

About COMmon Read: About COMmon Read

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COMmon Read is a shared reading program that encourages the entire COMmunity to join together to read and discuss a book in common. We hope to foster a greater sense of community through a shared academic and social experience; encourage an exchange of ideas among students, faculty, and staff; increase awareness of academic, cultural, and social issues; and promote various disciplines across campuses.

Co-Chairs & Support:

- Dave Patterson, Co-Chair: dpatterson@marin.edu
- Beth Patel, Co-Chair: bpatel@marin.edu
- Sarah Frye: sfrye@marin.edu

COMmon Read Selections

Check out our current and previous COMmon Read selections!

Click the links to learn more about each book.

- **2022-2023: *The 1619 Project* by Nikole Hannah-Jones** - College of Marin Library is partnering with the [Umoja Equity Institute](#) for a year-long anti-racism, anti-censorship festival focused on *The 1619 Project*. The book reframes United States history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of the U.S. historical narrative. The book has been banned in Texas and Florida schools, and there are efforts to do the same in more than a dozen other states. At this moment in history, *The 1619 Project* is more than just a banned book. Its publication and hateful attacks on the authors force us to take a closer look at the impact of centuries of systemic racism, white supremacy, settler colonialism, and othering at the core of the African American/American experience in the United States. The goal of this yearlong Program is to encourage dialogue on the deep roots of racism and inequity on our campus and in our communities. Umoja and the library encourage everyone at College of Marin to read the book in part to consider the argument it contains and in part as an act of resistance against racism, censorship, and authoritarianism.
- **2021-2022: *A Long Petal of the Sea* and *The Stories of Eva Luna* by Isabel Allende** - We chose Isabel Allende's works for our third COMmon Read because she is one of the world's most read Latinx authors. Some of us have loved her writing and admired her character for decades. Her work can be approached from many perspectives in such disciplines as Spanish and English literature, history, political science, women's studies, ethnic studies, economics, and geology. We believe Allende's work will greatly resonate with students, faculty, and staff.
- **2017-2018: *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly** - An inspiring story that celebrates the role of intellect, determination, and unity in overcoming sexism and racism. This story can be approached from many perspectives in such disciplines as women's studies, ethnic studies, math, engineering, technology, history, and sociology. We believe the story will greatly resonate with students, faculty, and staff. This story also illustrates the importance of family, education, mentors, and the power of everyday acts of resistance.
- **2015-2016: *Becoming Dr. Q.* by Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa** - In this gripping memoir, Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa tells his amazing life story -- from his impoverished childhood in Mexico to his transformation as a student at San Joaquin Delta College, UC Berkeley, Harvard Medical School and beyond.

[Borrow all of these books from the COM Library using your COM Library card or any Marin County Public Library card!](#)