

A Bit of Book Group History

In December 2000, the Bedford Public Library's book group met for the first time. The late Dora Hastings initiated the group. Founding members Lorraine Fortier and Tom Manning still participate.

Mary Ann Senatroy led the group from 2000 to 2007. In 2008, Lynne Bishop became the facilitator and moderated discussions for ten years. Since 2018, Sue Fahey has led the group.

In response to the pandemic in the spring of 2020, the group transitioned to meeting virtually over Zoom and reading ebooks when the Library building closed. When the library reopened, the group resumed meeting in person outside and "socially distant" in the Town Hall.

In person meetings returned to the library in 2021 and we were happy to have them back on site.

Updated 12/24

*Books are the plane, and
the train, and the road.
They are the destination,
and the journey. They are
home.*

-Anna Quindlen

Dec. 2000-Dec. 2001

The Weight of Water by Anita Shreve
Montana 1948 by Larry Watson
Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier
The Voyage of the Narwhal by Andrea Barrett
In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez
Amoskeag by Tamara Hareven
Boone's Lick by Larry McMurtry
Colors of the Mountain by Da Chen
House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubus III
My Antonia by Willa Cather
The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro
The Girl With a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier
Wait Till Next Year by Doris Kearns Goodwin

2002

The Professor and the Madman
by Simon Winchester
The Shipping News by E. Annie Proulx
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
Tulip Fever by Deborah Moggach
The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara
Fortune's Rocks by Anita Shreve
Practical Magic by Alice Hoffman
Under the Tuscan Sun by Frances Mayes
The All of It by Jeannette Haien
Ahab's Wife by Sena Jeter Naslund
Empire Falls by Richard Russo
The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama

2003

Falling Angels by Tracy Chevalier
The Dress Lodger by Sheri Holman
Motherless Brooklyn by Jonathan Lethem
Bel Canto by Ann Patchett
The Horse Whisperer by Nicholas Evans
Atonement by Ian McEwan
The Story of Lucy Gault by William Trevor
Salem Falls by Jodi Picoult
The Buffalo Soldier by Chris Bohjalian
Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress
by Dai Sijie

2004

Crow Lake by Mary Lawson
Three Junes by Julia Glass
The Dante Club by Matthew Pearl
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
Straight Man by Richard Russo
Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear
The Lady and the Unicorn by Tracy Chevalier
The Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time
by Mark Haddon
A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean

2005

On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon

by Kaye Gibbons

The Sparrow by Mary Doria Russell

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

The Colour by Rose Tremain

My Garden by Jamaica Kincaid

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Harvard Yard by William Martin

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

The Wedding by Dorothy West

Bee Season by Myla Goldberg

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

Before You Know Kindness by Chris Bohjalian

2006

The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

by Jonathan Safran Foer

Pompeii by Robert Harris

The Honk and Holler Opening Soon by Billie Letts

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

The Tender Bar by J.R. Moehringer

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

Saturday by Ian McEwan

The Memory of Running by Ron McLarty

All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren

The Country of the Pointed First

by Sarah Orne Jewett

2007

Jane Eyre theater production at the Dana Center
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë
The Good Good Pig by Sy Montgomery
March by Geraldine Brooks
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
Zorro by Isabel Allende
The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield
In the Heart of the Sea by Nathaniel Philbrick
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan (part of the Big Read)
The White Earth by Andrew McGahan

2008

The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean
The Measure of a Man by Sidney Poitier
The Whistling Season by Ivan Doig
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson
The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolán
The Rule of Four by Ian Caldwell & Dustin Thomason
Color of the Sea by John Hamamura
The View From Mary's Farm by Edie Clark
Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi
Daisy Miller & Washington Square by Henry James
To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

2009

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder
Lottery by Patricia Wood
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Deep Economy by Bill McKibben
The Piano Tuner by Daniel Mason
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows
Farewell, My Subaru by Doug Fine
The River of Doubt by Candice Millard
Dreamers of the Day by Mary Doria Russell
Digging To America by Anne Tyler
Desert Queen by Janet Wallach
Mrs. Miniver by Jan Struther

2010

The Open Road: The Global Journey of the 14th
Dalai Lama by Pico Iyer
Show Boat by Edna Ferber
Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout
Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919
by Stephen Puleo
All Over But The Shoutin' by Rick Bragg
The Welsh Girl by Peter Ho Davies
On Kingdom Mountain by Howard Frank
Climbing The Mango Trees by Madhur Jaffrey
The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery
Strength In What Remains by Tracy Kidder
Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson
Stones Into Schools by Greg Mortenson

2011

The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver
Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America
by Barbara Ehrenreich
I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith
Spiked Boots: Sketches of the North Country
by Robert Pike
The Housekeeper and the Professor
by Yoko Ogawa
Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner
The Postmistress by Sarah Blake
***The Outermost House: A Year of Life on the Great
Beach of Cape Cod*** by Henry Beston
Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen
My Life in France by Julia Child
The Art of Racing in the Rain: My Life as a Dog
by Garth Stein
***Stark Decency: German Prisoners of War in a
New England Village*** by Allen Koop

*Reading is an exercise in
empathy; an exercise in walking
in someone else's shoes for a
while.*

-Malorie Blackman

2012

Turn and Jump by Howard Mansfield
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Highest Duty by Chesley Sullenberger
Tinkers by Paul Harding
Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay
Birdology by Sy Montgomery
How Green Was My Valley by Richard Llewellyn
Wind, Sand and Stars by Antoine de Saint Exupéry
The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating
by Elisabeth Tova Bailey
The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint Exupéry
The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan
The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett

2013

Rules of Civility by Amor Towles
Moon Tiger by Penelope Lively
The Time of Our Lives by Tom Brokaw
The Enchanted April by Elizabeth von Arnim
The Reivers by William Faulkner
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Life After Life by Kate Atkinson
The Old Way by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas
The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency
by Alexander McCall Smith
Quiet by Susan Cain
Silas Marner by George Eliot

2014

Dear Life by Alice Munro

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

by Arthur Conan Doyle

The Barbarian Nurseries by Héctor Tobar

If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name

by Heather Lende

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel Brown

A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth L. Ozeki

A Secret Gift by Ted Gup

The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls

by Anton DiSclafani

Old School by Tobias Wolff

Some Kind of Fairy Tale by Graham Joyce

Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs

by Heather Lende

Trains and Lovers by Alexander McCall Smith

*It is not true that 'we have
one life to live,' if we can
read, we can live as many
more lives and as many
kinds of lives as we wish.
-S.I. Hayakawa*

2015

The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman
Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather
The Map Thief by Michael Blanding
Wives & Daughters by Elizabeth Gaskell
One Summer by Bill Bryson
That Summer in Sicily by Marlena De Blasi
Revolutionary Summer by Joseph Ellis
Cannery Row by John Steinbeck
Northern Borders by Howard Frank Mosher
Euphoria by Lily King
Lisette's List by Susan Vreeland

2016

Heart in the Right Place by Carolyn Jourdan
Blackberry Winter by Margaret Mead
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
Villette by Charlotte Brontë
Much Ado about Nothing by William Shakespeare
The Bookman's Tale by Charles Lovett
Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig
Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf
Being Mortal by Atul Gawande
Above the Waterfall by Ron Rash
Etta & Otto & Russell & James by Emma Hooper
Brave Companions by David McCullough

2017

The Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers
Sisterland by Curtis Sittenfeld
A Land More Kind Than Home by Wiley Cash
Here If You Need Me by Kate Braestrup
When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanathi
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
News of the World by Paulette Jiles
The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant
Last Days of Summer by Steve Kluger
Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance
Find the Good by Heather R. Lende

2018

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
Upstream by Mary Oliver
Hero of the Empire by Candice Millard
Clementine by Sonia Purnell
Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury
Elephant Company by Vicki Constantine Croke
Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper
by Phaedra Patrick
Thunderstruck by Erik Larson
Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel
Shoeless Joe by W.P. Kinsella
The Day the World Came to Town by Jim DeFede

2019

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann
The Chaperone by Laura Moriarty
Loving Frank by Nancy Horan
...But Few Are Chosen by Michael Connolly
Fly Girls by Keith O'Brien
Murder at the Vicarage / The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by Agatha Christie
Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk by Kathleen Rooney
Girls Burn Brighter by Shobha Rao
The Night Strangers by Chris Bohjalian
The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend
by Katarina Bivald
Murder in the Marais by Cara Black
The Dollhouse by Fiona Davis

2020

Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts
Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?
by Roz Chast
We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter
The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott
The Red Address Book by Sofia Lundberg
Afterlife by Julia Alvarez
A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell
The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez
The Gown by Jennifer Robson

2021

The Lost Man by Jane Harper
The Wartime Sisters by Lynda Cohen Loigman
Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid
March by Geraldine Brooks
Long Bright River by Liz Moore
The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes
How to Astronaut by Terry Virts
The Bookseller by Mark Pryor
Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon
1984 by George Orwell
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
The Crypt Thief by Mark Pryor

2022

The Exiles by Christina Baker Kline
The Stationery Shop by Marjan Kamali
The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman
The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich
The Ride of Her Life by Elizabeth Letts
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba
All In by Billie Jean King
The Good Sister by Sally Hepworth
The Man Who Died Twice by Richard Osman
The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams
Our Darkest Night by Jennifer Robson
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

2023

The Sea Gate by Jane Johnson
The Boys by Ron Howard
The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie R. King
Kitchen Confidential by Anthony Bourdain
The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri
The Change by Kirsten Miller
Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce
Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson
The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb
The Bear by Andrew Krivak
The Girl from Guernica by Karen Robards
How the Penguins Saved Veronica by Hazel Prior

2024

The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak
The Tiffany Girls by Shelley Noble
Call Your Daughter Home by Deb Spera
Beyond That, The Sea by Laura Spence-Ash
Stoner by John Williams
The Collected Regrets of Clover by Mikki Brammer
The First Ladies by Marie Benedict
West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
Maybe You Should Talk to Someone by Lori
Gottlieb
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
None of This is True by Lisa Jewell
A Girl Called Samson by Amy Harmon