

## Book Club Selections 2019

**January**            **Book Share**

**February**        **Beloved (1987)**  
**By Toni Morrison**

This spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, *Beloved* is a towering achievement. (amazon.com)

**March**            **The Demon in the Freezer (2002)**  
**By Richard Preston**

The first major bioterror event in the United States--the anthrax attacks in October 2001--was a clarion call for scientists who work with "hot" agents to find ways of protecting civilian populations against biological weapons. In this book, his first nonfiction since *The Hot Zone*, Richard Preston takes us into the heart of Usamriid, the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland, once the headquarters of the U.S. biological weapons program and now the epicenter of national biodefense. (amazon.com)

**April**            **For Whom the Bell Tolls (1940)**  
**By Ernest Hemingway**

This is the story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades attached to an antifascist guerilla unit in the mountains of Spain. It tells of loyalty, courage, love, defeat, and the tragic death of an ideal. In Hemingway's portrayal of Jordan's love for the beautiful Maria and his superb account of El Sordo's last stand, the travesty of La Pasionaria and his unwillingness to believe in blind faith, Hemingway creates a work at once rare, beautiful, strong, brutal, compassionate, moving, and wise. Greater in power and more intensely emotional than any of the author's previous works, this book stands as one of the best war novels of all time. (amazon.com)

**May**            **Double Helix (1968)**  
**By James Watson**

By identifying the structure of DNA, the molecule of life, Francis Crick and James Watson revolutionized biochemistry and won themselves a Nobel Prize. At the time, Watson was only twenty-four, a young scientist hungry to make his mark. His uncompromisingly honest account of the heady days of their thrilling sprint against other world-class researchers to solve one of science's greatest mysteries gives a clear picture of a world of brilliant scientists with great gifts, human ambitions, and bitter rivalries. With humility unspoiled by false modesty, Watson relates his and Crick's desperate efforts to beat Linus Pauling to the Holy Grail of life sciences--identifying the basic building block of life. Never has a scientist been so truthful in capturing the flavor of his work. (amazon.com)

**June**            **Before We Were Yours (2017)**  
**By Lisa Wingate**

Born into a world of wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all. A loving daughter to her father, a U.S. senator, with her own ambitious career as a lawyer and a handsome fiancé waiting for her in Baltimore, she has lived a charmed life. But when Avery returns to Aiken to help her father weather a health crisis and a political attack, a chance encounter with May Crandall, an elderly woman she's never met before, leaves Avery deeply shaken. Avery's decision to learn more about May's life will take her on a journey through a hidden history of stolen children and illegal adoption--a journey that will reveal a secret that could lead to devastation or redemption. (google books)

**July**                    **NO BOOK CLUB**

**August**                    **NO BOOK CLUB**

**September**            **The Count of Monte Cristo (1844)**  
**By Alexandre Dumas**

A popular bestseller since its publication, The Count of Monte Cristo is one of the great page-turning thrillers of all time. Set against the tumultuous years of the post-Napoleonic era, Alexandre Dumas's grand historical romance recounts the swashbuckling adventures of Edmond Dantès, a dashing young sailor falsely accused of treason. The story of his long imprisonment, dramatic escape, and carefully wrought revenge offers up a vision of France that has become immortal. (amazon.com)

**October**                    **Nothing Like it in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad (2000)**  
**By Stephen Ambrose**

This book relates the unprecedented feat of engineering, vision, and courage of the men who built the transcontinental railroad; the investors who risked their businesses and money; the politicians who understood its importance; the engineers and surveyors who risked, and sometimes lost, their lives; and the Irish and Chinese immigrants, defeated Confederate soldiers, and other laborers who did the backbreaking and dangerous work on the tracks. The U.S. government pitted the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads against each other in a race for funding, encouraging speed over caution. Locomotives, rails, and spikes were shipped from the East through Panama or around South America to the West or lugged across the country to the Plains. Ambrose brings this enterprise to life with all of its expenditure of brainpower, muscle, and sweat. (amazon.com)

**November**                **Journey (1989)**  
**By James Michener**

James Michener captures a frenzied time when sane men and women risked their very lives in a forbidding Arctic land to win a dazzling and elusive prize: Yukon gold. In 1897, gold fever sweeps the world. The promise of untold riches lures thousands of dreamers from all walks of life on a perilous trek toward fortune, failure—or death. *Journey* is an immersive account of the adventures of four English aristocrats and their Irish servant as they haul across cruel Canadian terrain toward the Klondike gold fields. It is a vivid and sweeping novel, featuring Michener's probing insights into the follies and grandeur of the human spirit. (amazon.com)

**December**                **Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon (2009)**  
**By David Grann**

In 1925, the legendary British explorer Percy Fawcett ventured into the Amazon jungle, in search of a fabled civilization. He never returned. Over the years, countless perished trying to find evidence of his party and the place he called "The Lost City of Z". In this masterpiece of narrative nonfiction, journalist David Grann interweaves the spellbinding stories of Fawcett's quest for "Z" and his own journey into the deadly jungle, as he unravels the greatest exploration mystery of the twentieth century.