**RECOMMENDED READING**

*The Waves*  
**By Virginia Woolf**  
The Waves traces the lives of six friends from childhood to old age. Woolf allows these characters to tell their own stories, through powerful, poetic monologues. Through these characters, we are drawn into a literary journey which reproduces the complex, confusing and contradictory nature of human experience.

*A Light in the Attic*  
**By Shel Silverstein**  
Shel Silverstein is a gifted storyteller whose animated voice lights up a room. Utilizing his experience as a composer and producer, he punctuates his verse with quirky melodies and sound effects.

*The Sound and the Fury*  
**By William Faulkner**  
“I give you the mausoleum of all hope and desire. I give it to you not that you may remember time, but that you might forget it now and then for a moment and not spend all of your breath trying to conquer it. No battle is ever won. They are not even fought.”

*Water for Elephants*  
**By Sara Gruen**  
Jacob Janowski’s luck had run out until he landed on a train that was home to the Most Spectacular Show on Earth. A veterinary student just shy of a degree, Jacob was put in charge of caring for the circus. The bond that grew among this group of misfits was one of love and trust, and ultimately, it was their only hope for survival.

*Cadillac Desert*  
**By Marc Reisner**  
The story of the American West is the story of a relentless quest for a precious resource: water. It is a tale of rivers diverted and dammed, of political corruption and intrigue, of billion-dollar battles over water rights, of ecological and economic disaster. In his landmark book, *Cadillac Desert*, Marc Reisner writes of the earliest settlers, lured by the promise of paradise, and of the ruthless tactics employed by Los Angeles politicians and business interests to ensure the city’s growth. He documents the bitter rivalry between two government giants, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in the competition to transform the West. Based on more than a decade of research, *Cadillac Desert* is a stunning expose and a dramatic, intriguing history of the creation of an Eden— an Eden that may only be a mirage.

*Light*  
**By Bruce Watson**  
Light begins at Stonehenge, where crowds cheer a solstice sunrise. After myths explaining First Light, the story moves on to early philosophers’ queries, from Buddhist temples to Biblical scripture. Battling darkness and despair, Gothic architects crafted radiant cathedrals while Dante dreamed a “heaven of pure light.” Later, following Leonardo’s advice, Renaissance artists learned to capture light on canvas. During the Scientific Revolution, Galileo gathered light in his telescope, Descartes measured the rainbow, and Newton used prisms to solidify the science of optics. But even after Newton, light was an enigma. Particle or wave? Through the age of Edison and into the age of lasers, *Light* reveals how light sparked new wonders—relativity, quantum electrodynamics, fiber optics, and more.
TALES OF PETER RABBIT
By Beatrix Potter
Beatrix Potter’s beloved tale of the mischievous little rabbit who hops into trouble in Mr. MacGregor’s vegetable garden is a childhood classic. Beatrix Potter’s lovely illustrations, seen here in both color and black and white, grace this collection of thirteen tales that have enchanted young children for decades. As they introduce these stories to a new generation of youngsters, adults can themselves revisit Peter Rabbit, Benjamin Bunny, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, Jemima Puddle-duck, Miss Moppet, Tom Kitten and Potter’s many other classic creations.

MICRO
By Michael Crichton
In the vein of Jurassic Park, this thriller follows a group of graduate students lured to Hawaii to work for mysterious biotech company—only to find themselves cast out into the rainforest, with nothing but their scientific expertise and wits to protect them. An instant classic, Micro pits nature against technology in vintage Crichton fashion. This boundary-pushing thriller melds scientific fact with pulse-pounding fiction to create a masterpiece of sophisticated, cutting-edge entertainment.

PLASTIC PLANET
By Thomas Bogner
Director Werner Boote takes an up-close look at the plastics industry in order to explore whether the ubiquitous man-made material is a danger to human health. The grandson of a once-prominent plastics magnate, Boote became aware early on that the material we rely on to make our lives easy could also be poisoning our planet. Not only because a piece of plastic takes up to 500 years to deteriorate in the ground or water system, but also because studies indicate that frequent exposure can also lead to a variety of health problems in humans. In this film, Boote speaks with scientists, manufacturers, consumers, and government officials in 14 countries about the dangers of continued reliance on plastics, as well as alternatives that could lead to a cleaner world, and a healthier population.

RECYCLING RECONSIDERED
By Samantha MacBrine
The accomplishments of the recycling movement can be seen in municipal practice, a thriving private recycling industry, and widespread public support and participation. In the United States, more people recycle than vote. But, as Samantha MacBrine points out, the goals of recycling—saving the earth (and trees), conserving resources, and greening the economy—are still far from being realized. The vast majority of solid wastes are still burned or buried. Recycling as we know it today generates the illusion of progress while allowing industry to maintain the status quo. Responsibility is thus placed on consumers and local government.