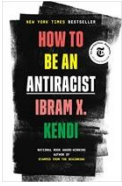
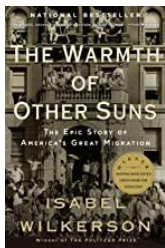


## Marblehead League Book Discussion Group 8/14/20



“How to Be an Antiracist” (2019) by Ibram X. Kendi

A nonfictional book that dissects racism in all its incarnations, revealing over and over how we cannot just not be a racist, but we need to be antiracist and alert to its various forms. The book is written by a young Black man who, in a series of insights, comes to understand his own innate racism, including the seductive dead end of “Black exceptionalism.” Author Kendi denies that racism stems from ignorance or immorality. Instead, he believes that racism results from economic policy that places one racial group above another. He also believes the answer to racism is to truly treat all equally, beginning with policy. *Recommended again and again by our readers.*



“The Warmth of Other Suns” (2011) by Isabel Wilkerson

The author traces the migration of Southern Blacks from the South between WWI and the 1960's /70s by following three individuals as they left for a variety of reasons and settled elsewhere in the US.

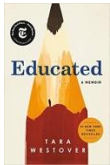


“Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own” (2020) by Eddie S. Glaude Jr. James Baldwin was an important American writer who chronicled the civil rights movement in America and its aftermath. The author, a professor at Princeton, traces Baldwin’s grief, rage, and isolation as he internalized the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., the betrayal of the dream, the rise of the Black Panthers, and the stalled effort to break down racial division and backsliding -- all during his lifetime. The author

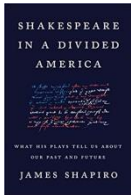
seeks hints of how Baldwin survived as a black man experiencing the pain of seeing the truth of America, and needing to define himself outside of it. Bracing, inspiring it places love at the center of redemption.



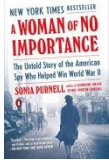
“The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance” (2010) by Kirstin Downey This biography of Frances Perkins tells the story of how America ended up with child labor laws, Social Security, the 8 hour work day, and workplace safety, all part of Roosevelt’s New Deal. Born in Worcester MA, Perkins deftly learned to use the political process and connections to place her in a position to make a difference in the development of these programs.



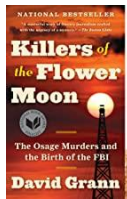
“Educated: A Memoir” (2018) by Tara Westover. The author was raised in a family of survivalists, headed by a bi-polar, conspiracy- believing father. Her story of leaving, confronted with the family untruths, ultimately attending college at Brigham Young University is a story of horror, redemption and forgiveness.



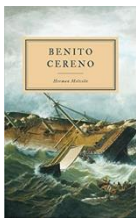
“Shakespeare in a Divided America: What His Plays Tell Us About Our Past and Future” by James Shapiro (2020) by James Shapiro. There are 8 chapters that discuss how Shakespeare was viewed at different time periods in our history that were times of "divided" opinion. He starts with 1833 and Othello, in particular how Desdemona was in love with the black hero, Othello, and the controversy of miscegenation. The next chapter is 1845 (Manifest Destiny) and the male and effeminate sides to Romeo. Probably the best chapter is 1865 (Assassination) and the role Shakespeare played in both Lincoln's and Booth's lives - how Booth sees himself as Brutus killing Caesar and how Lincoln is drawn to the most psychologically complex character (Macbeth, etc.) And is remembered more as a Duncan in Macbeth. The book is more about vignettes in our history with a commentary about Shakespeare.



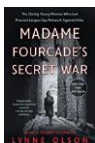
“A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II” (2020) by Sonia Purnell. Virginia Hall was a woman who had worked at the US State Department in a nondescript career. Yet, she became the center of a large spy network in Vichy France, which had fallen to the Nazis. Acting as a US journalist in France (the US was not yet in the war) she funneled information to Great Britain, and had narrow escapes. She didn’t seek recognition, but is deserving of our appreciation.



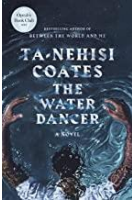
“Killers of the Flower Moon” (2018) by David Grann. Most Native Americans were not compensated for their land when taken by the government. But when oil was discovered on Native American land in 1920 Oklahoma, guardians were appointed to manage the proceeds. But members Osage Nation were dying suspicious deaths. The unsolved crimes against the Osage led to the establishment of what is now known as the FBI. Several in the group highly endorsed this book.



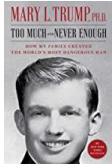
“Benito Cereno” (1856) by Herman Melville A short and masterful exploration of how a “person of singular undistrustful good nature” not involved in the “imputation of malign evil in man” with a “benevolent heart” can be deceived by the morays of the times to be enveloped in the darkest evil, and never revealed to him. Created a slow burn in our reader!



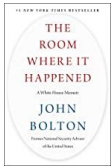
“Madame Fourcade’s Secret War: the daring young woman who led France’s largest spy network against Hitler” (2020) by Lynne Olson A fascinating story about a rebellious young woman who finds the courage to fight for her country against Hitler, leading a group of 3,000 people in the French Resistance.



“The Water Dancer: A Novel” (2019) by Ta-Nehisi Coates A fictional work of magical realism that takes place in the age of slavery in America, as plantations were in decline.



“Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man” (2020) by Mary L. Trump Ph.D. Family secrets that reveal the shaping of the President, written by a niece and clinical psychologist.



“The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir” (2020) by John Bolton. A book delving deep in policy discussions at the Trump White House, illustrating profound dysfunction. Policy geeks will love it!



“The Spiritual Danger of Donald Trump” (2020) How do Christians, specifically Evangelical Christians, view Donald Trump? Thirty essays by different Evangelicals examine how principles of their faith inform their views and complex reactions to the President.