

GREAT BOOKS AND SHARED INQUIRY

Great Books discussion groups are forums for adults to discuss significant writings. We come from a variety of backgrounds to discuss important ideas and issues that have shaped civilization. Our discussions are lively, probing and enlightening. We challenge our own and others' opinions in light of the text we are all reading. The object is not one "right answer" but rather to examine questions raised in the readings, with reasoning informed by our diverse experiences.

We use the "Shared Inquiry" method, a collaborative, question-driven method of learning that helps us read actively, pose evocative questions, and listen and respond effectively. We examine the words and the possible ways to interpret the ideas and issues. To this end, we follow these guidelines:

- We read the selection before coming to the discussion.
- We support our opinions by focusing on ideas from the reading.
- We explore the ideas in the selection before going beyond them.
- We listen to the opinions of others and respond directly to them.
- We ask each discussion leader to begin the questions.

In 2011-2012, we will continue to use the anthology from the Great Books Foundation, *Short Story Omnibus*. It may be checked out at the Circulation Desk. As we will be using the book for an extended period, the due date of the book is June 19, 2012.

The stories are arranged in chronological order according to the authors' years of birth, in each of the four divisions of the book. First are conventional short stories. We will then look at very short "sudden or flash fiction." Following these sections are novellas, which are shorter than novels. The final section is graphic stories, confronting us simultaneously with words and images.

Socrates wrote that the unexamined life is not worth living. In these reading-discussions, we will examine many lives.

For more information or copies of the readings, call 860/347-0196 or email ameyers@russell.lioninc.org. [Join us!](#)

SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:20 PM, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

September 20

"The Country Husband" by *John Cheever*
"The Ledge" by *Lawrence Sargent Hall*

October 18

"Looking for Mr. Green" by *Saul Bellow*
"Sonny's Blues" by *James Baldwin*

November 15

"Argument and Persuasion" by *Donald Hall*
"The Professor's Houses" by *Ursula K. Le Guin*

December 20

"Lost in the Funhouse" by *John Barth*
"Tomorrow and Tomorrow and So Forth" by *John Updike*

January 17

"Cathedral" by *Raymond Carver*
"The Man From Mars" by *Margaret Atwood*

February 21

"The Pugilist At Rest" by *Thom Jones*
"Greasy Lake" by *T. Coraghessan Boyle*

March 20

"The Baby" by *Mary Gordon*
"The Collectors" by *Rohinton Mistry*

April 17

"You're Ugly, Too" by *Lorrie Moore*
"The Country Where Nobody Ever Grew Old and Died"
by *William Maxwell*

May 15

"Wants" by *Grace Paley*
"A City of Churches" by *Donald Barthelme*

June 19

"True Love" by *Don Shea*, and "Bullet" by *Kim Church*

About the Great Books Foundation

The Great Books Foundation (GBF) was established in 1947 by two University of Chicago educators, Robert Maynard Hutchins and Mortimer Adler. GBF is an independent, nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to help people learn how to think and share ideas. The Foundation promotes Shared Inquiry discussion and the reading of classic and contemporary texts across the disciplines and publishes books and anthologies for all readers.

With the Fall/Winter issue of *The Common Review*, we will cease print publication and shift all our attention to developing a full-fledged online version of the magazine, to premiere in Fall 2011. In the coming months, as we make the transition to the online version, we will continue to post new articles. Visit often to keep pace with the stimulating new features we are planning, including many opportunities to engage with the content and authors of *The Common Review* through online discussion forums.

For more information, see <http://www.greatbooks.org/>, email agb@greatbooks.org, or call 800/222-5870.



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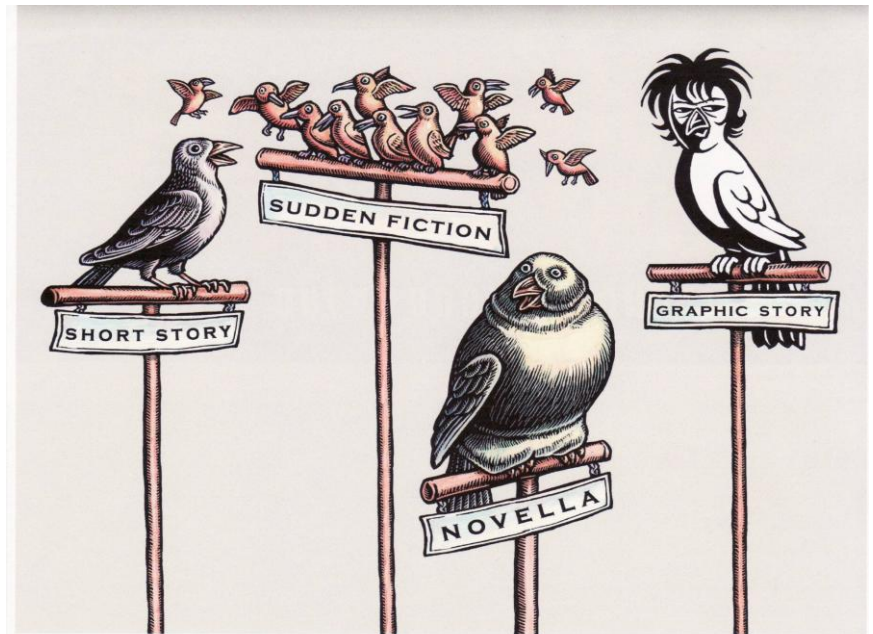
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RUSSELL READERS

Great Books Discussions

2011-2012

Short Story Omnibus



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