

KIVA Book Club Discussion Schedule 2010

January 21st – Nickel and Dime: On (not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich

A journalist joins the masses to discover how people survive, let alone prosper, while working for poverty-level minimum wages, and simultaneously reveals low-rent America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity.

February 18th – The Geography of Bliss: one grump's search for the happiest places in the world by Eric Weiner -

Read One Book, One Mesa County's 2009 selection in anticipation of Eric Weiner's visit on February 27th.

March 18th – Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Stout

Olive Kitteridge, a retired teacher in small-town Maine, is at the center of this novel, which unweaves the town's residents' tales of desire, despair, jealousy, hope and love, delivered with honesty and insight.

April 15th – The Life and Times of Thunderbolt Kid by Bill Bryson –

Bill Bryson writes a rich, funny and charming memoir filled with tales of growing up in the middle of the century, in the middle of the country, and the middle of the largest American generation.

May 20th – The White Tiger by Aravind Adiga –

Balram Halwai is a servant, philosopher, entrepreneur and murderer, who tells the tales, with unexpected charisma, of how he came to be successful, all set in mysterious and intriguing India.

June 17th – Animal, Vegetable, Mineral by Barbara Kingsolver –

Part memoir and part journalistic investigation, the book tells the story of Kingsolver's family and their vow to do without processed food and rely only on home-grown and locally produced goods.

July 15th – Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank –

This compelling self-portrait of a 13-year-old Jewish girl, living in hiding during Holland Nazi occupation, is a world famous rendition of the horrific consequences of war and a fascinating commentary on human courage.

August 19th – Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario –

When Enrique is 5, his mother leaves Honduras to work in the US. 11 years later, lonely and troubled, he makes the dangerous and terrifying trek alone to America to find his mother. A true story of the challenges and trials thousands of migrant children face each year.

September 16th – Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood –

In 1843, a 16-year-old Canadian housemaid was tried for the murder to her employer and his mistress. The plea is guilty, and she is sentenced to life imprisonment. The book is a chilling portrait of 19th-century prison and asylum life.

October 21st – Questioning the Veil by Marnia Lazreq –

In the form of letters, the book examines the inconsistent and inadequate reasons given for women of the Muslim culture to wear veils, and points to the dangers and limitations of the questionable practice.

November 18th – The Siege by Helen Dunmore –

In 1941 Leningrad, 22-year-old Anna, her family's sole caretaker, survives the devastation and mass starvation of the siege, with help from her relationship with a doctor, whose love gives her an emotional oasis within the hell of war.

December 16th - The Interrogative Mood by Padgett Powell –

Fascinated by the swing and snap of American talk, Powell creates a playful and profound response with this book, a literary experiment, in which every sentence is a question. Is it a novel?