Dear readers, as you know, YCP is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a four-year college. LTS is also celebrating the fifth anniversary of What We’re Reading, a forum for YCP students, faculty, and staff to share opinions about books they’ve read. If you’ve never submitted a book review to WWR, what are you waiting for? Don’t be shy. Let your opinions be known. Look at the bottom of page two for how to submit a book review for WWR. The next issue will be published in February, so you have plenty of time to find a good book to read.

“I read a book one day and my whole life was changed.”
– Orhan Pamuk, The New Life

The Stranger in the Woods, by Michael Finkel (2017)

Have you ever dreamed of living by yourself in a remote area where no one could bother you? Twenty-year-old Christopher Knight did. In 1986, with little to no forethought, he walked into the Maine woods one day, set up camp, and stayed there for the next twenty-seven years. In order to survive, he burglarized nearby lakeside cabins for food, clothing, books (he was a voracious reader), and other necessities. Committing a thousand break-ins during his years of solitude would prove to be his downfall, when a local sheriff finally catches him in the act. The author of this non-fiction book is a journalist who sympathetically presents Knight’s true-life story. Finkel is also sensitive to the theft victims, many of whom were repeatedly burgled and lived in fear, not knowing if or when the hermit would strike their cabins. This is an easy, fascinating read for all would-be hermits. ~ Beth Jacoby

The Masterpiece: A Novel, by Fiona Davis (2018)

If you love the history and architecture of NYC, with a dash of romance and page-turning mystery thrown into the mix, Fiona Davis is the author for you. In her latest, The Masterpiece, the forgotten stories of Grand Central Station are explored. The students at the Grand Central School of Art located on a top floor of the terminal weather the economic turbulence of 1928, while in 1974, a recent divorcee and cancer survivor finds new purpose in trying to save the building from destruction. Davis’ characters are modern women who learn how to navigate a world controlled by men and discover that the city has all they need to survive. ~ Suzanne Delle
Cabins of Minnesota, by Bill Holm & Doug Ohman (2007)

Cabins of Minnesota could be anywhere in the United States, including the forests, mountainsides, and rivers of Pennsylvania. Photographer Doug Ohman really captures the rustic feel of cabins. The outdoor shots are beautiful and will make you long to spend some time at each place, but it’s actually the interior pictures that hold a special appeal. A shelf of mismatched plates all dating from the 1950’s and another shelf full of board games for rainy nights typify what we think of when we reminisce about times spent in rustic cabins.

I appreciated author Bill Holm’s skilled word crafting, pondering what makes a cabin, and what makes us want to spend time in one. Holm’s eclectic prose combines stories of the ancient Chinese poetry of Po Chü-I with W.B. Yeats reflections on the rewards of cabin life. Holm reminds us of “the pleasures of fishing, daydreaming, sunsets, and star counting, and the leisure to take stock of one’s life without the surround-sound noise of our wired century.” In a cabin retreat, he writes, “pleasure overcomes duty for a little while.” Cabins aren’t limited to lakes but can describe hideaways in the woods, simple dwellings along rivers and streams, and cottages beside the county highways -- relics from the days when families rented vacation places to decompress from daily living. ~ Jim Kapoun

Riddle me this: What do music and geography have in common? Answer: Schmidt Library has great databases for each! World Geography provides authoritative content for developing global literacy. It focuses on the geographic, political, social, economic, and cultural forces that are increasingly important in our globalized world. Oxford Music Online is a comprehensive encyclopedia covering music, musicians, music-making, and music scholarship, including Grove Music Online. It contains over 51,000 expert-written articles that delve into the diverse history and cultures of music around the globe. (Note: Only three YCP users at a time may use OMO.)

Find these resources on the Library’s webpage under A to Z Databases, or on the Geography and Music Subject Guides, respectively.

Questions? Ask the Library Research team at research@ycp.edu or 717-815-1356.