

**Dickinson College Librarians’  
READ Poster Statements**

**Theresa Arndt**

*Diet for a Small Planet* by Frances Moore Lappé

“This now classic work outlines the economic, social, and environmental impact of agricultural practices. In the spirit of ‘think globally, act locally,’ Lappé challenges the reader to consider the impact of food choices, and outlines a practical approach for adopting a healthy, meatless diet. I adopted a vegetarian diet after reading this book.”

**Chris Bombaro**

*The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien

“My favorite works of fiction are those in which it is obvious to the reader that the author spends time living in the world he or she creates. Tolkien accomplished this by writing histories, languages, religions, and literature for Middle-Earth, creating for his stories a context that he never expected the public to read. I have been in love with *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* since I was 15 and I re-read them about once a year, always discovering some new detail I’d missed before.”

**Amelia Brunskill**

*Smilla’s Sense of Snow* by Peter Hoeg

“There are sentences, whole passages really, in this book that are simply electric. Smilla, the main character, is not only the most interesting protagonist that I have ever had the pleasure of reading about but is also who I want to be when I grow up.”

**Kirk Doran**

*French Piano Music: An Anthology*, edited by Isidor Philipp.

“I chose this score for its decorative cover. I enjoy reading scores whether I have a piano at hand or not, and I especially like French piano music.”

**James Fein**

*New Seeds of Contemplation* by Thomas Merton

“Profound spiritual prose, which beckons to be read over and over again, with the promise of learning something deeply meaningful with each new reading.”

**Jim Gerencser**

*The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas

“Masterful vengeance tempered by great humanity – what’s not to love?”

**Eleanor Mitchell**

*The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton

“This novel depicts New York society in the Gilded Age, and the limited choices available to women, through the tragic story of Lily Bart. Beautiful and cunning, but not quite of the class she aspires to, Lily is trapped between ambition and ambivalence, tempted by love but motivated more by love of luxury. She sabotages her own opportunities to marry well, the only life possible for a woman in her society, and begins

a downward spiral, making one bad choice after another. Her descent is miserable, I can neither watch it nor look away; but Lily is, despite all, somehow heroic.”

**Ann Margaret Thompson**

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

“I’m drawn to books that explore the intricate relationship between mothers and daughters. This story is filled with strong women characters that stay with you long after you’ve finished reading. I wish I could sit in ‘the three black calendar sisters’ kitchen and sip sweet honey while listening to their sage advice.”

**Malinda Triller**

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

“This book always puts life into perspective for me. I admire Kingsolver’s way with words. Every time I read it, I discover a new layer of meaning.”

**Mark Wardecker**

*The Complete Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

“When I was 11 years old, I bought my first collection of Sherlock Holmes stories at a school book fair and became immediately hooked. I still re-read the stories regularly and attribute to them much of my love of reading. More than just a series of mysteries, Arthur Conan Doyle managed to craft a testament to the power of intellect and the value of friendship.”

**Yunshan Ye**

*Chinese Avant-Garde Photography Since 1990*, edited by Zhu Qi

“A major work on contemporary Chinese avant-garde art, a field that is always fascinating to me.”