What We’re Reading

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“There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book.” This quote by Marcel Proust recalls childhood days of carefully selecting that next book to read from the local library or bookmobile. Good books engender reading habits that last a lifetime. Enjoy these books shared by YCP students, staff, and faculty, and look for your next read in Schmidt Library. Keep reading, keep exploring.

Limit of Vision by Linda Nagata (2001)

I found the author in a short story post in a magazine. I live in the real world, so my voluntary reading is usually far from it. I found her version of hardcore SciFi to be imaginative and somewhat relevant. This book deals with the dilemma’s brought on when technology runs amok and/or bypasses its human masters. Setting is near future — current governmental structure, with very loose and agenda-driven UN-like organization monitoring technology. There is some cliché “little guy vs. the Man,” but overall an interesting and thought-provoking read. ~ Ken Stout

Dawn by Octavia E. Butler (1987)

In Book One of the Xenogenesis series, Lilith Iyapo wakes up from a 200-year sleep aboard a spaceship with aliens. After being saved from a nuclear war on Earth, she and other humans have become experiments. The aliens can cure cancer and increase strength, but they want something in exchange before sending the humans back to a new Earth. Lilith must choose whether to help the humans get to the new Earth or help the aliens achieve their genetic alteration. This easy-to-follow novel is riveting and one that will have you engaged until the very end. ~ Megan Kelly

Run, Don’t Walk : The Curious and Chaotic Life of a Physical Therapist Inside Walter Reed Army Medical Center

by Adele Levine, P. T. (2014)

I found this nonfiction book to be simultaneously engaging, inspirational, interesting, sad, and humorous. Ms. Levine has written a poignant and memorable view of her job as a physical therapist working with badly injured army veterans. It was a surprisingly fun read, even though it is dealing with some very difficult situations. I would definitely recommend this book to a friend. I hope she writes some more books. ~ Linda Stager
**Fallingwater : a Frank Lloyd Wright Country House**  
by Edgar Kaufmann, Jr. (1986)

Fallingwater is the most famous modern house in America. The American Institute of Architects voted it the best American building of the last 125 years. The house is recognized worldwide as the paradigm of organic architecture, where a building becomes an integral part of its natural setting.

The author was both apprentice to Wright and son of the man who commissioned the house (Edgar Kaufmann, owner of Kaufmann’s Department Store in Pittsburgh). Kaufmann, Jr., closely followed the planning and construction of Fallingwater. He lived in the house on weekends and vacations for twenty-seven years. Following the deaths of his parents, he gave the house in 1963 to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to hold for public enjoyment and appreciation.

This is an intimate record of the complexities and realities of one man's fifty-year relationship with Frank Lloyd Wright. With full appreciation of the intentions of both architect and client, the author describes this remarkable building in detail, telling of its extraordinary virtues and also accounting for its faults. Kaufmann explains the realities and myths of building Fallingwater. There was significant give and take between Wright, his client, and the construction engineers. The author brings out the constant tension between Wright’s ideology of architecture, the client’s cost concerns, and the engineering crew who questioned if it could be built at all.

The author clearly knew and loved Fallingwater and admired Wright as an architect. He wrote this book in celebration of Fallingwater's fiftieth anniversary. Outstanding features of this volume include numerous photographs of the house under construction, during its entire history, and of the family in residence. It also includes a detailed room-by-room pictorial survey, isometric architectural perspectives that explain visually how the house was constructed, and accurate, measured plans of the house as built. ~ Jim Kapoun

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**Ubik** by Philip K. Dick (1969)

An existential horror story like no other, Ubik will keep you thinking long after you've put it down. Set in a futuristic world of telepaths and their opposites, anti-telepaths, Ubik is about a team of anti-telepaths led by their employer, Glen Runciter. Business isn't going too well for Runciter Associates, so when he's offered a lucrative-yet-suspicious contract, he jumps at the opportunity; however, during that job, Runciter is killed in an explosion, and as the survivors scramble to figure out what’s happened, reality itself seems to crumble around them... or does it? Buyer beware: Use Ubik only as directed. ~ Ian Wiles

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**Blood Meridian** by Cormac McCarthy (1985)

This is based on the true story of John Glanton, who in the mid-1800's led a band of murderers, thieves, and scoundrels across the Southern U.S. and Mexico. Extremely poetically written in standard McCarthy style, John Glanton and the enigmatic figure known only as the Judge lead the Glanton gang along with other colorful characters to pillage their way across the desert, capturing Indian scalps for profit. One of McCarthy’s masterpieces, Blood Meridian is truly an experience to behold. WARNING: Super violent, many morally despicable characters, themes, and events; BUT, written in such a descriptive, beautiful style you might not care. ~ Ian Wiles
Were you ever driving down Route 30 in York, looking at all those restaurants along the way, wondering, “Where do all these places get all their food?” Or, did you ever stop along the roadway, at a small produce stand, grateful that someone took the time to grow and sell the fresh produce you were about to buy? If you’ve asked these questions, then you and Forest Pritchard have something in common. After graduating from William and Mary College with degrees in English and Geology, Pritchard returned to his grandfather’s farm, with fond memories of his childhood there. With humor, a conviction that he’s doing the “right” thing, and down-on-the-farm common sense, Pritchard writes of his journey in turning his grandfather’s land into a profitable, sustainable farm that produces fresh, healthy, local food. If you think creativity and a good work ethic are dead in America, read Gaining Ground. They’re not! ~ Barb Zmolek

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