

## Book Club Selections 2015

**January**      **Book Share**

**February**      **The Professor and the Madman--A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary (1998)**  
By Simon Winchester

When compilation of the Oxford English Dictionary began in 1857, it was one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken. As definitions were collected, the overseeing committee discovered that one man, Dr. W. C. Minor, had submitted more than ten thousand. When the committee insisted on honoring him, a shocking truth came to light: Dr. Minor, an American Civil War veteran, was also an inmate at an asylum for the criminally insane. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

**March**          **Loving Frank (2008)**  
By Nancy Horan

This novel is a fictionalization of the life of Mamah Borthwick Cheney, best known as the woman who wrecked Frank Lloyd Wright's first marriage. The book portrays an independent, educated woman at odds with the restrictions of the early 20th century. Their affair became the stuff of headlines when they left their families to live and travel together.

**April**            **Pecan Man (2012)**  
By Cassie Selleck

In the summer of 1976, recently widowed and childless, Ora Lee Beckworth hires a homeless old black man to mow her lawn. The neighborhood children call him the Pee-can Man; their mothers call them inside whenever he appears. When the police chief's son is found stabbed to death, the man Ora knows as Eddie is arrested and charged with murder. This novel has been described as *To Kill a Mockingbird* meets *The Help*. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

**May**              **Heart of Darkness (1902)**  
By Joseph Conrad

This book concerns the journey of the narrator (Marlow) up the Congo River on behalf of a Belgian trading company. Far upriver, he encounters the mysterious Kurtz, an ivory trader who exercises an almost godlike sway over the inhabitants of the region. Both repelled and fascinated by the man, Marlow is brought face to face with the corruption and despair that Conrad saw at the heart of human existence. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

**June**             **Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948**  
By Marilyn Albright

From former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright comes a moving and thoughtful memoir of her formative years in Czechoslovakia during the tumult of Nazi occupation, World War II, fascism, and the onset of the Cold War. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

**July**            **No Book Club**

**August No Book Club**

**September**    **The Corrections (2001)**  
By Johnathan Franzen

After almost fifty years as a wife and mother, Enid Lambert is ready to have some fun. Her husband is losing his sanity to Parkinson's disease, and their children have long since flown the nest to their own catastrophic lives. Desperate for some pleasure to look forward to, Enid has set her heart on an elusive goal: bringing her family together for one last Christmas at home.

**October**        **All the Light We Cannot See**  
By Anthony Doerr

This book, while set mostly in Germany and France before and during the war, is not really a "war novel". The author's focus is on the interior lives of his two characters. Marie Laure is a blind 14-year-old French girl who flees to the countryside when her father disappears from Nazi-occupied Paris. Werner is a gadget-obsessed German orphan whose skills admit him to a brutal branch of Hitler Youth. *(Sara Nelson)*

**November**     **Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream**  
By Joshua Davis

This is the true story of four Latino teenagers from Phoenix who competed in a University of California competition to build an underwater robot. They went up against some of the best collegiate engineers in the country, including a team from MIT backed by a \$10,000 ExxonMobil grant. Although it was not a level competition, against all odds, they won!

**December**     **Legends of the Fall**  
By Jim Harrison

A book of three novellas, the title novella is an epic tale of three brothers fighting for justice in a world gone mad. Moving from the raw landscape of early 20th-century Montana to the blood-drenched battlefields of World War I and back again to Montana, Harrison's story explores the theme of revenge and the actions to which people resort when their lives or goals are threatened.