



First-Year Summer Book Program Call for Recommendations

Since 1997, new students at Berry have received a common book to read at the beginning of the summer. When they arrive on campus in August of fall orientation (Viking Venture), students gather with their first-year seminar classes, usually at their instructor's home, to discuss the book over dinner. Beginning in 2002, the author of the book has been invited to campus to speak to the first-year class.

The purpose of the program is to offer students a shared intellectual experience at the start of their college careers. The discussion provides a context for talking not only about the book but also about a variety of related issues that are of concern to students as they embark on a new stage in their lives. Through conversation and dinner, students are welcomed into the academic and social community of Berry College.

The summer book selection committee welcomes recommendations for a text for 2008. Please consider the following guidelines:

- Length—around 300 pages
- Engaging—the book should be interesting and accessible to all students, regardless of major
- Challenge—the book should push students in some way, either by introducing them to new ideas and information, or by challenging them to consider familiar ideas and information from a new perspective
- Significance—the book should serve as a springboard for discussion of the concerns new students face as they make a transition to college and begin to build lives of meaning and purpose
- Cost—the book must be available in a paperback edition
- Any genre will be considered.

Previous First-Year Summer Books:

1997—2001	<u>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</u> by Frederick Douglass
2002	<u>All But My Life</u> by Gerda Weissman Klein
2003	<u>The Color of Water</u> by James McBride
2004	<u>The Things They Carried</u> by Tim O'Brien
2005	<u>Iron and Silk</u> by Mark Salzman
2006	<u>Leaving Atlanta</u> by Tayari Jones
2007	<u>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</u> by Maya Angelou
2008	<u>Mountains Beyond Mountains</u> by Tracy Kidder
2009	<u>An Ordinary Man</u> by Paul Rusesabagina
2010	<u>Outcasts United</u> by Warren St. John
2011	<u>The Other Wes Moore</u> by Wes Moore
2012	<u>The Dressmaker of Khair Khana</u> by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon
2013	<u>Caleb's Crossing</u> by Geraldine Brooks

