online or In-Person

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.

Alexis Coe, [You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington](#)

Coe looks at the human being behind the hero and the myth and explores less known and seldom talked about aspects of his life.

Maggie O'Farrell, [Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague](#)

In this imagined re-creation of the early life of Shakespeare, his wife Agnes is an extraordinary young woman, a gifted healer, and a central force in her husband's life. Tragedy occurs in the family just as the young husband's career in the London theatre is taking off.

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

**HISTORY and LITERATURE**

**Format Preference:** Online or In-Person

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.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, [Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants](#)

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices.

Tommy Orange, [There There](#)

In *There There*, Cheyenne/Arapaho novelist Tommy Orange explores the challenges and rich texture of Native urban life. Set in Oakland, CA, the novel follows a wide range of characters on their way to the Big Oakland Powwow and deeper engagement with Indian identity.

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

**LITERATURE**

**Format Preference:** Online or In-Person

Matt Haig, [The Humans](#)

When an extra-terrestrial visitor arrives on Earth, his first impressions of the human species are less than positive. Taking the form of Professor Andrew Martin, a prominent mathematician at Cambridge University, the visitor is eager to complete the gruesome task assigned him and hurry home to his own utopian planet, where everyone is omniscient and immortal.

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](#)

The novel is about a young couple, Saeed and Nadia, who live in an unnamed city undergoing civil war and finally have to flee, using a system of magical doors, which lead to different locations around the globe. An unforgettable story of love, loyalty, and courage.

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

**LITERATURE and CULTURE**

**Format Preference:** Online or In-Person

Kiese Laymon, [Heavy](#)

A memoir that explores how addictive behaviors like eating, dieting, and gambling are entwined with American problems like racism and poverty.

Johann Hari, [Chasing the Scream](#)

A history of America's war on drugs that suggests radical new ways of understanding substance use and addiction.

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 novel in which a millennial office-worker is one of the last survivors of an apocalyptic plague. Published in 2018, it anticipates many of the realities of COVID-19.

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

**HISTORY**

**Format Preference:** Online

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

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

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. [Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow](#)

A challenging and unsettling account of Reconstruction-era racial history, with much to inform us about today's cultural and political divides.

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

A bestselling account of a murder in Northern Ireland, that serves as a lens to explore Northern Ireland's political culture and the legacy of The Troubles.

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

**HISTORY and LITERATURE**

**Format Preference:** Online or In-Person

Martin's Amis, [A Time's Arrow](#)

The novel recounts the life of a German Holocaust doctor in reverse chronology. The narrator, together with the reader, experiences time passing in reverse.

John Maxwell Coetzee, [Disgrace](#)

Against a backdrop of racial complexities of post-apartheid South Africa, a violent incident occurs and "disgrace" takes on another meaning for an aging and outcast professor.

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.

Zadie Smith, [White Teeth](#)

Two unlikely friends and World War II veterans, Archie Jones and Samad Iqbal, along with their families, become agents of England's post-war transformation in a story of race, identity, religion, and love.

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

**HISTORY and LITERATURE**

**Format Preference:** Online or In- Person

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**

**Format Preference:** Online or In-Person

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.

N. K. Jemisin, [How Long 'Til Black Future Month?](#)

Delightful short stories that run the gamut of speculative fiction, from steam punk to magical realism, from fantasy to science fiction.

Isaac Asimov, [I, Robot](#)

Classic robot stories centered around the "three laws of robotics" by one of the giants in science fiction.

Ray Bradbury, [The Martian Chronicles](#)

Beautiful and haunting collection of short stories about the colonization of Mars.

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## How to Apply

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- 1.) To apply to host a book group, please download and review the host checklist [here](#).
- 2.) Contact the facilitator to arrange a time and date for your event. Use the list above for current facilitators and books available for discussion groups.
- 3.) Once you have confirmed a book and facilitator, complete the **online application form** [here](#) *at least four weeks* prior to your event or email [bookgroups@nhhumanities.org](mailto:bookgroups@nhhumanities.org) with any questions.
- 4.) New Hampshire Humanities will process your application. This includes arranging payment for the book copies and facilitator's stipend.

Contact Sue Butman at New Hampshire Humanities with questions about setting up your program.

(Email: [bookgroups@nhhumanities.org](mailto:bookgroups@nhhumanities.org) )

