

## GREAT BOOKS READING LIST 2024–2025

Mary Riley Styles Library, Falls Church, Virginia

### September

9/10/24

*The Clouds*, by Aristophanes (432 B.C.E.). Available at <https://classics.mit.edu/Aristophanes/clouds.html>

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

9/24/24

*The Man Who Was Thursday: A Nightmare*, by G. K. Chesterton (1908). Available at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1695/1695-h/1695-h.htm>

**\*\*Meeting venue:** In person at the Mary Riley Styles Library, 6 p.m.

### October

10/8/24

“The Sacred Beetle,” from *The Sacred Beetle and Others*, by J. H. Fabré (1908). Author’s Preface and Chapter 1. Available at <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/643/pg66743-images.html>

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

10/22/24

*Essays*, by Francis Bacon (1597–1612): “Of Truth,” “Of Death,” “Of Revenge,” “Of Adversity,” “Of Parents and Children,” “Of Travel,” “Of Simulation and Dissimulation,” and “Of Friendship.” (Moderator to distribute text via e-mail.) Also available at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/575/575-h/575-h.htm>.

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

### November

11/12/24

*Richard II*, by Shakespeare (1597). Available at [https://folger-main-site-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2022/11/richard-ii\\_PDF\\_FolgerShakespeare.pdf](https://folger-main-site-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2022/11/richard-ii_PDF_FolgerShakespeare.pdf)

**\*\*Meeting venue:** In person at the Mary Riley Styles Library, 6 p.m.

11/26/24

“Revelation,” by Flannery O’Connor (1965). Available at [https://www.jaxcathedral.org/uploads/images/oconnor-revelation\\_795.pdf](https://www.jaxcathedral.org/uploads/images/oconnor-revelation_795.pdf)

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

### December

12/10/24

*The Tao Te Ching* (4th century B.C.E). Reading to be announced. (Moderator to distribute text via e-mail.)

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

\*No meeting scheduled for 12/24/24

## **January**

1/14/25

*Murder in the Cathedral*, by T. S. Eliot (1935). Available at <https://coldreads.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/murder-in-the-cathedral.pdf>

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

1/28/25

“In a Grove,” by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa (1922). Pages 3–11 (ending with “Beyond this was only darkness...unknowing and unknown”). (“In a Grove” was the basis for Akira Kurosawa’s 1950s film, *Rashomon*.) Available at <https://lackdown.weebly.com/uploads/6/3/9/8/6398150/dsfsdfssdfsdf.pdf>

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

## **February**

2/11/25

“First Speech Against Catiline,” by Cicero and “Speech on the Catiline Conspiracy,” by Julius Caesar (63 B.C.E.). Available at <https://www.sjsu.edu/people/cynthia.rostankowski/courses/HUM1AF14/s3/Lecture-26-Cicero-and-Caesar-Reading.pdf>

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

2/25/25

*The Founders of Geology*, by Sir Archibald Geikie (1897). “Lecture IV: Rise of the Modern Conception of the Theory of the Earth: James Hutton and John Playfair,” pp. 150–183. (Moderator to distribute text via e-mail.)

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

## **March**

3/11/25

“The Two Shores,” from *The Orange Tree*, by Carlos Fuentes (1991). In the Great Books volume, *Clashes of Culture*. (Moderator to distribute text via e-mail.)

**\*\*Meeting venue:** In person at the Mary Riley Styles Library, 6 p.m.

3/25/25

“Ward No. 6,” by Anton Chekhov (1892). Available at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/57333/57333-h/57333-h.htm>

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

## **April**

4/8/25

“Philosophy and Its Critics,” in *Some Problems of Philosophy*, by William James (1911). Chapter 1. Available at <https://ia801305.us.archive.org/29/items/someproblemsoph015344mbp/someproblemsoph015344mbp.pdf>

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

4/22/25

“Life from Scum,” from *The Symbiotic Planet*, by Lynn Margulis (1998). In the Great Books volume, *The Nature of Life: Readings in Biology*. (Moderator to distribute text via e-mail.)

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

## **May**

5/13/25

The Grimm’s Preface to their Volume I of Grimm’s Fairy Tales, by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (1812), as well as “The Children of Famine,” “Rapunzel,” “Cinderella,” and “Little Snow White.” From *The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm: The Complete First Edition*, by Jack Zack (2014). (Moderator to distribute text via e-mail.)

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

5/27/25

Nelson Mandela’s statement at the opening of the defense case in the Rivonia trial (1964). Available at <http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mandela/mandelaspeech.html>

**\*\*Meeting venue:** In person at the Mary Riley Styles Library, 6 p.m.

## **June**

6/10/25

“The Veldt,” by Ray Bradbury (1950). Available at <https://repositorio.ufsc.br/bitstream/handle/123456789/163728/The%20Veldt%20-%20Ray%20Bradbury.pdf>

**Meeting venue:** Zoom, 7 p.m.

6/24/25

*Meditations*, by Marcus Aurelius (171–175 C.E.) Books 2–5. Available at <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/2680/pg2680-images.html>

**\*\*Meeting venue:** In person at the Mary Riley Styles Library, 6 p.m.

## **Request to Participate**

Discussions are held virtually on Zoom unless otherwise noted. Please email Amy Azzam (the group's volunteer coordinator) at [amyazzam@gmail.com](mailto:amyazzam@gmail.com) for a Zoom invite or more information.

## **Great Books Discussion Series**

A "Great Books" discussion concentrating on literary classics (both traditional and modern) usually meeting at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. All are welcome