

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



*E-HOUSE  
SUMMER  
READING GROUP*

LITERATURES OF LONELINESS & ISOLATION

MAY 24 - JULY 26

With the aim of extending the sustaining conversations that have taken place in E-House into the summer months, the English department is organizing a **low-stakes reading group** devoted to themes of loneliness and isolation. While coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic turns to scientists and medical doctors for their input and expertise, English majors know that novels, memoirs, and poems raise questions that can't be answered. We will turn to authors who show how the work of **humanistic inquiry** has and will continue the work of survival in times when fear and uncertainty feel too acute to master alone.

Participation in the group is voluntary, and you shouldn't feel forced to read every book on the list -- simply drop into the conversation when you can. If any questions arise, please feel free to contact [cmullaney@bmc](mailto:cmullaney@bmc).

## Reading Schedule

Tues., June 2nd

- Introductions
- Session leader: Clare Mullaney
- Reading: Emily Dickinson, “There is another Loneliness” (1867) and “My triumph lasted / till the Drums,” and Emily Cooke’s “The Lonely Ones” (2012) [provided by session leader]

Tues., June 9th

- Session leader: Colby Gordon
- Reading: John Donne, “[Hymn To God, My God, In My Sickness](#),” “[Death, Be Not Proud](#),” and selections from [Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions \(Meditation 17\)](#) [provided by session leader]

Tues., June 16th

- Session leader: Jane Hedley
- Reading: William Wordsworth, “Daffodils” and “Resolution and Independence”; Walt *Lonely: An American Lyric*, an excerpt [provided by session leader] Whitman, “Out of the Cradle, Endlessly Rocking”; and Claudia Rankine, *Don’t Let Me Be*
  - (note: the full copy of *Don’t Let Me Be Lonely: A American Lyric*, is available for purchase via Bryn Mawr’s Bookstore for those of you who are interested)
- Zoom link: <https://brynmawr-edu.zoom.us/j/93132576586>

Tues., June 23rd

- Session leader: Bethany Schneider
- Reading: [Herman Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener”](#) (1853) [provided by session leader]
- Zoom link: <https://brynmawr-edu.zoom.us/j/95940142630>

Tues., June 30th

- Session leader: Jen Callaghan
- Reading: Shirley Jackson’s *The Haunting of Hill House* (1959) [approximately 180 pages; text will need to be acquired on your own]
- Zoom link: <https://brynmawr-edu.zoom.us/j/98734463232>

Tues., July 7th

- Session leader: Chloe Flower
- Reading: Virginia Hamilton, *The Planet of Junior Brown* (1971) [text will need to be acquired on your own]
- Zoom link: <https://brynmawr-edu.zoom.us/j/98021429992>

Tues., July 14th

- Session leader: Riley McGuire
- Reading: Excerpts from Harriet Martineau's *Life in the Sick-Room* (1844) and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha's *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice* (2018) [provided by session leader]
- Zoom link: <https://brynmawr-edu.zoom.us/j/91355550747>

Tues., July 21st

- Session leader: Michael Tratner
- Reading: Virginia Woolf, *To The Lighthouse* (1927) [text will need to be acquired on your own]
- Zoom link:

Tues., July 28th

- Session leader: Kate Thomas
- Reading: Amy Levy, selection of poems ("To Sylvia," "To Lallie," "A Wall Flower," "In the Mile End Road," "To Death," "A Dirge," "To Vernon Lee," "To E.") [provided by session leader]
- Zoom link:

Tues., Aug. 4th

- Conclusions
- Session leader: Betty Litsinger
- Reading: Ha Jin, *Waiting* (1999) [text will need to be acquired on your own]
- Zoom link: