| **Rudolph Almasy**  
| **Professor Emeritus**  
| **recommends:**  
| **The Master Butchers Singing Club** by Louise Erdrich |
| **Maureen F. Crockett**  
| **Retired Writer**  
| **recommends:**  
| about two immigrant families in harsh North |
| **Fire and Fury** by Michael Wolff  
| **is telling us that love makes some things bearable.**  
| Nobody in the Trump administration is a nice person, and their sins are vicious, making great reading. |
| **Anna Elfenbein**  
| **Faculty**  
| **recommends:**  
| **Silent Souls** by Caterina Albert  
| translated by Kathleen McNerney  
| **about** two immigrant families in harsh North |
| **Kathleen H. Blackburn**  
| **Physician**  
| **recommends:**  
| **Silent Souls** by Caterina Albert  
| translated by Kathleen McNerney  
| **Incomparable!** |
| **The Correspondence**  
| by J. D. Daniels  
| **One hundred twenty-six pages of raw, funny, disturbingly sane self-exploration, a personal narrative so courageous in its lack of self-pity and bathos, it took my breath away.**  
| It is listed as nonfiction, but the inner territory mapped here is the stuff of all great literature! |
| **Lara Farina**  
| **Faculty**  
| **recommends:**  
| **The Seventh Day** by Nick Bostrom  
| **This poignant 2013 novel, recently translated into English, offers a deeply felt meditation on the transforming cultural landscape of modern China. Yu Hua is a major figure**  
| **and humane all at once. In my last Non-Western World literature class, the novel was my students' favorite reading.** |
| **Marilyn Francus**  
| **Faculty**  
| **recommends:**  
| **Being Mortal** by Atul Gwande  
| **About aging and dying in America. A clear-eyed look at the health care system and what we can do so that people can live their final years with autonomy and dignity.** |
| **Chapman Hood Frazier**  
| **Professor in Residence**  
| **recommends:**  
| **What is Amazing** by Heather Christle  
| **Largely punctuation-free, the smoggy little poems in this collection, Christle's third, are populated by light-up trees, angry fauns, and prankster anvils, along with the usual love, death, and awe.** |
| **Glenn Gallagher**  
| **Faculty**  
| **recommends:**  
| **The Surviving Siblings** by Glenn Gallagher  
| **My tale is one-of-a-kind. Two teenage boys and a little girl must survive after the deaths of both parents in a twelve-month period. Fiction based on a little fact.** |
| **Laura Brady**  
| **Faculty**  
| **recommends:**  
| **An American Marriage** by Taylor Jones  
| **The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas  
| **at the center of THUG, thirty-year-old Thomas' first novel, pulls zero punches in addressing the problems of police shootings and institutionalized racism but does so in a nuanced way...and I agree.** |
| **Rosemary Hathaway**  
| **Faculty**  
| **recommends:**  
| **What is Amazing** by Chapman Hood Frazier  
| **Something rich and strange** by Ron Rash  
| **a dark-hearted collection of thirty-two short stories that mine the deep and twisted veins of Appalachia in the tensions between the traditional and the modern.** |
| **Bettijane Christopher Burger**  
| **Retired**  
| **Teacher**  
| **recommends:**  
| **The Astronaut Wives Club** by Lily Koppel  
| **Real chic lit – these wives in the '60s were thrust into the public eye and watched their husbands enter pioneering territory. We watched but didn’t know their secrets.** |
| **Ryan Claycomb**  
| **Faculty**  
| **recommends:**  
| **Exit West** by Mohsin Hamid  
| **Hamid's much-acclaimed book revolves around a magical-realist conceit that secret doors open up as escapes from war-torn places into safer (but not safe) spaces around the world in the Mediterranean, London, San Francisco and of disorientation that refugees from around the world must endure when the fabric of their homelands—and their very homes—are ripped apart. The writing is spare and accessible, and characters' lives.**
Karla Hilliard, High School English Teacher, recommends:

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward

This beautiful, surprising book might be the heir apparent to Morrison's Beloved on a gut-wrenching road trip. We're challenged to return to the butt of systemic oppression and injustice. A moving work with unforgettable scenes.

Robert Johnson, Education Director of ED Youth, recommends:

Belt Magazine & Belt Publishing

In the spirit of the many ODD kids I work with at PEP/Phoenix Day Treatment Center in the Cleveland burbs, I'm going to be difficult and recommend a publisher/independent magazine rather than single books. Belt Magazine and Belt Publishing, a regional independent operation publishing literary and journalistic culture at its finest, seeks to connect rural, urban, and suburban culture and to speak to issues of local, national, and international interest. Their online, long form journalism is well worth reading, and their non-fiction press (I believe) released a year ago, Off the routine and into the neighborhood, classic non-fiction work, is a just released work of Appalachian cultural studies you've probably heard about: What You are Getting Wrong about Appalachia. Belt is doing right, I think.

Maria E. Miller, Teacher; Law Student, recommends:

Ishmael by Daniel Quinn

A surprisingly uplifting work of fiction in a time of social and environmental crisis. Ishmael asks and answers difficult questions about mankind's place in the natural world. This fable-like novel is quick and easy to read; it's perfect for a hopeful break for anyone struggling with existential angst in contemporary times.

Melissa S. Riggelman, 11th Grade English Teacher, recommends:

Japanese Maple by Tucker Riggelman

Tucker is an Appalachian writer who writes about the lives and times of WV people. His book of poems is relatable and mesmerizing. You can feel WV when reading his work. This is his debut volume.

Mary Ann Sams, Faculty, recommends:

The Marble Faun by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Do you need a travel guide to Rome? Do you enjoy a good mystery? Are philosophical musings on the nature of art and love and sin your thing? The Marble Faun offers all this and more. Plus: Hawthorne: in case you've forgotten, the guy knows how to write.

Keith W. Schlegel, Professor Emeritus, Frostburg State University, recommends:

Moonglow by Michael Chabon

Many of my former colleagues are busy writing their memoirs. Chabon offers new ways to think about the genre, playfully exploring its boundaries in an important novel that also addresses American History.

Ken Sullivan, Director – West Virginia Humanities Council, recommends:

Wendell Berry: Port William Novels & Stories by Wendell Berry

Wendell Berry speaks in an old-fashioned way for conservatives, both of the natural environment and of the human communities dependent upon it. Also formidable as poet and essayist, he presented himself as an author of fiction. These intertwined novels and stories deal with several stories set in Port William, Kentucky, and this big collection brings them together for the first time. His writing reminds me of an English essayist and poet whom I probably would have started with the essays rather than the fiction, but Berry is slippery enough to make you come to the essays first. Publication by the library of America brings him at last, unificationally into the American literary cannon, and it's uplifting to watch that status still alive and active among us.

Jessica Viola recommends:

Horns by Joe Hill

Excellent work of fiction that explores identity, God/Diablo relationship, loss, and redemption.