

**Philadelphia Great Books Fall Institute
1971-2025**

1971: On Becoming

Narcissus and Goldmund, Hermann Hesse

Psychotherapy East and West, Alan Watts

Thus Spake Zarathustra, Friedrich Nietzsche

1972: Love and Will

Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy

The Cocktail Party, T. S. Elliot

Love and Will, Rollo May

1973: Prejudice

Native Son, Richard Wright *A Room of*

One's Own, Virginia Woolf

A Passage to India, E. M. Forster

1974: The Undiscovered Self

The Undiscovered Self, Carl Jung

Call It Sleep, Henry Roth

Playboy of the Western World, John Millington Synge

1975: Other Realities

The Psychology of Man's Possible Evolution, Peter D. Ouspensky

The Only Dance There Is, Ram Dass

Journey to Ixtlan, Carlos Castaneda

1976: Communication

Interaction Ritual, Erving Goffman

Cry the Beloved Country, Alan Paton

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Edward Albee

1977: Humor

Lysistrata, Aristophanes

The Threepenny Opera, Bertolt Brecht

Jumpers, Tom Stoppard

1978: Power

Woman in the Dunes, Kobo Abe

Power and Personality, Harold Lasswell

All the King's Men, Robert Penn Warren

1979: Responsibility

The Fall, Albert Camus

The Grand Inquisitor, Fyodor Dostoevsky

Nectar in a Sieve, Kamala Markandaya

1980: Commitment

Journey to the East, Hermann Hesse

Existentialism as Humanism, Jean-Paul Sartre

The Power and the Glory, Graham Greene

1981: On Courage

The Myth of Sisyphus, Albert Camus

Luther, John Osborne

Surfacing, Margaret Atwood

1982: Enchantment

Grendel, John Gardner

Equus, Peter Shaffer

A Tree Telling of Orpheus, Denise Levertov

1983: The Individual versus The State

Man versus the State, Milton Mayer

Civil Disobedience, Henry David Thoreau

Night Thoreau Spent in Jail, Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee

Darkness at Noon, Arthur Koestler

1984: Justice/Morality

The Moral Decision, Edmond Cahn

The Oresteia, Aeschylus

Light in August, William Faulkner

1985: Odysseys

Ironweed, William Kennedy

My Name Is Asher Lev, Chaim Potok

The Color Purple, Alice Walker

1986: Uses and Abuses of History

Use and Abuse of History, Friedrich Nietzsche

Travesties, Tom Stoppard

The Book of Laughter and Forgetting, Milan Kundera

1987: Why Faith?

Fear and Trembling, Soren Kierkegaard

Barabbas, Par Lagerkvist

To A God Unknown, John Steinbeck

1988: America through Its Literature

The Scarlett Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne

Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain

Love Medicine, Louise Erdrich

1989: Between Heaven and Hell

The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, William Blake

The Pearl, John Steinbeck

Othello, William Shakespeare

1990: The Anatomy of Leadership

The Hero's Adventure, Joseph Campbell

A Sport of Nature, Nadine Gordimer

The Discourses (selections), Niccolo Machiavelli

1991: The Immigrant Experience

Hunger of Memory, Richard Rodriguez

F.O.B., David Henry Hwang

In the Skin of a Lion, Michael Ondaatje

1992: Who Am I?

The Unexpected Universe, Loren Eiseley

Cat's Eye, Margaret Atwood

The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway

1993: Story Tellers

The Odyssey, Homer

The Storyteller, Mario Vargas Llosa

Sonnets to Orpheus, Rainer Maria Rilke

1994: Freedom in the Balance

Falconer, John Cheever

Free Man's Worship, Bertrand Russell

A Plea for Captain John Brown, Henry David Thoreau

1995: Love Lines

Love in the Time of Cholera, Gabriel Garcia Marques

Poems: E. E. Cummings

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, Carson McCullers

1996: The Appearance of Evil

Absalom, Absalom, William Faulkner

The Gates of the Forest, Elie Wiesel

The Devil's Disciple, George Bernard Shaw

1997: Shadows on the Inside

House Made of Dawn, N. Scott Momaday

Broken Glass, Arthur Miller

Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson

1998: Trials

A Civil Action, Jonathan Harr

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

The Oresteia, Aeschylus

1999: Legacies

The Invisible Pyramid, Loren Eiseley

Valley Song, Athol Fugard

The Far Euphrates, Aryeh Lev Stollman

2000: Getting There

Steppenwolf, Hermann Hesse

Caucasia, Danzy Senna;

This Side of Paradise, F. Scott Fitzgerald

2001: Moral Un-Certainties

Myths to Live By, Joseph Campbell

Copenhagen, Michael Frayn

Alcestes, Euripedes (translated by Ted Hughes)

2002: Beauty and the Beast

Tales of Genji, Lady Murasaki Shikibu

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

The Elephant Man, Bernard Pomerance

2003: Connections

Proof, David Auburn

Five Moral Pieces, Umberto Eco

Fugitive Pieces, Anne Michaels

2004: Life is Choice

King Lear, William Shakespeare

The Sunflower, Simon Wiesenthal

Atonement, Ian McEwan

2005: Stories Shape our Lives

The Life of Pi, Yann Martel

Reading Lolita in Tehran, Azar Nafisi;

If on a Winter's Night, Italo Calvino

2006: Accommodations in Upheaval

Housekeeping, Marilynne Robinson
The Cherry Orchard, Anton Chekhov
A Fine Balance, Rohinton Mistry

2007: Democratic Vistas

The Future of Freedom, Fareed Zakaria
Democracy, Michael Frayn
All the King's Men, Robert Penn Warren

2008: Inventing Love

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
The Invention of Love, Tom Stoppard
Possession, A.S. Byatt

2009: The Aesthetic Dialogue

The Garden Party, Katherine Mansfield
Art as Experience, John Dewey
Blue Arabesque, Patricia Hampl
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce

2010: The Raptures and Ravages of Love

Love, Clarice Lispector
A Farewell to Arms, Ernest Hemingway
Phedre, Jean Racine
Madame Bovary, Gustave Flaubert

2011: Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness

A White Heron, Sarah Orne Jewett
Habits of the Heart, Robert Bellah
The Awakening, Kate Chopin
Freedom, Jonathan Franzen

2012: Uncertainties

The Garden of the Forking Paths, Jorge Luis Borges
The Black Book, Orhan Pamuk
The Sense of an Ending, Julian Barnes
Waiting for Godot, Samuel Beckett

2013: Relationships

Twentieth Century Poems by Women
The Portrait of a Lady, Henry James
Too Far to Go (Maples stories), John Updike
The Marriage Plot, Jeffrey Eugenides

2014: Bawdy Romps

Sabbath's Theater, Philip Roth

A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare

The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling, Henry Fielding

2015: Family Dynamics

Sonny's Blues, James Baldwin & *The Progress of Love*, Alice Munro

Cousin Bette, Honore de Balzac

Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant, Anne Tyler

Sons and Lovers, D.H. Lawrence

2016: Class, Economics and Life

The Theory of the Leisure Class, Thorstein Veblen

The House of Mirth, Edith Wharton

Brilliant Friend, Elena Ferrante

The Red and the Black, Stendhal

2017: Distinctive Voices

Selected Lyrics, Bob Dylan

The Beginning of Spring, Penelope Fitzgerald

The House in Paris, Elizabeth Bowen

The Blind Assassin, Margaret Atwood

2018: Unique Characters

Selected Poems

Old Filth, Jane Gardam

A Horse Walks Into a Bar, David Grossman

Emma, Jane Austen

2019: Afterlife: (Cancelled – Pocono Manor Fire)

Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard, Thomas Gray

Poems from *Spoon River Anthology*, Edgar Lee Masters

Dead Souls, Nikolai Gogol

The Dead, James Joyce

Lincoln in the Bardo, George Saunders

2020: Children and Adults: (Virtual due to Coronavirus)

The Silver Dish, Saul Bellow

Poems on Children & Adults

Near to the Wild Heart, Clarice Lispector

2021: Children and Adults

The Continuing Silence of a Poet, A.B. Yehoshua

The Conversion of the Jews, Philip Roth

Silas Marner, George Eliot

What Maisie Knew, Henry James

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Muriel Spark

2022: Contemporary Characters Revealed

The Country Husband, John Cheever

Revolutionary Road, Richard Yates

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Edward Albee

The Transit of Venus, Shirley Hazzard

2023: The Journey

Meneseteung, Alice Munro

The Friend: A Novel, Sigrid Nunez

Death in Venice, Thomas Mann

The Wonder Boys, Michael Chabron

2024: Individuation

Selected Poems

Great Expectations, Charles Dickens

The Road from Coorain, Jill Ker Conway

The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan

2025: Growing Up

Foster, Claire Keegan

The Bear, William Faulkner

The Lover, Marguerite Duras

The Last Samurai, Helen DeWitt