

# Fall readers: Don't miss this list of standouts

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By Maryann Dennis Greenstone  
Now that the kids are going back to school it's time to explore all the books missed this spring and summer. While lying in the sun, authors and publishers were busy at work filling the shelves of local bookstores. Among these are a variety of standouts.

"Bloodshed" is a collection of three novellas by Cynthia Ozick that offer puzzling endings and imaginative plots. Dealing with the Jewish experience, they are distinctive and carefully-crafted psychological adventures.

"Details of a Sunset" by Vladimir Nabokov is a reissued collection of short stories studying the different types of loss — home, romance, family, death and selfhood. As always, Nabokov is intriguing and exciting.

LILLIAN HELLMAN'S "Scoundrel Time" is a memoir of the McCarthy era; the most painful episode of her life. She has never touched on this period in her two previous autobiographical works, and therefore, this is revealing, as well as fascinating, reading.

"Brothers" by Chaym Zelig is an imaginative fictionalization of the story of Christ. Zelig creates a brother for Jesus, who is a vicious and hateful thief, and the reader is drawn into a dynamic black writer who teaches at the University of Michigan.

"Eva's Man" is a terrifying tale of a black woman victimized by a black man. With powerful language and imagery, Ms. Jones creates a story not easily forgotten.

"The 400 Blows of Sigmund Freud" by A. G. Mojtabai takes us to a research institute where a group of teen-aged students are involved in experimental biology. An intelligent and moving work, it details adult frustrations and adolescent madness.

ANNE RICE'S first novel "Interview with a Vampire" is a supernatural thriller that presents a vampire who pours out his life story to the reader. Ironically, he is a sympathetic figure, and the macabre twists of plot and decadent imagery are absorbing.

For those interested in psychology and human behavior, several books are outstanding. "The Wild Boy of Aveyron" by Harland Lane is the first full-length scholarly work on the discovery and attempted education, in the early 1800s, of a 12-year-old virtually feral boy who was raised by wolves. It includes a wealth of documentary evidence

as well as a study of educational techniques.

Bruno Bettelheim's "The Uses of Enchantment" is a scholarly examination of common fairy tales as "a magic mirror which reflects some aspects of our inner world." The revelation that Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk have sexual meanings can be both amusing and fascinating.

"PASSAGES" BY GAIL SHEEHY is a much needed study of the crises we pass through in adult life. The "Trying Twenties," "Catch 30," the "Midland Crises" and the "Age 40 Crucible" are all predictable stages in Sheehy's spectrum.

She makes the reader acutely aware of what to expect in life, and it is this that makes the reader more sensitive to his environment.

"The Grasp of Consciousness" by Jean Piaget reveals this 80-year-old genius' philosophy of childhood development. Within the field of psychology, Piaget is a maverick, and his theories are both readable and constructive for any parent.

Two sports books have surfaced which have unusual approaches. "The Superwires" tells of the difficult lives endured by the wives of sports superstars. James Michener's "Sports in America" is a loving, carefully researched account of the passions and politics of the playing field.

IT IS SERIOUSLY WRITTEN, filled with interviews, statistics and intelligent observations on the main currents of American sports. Michener's obvious love for his subject and his intense gratitude for it is both touching and fun.

Certainly political discussions are occupying most of our time these days, and there is a plethora of new books dealing with this complex subject. "London Johnson and the American Dream" is the much awaited analysis of this period by L.B.J.'s close friend and advisor, Kevin Phillips.

Their highly personal relationship gives the book its special quality, for it is a fresh and alive discussion of those troubled days when America was under the power of a "benign autocrat" who was both erratic and volatile.

The portrait extends to the post-presidential years on the far left as Johnson, assessed his contributions and the conditions in this country.

OTHER IMPORTANT works dealing with this period are "The My Lai Massacre and Its Cover-Up" edited by Goldstein, Marshall and Schwartz; a study of this crime against humanity and justice, and "Friendly Fire" by C.D.B. Bryan, a portrait of one family who lost their son in the war.

"The Dying of the Light" is Arnold Rogow's searching look at America today. He analyzes the popular youth culture and the complex problem of the racial discrimination.

"Affirmative Discrimination" by Nathan Glazer is a vigorous argument against our racial policies in the past decade, while Archibald Cox's "The Role of the Supreme Court in American Government" goes beyond racial issues to thoughts on Watergate and other important concepts.

New books on Melville (by Anna Doan) have been recently published. However, the most outstanding in the field of biography are "Eisen: A Life" by Gordon McVay and "Papa: A Personal Memoir" by Gregory Hemingway.

Eisen, largely unknown in this country, was a Russian peasant poet whose erratic behavior, humorously, marriage to dancer Isadora Duncan

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(twice his age), and wild drunken rampages make him a fascinating figure.

The Hemingway portrait gives us a unique point of view, a young boy observing one of the most famous American novelists of the 20th century. It is both a touching and revealing memoir.

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## Library plans special events

The Farmington Community Library has scheduled the program of special interest for adults and a continuing program of adult book discussions for fall.

"Learn the Models Secrets" is designed to appeal to teens and adult young women. Cindy Gunther, Miss Michigan 1975-76 and Sharon Pettit, assistant director of P.J. Modeling and Finishing School, will cover some of the highlights of their school's course at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15, at the Farmington Hills branch.

The women will also touch on grooming, pose and carriage. The program is free.

Cindy Davis will untangle some of the secrets to making macramé at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 16, in the Farmington branch. This will be a workshop for basic knots to form macramé plant hangers. Materials will be available for purchase at the workshop.

The Thursday morning adult book discussions will start again at 10 a.m. Sept. 9, with "Ragtime" by E. L. Doctorow.

On Sept. 23, the discussion will cover "Thomas Jefferson: an intimate history" by Fawn Brodie and on Oct. 7, the discussion will be on "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley and on Oct. 21, "The Trial" by Franz Kafka will be the topic.

The discussions are friendly and informal and no registration is necessary. Copies of the books being discussed are available at the Farmington branch where the discussions will be held. Coffee will be served.

On Oct. 6, Jim and Jay Fromm, owners of the Hilight Travel Bureau, will present a travel workshop and film on what to take, what to see, how to go about planning a trip.

The free program will be held in the auditorium of the Farmington Hills library beginning at 7 p.m.

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