Seattle Central’s Summer Reading Picks
2005
poetry l fiction l biographies l non-fiction

The Cartographer’s Tongue
*Susan Rich*
… if you want to travel the world but can’t quite get out there yourself, try these poems.

Saying the World
*Peter Pereira*
… a collection that includes poignant poems on his life as a doctor, family, and love for his partner.

Bel Canto
*Ann Patchett*
I got lost in Bel Canto by Ann Patchett. A small South American country hosts a lovely party with a world renowned opera singer for a Japanese business man. They hope woo him into bringing his business to the country. Guerilla rebels burst in and take the entire party hostage inside the Vice President’s home...for several months. A book to savor.

The Color of Water—A Black Mans Tribute to His White Mother
*James McBride*

The Shadow of the Wind
*Carlos Ruiz Zafon, translated by Lucia Graves*
These are two of the best books I have ever read. The latter, I could not put down and did not want it to end.

My Sister’s Keeper
*by Jodi Picoult*
This is an interesting novel that brings to light all and possibly some unconsidered implications of siblings being used as stem cell donors.

The Bookseller of Kabul
*by Asne Seierstad*
An insight into life in Afghanistan that one is unlikely to get from liberal or conservative news programs

Marietta and the Creeping Nasties
*Shannon Perry*
For those with kids, I’d like to push my children's book.

Set This House in Order
*Matt Ruff*
For adults, I’d have to go with this Seattle writer.

Desirable Daughters
*by Bharati Mukherjee*
Tara Bhattacharjee is the youngest of three sisters of a Brahmin family from Calcutta. She and her oldest sister now live in America while their middle sister lives in Bombay. Readers will enjoy the contrast between Tara’s Calcutta life and culture and her new life in San Francisco where she shares an apartment with her son and boyfriend. Mukherjee excellently builds suspense in a tale laced with culture conflict, secrets, lies, and murder. Fun summer reading!

(Sharon Tripp, Opticianry)
House as a Mirror of Self: Exploring the Deeper Meaning of Home
Claire Cooper Marcus
This book is about psychological development and its relationship to one's physical living arrangements; the concept of "home" in general; and how personalizing our living spaces reflects many of the events in our lives.

It describes phenomena with which probably all of us are familiar, and at the end of each chapter there are exercises to apply to one's own life and attitudes relating to that chapter's subject.

It combines art, architecture and environmental architecture, a bit of history and geography, and psychology (primarily Jungian) and encourages people to examine the personal issues arising from their various stages of life development and self-growth and then to associate those experiences with the characteristics of their residence(s).

The reader will learn to recognize not only how the philosophies and attitudes developed from these experiences can influence everything from the selection of a color scheme to the type of building materials to architectural style, but the conscious and unconscious motivations for those choices as well.

(Judith Sorensen, President's Office)

Salvation
bell hooks
(Tina Young, Multicultural Initiatives)

Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston
Valerie Boyd

Ready for the Revolution: The Life and Struggles of Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Toure)
Stokely Carmichael with Ekweume Michael Thelwell

Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight Against Imperialism
Cornel West

Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision
Barbara Ransby
(Barbara Ransby, Basic Studies)

The Cloud Garden
Tom Hart Dyke and Paul Winder
Non-fiction book. Story of two British 20 somethings, one a botanist the other a banker, who decide to hike across the Darien Gap. The Darien Gap is the wilderness area on the border of Panama and Columbia where the Pan American Highway ends. It’s a no-man’s land of Columbian rebels, militias and drug lords that’s considered one of the most dangerous places on earth. The two men were captured by a guerilla group and held hostage for 9 months while the kidnappers tried to get a $3 million ransom. The book made me laugh at times over the antics of the men and their somewhat inept rebel captors, and cringe at other times over some of the things the two had to endure before they were released. Even though I knew both men would make it out alive I couldn't put it down.

(Doug Ammons, Library)