

## P.E.O. Chapter AB – Sister Recommended Book List

*(please note I only included either one or a few selections from everyone to keep this list reasonable, they are in title alphabetical order).*

### All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten – Robert Fulghum

With musings on life, death, love, pain, joy, sorrow, and the best chicken-fried steak in the continental U.S.A.

### Beautiful Ruins – Jess Walter

The story of an almost-love affair that begins on the Italian coast in 1962...and is rekindled in Hollywood fifty years later.

### Birth of Venus – Sarah Dunant

brings alive the history of Florence at its most dramatic period, telling a compulsively absorbing story of love, art, religion, and power through the passionate voice of a heroine.

### The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Set during World War II in Germany, this novel is the story of a foster girl who scratches out a meager existence by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. She learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors and the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

### Dead Sea Scrolls Bible – Abegg, Flint and Ulrich

From the dramatic find in the caves of Qumran, the world's most ancient version of the Bible allows us to read the scriptures as they were in the time of Jesus.

### Fatal Shore: Epic of Australia's Founding – Robert Hughes

The history of the birth of Australia which came out of the suffering and brutality of England's infamous convict transportation system.

### Half Broke Horses – Jeannette Walls

So begins the story of Lily Casey Smith, Jeannette Walls's grandmother, who by age six was helping her father break horses. At fifteen, she left home to teach in a frontier town—riding five hundred miles on her pony, alone, to get to her job.

### House of Scorpion – Nancy Farmer

Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested. His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium. He was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. Most consider him a monster--except for El Patrón who loves Matt as he loves himself.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years.

Indigo, In Search of the Color that Seduced the World – Catherine McKinley

The story of this precious dye and its ancient heritage: its relationship to slavery as the "hidden half" of the transatlantic slave trade, its profound influence on fashion, and its spiritual significance.

I Wish Someone were Waiting for me Somewhere – Anna Gavalda

A hauntingly intimate look at the intolerably painful, yet sometimes valuable consequences that adultery can have on a marriage and the individuals involved.

The Kent Family Chronicles (series) - John Jake

This is the story of Philip Kent’s family saga. The illegitimate son of a British nobleman who was denied his heritage, he embraces the ideals of the fledgling nation of America.

The Kingdom of Men – Kim Barnes

Raised in a two-room shack by her strict Oklahoma grandfather, Gin Mitchell knows a better life awaits her when she marries hometown hero Mason McPhee. Even so, nothing can prepare her for what’s to come when Mason takes a in 1960s Saudi Arabia.

Last of the Breed – Louis L’Amour

The compelling story of U.S. Air Force Major Joe Mack. When his experimental aircraft is forced down in Russia he must call upon the ancient skills of his Indian forebears to survive.

Leaving Everything Most Loved (Maisie Dobbs Series) – Jacqueline Winspear

Maisie Dobbs investigates the murder of Indian immigrants in London.

Medicus: A Novel of the Roman Empire (series) – Ruth Downie

A novel about a Roman doctor on the edges of the Empire in Roman Britannia.

The Outlander (series) – Diana Gabaldon

The year is 1945. Claire Randall is traveling with her husband when she touches a boulder in one of the ancient stone circles that dot the British Isles. Suddenly she is hurled back in time to a Scotland torn by war and raiding border clans in the year of our Lord 1743.

Pinballs – Betsey Byars

Three unwanted kids who survived hard knocks find themselves in the same foster home. One battered, one run over by a car, and one emotionally lost, they all are determined to find hope.

Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine – Deborah Blum

A fascinating Jazz Age tale of chemistry and detection, poison and murder, a page-turning account of a forgotten era.

The Red Tent – Anita Damant

It begins with the story of the mothers--Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah--the four wives of Jacob, surrounding thee traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood--the world of the red tent.

Shadow of the Wind (series) – Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Barcelona, 1945: A city slowly heals in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, and Daniel, an antiquarian book dealer's son finds solace in a mysterious book , but when he sets out to find the author's other works, he makes a shocking discovery: someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book Carax has written.

Sparrow –Mary Doria Russell

If you have to send a group of people to a newly discovered planet to contact a totally unknown species, whom would you choose? How about four Jesuit priests, a young astronomer, a physician, her engineer husband, and a child prostitute-turned-computer-expert? This motley combination becomes the first to explore the Alpha Centuri world of Rakhat.

Stiff, the Curious Lives of Human Cadavers – Mary Roach

An oddly compelling, often hilarious exploration of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem.

The Tao of Pooh – Benjamin Hoff

The how of Pooh? The Tao of who? The Tao of Pooh!?! In which it is revealed that one of the world's great Taoist masters isn't Chinese--or a venerable philosopher--but is in fact none other than that effortlessly calm, still, reflective bear.

The Triumph of the Fungi: a Rotten History – Nicholas Money

This book is concerned with the most devastating fungal diseases in history. These are the plagues of trees and crop plants, caused by invisible spores that have reshaped entire landscapes and decimated human populations.

The Weird Sisters – Eleanor Brown

Three sisters have returned to their childhood home, reuniting the eccentric Andreas family. Here, books are a passion and TV is something other people watch.

Wesley the Owl: The Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and his Girl – Stacey O'Brien

Wesley could not have survived in the wild. O'Brien watches him turn into a voracious carnivore, an avid communicator, and eventually, a robust adult who objects to visits by any other.

When She Woke – Hilary Jordan

The story of a stigmatized woman in a not-too-distant future, where convicted felons are no longer imprisoned but their skin color is genetically altered to match the class of their crimes—and then released back into the population to survive as best they can. Hannah is a Red; her crime is murder.

You Just don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation – Deborah Tannen

This book gives you the tools to understand what went wrong -- and to find a common language in which to strengthen relationships at work and at home.