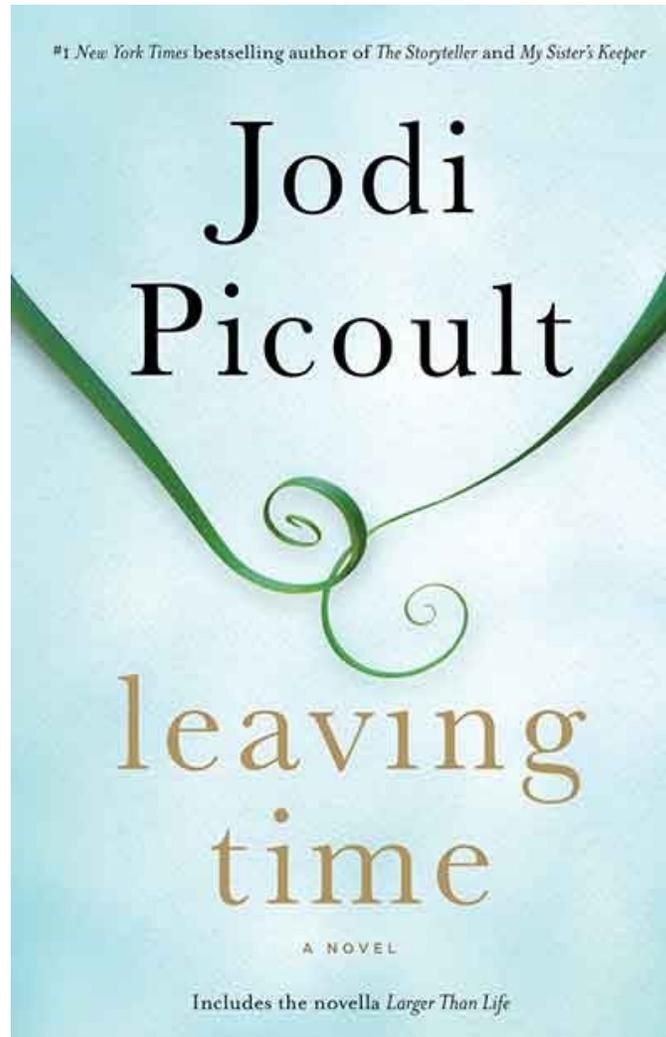


Long Island Reads 2016 Reader's Guide



Long Island Reads is sponsored by
The Nassau Library System &
The Public Libraries of Suffolk County



& Astoria Bank, Corporate Sponsor



About Long Island Reads

 *One Island-One Book*



One Book projects are community-wide reading programs. The first **One Book** project was initiated by the Washington Center for the Book in 1998. Since then, the concept has spread across the United States and around the world. Seattle librarian, Nancy Pearl, author of *Book Lust* and *More Book Lust*, and NPR book critic, is the mastermind behind the **One City, One Book** phenomenon. If your city is interested in starting its own program, you can obtain “How To” information by going to Seattle Reads: <http://bit.ly/1IV1kbB>.

To see a listing of **One City, One Book** projects visit the Library of Congress website at www.read.gov/resources/. Projects are listed by state, city and author. While at the Library of Congress site, check out their Center for the Book.

The **Long Island Reads** Committee is a group of librarians and library employees from Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island, New York who volunteer to work on this Island-wide reading initiative. Each spring people in Nassau and Suffolk read the same book, participate in discussions of the selection, and enjoy related events in public libraries.

Many Long Island Reads events take place during

National Library Week, April 10-16, 2016

For more information about

Long Island Reads One Island-One Book visit:

www.longislandreads.org

About Jodi Picoult

Jodi Picoult (pronounced pee-coh) is the bestselling author of twenty-three novels. She was born and raised in Nesconset, Long Island, studied creative writing with Mary Morris at Princeton, and had two short stories published in *Seventeen* magazine while still a student. Realism - and a profound desire to be able to pay the rent - led Picoult to a series of different jobs following her graduation: as a technical writer for a Wall Street brokerage firm, as a copywriter at an ad agency, as an editor at a textbook publisher, and as an 8th grade English teacher - before entering Harvard to pursue a master's in education. She married Tim Van Leer, whom she had known at Princeton, and it was while she was pregnant with her first child that she wrote her first novel, *Songs of the Humpback Whale*.

She wrote five issues of the Wonder Woman comic book series for DC Comics. Her books are translated into thirty four languages in thirty five countries. Four - *The Pact*, *Plain Truth*, *The Tenth Circle*, and *Salem Falls* - have been made into television movies. *My Sister's Keeper* was a big-screen release from New Line Cinema, with Nick Cassavetes directing and Cameron Diaz starring. She received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Dartmouth College in 2010 and another from the University of New Haven in 2012.

Jodi is part of the Writer's Council for the National Writing Project, which recognizes the universality of writing as a communicative tool and helps teachers enhance student writing. She is a spokesperson for Positive Tracks/Children's Hospital at Dartmouth, which supports youth-led charity fundraising through athletics; and is on the advisory committee of the New Hampshire Coalition Against the Death Penalty. She is also the founder and executive producer of the Trumbull Hall Troupe, a New Hampshire-based teen theater group that performs original musicals to raise money for local charities; to date their contributions have exceeded \$100K. She and her husband Tim and their three children live in Hanover, New Hampshire with two Springer spaniels, two rescue puppies, two donkeys, two geese, ten chickens, a smattering of ducks, and the occasional Holstein.

Honors and awards

In 2003 she was awarded the New England Bookseller Award for Fiction. She has also been the recipient of an Alex Award from the Young Adult Library Services Association, one of ten books written for adults that have special appeal for young adults; the Book Browse Diamond Award for novel of the year; a lifetime achievement award for mainstream fiction from the Romance Writers of America; *Cosmopolitan* magazine's 'Fearless Fiction' Award 2007; Waterstone's Author of the Year in the UK, a Vermont Green Mountain Book Award, a NH Granite State Book Award, a Virginia Reader's Choice Award, the Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award, and a Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award. She's the 2013-14 recipient of the New Hampshire Literary Award for Outstanding Literary Merit.

Synopsis

For more than a decade, Jenna Metcalf has never stopped thinking about her mother, Alice, who mysteriously disappeared in the wake of a tragic accident. Refusing to believe she was abandoned, Jenna searches for her mother regularly online and pores over the pages of Alice's old journals. A scientist who studied grief among elephants, Alice wrote mostly of her research among the animals she loved, yet Jenna hopes the entries will provide a clue to her mother's whereabouts.

Desperate to find the truth, Jenna enlists two unlikely allies in her quest: Serenity Jones, a psychic who rose to fame finding missing persons, only to later doubt her gifts, and Virgil Stanhope, the jaded private detective who'd originally investigated Alice's case along with the strange, possibly linked death of one of her colleagues. As the three work together to uncover what happened to Alice, they realize that in asking hard questions, they'll have to face even harder answers.

As Jenna's memories dovetail with the events in her mother's journals, the story races to a mesmerizing finish. A deeply moving, gripping, and intelligent page-turner, *Leaving Time* is Jodi Picoult at the height of her powers.



Jodi Picoult & *Leaving Time* Online

REVIEWS

The Washington Post: <http://wapo.st/21pELHs>

The Boston Globe: <http://bit.ly/1XCSiqC>

Kirkus: <http://bit.ly/1NVkGVw>

USA Today: <http://usat.ly/1NirJC9>

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Jodi Picoult on Facebook: www.facebook.com/jodipicoult/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JodiPicoult>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/RealJodiPicoult/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/jodipicoult/>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/jodi-picoult>

Leaving Time on Goodreads: <http://bit.ly/1U3tnMG>

INTERVIEWS

A Sunday *New York Times*, *By The Book* Interview with Jodi Picoult: <http://nyti.ms/1t51HNY>

Huffington Post Books: <http://huff.to/1thmM6i>

Entertainment Weekly: <http://bit.ly/1Oi7unS>

VIDEOS

National Geographic Live! talks with Jodi: <http://binged.it/1QvPRWk>

An interview on *CBS This Morning*: <http://binged.it/1lukNv2>

Jodi reads from *Leaving Time* on CBC News: <http://yhoo.it/1maD3tx>

"Can I tell you that there's an afterlife, that there are ghosts? Absolutely, I can't.
Can I say I'd like to hope that maybe one day we will be reunited with
people we love? Yeah, I would like to believe that." - Jodi Picoult

Suggested Book Discussion Questions

Provided by Random House: <http://bit.ly/1Na2R1G>

Despite their different backgrounds, Jenna, Serenity, and Virgil form a sort of unconventional family together. What do you think brings them together? Have you ever had a similar experience of finding support from an unlikely source?

Alice says that 98 percent of science is quantifiable, leaving 2 percent “that can’t be measured or explained. And yet that does not mean it doesn’t exist.” (p. 392) Do you agree or disagree? Can you think of examples from the book or from your own experience of something that fits into that 2 percent?

Virgil grapples with helping Jenna when he suspects discovering the truth might be more painful to her than never knowing. Have you ever been in a situation where you knew a truth that it might hurt someone to hear? What did you do?

Serenity’s fake psychic readings are successful, she says, because people look for sense in the nonsensical. Do you agree or disagree? If a psychic reading brings someone comfort or helps them grieve, do you think it matters if the message is faked?

Jenna meets up with another character at the very end of the book. (pp. 394–395) Were you surprised to see who that was? Why or why not?

Alice describes some amazing examples of elephants appearing to exhibit grief and empathy, which are drawn from real-life research. Discuss some of the ways elephant grief is depicted. How is it the same as human mourning? How is it different?



Suggested Book Discussion Questions

Provided by Random House: <http://bit.ly/1Na2R1G>

One of the major themes of *Leaving Time* is loss and how to cope with it. Discuss some of the ways the characters in this novel deal with their losses. Do you identify with any of these coping mechanisms more than others? How do you approach loss?

Do you think Thomas's erratic and upsetting behavior justifies Alice's affair with Gideon? What would you have done in Alice's place?

Jenna compares her search for her mother to Captain Ahab's search for the whale in *Moby Dick*, or Javert hunting Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, saying they are all three defined by their search. Do you agree with this assessment? Have you ever felt defined in this way by something you wanted?

Why do you think Serenity loses her gift? And why do you think Jenna is able to help bring it back?

Do you believe in ghosts? If you could communicate with anyone who has passed away, who would it be?

Discuss the significance of the title *Leaving Time*. What is the literal meaning that Jenna ascribes to the phrase as a baby? What are some other ways the title could be interpreted?

“Negative moments get remembered. Traumatic ones get forgotten.” (p. 12) What do you think this means? Do you agree or disagree? Have you ever experienced something and discovered later that someone else remembers it completely differently?



Suggestions for Reading Critically

Adapted from the Library of Congress Center for the Book Guidelines

The best stories are those that connect to human experience. They reveal an important truth, or provide a profound sense of kinship between reader and writer. Searching for, identifying, and discussing these truths deepens the reader's appreciation of the story. Asking questions, reading carefully, imagining yourself in the story, analyzing style and structure, and searching for personal meaning in a work of literature all enhance the work's value and the discussion potential for your group. Here are some helpful suggestions on how you can become a more critical reader.

Make notes and mark pages as you go. Reading for a book discussion - whether you are the leader or simply a participant - differs somewhat from reading purely for pleasure. As you read a book in preparation for a discussion, ask questions of yourself and mark down pages to which you might want to refer again. Make notes like, "Is this significant?" or "Why does the author include this?" Making notes as you go slows down your reading but saves you the time of searching out important passages later.

Ask tough questions of yourself and the book. Obviously, asking questions of yourself as you read means you don't know the answer yet, and sometimes you never will discover the answers. Don't be afraid to ask hard questions because often the author is presenting difficult issues for that very purpose. Look for questions that may lead to in-depth conversations with your group and make the readings more meaningful.

Pay attention to the authors' messages. As with any skill, critical reading improves with practice. Remember that a good author uses every word in a text deliberately. Try to be aware of what the authors are revealing about themselves and what they want you to learn about life from their perspectives.

Analyze themes. Try to analyze the important themes of a story and to consider the premises with which the author started. Imagine an author mulling over the beginnings of the story, asking, "what if" questions.

Get to know the characters. When you meet the characters in the book, place yourself at the scene. Think of them as you do the people around you. Judge them. Think about their faults and their motives. What would it be like to interact with them? Are the tone and style of their dialogue authentic? Read portions aloud to get to know the voices of the characters.

Notice the structure of the stories as well as the organization of the entire book. Sometimes the structure of the book illustrates an important concept or helps to create a mood. Notice how the editor structured the book. How do the stories relate to each other? How are the individual stories and selections structured?

Who are the narrators? How does the sequence of events unfold to create the mood of the story? Is it written in flashbacks? Does the sequence of actions make sense to you?

Make comparisons to other stories and works. Compare the book and the stories to others that have a similar theme or style. Often, themes run through an author's works that are more fully realized by comparison. Comparing one author's work to that of another can help you solidify your opinions, as well as illuminate qualities you may otherwise miss.

If you enjoyed Jodi Picoult's *Leaving Time*

FICTION

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng—In the aftermath of the death of a sixteen-year-old girl, family members struggle to discover the truth about her as well as their own lives.

Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd—Fourteen year old Lily Owen embarks on a journey of self-discovery and healing, supported by maternal figures she encounters along the way.

Did You Ever Have a Family by Bill Clegg —The far-reaching effects of a small-town tragedy are delicately and observantly conveyed in this novel of manners and human nature.

We Are All Completely Besides Ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler—A troubled woman confronts the realities about her complicated family's past in this tale of shifting memories, which raises the question of: what is family?

Vanishing Acts by Jodi Picoult —Another suspense-filled novel about family by Jodi Picoult, *Vanishing Acts* deals with the fallout and upheaval caused by the recovered memory of a young woman who normally assists others in finding things through her search and rescue job.

The Vanishers by Heidi Julavits —In this complex page-turner, psychic phenomenon and satirical humor enliven the story of a young woman's attempts to solve several complicated mysteries, including one of her own.

Reconstructing Amelia by Kimberley McCreight--When her high-achieving 15-year-old daughter, Amelia, supposedly commits suicide, litigation lawyer and single mother Kate Baron, leveled by grief, must reconstruct the pieces of Amelia's life to find the truth.

Hannah's Dream by Diane Coplín Hammond —Having devotedly cared for a lone elephant at a dilapidated zoo for more than forty years, Samson hopes to be able to retire when he hires promising assistant Neva, who forces Samson to acknowledge that the elephant also needs the company of her own kind.

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen —Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope.

White Bone by Barbara Gowdy —A novel told entirely from the perspective of African elephants follows young Mud and her family as they desperately struggle to survive the harsh drought and ivory hunters that threaten their lives.

Light on Snow by Anita Shreve —Remembering the December afternoon twenty years earlier when her father and she found an abandoned infant in the snow, Nicky recalls her father's efforts to escape society after a tragedy and a young woman's struggles to live with her choices.

If you enjoyed Jodi Picoult's *Leaving Time*

NONFICTION

When Elephants Weep: the Emotional Lives of Animals by Jeffrey Moussieff Masson—An examination of the research and philosophies behind the evolving viewpoint that animals have emotional lives similar to those of humans.

Elephant Whisperer: My Life With the Herd in the African Wild by Lawrence Anthony —It had been nearly a century since elephants had lived in Southern Zululand, South Africa. Yet one day a phone call changed all that. A troubled, unpredictable herd needed a new home. In order to save their lives, Anthony took them in, and in the years that followed found that they had a lot to teach him about life, loyalty, and freedom.

Last Chain on Billie: How One Extraordinary Elephant Escaped the Big Top by Carol Bradley—The chronicle of a psychologically traumatized zoo and circus elephant who was removed and rehabilitated as part of the largest government elephant rescue in U.S. history.

Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel by Carl Safina —Weaving decades of field observations with exciting new discoveries about the brain, this landmark book offers an intimate view of animal behavior to challenge the fixed boundary between humans and animals.

Elephant Memories: Thirteen Years in the Life of an Elephant Family by Cynthia Moss— Moss's chronicle of the elephants of the Amboseli National Park comprises chapters full of accumulated knowledge of elephant behavior: each chapter continues with a particular theme such as mating, social organization, or population dynamics.

After This: When Life Is Over, Where Do We Go? by Clair Bidwell Smith—Smith, a therapist, bereavement counselor and memoirist explores the afterlife by participating in past-life regressions, sessions with mediums and psychics and the ceremonies of organized religion.

Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II by Vicki Croke-- J.H. "Billy" Williams always had an affinity for animals, so when he saw a job offer with the East India Company to work with logging elephants he applied. Not only did he find his calling with the elephants in India, Billy and his elephants became war heroes.

Elephant Don: The Politics of a Pachyderm Posse by Caitlin O'Connell —O'Connell, one of the leading experts on elephant communication and social behavior, offers a rare inside look at the social world of African male elephants.

Talking to the Dead: Kate and Maggie Fox and the Rise of Spiritualism by Barbara Weisber — Follows the story of the Fox sisters, whose reports about strange noises in their mid-nineteenth-century home and subsequent claims that they could talk with ghosts gave rise to contemporary séance practices and modern beliefs about spiritualism.

The Long Island Reads 2016 Committee

Valerie Acklin	Bellmore Memorial Library	Martha DiVittorio	Bellmore Memorial Library
Samantha Alberts	Suffolk Cooperative Library System	Candace Hope	Huntington Public Library
Caroline Ashby	Nassau Library System	Jocelyn Kaleita	Westhampton Library
Donna Diamond	Book Talk Leader	Deborah Kinirons	Gold Coast Public Library
Ellen Drucker-Albert	Gold Coast Public Library	Thérèse Nielsen	Huntington Public Library
Diane Eidelman	SCLS, retired	Elizabeth Olesh	Nassau Library System
Maureen Garvey	Bellmore Memorial Library	Marcia Olsen	Levittown Public Library
Beth Gates	Rogers Memorial Library	Loretta Piscatella	Middle Country Public Library
Ellen Getreu	Hewlett-Woodmere Library	Janet Schneider	Oceanside Library
Lauren Gilbert	Sachem Public Library	Carol Stern	Glen Cove Library

Beth Gates, Long Island Reads Suffolk Chair, Rogers Memorial Library
Janet Schneider, Long Island Reads Nassau Chair, Oceanside Library

Reader's Guide compiled by: Beth Gates, Rogers Memorial Library;
Thérèse Purcell Nielsen, Huntington Public Library and
Candace Hope, Huntington Public Library

Special thanks to Astoria Bank



Contact your public library for more information about
Long Island Reads events during
National Library Week, April 10-16, 2016

Long Island Reads 2016 Evaluation

1. Have you read, or do you plan to read, *Leaving Time*? Yes ___ No ___

2. Have you visited the Long Island Reads website at www.longislandreads.org? Yes ___ No ___

3. What Library do you belong to? _____

4. Please let us know what you thought about today's program. _____

5. Have you participated in any Long Island Reads events in the past? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, which one(s)? _____

6. Are you in a Book Club? Yes ___ No ___

If you are in a Book Club, please tell us a little about your club: (For example: How often and where do you meet? How do you select the books? How many members? What type of books do you read?)

7. If you would like to suggest an author or title for Long Island Reads 2017, please do so below. Please tell us why you think this would be a good choice.

Your name (optional) _____

Are you a library employee? Yes ___ No ___

Do you reside in Nassau__ or Suffolk__

Please return this form to a member of the LI Reads committee here today or to:

Beth Gates
Rogers Memorial Library
91 Coopers Farm Road
Southampton, NY 11968

Thank you for participating in Long Island Reads!