Cold Weather and Reading Go Together

By now, you've figured that there are only about three months until the winter break. Have you started counting down the days yet? The time is going to pass so slowly without something to do, so what are your options? You could take this time to protest against 40 hour work weeks. You could petition for eight weeks of vacation a year. Maybe you just really enjoy raking leaves or can't wait for the snow so that you can make snow cream. How would you enjoy something warm, entertaining, relaxing, and completely satisfying? There is no better way to spend fall than cuddled under a warm blanket reading a great book. Okay...there are some things better than that, but reading is still a fantastic pastime. So get started reading by seeing what this month's BookMarks reviewers recommend. Choose a good one and your fall will be great!

BookMarks: The Fall Event

Celebrate fantastic fall reading by joining the library staff on Friday, September 16, at the Central Campus Library. The CPCC Libraries invite all students, faculty, and staff, to join us for "BookMarks...Great Books in Search of Readers." Bring a bagged lunch and join us from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in LR 404. We will be discussing the books recommended in this newsletter.

Help us get fall started off great by not only joining us to listen to recommendations, but to also make some recommendations of your own! And don't forget, staff and faculty can get professional development for this event. Log into Learner Web to register. Credit plus dessert and drinks for lunch – it's the perfect combination of fun, food, and PDP credit.

Cogitate about the word cogitate!
There is a spiritual solution to every problem
By Wayne Dyer, PhD

Dyer was a professor in the University of California system for years before deciding to dedicate himself completely to research and writing. He has written many books and matured as a writer. Too often in our busy world, we are used to people saying, "I can't do that for you" or "we'll never agree on the topic" or articulate some other 'negative' stance. Dyer's proposition to us is that if we search inside ourselves deep enough, if we engage another person in conversation and truly LISTEN to their needs, and if we love/respect each other enough to not give up, we can find a workable solution to every problem that confronts us in our lives. Dyer talks not so much about religion per se but about connecting our spiritual side to our physical, emotional, and psychological sides. I have changed (for the better) my thinking about myself, my work, and my communications with others based on the compilation of Wayne Dyer's books. Check him out! - Anne McIntosh

The Time Traveller's Wife
by Audrey Niffenegger

This is a story about a man with a genetic disorder that causes him to spontaneously travel through time. Yes, it sounds strange and you are probably skeptical, but it was a great book with an interesting perspective. The book is not told chronologically but jumps around through different events in the man and his wife's life. It is like a puzzle that you have to fit the pieces together to get the whole picture. Overall it is a mysterious and great read. This was a Today Show Book Club selection.—Elizabeth Mitchell

One Foot In Eden
by Ron Rash

This is a wonderfully written mystery. Ron Rash is a very visual writer who carefully weaves his mystery. He brings small town Appalachia to life through the eyes of the sheriff who is trying to solve the murder of the local bully. - Julie Lease

The Photograph
by Penelope Lively

This book pulls you in and holds you to the end. A husband finds a photograph of his wife after her death. Who is the man with her in the photograph? Did she have an affair? Did he know her at all? The ways these questions affect the characters in the book are what is fascinating about this book. - Julie Lease
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling

Early into the release of "The Harry Potter books," it was suggested that I try them. At that time there were four books in that series. Being an adult, I dismissed the idea of reading 'children's literature.' However, I became curious about the Harry Potter phenomenon and read the first book. I quickly became hooked in the wonderful world that J.K. Rowling had created. It has now become a summer ritual, to wait on pins and needles until the next Harry Potter book comes out. This book is the sixth in a series of seven. I didn't find it as long-winded as Order of the Phoenix. I found the beginning particularly charming. Toward the end of the book a major character dies. Did they have to die? Could Rowling have waited until book seven? I was quite sad for several days after I finished the book feeling I had lost a dear friend. I guess that is the sign of a good author. I was curious who "The Half-Blood Prince" was, but not terribly. When the answer was revealed, I was not surprised; it made sense, but I confess I thought it was someone else. To enter a delightful world in the middle of the summer, when I am bored to death, is a true gift. I will be sad, when the series ends. - Anne Egger

The Broker by John Grisham

This is a story about a hot-shot Washington, DC power broker who gets in too deep with a spy satellite deal. He welcomes a prison sentence to save his life. When he gets an early pardon, the story of his survival begins. Given a new identity and a new country (Italy) by the CIA, he must adapt but doesn't know who to trust. Grisham embellishes the weak plot with descriptions of Italian scenery and cuisine. This book is recommended only for those hard-core Grisham fans who want to say they've read everything he's ever written! - Carolyn Pence

The Divide by Nicholas Evans

The Divide by Nicholas Evans, author of The Horse Whisperer, has written an absorbing novel about the shattering of a family. It's a complex story told in flashbacks of betrayal and despair as a heretofore happy family breaks apart. Evans masterfully weaves what happens to each member after the father, Ben Cooper, leaves his wife for Eve, a beautiful artist. Ben's wife, Sarah, is devastated by his leaving and Sarah's friend, Iris, suggests that two types of men leave their marriages. The needy pursues women. The needy must move on to a new family when his children grow up so he can avoid feeling useless and empty. Their daughter, Abbie, becomes radicalized by Rolf, an eco-terrorist, and is soon helping him torch gas and oil companies. Then there is the brother, Josh, whose life is consumed by drugs. But family bonds are strong. Evans' characters strive to overcome their hurt in this engrossing novel. - Sonia Coffin
Light on Snow
by Anita Shreve

This book is a low-key, absorbing story of a 12-year-old girl and her father who are trying to come to terms with the loss of her mother and sister in a senseless accident. The story, told from the viewpoint of the daughter, begins with the two stumbling upon an abandoned baby in the snow in the woods near their isolated New England home. As the story unfolds, their lives are entwined with the baby's mother and are permanently changed. I really cared about these people, and wanted things to turn out okay.—Sallie Jenkins

After: How America Confronted the September 12th Era
by Steven Brill

Steven Brill's After: How America Confronted the September 12th Era is a balanced portrait of the first post-9/11 year in America. Brill follows a variety of Americans as they struggle to deal with the new realities of life after a major terrorist attack. He tells the stories of widows and families of victims, the director of the victims' fund, the Red Cross, Tom Ridge, an airport director, a port director, the ACLU director and a small businessman, among others. With the anniversary of September 11 just behind us, Brill reminds us of the remarkable events and the heroic actions of individuals during America's recovery from 9/11. Overall, a fascinating and informative read. - Jennifer Arnold

The Butterfly House
by Marcia Preston

Married and newly pregnant, Bobbie Lee answers the door to a stranger and finds herself slapped in the face by her past. She is forced to relive the pain, doubts, and loves of her adolescence—her deepest secrets. Set mainly in Canada and the Pacific Northwest, The Butterfly House is fresh and true to life in its portrayal of adolescence, alcoholism, mental illness, and homosexuality. Through Bobbie's eyes, we watch two women and their daughters struggle with each other's demons and their own. This is a book to get lost in.