



IUPUI
SENIOR ACADEMY

Book Club **What We're Reading Now or Have Just Read**

Barry, John M. – The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History (2004): Outlines the inexorable spread of the deadly influenza variant of 1918. Striking parallels to what we are living through today (Covid), the good things and wrong things done.

Harmon, Charlie – On the Road & Off the Record w/Leonard Bernstein (2018): The book begins with his in-residence at IU, then his chosen life after wife's death and when no longer tied to a specific orchestra. The author was a personal asst. to Bernstein. Gossipy, but fascinating.

Horner, Jack and Gorman, James – How to Build a Dinosaur: Extinction Doesn't Have to be Forever (2009): A world-renowned paleontologist sheds light on what shadows of the past remain within the DNA of living species. Based on his experimental science.

Lahiri, Jhumpa – Interpreter of Maladies (1999): Earliest collection of short stories from a novelist/translator. Stories set in India and North America, many about experiences of 1st or 2nd generation Indians in U.S.

Powers, Richard – The Overstory (2018): The novel, winner of 2019 Pulitzer Prize For Fiction, is about five trees that had unique life experiences with nine Americans who bring them together to address the destruction of the forests. Beautifully written.

Tokarczuk, Olga – Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead (2009): This story is an imaginative mixture of murder mystery, comedy, political treatise by a Polish fiction writer and winner of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Westover, Tara – Educated: A Memoir (2018): Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho in 1986, this memoir is about her struggle to try a new life and gain an education, incl. the grief of severing family ties. She never set foot in a classroom until she was 17, but earned a PhD in History from Cambridge University in 2014.

Willis, Connie – Doomsday Book (1993): This is a time-travel novel about a young female history student who travels from Oxford in 2048 back to an English village in 1348, where she gets trapped at the onset of the deadly Black Death Plague. The author is an award-winning science fiction writer from the U.S.