**Books of Summer 2015**

**Recommended Reads from Phillips Library Fans**

**Book of Psalms.**
Most of the Psalms are attributed to David. Although we know that there were probably other authors too, I like them because I can pick them up and whatever my mood is at that moment, I find something that helps me. It’s so human. The Psalm writers find ways to make our life experiences more meaningful. The *Book of Psalms* spans the whole human experience; let’s pretend that we know for certain King David is the author. We know that his life had many triumphs and many challenges. There were times when he broke the covenant with God. He had a full range of mortal experiences and finds a wonderful way to write about them in his poetry and lyrics. From reading the *Book of Psalms*, you find that though we are separated temporally and culturally from the author, there is something universal about being human. No matter how human we are, how frail we are, or how flawed we are, God is always there.

- 220.5204 Bib
  *Rebecca Sherrick, President*

**The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah.
“In love we find out who we want to be; in war we find out who we are.” Inspired by true stories of women in the French Resistance, Hannah tells the tale of two sisters in a small town in France during the Nazi occupation. When Vianne Mauriac’s husband leaves for the front, she is left to care for herself and her daughter when a German captain moves into their home. Her sister, Isabelle, searches for love and purpose among the horrors of war. A beautiful novel about survival, love, and courage.

- 813.54 Hannah
  *Helen Valantinas, Phillips Library*

**Sophie’s World: A Novel About the History of Philosophy** by Jostein Gaarder.
In an anonymous letter written to someone named Hilde, Sophie reads: “The only thing we require to be good philosophers is the facility of wonder.” With that, she begins her journey through the history of Western philosophy, trying to solve the mystery of who the writer and Hilde are. At the midpoint of the book, a sudden plot twist may take you by surprise, but keep reading!

- 839.82374 Ga
  *Hayley Lynn Pessina, Senior, Criminal Justice Major*

**To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee.
Despite taking place in the 1930s, this truly timeless tale contains many themes that have endured through today. I read this book every summer and learn something about myself and grow personally each time. There is a character for every person to relate to no matter what season of life they are in. You could be a young child such as Scout, filled with innocence and nativity, but slowly learning the injustices of the world. Or, perhaps you are Atticus, not naïve to the ignorance and hatred of people, but you try to be as fair and understanding as possible to everyone no matter how you may be looked upon by your community.

- 813.54 Lee-t
  *Amy Schlumpf Manion, Phillips Library*

How is it I could be so transfixed by a book whose ending was already known to me? If you followed this saga when it was international news, you will enjoy the backstory.

- 363.11 Tob
  *Amy Schlumpf Manion, Phillips Library*
**The Sculptor** by Scott McCloud. What would you give to make a name for yourself? This is the question that Death poses to David Smith, the struggling young artist in *The Sculptor*. McCloud’s beautifully drawn graphic novel follows David’s life in the days after his deal with Death. David explores issues of artistic expression and value, love, and legacy as he races against time to make his last two hundred days on earth count. • 741.5 McCloud

Anna-Marie Rudek-Spinos, Psychology

**Riding on Duke’s Train** by Mick Carlon. This book mixes non-fiction and fiction, showing the lives of musicians in the Jim Crow south and African-American musicians touring in Europe in the 1930s. In the fictional part, Duke Ellington adopts a little boy and the boy spends the rest of his childhood with Duke Ellington. What happened in Europe in 1938 is completely true. As part of a tour, Ellington’s band drove through Nazi-controlled Germany. The band was actually detained in Hamburg by the Nazis for about a day. That is told in this book, making it an interesting mix of fiction and nonfiction. *Riding on Duke’s Train* is important because the reader sees these musicians as people, especially people with lives outside of their music, and the reader is connected with that part of our American history. • 813.6 Cad-n

Mark Plummer, Music

**Marathon Woman: Running the Race to Revolutionize Women’s Sports** by Kathrine Switzer. This book is phenomenal, motivational, and inspirational. It’s really important to me right now because I’ve been running a lot and I’m going to run the same marathon that she ran as the first registered female in 1967. When I first heard about Kathrine Switzer, I thought she was someone who just wanted to run a marathon. I didn’t realize how much she fought for women to be involved sports, including fighting for Title IX. She also fought to have the marathon included in the Olympics. She proved that one person really can make a difference, whether it’s in academia, providing opportunities for women, or simply giving people a time, a space and a voice. Seeing what she sacrificed made me feel empowered. • 796.42092 Switzer

Denise Hatcher, Spanish

**The Terror** by Dan Simmons. Following the broad facts of the Franklin Expedition of the Arctic, this adds some fictional elements of suspense. While it’s quite a long read, it managed to grab me from the beginning and was hard to put down. The speculation about what might have happened aboard two doomed ships in the 19th century was captivating. Simmons’ descriptions of the temperatures were conveyed so well you may even feel cold reading it. • 813.54 Sim-t

Emily Hoffman, Phillips Library

**Return to Wake Robin: One Cabin in the Heyday of Northwoods Resorts** by Marnie O. Mamminga. A long car ride with arguing siblings, a lake in the Wisconsin woods, screened porches, Friday night fish fry, and a cast of unique characters: could there be a more quintessentially Midwestern summer experience? Mamminga provides a nostalgic memoir that makes the reader feel like they, too, have a little cabin “up north” (and Aurora College makes a cameo appearance!). • 796.54 Mam

Kathy Clark, Phillips Library

**Nick and Norah’s Infinite Playlist** by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan. I believe in music the way some people believe in fairy tales. This book combines both. Written in a back and forth style, the chapters alternate between Nick and Norah’s perspective, and come together to tell how these two strangers start off in a pretend relationship. What starts as a simple favor, turns into a night where the love of a band brings together two individuals. Nick, the straight bass player in a gay band, pairs up with Norah, daughter of a wealthy record producer, who have only one thing in common: their favorite band, Where’s Fluffy. Together they explore New York’s indie music scene and realize that maybe being broken is better when you’re not alone. • 813.6 Coh-n

Christina Gonzales, Senior, Communication Major
**Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz. The thrilling tale of Alex Rider captures the hearts of countless readers world-wide! It all begins when Rider’s Uncle Ian, the seemingly average Joe, is killed in a mysterious car crash. Once the British government contacts the baffled Rider, his life takes a complete 180 turn as he learns Ian’s true identity. Alex is coaxed into taking over Ian’s mission, where he utilizes creative spy gadgets and poses as a computer whiz. Will Alex defeat a sinister mastermind to save his own life, and possibly the lives of others? That’s for you to find out! Everyone desires an escape from time to time; delve into this book and you’re sure to experience exhilaration not attached to your daily routine. • 823.914 Hor-s

Remya Joseph, Senior, Health Science Major

**Hercule Poirot’s Casebook** by Agatha Christie. All fifty of the Hercule Poirot stories are in this one volume. All show how he solved the crimes with the use of his “little gray cells,” and the clues are quite easy to see after he has shown them. If only we had been paying attention! Agatha Christie has been called the Queen of Mysteries and reading her Poirot stories will show why she deserved the title. Most are short, between eight to twenty pages; a couple are thirty-five or forty pages long. See if you can solve the case before Poirot! • 823.912 Ch-he

Andi Seifrid, Phillips Library

**Stone Butch Blues** by Leslie Feinberg. This is a rare template for transgender stories. To me, personally, it was revolutionary to read characters that don’t get much attention and open up different varieties of sexual orientation and gender identity. Feinberg makes big political issues very personal and understandable. The book starts with a love letter to a past lover and continues with a coming of age narrative before the author says, “I wish I weren’t different.” It ends with her going through revolutionary changes. Readers will gain an understanding of the type of world that we don’t get to see often, one that we’re just starting to see in HBO films and through some of the Netflix series. • 813.54 Fei-s

Bridgitte Barclay, English

**Life After Life** by Kate Atkinson. Instead of alternative history or parallel lives, this is alternative future with déjà vu. Ursula dies at birth, the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck. She is born again and lives, but dies in childhood. With each new life she learns more about her intended purpose. She begins to understand what she needs to learn, who she must meet and what skills she needs to fulfill her purpose. I won’t say more, because I don’t want to spoil it. This was so good that I was sad when I finished it. If you liked Kate Mosse’s Labyrinth (813.6 Mos-l), you’ll like this! • 823.914 Atk-l

Nancy Mactague, Phillips Library

**It’s What I Do: A Photographer’s Life of Love and War** by Lynsey Addario. I requested this book from my local library after seeing Addario interviewed on the PBS NewsHour thinking it would be a photo book. There are just a few photographs but I decided to give it a read anyway. It turned out to be a fascinating memoir of a woman on the frontlines of many world conflicts trying to impact political policy with her work. Although she essentially was self-taught, she has become a prizewinning photojournalist. Her story revolves around being a woman in a profession dominated by men, working in countries where women are second-class citizens, and how to integrate this all and still have a meaningful personal life. • 779.092 Add

Kim Chismark, MSN Student

**Labyrinth** by Kate Atkinson. The Pulitzer Prize–winning book features the relationship between these two early 20th century presidents and their relationships with the press. While Roosevelt is fairly well known, Taft’s career is often obscured by his more volatile friend, and he turns out to have led a very interesting life. Their stories are told in fascinating detail, including how their friendship turned into bitter rivalry. Read this book not just for history, but for enjoyment. • 973.911 Ro-Zg

Mary Buettner, History and Academic Support Center
Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, and Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood by William J. Mann. William Desmond Taylor was arguably the most prominent movie director in the early 1920s, but his life ended in a sensational (and still unsolved) Hollywood murder. On February 1, 1922, Taylor’s servant found him dead near his desk, a bullet through his ribs. Suspects included nearly everyone in Taylor’s social and professional circles: his former valet, the mother of a Hollywood starlet, blackmailers, actress Mabel Normand, and a Canadian military officer. As the murder became public, speculation grew, largely due to a vindictive (and misinformed) press. Hollywood suffered financially and responded politically. Four previous books explore the case, but Tinseltown provides the most plausible solution. (Spoiler: the butler didn’t do it.) • 364.1523 Man
Jay Thomas, Education

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson. Once again, a familiar historical event is made personal by Larson. He is masterful at creating suspense in a story, despite foreknowledge of the outcome. This story is thoroughly researched, carefully crafted, and skillfully told. • 940.451 Lar
Andrew Manion, Executive Vice President

Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan. This is a love story wrapped up as an adventure and mystery novel. The narrator weaves a tale through books and bookstores, the Internet and Google, typography and history, audio-books and old computer programs, a strange warehouse, and a secret library. You will see this novel as a mysterious adventure, and it is. But it is far more: a love story to books, knowledge, reading, discovery, and curiosity. Mr. Penumbra’s 24-hour Bookstore has now taken its place as one of my favorite novels of all time. If you love reading, adventures, libraries, and books, then you will be enthralled by this tale. It is a world you will not want to leave when you finish the last page.

A Fighting Chance by Elizabeth Warren. A must read for all Americans: those who are uninformed as well as those who care deeply about our democracy and a government that represents the interests of its people. Warren hits the nail on the head page after page. Ours is a government that helps the rich prey off the middle class and the poor at the expense of people’s lives and futures. We are the ones allowing this to happen! It’s time for us to wake from our collective apathy and consumer slumber and wrestle back control of our democracy! Thank you, Elizabeth Warren! • 328.73092 War
Sara Gerend, English

Divergent by Veronica Roth. This book portrays a future-based society in which people are divided into factions based on their personalities, beliefs, and values. When individuals turn 16, they have the option to either stay with the faction they were born into or to join a different faction for the rest of their lives. The story is told through the perspective of 16-year-old Tris Prior and explores her struggle to define herself after she diverges from her chosen faction.

A special thank you to reviewers who provided a complimentary copy of the book they reviewed to the Phillips Library collection.