



The Hours Michael Cunningham

Cunningham draws inventively on the life and work of Virginia Woolf to tell the story of a group of contemporary characters struggling with the conflicting claims of love and inheritance, hope and despair. The narrative of Woolf's last days before her suicide early in World War II counterpoints the fictional stories of Richard, a famous poet whose life has been shadowed by his talented and troubled mother, and his lifelong friend Clarissa, who strives to forge a balanced and rewarding life despite the demands of friends, lovers, and family.



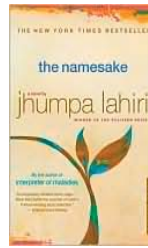
In the Time of the Butterflies Julia Alvarez

This is the story, in novel form, of the three Mirabel sisters, who were ambushed and assassinated because of their commitment to overthrow Rafael Trujillo, dictator of the Dominican Republic during the 1960s. Alvarez captures the terror of living in a police state and the courage of the sisters — known as “las mariposas” because of their underground code names — who have become mythic figures in their homeland as a result of their martyrdom.

My California: Journeys by Great Writers

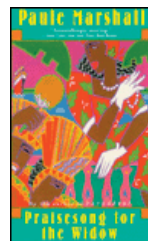
edited by Donna Wares

Fly-fish the pristine waters of the Lower Owens River. Step up to the microphone in a California honky-tonk. Surf the biggest waves California has ever seen. Mingle with ducks in an urban oasis. Roller skate through L. A.'s Union Station. Enjoy *My California*, a personal journal of



The Namesake Jhumpa Lahiri

The Namesake takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of an arranged marriage, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Ashoke does his best to adapt while his wife pines for home. When their son, Gogol, is born, the task of naming him betrays their hope of respecting old ways in a new world. Then we watch as Gogol stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs.



Praisesong for the Widow Paule Marshall

Avey Marshall, a middle class African-American widow, sets sail on a Caribbean cruise with friends, only to become ill and suffer nightmares and visions. As her eventful trip proceeds, it becomes clear that she is on a parallel inward journey of cleansing and healing that will reconnect her to her heritage and identity.



Tangerine Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football-hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness. Gradually he comes to remember the truth about the incident that damaged his eyesight.

*for young adults

Three Cups of Tea

Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin



Exhausted and seriously ill after failing an attempt to climb K2, the world's second-highest mountain, Greg Mortenson was nursed back to health by residents of a remote Pakistani village.

Grateful, he promised to return to build them a school. *Three Cups of Tea* is the story of how he came to change the world, one school at a time.



Treasures in the Dust Tracey Porter

The stories that eleven-year-old Annie and her friend Violet tell of the hardships endured by their families during the Great

Depression in rural Oklahoma mirror the larger story of America when thousands fled their homes in search of work, food and shelter.

Inside Book Club in a Box:

Guide to a successful book club:

- Structure: when, where and how long to meet
- Choosing titles
- Developing discussion questions (Suggested discussion questions are included in *Book Club in a Box*.)

Eight to ten copies of the book, plus copies of

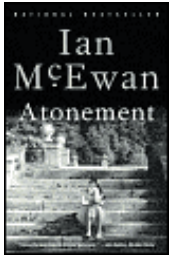
- A description of the book
- Biographical information about the author
- Author interview
- Discussion questions

Book Club in a Box may be checked out for six weeks!



WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY

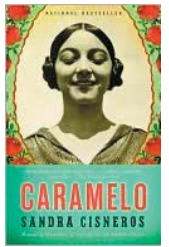
www.whittierlibrary.org



Atonement Ian McEwan

On a hot summer day in 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony witnesses a moment's flirtation between her older sister, Cecilia, and Robbie Turner, the son of a servant and Cecilia's childhood

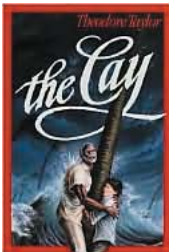
friend. Briony's incomplete grasp of adult motives — along with her precocious literary gifts — leads to a crime that changes all their lives.



Caramelo Sandra Cisneros

Lala Reyes is descended from a family of renowned rebozo, or shawl, makers. The striped caramelo rebozo made by Lala's grandmother is the most beautiful of all. Caramelo, like the

family history it has come to represent, makes its way into Lala's possession.



*The Cay** Theodore Taylor

When the Germans invade his island home of Curacao, young Phillip is eager to experience war. For him it's just a game — until the freighter he and his mother are traveling on is torpedoed on its way to the United States.

When Phillip comes to after the attack, he finds himself on a raft with an old West Indian named Timothy. The boy remembers his mother's admonition about black people: "They are different, and they live differently." But as Phillip, seriously injured in the explosion, comes to depend on Timothy for his survival, he learns to overcome his racial and cultural prejudices.

*Coraline**

Neil Gaiman

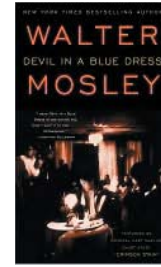
An "electrifyingly creepy" tale in which young Coraline discovers a world that eerily mimics her own. A fairy-tale novel "about as fine as they come."



Devil in a Blue Dress

Walter Mosley

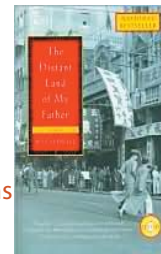
In the first of the renowned Easy Rawlins detective series, Easy, discharged from the Army after World War II and out of work, takes on his first investigation. His search for a missing woman leads him to the mean streets of South Los Angeles, where he is immersed in a violent world of intrigue and corruption.



The Distant Land of My Father

Bo Caldwell

Anna's father leads a charmed and secretive life in exotic pre-World War II Shanghai. When the Japanese occupy the city, he stays behind — believing his connections will keep him safe. His subsequent descent from charismatic millionaire to tortured prisoner is revealed in this tale of betrayal and reconciliation.



*Dragonwings**

Laurence Yep

Moon Shadow is eight years old when he joins his father, Windrider, in San Francisco, where he makes his living doing laundry. Soon Moon Shadow comes to share his father's dream of building a flying machine.



Dreaming in Cuban

Christina Garcia

Set in Havana, Brooklyn and the Cuban seaside in the 1970s, *Dreaming in Cuban* unravels the lives and fortunes of four women of the colorful Del Pino

family: the aging matriarch faithful to Fidel, her mad (possibly murderous) daughter Felicia, her capitalist counterrevolutionary daughter Lourdes, and Pilar, her artistic punk granddaughter filled with impossible Cuban dreams.

Farewell to Manzanar

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston & James D. Houston

The true story of an American family sent to prison during World War II because of its Japanese heritage, this is the memoir of Jeanne Wakatsuki, who was seven when her family was interned. Written thirty years later, her story describes how she and her family were irrevocably changed despite their spirited efforts to survive the disruption and indignities of detention.



Funny in Farsi

Firoozeh Dumas

Dumas, who moved to Whittier from Iran with her family in 1972, captures the immigrant experience with humor. In hilarious vignettes, such as her

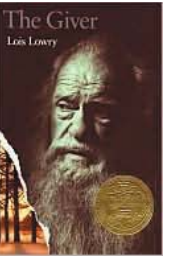
uncle's discovery of American fast food (with predictable consequences to his waistline), and her father's penchant for pursuing freebies. Dumas illuminates differences in Persian and American cultures as well as the challenges faced by every immigrant, regardless of origin.

*for young adults

*The Giver**

Lois Lowry

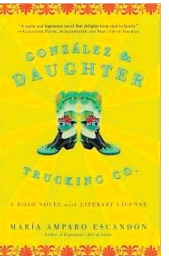
In the perfect society in which Jonas lives, there is no pain, poverty or other suffering. After he becomes "Receiver of Memories" and learns the horrifying truths of his community from the "Giver," he makes a decision that will test his courage and fortitude.



González & Daughter Trucking Co.

María Amparo Escandón

Serving a sentence in a Mexican prison, Libertad González passes the time by reading to her fellow inmates from whatever books she can find in the prison's meager supply. The story that emerges, though, has nothing to do with the words printed on the pages.



With her stories, Libertad entralls a group of female prisoners every bit as eccentric as the tales she tells. Escandón seamlessly blends together these elements into one compelling and unexpected conclusion that will have you cheering for Libertad and filled with joy.

Growing Up Latino

edited by Harold Augenbraum and Ilan Stavans

Sometimes shocking, often funny and always stirring, these stories and memoirs bring to life the Latino experience in the United States in all its variety, beauty and power. From the mean streets of the barrio to the house on Mango Street, from the Mambo Kings to the Garcia Girls, renowned Latino authors explore religion, sex, love, language, family and more.

