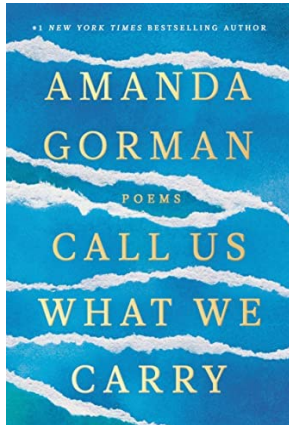


Summer Reading Book Options

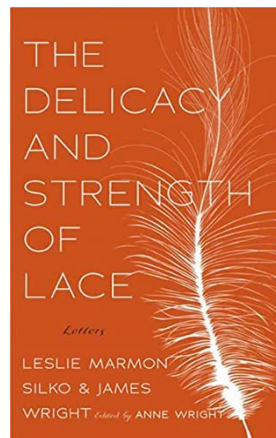
Please review the book options for your summer reading journal. When you are ready, [use this form to choose your book](#). The deadline to choose a book is May 15.

Visit the [Summer Reading Webpage](#) for more information about the journal writing assignment. Summer reading journals are *due on the first day of school*.



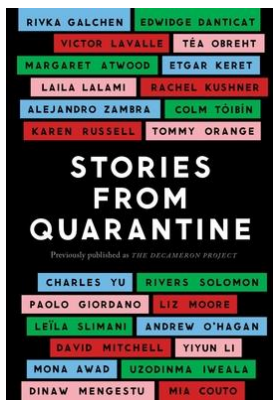
Call Us What We Carry by Amanda Gorman - *Poetry*

The luminous poetry collection by #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman captures a shipwrecked moment in time and transforms it into a lyric of hope and healing. In *Call Us What We Carry*, Gorman explores history, language, identity, and erasure through an imaginative and intimate collage. Harnessing the collective grief of a global pandemic, this beautifully designed volume features poems in many inventive styles and structures and shines a light on a moment of reckoning. *Call Us What We Carry* reveals that Gorman has become our messenger from the past, our voice for the future.



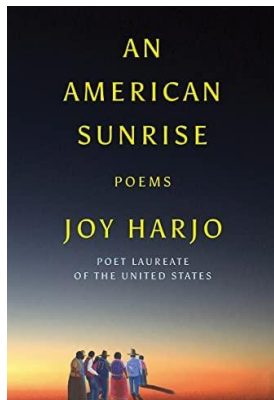
The Delicacy and Strength of Lace by Leslie Marmon Silko and James Wright - *Nonfiction/Letters*

The timeless exchange of advice and friendship between two great literary talents. Leslie Marmon Silko and James Wright met only twice. First, briefly, in 1975, at a writers' conference in Michigan. Their correspondence began three years later, after Wright wrote to Silko praising her book *Ceremony*. The letters began formally, and then each writer gradually opened to the other, sharing his or her life, work, and struggles. The second meeting between the two writers came in a hospital room, as Wright lay dying of cancer.



Stories from Quarantine: 29 New Stories from the Pandemic edited by The New York Times - *Short Fiction*

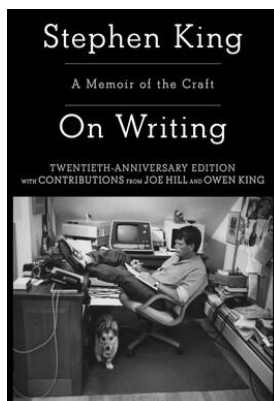
As the covid-19 pandemic swept the world, we asked 29 authors to write new short stories inspired by the moment. Featuring stories by Margaret Atwood, Edwidge Danticat, Tommy Orange, Charles Yu, Karen Russell, David Mitchell, and others.



An American Sunrise: Poems* by Joy Harjo - *Poetry

In the early 1800s, the Mvskoke people were forcibly removed from their original lands east of the Mississippi to Indian Territory, which is now part of Oklahoma. Two hundred years later, Joy Harjo returns to her family's lands and opens a dialogue with history. In *An American Sunrise*, Harjo finds blessings in the abundance of her homeland and confronts the site where her people, and other indigenous families, essentially disappeared. From her memory of her mother's death, to her beginnings in the native rights movement, to the fresh road with her beloved, Harjo's personal life intertwines with tribal histories to create a space for renewed beginnings. Her poems sing of beauty and survival, illuminating a spirituality that connects her to her ancestors and thrums with the quiet

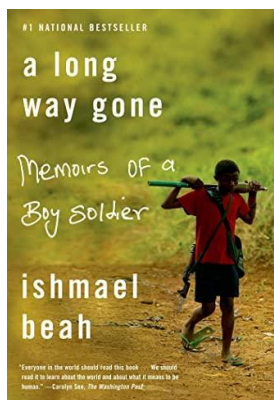
anger of living in the ruins of injustice. A descendant of storytellers and "one of our finest—and most complicated—poets" (*Los Angeles Review of Books*), Joy Harjo continues her legacy with this latest powerful collection.



On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King - *Nonfiction/Craft

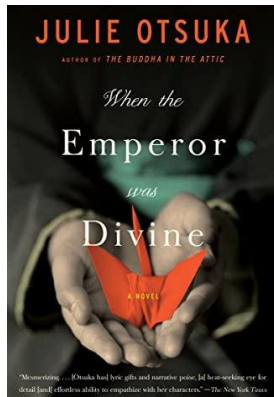
Part memoir, part master class by one of the bestselling authors of all time, this superb volume is a revealing and practical view of the writer's craft, comprising the basic tools of the trade every writer must have.

King's advice is grounded in his vivid memories from childhood through his emergence as a writer, from his struggling early career to his widely reported near-fatal accident in 1999 -- and how the inextricable link between writing and living spurred his recovery. Brilliantly structured, friendly and inspiring, *On Writing* will empower and entertain everyone who reads it -- fans, writers, and anyone who loves a great story well told.



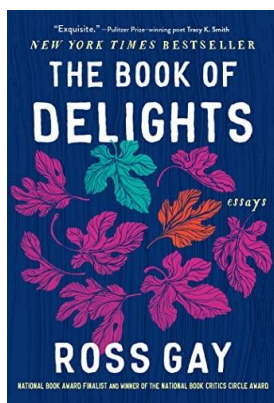
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah - *Nonfiction/Memoir

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.



When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka - *Fiction

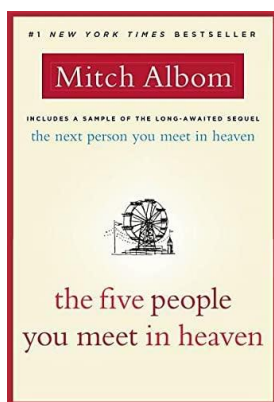
Julie Otsuka's debut novel paints a portrait of the Japanese internment camps unlike any we have ever seen. With crystalline intensity and precision, Otsuka uses a single family to evoke the deracination "both physical and emotional" of a generation of Japanese Americans. In five chapters, each flawlessly executed from a different point of view "the mother receiving the order to evacuate; the daughter on the long train ride to the camp; the son in the desert encampment; the family's return to their home; and the bitter release of the father after more than four years in captivity" she has created a small tour de force, a novel of unrelenting economy and suppressed emotion.



The Book of Delights* by Ross Gay - *Nonfiction/Essays

A genre-defying book of essays—some as short as a paragraph; some as long as five pages—that record the small joys that occurred in one year, from birthday to birthday, and that we often overlook in our busy lives. His is a meditation on delight that takes a clear-eyed view of the complexities, even the terrors, in his life, including living in America as a black man; the ecological and psychic violence of our consumer culture; the loss of those he loves. Among Gay's funny, poetic, philosophical delights: the way Botan Rice Candy wrappers melt in your mouth, the volunteer crossing guard with a pronounced tremor whom he imagines as a kind of boat-woman escorting pedestrians across the River Styx, a

friend's unabashed use of air quotes, pickup basketball games, the silent nod of acknowledgment between black people. And more than any other subject, Gay celebrates the beauty of the natural world—his garden, the flowers in the sidewalk, the birds, the bees, the mushrooms, the trees.

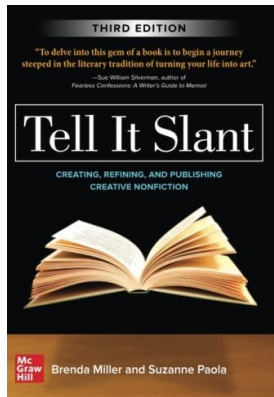


The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom - *Fiction

A novel that explores the unexpected connections of our lives, and the idea that heaven is more than a place; it's an answer.

Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It's a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers. One by one, from childhood to soldier to old age, Eddie's five people revisit their connections to him on earth, illuminating the mysteries

of his "meaningless" life, and revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: "Why was I here?"



Tell It Slant by Brenda Miller and Suzanne Paola - *Nonfiction/Craft*

Two award-winning authors reveal everything you need to know to develop your own distinctive voice and craft compelling, creative nonfiction

"Tell all the Truth but tell it Slant."

--Emily Dickinson

With these words, Dickinson offers sound advice for nonfiction writers: Tell the truth but become more than mere transcribers of daily life. Since 2003, *Tell It Slant* has set the standard for creative nonfiction instruction, showing writers how to move beyond mere facts and, instead, make the most of their own "slant" on the world. This revised and updated third edition offers:

- New and expanded chapters on writing about identity, maintaining a productive work/life balance, and navigating the publishing industry
- An anthology with diverse pieces that range from traditional essay to the graphic memoir
- Expanded discussion of contemporary and emerging literary forms
- New "Try It" writing exercises throughout the book

"Tell It Slant is a valuable and comprehensive resource for nonfiction writers, filled with exhilarating examples, powerful exercises, and pure inspiration. Miller and Paola are gifted teachers and writers with endless wisdom to share and a lovely way of sharing it with struggling writers at every level."

--Dinty W. Moore, author of *The Mindful Writer: Noble Truths of the Writing Life*