

## Philadelphia Great Books Council Spring Institute 1960-2025

### **1960: Valley Council Day (1<sup>st</sup> Spring Institute)**

*The Ambassadors*, Henry James

*Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville

### **1966: Ends and Means**

*Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Immanuel Kant

*The Deputy*, Rolf Hochhuth

### **1967: After Revolution . . . What?**

*Ordeal of Change*, Eric Hoffer

*Marat/Sade*, Peter Weiss

### **1968: Through the Thinking Glass**

*The Function of Reason*, Alfred North Whitehead

*Alice in Wonderland, Through the Looking Glass*, Lewis Carroll

### **1969: Man: Angel or Brute?**

*On Aggression*, Konrad Lorenz

*Walden Two*, B.F. Skinner

### **1970: Fire and Ice**

*Science and Survival*, Barry Commoner

*Cat's Cradle*, Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

### **1971:**

### **1972:**

### **1973:**

### **1974:**

### **1975: Human Lib**

*The French Lieutenant's Woman*, John Fowles

*Man's World, Woman's Place*, Elizabeth Janeway

### **1976: God Seekers**

*Bhagavad-Gita*

*Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. Eliot

**1977: Love and Power**

*Caesar and Cleopatra*, Bernard Shaw

*Antony and Cleopatra*, William Shakespeare

**1978:**

**1979: The Unlimited Personality**

*Toward a Recognition of Androgyny*, Carolyn G. Heilbrun

*The Left Hand of Darkness*, Ursula K. LeGuin

**1980: Unpopular Mechanics**

*Small Is Beautiful*, E.F. Schumacher

*Erewhon*, Samuel Butler

**1981: Ghost Chasers**

*The Woman Warrior*, Maxine Hong Kingston

*Song of Solomon*, Toni Morrison

**1982: Survival**

*Love, Power and Justice*,

Paul Tillich *Love in the Ruins*, Walker Percy

**1983: True or False**

*Lying*, Sissela Bok

*The Iceman Cometh*, Eugene O'Neill

**1984: Body and Soul**

*Meditations*, Marcus Aurelius

*The Death of Artemio Cruz*, Carlos Fuentes

**1985: Sense of Self**

*The Conservationist*, Nadine Gordimer

*The Life and Times of Michael K*, J.M. Coetzee

**1986: The Bookworm Turns or The Reader Rampant**

*If On A Winter's Night A Traveler*, Italo Calvino

*Good Readers and Good Writers* from *Lectures on Literature*, Vladimir Nabokov

*Moral Fiction*, John Gardner

*The Egg in the Cage* from *Living By Fiction*, Annie Dillard

**1987: Truth Lies in What You Read: Tragedy or Thriller Diller**

*Richard the Third*, William Shakespeare

*The Daughter of Time*, Josephine Tey

**1988: Double Image** *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte

*Wide Sargasso Sea*, Jean Rhys

**1989: The Soul of Wit** *Hamlet*,

William Shakespeare

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Tom Stoppard

**1990: Triangles**

*The Age of Innocence*, Edith Wharton

*The Heart of the Matter*, Graham Greene

**1991:**

*The Tempest*, William Shakespeare

*Staying On*, Paul Scott

**1992:**

*Henderson the Rain King*, Saul Bellow

*Four Footed Poetry*

**1993: River Tales**

*A River Runs Through It*, Norman Maclean

*Old Man*, William Faulkner

**1994: Pursuing Immortality**

*The Epic of Gilgamesh*

*Memento Mori*, Muriel Spark

**1995: The Struggle for Earthly Power**

*End Game*, a play by Samuel Beckett

*July's People*, a novel by Nadine Gordimer

**1996: The Cold and the Bold**

*The Birthday Boys*, a novel by Beryl Bainbridge

*Sur*, a short story by Ursula Le Guin

*The Imaginary Iceberg*, a poem by Elizabeth Bishop

**1997: Lighten Up!**

*The Importance of Being Earnest*, a play by Oscar Wilde  
*Travesties*, a play by Tom Stoppard

**1998:**

*Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe  
*Pincher Martin*, William Golding

**1999:**

*Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley  
*The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood

**2000: Women versus Men in a Man's World**

*The Birthmark*, Nathaniel Hawthorne  
*A Rose for Emily*, William Faulkner  
*Stupid Girl*, Louis Berney  
*Faithless*, Joyce Carol Oates

**2001: National Liberty Museum Tour**

*American Pastoral*, Philip Roth

**2002: Ancient Accounts**

*Genesis*, Chapters 28-36, Old Testament  
*The Red Tent*, Anita Diamant

**2003: The Eternal Now**

*Mrs. Dalloway*, Virginia Woolf  
*The Hours*, Michael Cunningham

**2004: History in Words and Words that Made History**

*Cold Mountain*, Charles Frazier  
*Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America*, Garry Wills

**2005: Connections and Missed Connections**

*Bel Canto*, Ann Patchett  
*Death and the King's Horseman*, Wole Soyinka

**2006: The Clash of Civilizations**

*Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad  
*Season of Migration to the North*, Tayeb Salih

**2007: A Time to Love**

*The Time Traveler's Wife*, Audrey Niffenegger

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston

**2008: Fathers and Sons**

*Gilead*, Marilyn E Robinson

*The Road*, Cormac McCarthy

**2009: The American Mythos**

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

*Finn*, Jon Clinch

**2010: Adulteress or Harami (Bastard): Society's Scapegoats**

*The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne

*A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini

**2011: Is Penelope the Real Hero of *The Odyssey*?**

*The Odyssey*, Homer (Robert Fagles translation)

*The Penelopiad*, Margaret Atwood

**2012: What Does It Mean to Be Human in the Modern World**

*Nature*, Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, Annie Dillard

**2013: Epicureanism and our Modern World**

*The Nature of Things*, Lucretius

*The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*, Stephen Greenblatt

**2014: Renaissance Duplicity**

*The Prince*, Niccolo Machiavelli

*Richard III*, William Shakespeare

**2015: The Trials and Tribulations of War**

*Unbroken*, Laura Hillenbrand

*The Yellow Birds*, Kevin Powers

**2016: Ideas Worth Noting**

*Notes from the Underground*, Fyodor Dostoevsky

*Notes from the Café*, R.F. Georgy

**2017: Points of View**

*Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe

*Foe*, J.M. Coetzee

**2018: Justice in America**

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee

*Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson

**2019: Gender Blenders, Gender Blunders**

*The Left Hand of Darkness*, Ursula LeGuin

*Twelfth Night*, William Shakespeare

**2020:** (Cancelled because of Covid)

**2021: Orwell on the Demise of Truth**

*Three Essays*, George Orwell

*1984*, George Orwell

Poems on Democracy

**2022: The Narrow Road to the Deep North** *The*

*Narrow Road to the Deep North*, Basho

*The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, Richard Flanagan

**2023: Cultures in Collision**

*House Made of Dawn*, N. Scott Momaday

*Winter in the Blood*, James Welch

**2024: Memory & Imagination**

*The Immense Journey*, Loren Eiseley

*Invisible Cities*, Italo Calvino

**2025: Leaving on Our Own Terms**

*Housekeeping*, Marilynne Robinson

*Tinkers*, Paul Harding