

2022 Smith Club of Oregon Book Club Selections

January

My Name Is Lucy Barton by Elizabeth Strout (208 pages, 2016)

February

The Lost Man by Jane Harper (448 pages, 2020)

March

This Is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel (336 pages, 2017)

April

Every Day is a Good Day by Wilma Mankiller (336 pages, 2009)

May

Neither Wolf Nor Dog by Ken Nerburn (335 pages, 2002)

June

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer (408 pages, 2013)

July

The Uninhabitable Earth by David Wallace-Wells (320 pages, 2019)

August

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See (374, pages 2019)

September

Smith Incoming Students Book

October

Mediocre: The Dangerous Legacy of White Male America by Ijeoma Oluo (336 pages, 2020)

November

Iva, The True Story of Tokyo Rose by Mike Weedall (310 pages, 2020)

December

Book Selection Meeting

Here are other recommendations:

The Death of Vivek Oji by Akwaeke Emezi

What does it mean for a family to lose a child they never really knew? ... Propulsively readable, teeming with unforgettable characters, The Death of Vivek Oji is a novel of family and friendship that challenges expectations—a dramatic story of loss and transcendence that will move every reader.

Unsettled Ground: The Whitman Massacre and Its Shifting Legacy in the American West by Cassandra Tate

Historian and journalist Cassandra Tate takes a fresh look at the personalities, dynamics, disputes, social pressures, and shifting legacy of the Whitman Massacre—a pivotal event in the history of the American West—including the often-missing Indian point of view.

The Lincoln Highway - Amor Towles

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous - Ocean Vuong (this one is a couple of years old...the club may have read it before, I don't know)

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

The Book of Form and Emptiness by Ruth Ozeki

Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead

Band of Sisters by Lauren Willig

2021. 528 pages. Selected by National Smith College Book Club.

Emma by Jane Austen.

We read *Pride and Prejudice* some years ago, but I don't believe we've read *Emma*, and it always bears rereading, in my opinion. *Emma*, like all Jane Austen's books, is set in rural England of 1814 or so and deals with a group of gentry who know each other well; it does not delve into political or social issues. But what writing and satire and characters! Our title character Emma, aged 20, is beautiful, rich, intelligent, and a snob: she plans never to marry because she cannot imagine a better situation that she already has, being housekeeper and companion to her widowed father in their spacious home, Hartfield, just outside an idyllic village of the same name. But her passion is matchmaking for those around her, and she learns, through the course of the novel, just what little right or ability she has to meddle in others' lives and loves. Mr. Knightley is her good friend throughout.

Cloud Cuckoo Land: A Novel by Anthony Doerr

Although I haven't read this, the reviews have been outstanding, and members may have enjoyed Mr. Doerr's first book *All the Light We Cannot See*. His second book is not related to his first, but also has interlocking story lines, some one-page chapters, and multiple characters. He took seven years to write this "wildly inventive, a humane and uplifting book" (NYT Book Review); "if you're looking for a superb novel, look no further" (Washington Post). Set in three very different locales and times, including the future, it "follows five characters whose stories, despite spanning nearly six centuries, are bound together by their love for a single book." It is long (640 pages) but reviewers say to persevere and we will be rewarded by this tribute to librarians and books and their role in human life.

Giant by Edna Ferber

The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

The Ministry of the Future by Kim Stanley Robinson - timely and critical @ climate change issues.

The Writing of the Gods: translating the Rosetta Stone, Edward Dolnick

The story of two rival geniuses in an all-out race to decode one of the world's most famous documents—the Rosetta Stone—and their twenty-year-long battle to solve the mystery of ancient Egypt's hieroglyphs.

Small Things Like These, Claire Keegan

It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church.

Miracle Country

A Passage to India

The Plague by Albert Camus

The Guns of August by Barbara Tuchman

Ladyparts by Deborah Copaken

A frank, witty, and dazzlingly written memoir of one woman trying to keep it together while her body falls apart—from the New York Times bestselling author of *Shutterbabe*

Part cri de coeur cautionary tale, part dystopian tragicomedy, *Ladyparts* is Copaken's irreverent inventory of both the female body and the body politic of womanhood in America.

Strangers In Their Own Land - Arlie Russell Hochschild

A Berkeley sociologist goes to Louisiana to learn the 'deep story' of Tea Party faithfuls in the South. This was published in 2016 but is still timely, particularly as we gear up for the 2022 elections

The Nightwatchman - Louise Erdrich

Novel based on the author's grandfather work to fight the "termination" bill in the 1950s, which allowed the US government to abandon treaties with Native American nations.

Klara and the Sun - Kazuo Ishiguro

Novel about the relationship between an AI robot companion and a girl that explores themes of love & friendship, loneliness, coming of age.

Fuzz by Mary Roach

Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi.

She's the author of Homegoing which we read a few years ago. Transcendent Kingdom is a "deeply moving portrait of a family of Ghanaian immigrants ravaged by depression and addiction and grief—a novel about faith, science, religion, love."

The Sentence by Louise Erdrich