Culture
Book Reviews



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It's no secret that our NCR Forward members have great taste, but they really proved it last fall when we asked them to tell us their favorite books across eight categories. Some 150 members responded, and the recommendations were too good to keep private. We'll be sharing the results in segments over the next few weeks. Below is a compilation of our community's most beloved titles in fiction and memoir.

Titles recommended by multiple people are indicated by an asterisk.

Fiction that explores faith, meaning and moral choice

- *Martyr!* by Kaveh Akbar
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins
- *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
- *Silence* by Shūsaku Endō
- *The Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gunty
- *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo
- *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston
- *Foster* by Claire Keegan
- S*mall Things Like These* by Claire Keegan
- *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
- T*he Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis
- *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy
- *The Five Wounds* by Kirstin Valdez Quade
- *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson
- *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell
- *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
- *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese
- *The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong
- *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White
- *The Shack** by William Paul Young

Literature, classics and the human condition

- *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis
- *All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr
- *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett
- *Code 6* by James Grippando
- *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah
- *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The World According to Garp* by John Irving
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey
- *To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee
- *The Scholar* by Dervla McTiernan
- *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
- *The Source* by James Michner
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
- *Private Rome* by James Patterson
- *There Are Rivers in the Sky** by Elif Shafak
- *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Memoir, witness and lives lived with integrity

- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *The Truth at the Heart of the Lie* by James Carroll
- *The Long Loneliness* by Dorothy Day
- *The Autobiography of a Hunted Priest* by John Gerard
- *A Walk Across America* by Peter Jenkins
- *Our Hearts Are Restless* by Richard Lischer
- *Undoing the Knots* by Maureen O'Connell
- *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand
- *No Guilty Bystander* by Frank Fromherz and Suzanne Sattler
- *God in the House* by Margaret Stack
- *The Miracle Detective* by Randall Sullivan
- *We Are All Poets Here* by Kathleen Tarr

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