



# Reading Disciples

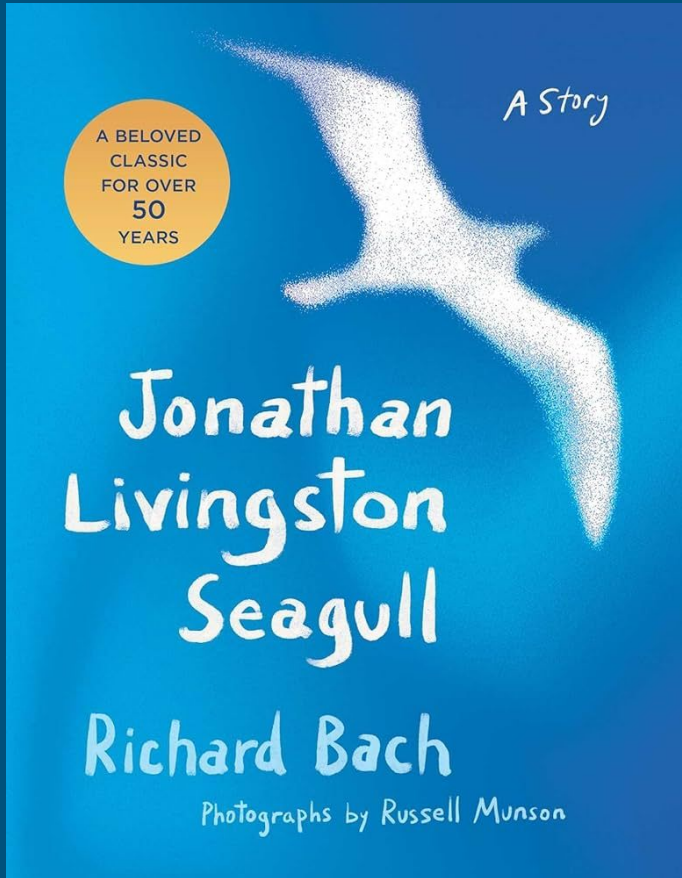
---

2024-2025



Writer, activist, and theologian James Baldwin on the power of reading:

"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was Dostoevsky and Dickens who taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or whoever had been alive. Only if we face these open wounds in ourselves can we understand them in other people. An artist is a sort of emotional or spiritual historian. His role is to make you realize the doom and glory of knowing who you are and what you are."



Title:

Jonathan Livingston Seagull

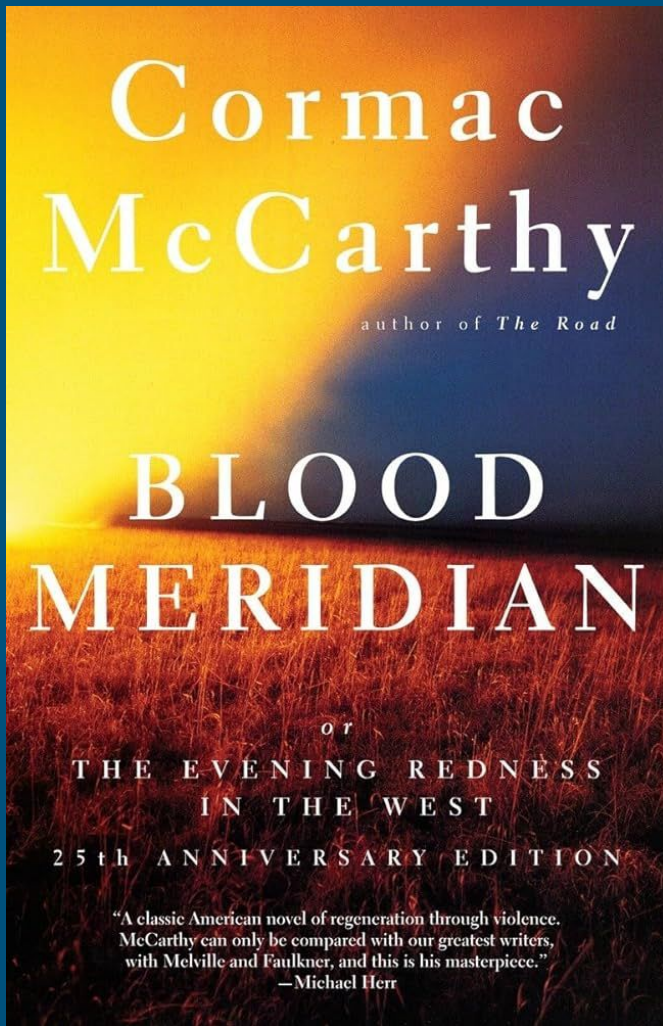
Author:

Richard Bach

Date: 1970

Allegory about a seagull who is trying to learn about flying, which involves personal reflection, freedom, and self-realization.

---

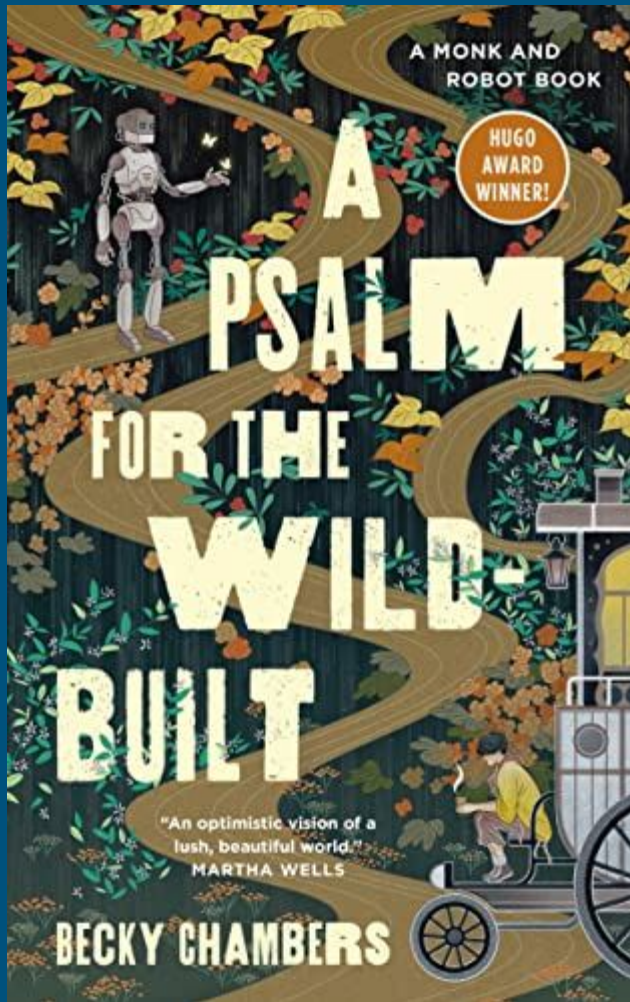


Title:  
Blood Meridian

Author:  
Cormac McCarthy

Date: 1985

Historical western epic set in the 1800s in Texas/Mexico - considered to be McCarthy's magnum opus and one of the greatest American novels of all time. It's a ruthless struggle for fortune and power and engages the question of theodicy.



Title:

A Psalm for the Wild-Built

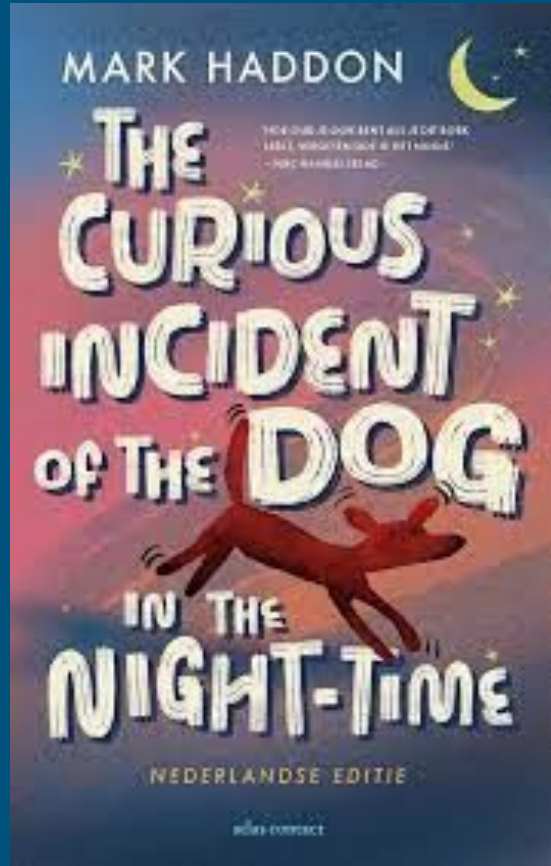
Author:

Becky Chambers

Date: 2021

Solarpunk novella in which a monk and a robot explore the wilderness and ask questions about the divine and the purpose of life.

---



Title:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time

Author:

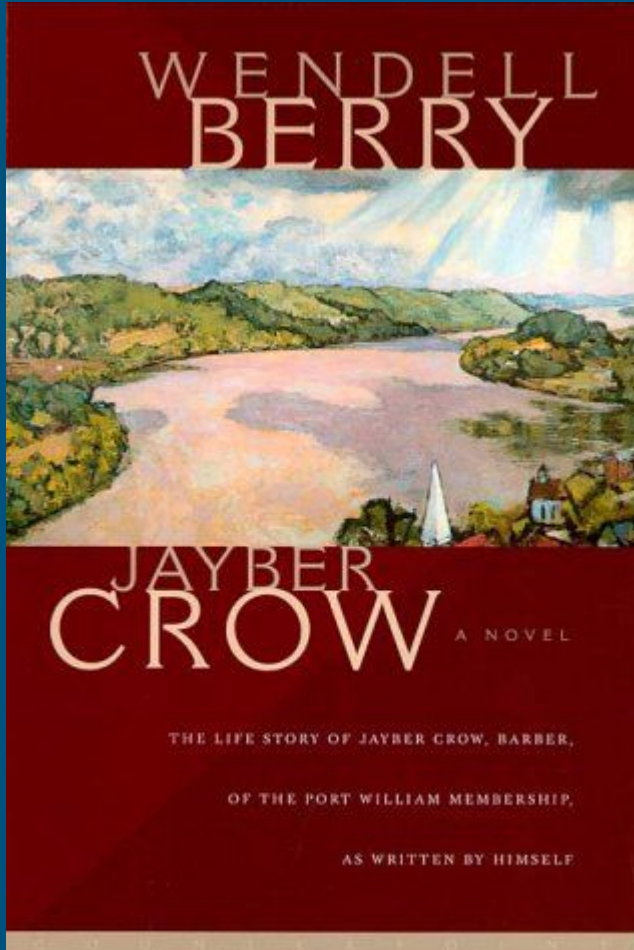
Mark Haddon

Date: 2003

Mystery novel from the perspective of a 15-year-old neurodivergent boy. It brims with imagination, empathy, and vision.

---





Title:  
Jayber Crow

Author:  
Wendell Berry

Date: 2000

Novel Set in Berry's fictional town of Port William, Kentucky, the title character's hidden, inner life explains what his neighbors, who love him, dismiss as eccentricities. A clear-sighted depiction of humanity's gifts—love and loss, joy and despair.



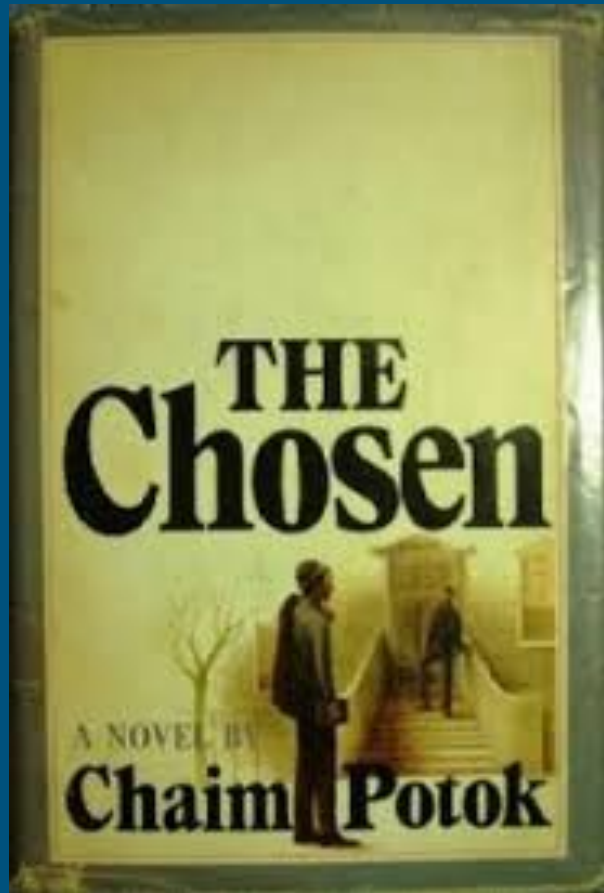
Title:  
Pilgrim's Progress

Author:  
John Bunyan

Date: 1678

Allegorical story of the good man's pilgrimage through life. Started while Bunyan was in jail for holding non-Church of England worship services. It is regarded as one of the most significant works of theological fiction in English literature.





Title:

The Chosen

Author:

Chaim Potok

Date: 1967

Novel set in Brooklyn in the 1940s. It's a coming of age story for Jewish teenagers, with themes highlighting the importance of father-son bonds, pursuit of truth, strength of friendship, importance of silence, and the struggle of tradition vs modernity.