



Book Club in a Bag Annotated Bibliography
(Located at the Farmingdale Public Library)

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

A blind French girl on the run from the German occupation and a German orphan-turned-Resistance tracker struggle with respective beliefs after meeting on the Brittany coast.

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

The author recounts his childhood in Depression-era Brooklyn as the child of Irish immigrants who decide to return to worse poverty in Ireland when his infant sister dies.

Color of Water by James McBride

A young African American man describes growing up as one of twelve children of a white mother and black father and discusses his mother's contributions to his life and his confusion over his own identity.

Dead Wake by Erik Larson

Author Erik Larson has written several best-selling works of narrative nonfiction. In this accessible account for general readers, he offers a chronological narrative of the sinking of the luxury ocean liner the Lusitania in May 1915. Alternating between German and British civilian, military, and government perspectives, the author uses techniques of suspense and romance, while drawing on primary sources. Throughout the book, anything in quotes comes from real-life sources such as memoirs, letters, telegrams, or other historical documents.

Defending Jacob by William Landay

His happy life and long-time respectability as a suburban Massachusetts assistant district attorney shattered when his 14-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student, Andy Barber faces a wrenching decision about family loyalty when the facts increasingly suggest that the boy is guilty.

Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler

Eighty-five-year-old Pearl Tull recalls the desertion of her husband and her attempts to raise their three children, who must come to terms with their own lives and with their feelings toward their father after their mother's death.

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

A story of the divisions between cultures and the rifts within a family explores the fallout of the drowning death of Lydia Lee, the favorite daughter of a Chinese-American family in 1970s Ohio.

Freedom by Jonathan Franzen

The idyllic lives of civic-minded environmentalists Patty and Walter Berglund come into question when their son moves in with aggressive Republican neighbors, green lawyer Walter takes a job in the coal industry and go-getter Patty becomes increasingly unstable and enraged.

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins

Obsessively watching a breakfasting couple every day to escape the pain of her losses, Rachel witnesses a shocking event that inextricably entangles her in the lives of strangers.

The Girls in the Garden by Lisa Jewell

When a young girl discovers her thirteen-year-old sister lying unconscious from an attack during a festive neighborhood party, the once-picturesque garden-square community is thrown into turmoil by the awareness that someone among them may be responsible.

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez

Forced to flee their native Caribbean island after an attempted coup, the Garcias-Carlos, Laura, and their four daughters must learn a new way of life in the Bronx, while trying to cling to the old ways that they loved.

Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult

Alice Metcalf was a devoted mother, loving wife, and accomplished scientist who studied grief among elephants. Yet it's been a decade since she disappeared under mysterious circumstances, leaving behind her small daughter, husband, and the animals to which she devoted her life.

Lottery by Patricia Wood

Having learned essential life skills from his dedicated grandmother that helped him overcome his low IQ, Perry finds himself without a caregiver at the age of thirty-one and wins a fortune by playing the lottery, a lucrative windfall that brings him more family than he ever wanted.

The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea by Sebastian Junger

Presents a vivid account of a history-making storm that hit the New England coast in October 1991 and the lives it changed, weaving together the history of the fishing industry, the science of storms, and personal accounts.

Snow in August by Pete Hamill

An unlikely friendship between an eleven-year old Irish-Catholic boy and a lonely rabbi from Prague in 1947 Brooklyn has the two opening new windows of understanding with each other but still fighting the prejudices of the day.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The explosion of racial hate and violence in a small Alabama town is viewed by a little girl whose father defends a black man accused of rape.

The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware

Assigned to review an exclusive North Sea luxury cruise, travel journalist Lo Blacklock witnesses a woman being thrown overboard and is baffled when all passengers remain unruffled and accounted for, a nightmare that unravels as Lo struggles to convince everyone that what she saw was real.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Born with a facial deformity that initially prevented his attendance at public school, Auggie Pullman enters the fifth grade at Beecher Prep and struggles with the dynamics of being both new and different, in a sparsely written tale about acceptance and self-esteem.