



## TALK

Talk About Literature In Kansas  
Book Discussions

## TALK SERIES

September 2009

To schedule a book series at your local library, senior center, historical society, etc., contact Deborah Pomeroy, KHC Resource Center Coordinator, at 785/357-0359 or [deborah@kansashumanities.org](mailto:deborah@kansashumanities.org). And for more details about TALK reading discussions, visit [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*  
*The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin  
*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou  
*Praisesong for the Widow* by Paule Marshall  
*Race Matters* by Cornel West  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

### AWARD WINNERS

*Charming Billy* by Alice McDermott  
*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier  
*Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson  
*Motherless Brooklyn* by Jonathan Lethem

### BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

*The All-True Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton* by Jane Smiley  
*The Englishman in Kansas* by Thomas H. Gladstone  
*John Brown: The Legend Revisited* by Merrill D. Peterson  
*Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriett Beecher Stowe  
*Waterlily* by Ella Cara Deloria

### THE BEST OF THE WEST

*Buffalo Girls* by Larry McMurtry  
*Dancing at the Rascal Fair* by Ivan Doig  
*O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather  
*The Ox-Bow Incident* by Walter Van Tilburg Clark  
*Shane* by Jack Schaefer

### BETWEEN FENCES

*Farewell to Manzanar* by J. W. Houston & J. D. Houston  
*Fences* by August Wilson  
*The Tortilla Curtain* by T. C. Boyle  
*The Wire-Cutters* by Mollie E. Moore Davis

### BRITISH CLASSICS

*Emma* by Jane Austen  
*Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë  
*The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot

### CHILDHOOD CLASSICS

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl  
*Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White  
*The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling  
*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis  
*A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor  
*The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

### COMING OF AGE IN RURAL AMERICA

*Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*Good Land* by Bruce Bair  
*Nathan Coulter* by Wendell Berry  
*Under the Feet of Jesus* by Helena Maria Viramontes  
*Winter Wheat* by Mildred Walker

### COMMUNITY: THE WAY WE LIVE

*Bailey's Café* by Gloria Naylor  
*Mama Day* by Gloria Naylor  
*Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck  
*Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* by Fanny Flagg  
*The Milagro Beanfield War* by John Nichols  
*Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson

### CONTEMPORARY IMMIGRATION

*Breath, Eyes, Memory* by Edwidge Danticat  
*Caramelo* by Sandra Cisneros  
*Harbor* by Lorraine Adams  
*Typical American* by Gish Jen

### ENCOUNTERING ASIA

*An Artist of the Floating World* by Kazuo Ishiguro  
*The Chinese Gold Murders* by Robert Van Gulik  
*Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden  
*Waiting* by Ha Jin

### FAITH IN FICTION: CHRISTIANITY

*Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya  
*The End of the Affair* by Graham Greene  
*Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin  
*I Hear the Reaper's Song* by Sara Stambaugh  
*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving

### FAITH IN FICTION: WORLD FAITHS

*Distant View of a Minaret and Other Stories* by Alifa Rifaat (Islam)  
*Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin (Christianity)  
*Harp of Burma* by Michio Takeyama (Buddhism)  
*Nectar in a Sieve* by Kamala Markandaya (Hinduism)  
*The Romance Reader* by Pearl Abraham (Judaism)

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*Empire Falls* by Richard Russo  
*Epitaph for a Peach* by David Mas Masumoto  
*Miriam's Kitchen* by Elizabeth Ehrlich  
*Secrets of the Tsil Café* by Thomas Fox Averill

### THE GREAT PLAINS SPIRIT

*The Bones of Plenty* by Lois Hudson  
*Great Plains* by Ian Frazier  
*Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather  
*Touching the Fire* by Roger Welsch

### GROWING UP

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon  
*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini  
*My Last Days as Roy Rogers* by Pat Cunningham Devoto  
*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

## HISPANIC HERITAGE: MOTHERS, SISTERS, & DAUGHTERS

*Brand New Memory* by Elias Miguel Muñoz  
*Esperanza's Box of Saints* by María Amparo Escandón  
*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros  
*In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez

## THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

*China Men* by Maxine Hong Kingston  
*Hunger for Memory* by Richard Rodriguez  
*My Antonia* by Willa Cather  
*A Walker in the City* by Alfred Kazin

## KANSAS LITERARY HERITAGE

*The Last Cattle Drive* by Robert Day  
*The Learning Tree* by Gordon Parks  
*Picnic* by William Inge  
*Sod and Stubble* by John Ise  
*Trail of the Spanish Bit* by Don Coldsmith

## LITERATURE WITH KANSAS CONNECTIONS

*The Center of Everything* by Laura Moriarty  
*Not Without Laughter* by Langston Hughes  
*One Soldier's Story* by Bob Dole  
*The Slow Air of Ewan MacPherson* by Thomas Fox Averill

## LIVING WITH THE LAND

*The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck  
*Out of Africa* by Isak Dinesen  
*Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver  
*Spartina* by John Casey

## NATIVE AMERICAN MYSTERIES

*Dance for the Dead* by Thomas Perry  
*Dance Hall of the Dead* by Tony Hillerman  
*Dreadful Water Shows Up* by Hartley Goodweather  
*The Ghost Walker* by Margaret Coel  
*The Shaman Sings* by James D. Doss

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

*How Elizabeth Barrett Browning Saved My Life* by Mameve Medwed  
*Quite a Year for Plums* by Bailey White  
*Standing in the Rainbow* by Fannie Flagg  
*Walking Across Egypt* by Clyde Edgerton

## READER'S CHOICE

*Holes* by Louis Sachar  
*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

## THAT'S FUNNY: BOOKS THAT MAKE US LAUGH

*The Egg and I* by Betty MacDonald  
*I'm a Stranger Here Myself* by Bill Bryson  
*In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* by Jean Shepherd  
*Mama Makes Up Her Mind and Other Dangers of Southern Living* by Bailey White  
*The Mammy* by Brendan O'Carroll

## TODAY'S MYSTERIES

*Bootlegger's Daughter* by Margaret Maron  
*Reflex* by Dick Francis  
*Shroud for a Nightingale* by P. D. James  
*Talking God* by Tony Hillerman  
*Where Echoes Live* by Marcia Muller

## URBAN INDIANS: NATIVE AMERICAN WRITERS OF THE 1990s

*Bone Game* by Louis Owens  
*The Grass Dancer* by Susan Power  
*Reservation Blues* by Sherman Alexie  
*Tracks* by Louise Erdrich

## WESTERING

*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* by Isabella L. Bird  
*The Last Cattle Drive* by Robert Day  
*Letters of a Woman Homesteader* by Elinore Pruitt Stewart  
*A Scattered People: An American Family Moves West* by Gerald McFarland

## A WOMAN'S PLACE

*A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen  
*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan  
*A Lost Lady* by Willa Cather  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston  
*A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* by Michael Dorris

## WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

*The Country Girls Trilogy* by Edna O'Brien (Ireland)  
*The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende (Chile)  
*Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel (Mexico)  
*None to Accompany Me* by Nadine Gordimer (South Africa)  
*So Long a Letter* by Mariama Ba (Senegal)

## WORLD WAR II GENERATION

*The Cloud Atlas* by Liam Callanan  
*The Gardens of Kyoto* by Kate Walbert  
*Once Upon a Town* by Bob Greene  
*When the Elephants Dance* by Tess Uriza Holthe