

NOVEL CONVERSATIONS

A PROGRAM OF INDIANA HUMANITIES



NEW BOOKS & THEMES

Travel with us to England, Botswana, Brazil, ancient Egypt (and Iran, Paris, Pamplona, Shanghai) . . . Go on adventures alongside Daniel Craig, Michael Fassbender, Meryl Streep, Rachel McAdams (and Julia Roberts, Robert Pattinson, Emma Stone) . . . Share in the drama and suspense of competition . . .

Novel Conversations is pleased to introduce three new themes for 2011. You can put together your own mini-series of reading and discussion programs by reserving these books. Funding for the initiative was provided by The Glick Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation.

Each set of books comes with our new Novel Conversations kit, featuring a discussion guide and author biography. Many sets include 3 large print copies and 2 audio CDs per title (see list below for details).

To give everyone a chance, we will limit orders to *2 of these new titles per library* until further notice. However, you can add previously available titles to round out your programs.

NOVEL DESTINATIONS

Books that take you to other places

- ***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*** by Helen Simonson (England) – 15 copies + 3 large print + 2 CDs
Can the Major, a proper Englishman living in the English countryside, find happiness with Jasmina Ali, the village's widowed Pakistani shopkeeper?
- ***The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*** by Alexander McCall Smith (Botswana) – 18 large print copies + 2 CDs
When Precious Ramotswe sets up shop as Botswana's only female detective, she has a white van, two desks, two chairs, a telephone and an old typewriter. And a teapot.
- ***State of Wonder*** by Ann Patchett (Brazil) – 15 copies + 3 large print + 2 CDs
While tracking down her former mentor in the Amazon jungle, Research scientist Dr. Marina Singh finds a dangerous but intriguing world and mysterious circumstances.
- ***Cleopatra: A Life*** by Stacy Schiff (Ancient Egypt) – 15 copies + 3 large print + 2 CDs
"A woman whose style, ambition, and audacity make her a subject worthy of her latest biographer," (*New York Times Book Review*) and of a movie, to star Angelina Jolie.

Still available: *Plainsong* (Colorado), *Reading Lolita in Tehran* (Iran), *The Sun Also Rises* (Paris, Pamplona); *When We Were Orphans* (England, Shanghai) & more

REEL CONVERSATIONS

Books made into movies

- ***The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*** by Stieg Larsson (2011 movie + Stockholm) – 15 copies + 3 large print + 2 CDs
Crusading journalist Mikael Blomkvist and punk prodigy Lisbeth Salander investigate the disappearance of heiress Harriet Vanger in a book by the Swedish mystery master.
- ***Jane Eyre*** by Charlotte Bronte (2011 etc. movie + Yorkshire) – 15 copies + 2 CDs
Poor and friendless, Jane has to make her own way in a nineteenth-century society that undervalues her independent spirit.
- ***My Life in France*** by Julia Child (2009 movie, “Julie and Julia”) – 15 copies + 2 CDs
Julia Child arrives in France in 1948 with her husband Paul and starts taking classes at the Cordon Bleu, where food is an art form. Illustrated with photos.
- ***The Notebook*** by Nicholas Sparks (2004 movie) – 15 copies
When Noah Calhoun and Allie Nelson meet again in coastal North Carolina after World War II, they both wonder if they can recapture their past.

Still available: *Eat, Pray, Love* (2010 movie + Italy, India, Bali); *The Help* (2011 movie), *Water for Elephants* (2011 movie), *Winter’s Bone* (2010 movie) & more

SPIRIT OF COMPETITION

Sports and other contests - exploring rivalry, passion, failure, civility and innovation

- ***Bee Season*** by Myla Goldberg – 15 copies + 2 CDs
From a class for slow learners to a national spelling bee, Eliza Naumann takes her surprised parents along for the ride in this portrait of life in a Jewish family.
- ***Indiana Sporting Life*** edited by Ray E. Boomhower – 10 copies
Selections from *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*, including essays on “Carl Erskine Remembers Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers,” “Indiana’s Dan Patch,” and “Crispus Attucks Tigers vs. Anderson Indians.”

Still available: *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, *Seabiscuit*, *Wait Till Next Year*

Contact Nancy Conner to make your reservations (email nconner@indianahumanities.org or call 317-638-1500, toll free 800-675-8897, extension 128).

Novel Conversations is a free statewide lending library creating conversations across county lines and within communities. Through Novel Conversations, Indiana Humanities lends sets of books to Indiana book clubs, offers program and discussion suggestions, arranges author speaking events and extends social sharing opportunities.