

2014 Notable Books List (for works from 2013) American Library Association Reference and User Services Association

A BooksTalk presentation by Pat Leach
Bethany Branch November 7, 2014 and
Gere Branch November 17, 2014



Lincoln City Libraries director Pat Leach gives an annual talk synthesizing the Notable Books List put out by the American Library Association. Here is the list of titles selected for 2014 (which were published in 2013). All titles owned by the Lincoln City Libraries are hotlinked to our online catalog, so that you can check on the status of the title and/or place a “hold”. If the title is not hotlinked, you can request the item through our InterLibrary Loan service for a small fee.

Fiction

[*Americanah*](#) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Knopf)

The nuances and challenges of race, emigration and cultural identification are explored through the lives of two Nigerian lovers.



[*Life After Life*](#) by Kate Atkinson (Reagan Arthur)

What would happen if death were just a new beginning?

[*Claire of the Sea Light*](#) by Edwidge Danticat (Knopf)

A bittersweet fable of modern Haiti told in luminous prose.

[*Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See*](#) by Juliann Garey (Soho Press)

The fragmented and unsettling perspective of a man grappling with mental illness.



[*Enon*](#) by Paul Harding (Random House)

A father struggles with the accidental death of his 15 year-old daughter. Grief on paper.

[*Unchangeable Spots of Leopards*](#) by Kristopher Jansma (Viking)

Around the world with a charmingly unreliable narrator in this coming-of-age tale.

[*The Dinner*](#) by Herman Koch (Hogarth)

If they sat next to us in a restaurant, we would do well to simply study our forks.



[*Constellation of Vital Phenomena*](#) by Anthony Marra (Hogarth)

An affirmation of life amidst the chaos of war-torn Chechnya.

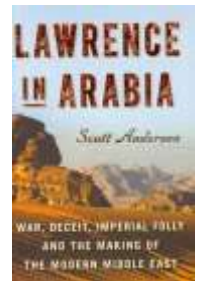
[*The Woman Upstairs*](#) by Claire Messud (Knopf)
A taut psychological drama of slow-burning anger.

[*Tale for the Time Being*](#) by Ruth Ozeki (Viking)
Tokyo meets Sunnyvale and British Columbia through a purple gel pen, a tsunami and a Hello Kitty lunchbox with a side of quantum physics.

[*The Goldfinch*](#) by Donna Tartt (Little Brown)
A terrorist bomb blows apart a 13-year-old boy's world.

Nonfiction

[*Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East*](#) by Scott Anderson (Doubleday) [940.41 And]
A biography of place viewed through some of its most enigmatic and iconic historical figures.

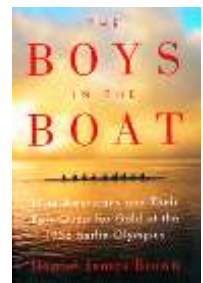


[*Year Zero: A History of 1945*](#) by Ian Baruma (Penguin) [940.53 Bur]
A fresh look at the aftermath of World War II challenges the traditional, heroic narrative.

[*On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand Year History*](#) by Nicholas Basbanes (Knopf) [676.09 Bas]
The most valuable, useful, pervasive invention after the wheel and before the computer.

[*To the End of June: The Intimate Life of American Foster Care*](#) by Cris Beam (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) [362.733 Bea]
When every person and social system you've trusted has let you down, can there be happy endings for anyone involved?

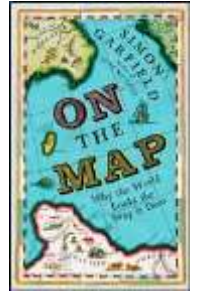
[*The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*](#) by Daniel James Brown (Viking) [797.123 Bro]
Eight oarsman and their coxswain struggle to overcome the choppy waters and the hardships of the Great Depression in their pursuit of glory.



[*Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital*](#) by Sheri Fink (Crown) [362.11 Fin]
After Hurricane Katrina, systematic failures lead to morally ambiguous decisions.

[*The Riddle of the Labyrinth: the Quest to Crack an Ancient Code*](#) by Margalit Fox (Harper Collins) [939.18 Fox]
Unsung classicist Alice Kober's research provides to the key to unlock "Linear B", a 3,500 year-old language.

[On the Map: A Mind-Expanding Exploration of the Way the World Looks](#) by Simon Garfield (Gotham Books) [912 Gar]
Wherever you go, you are here.



[Johnny Cash: The Life](#) by Robert Hilburn (Little, Brown) [Music 781.642 Cas]
The Man in Black in full color.

[The Skies Belong to Us: Love and Terror in the Golden Age of Hijacking](#) by Brendan I. Koerner (Crown) [364.155 Koe]
High-flying tale of twisted romance and seventies politics.



[Animal Wise: The Thoughts and Emotions of our Fellow Creatures](#) by Virginia Morell (Crown) [599 Mor]
No critters were harmed in the making of this book.

[Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety](#) by Eric Schlosser (Penguin) [363.17 Sch]
An expose of dropped wrenches and lost bombs. Whoops!

[Faraway Nearby](#) by Rebecca Solnit (Viking) [Biography Solnit]
Apricots and Alzheimer's come together in a meditation on how lives are created and sustained through story.

Poetry

[The Ogre's Wife: Poems](#) by Ron Koertge (Red Hen) [811 Koe]
Odd, eclectic and magical verse.



[Hum](#) by Jamaal May (Alice James) [811 May]
Detroit cityscapes resonate with the pulse of machinery and silence

Annotations from:
"2014 List", American Library Association, for materials published in 2013
<http://www.ala.org/rusa/awards/notablebooks/lists/2014>

Presented by Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries
Presented as Lincoln City Libraries booktalks: Bethany Branch Nov 7 2014 & Gere Branch Nov 17 2014