

Rumford Book Discussion Group
Reading List 2009 - 2010

- Sept. 3, 2009 Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri
Eight short stories by Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Interpreter of Maladies* explore the nature of family and love. In the title story, a mother in Seattle nervously hosts her widowed father, who helps tend her garden but hides a secret. 2008
- Oct. 1, 2009 The Danish Girl by David Ebershoff
"A novel set in Copenhagen, Paris, and Dresden in the 1920s, introduces a man who discovers he is a woman, and the woman who will do anything for him, in a tale of love and marriage in the midst of fundamental crisis." 2000 *Novelist*
- Nov. 5, 2009 The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak
Death narrates the tale of nine-year-old Liesel from 1939 to 1943 in Nazi Germany. Liesel copes with a foster family, air raids, her friend Rudy, and a hidden Jew, sustained by the books she steals. 2006
- Dec. 3, 2009 The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows
Writer Juliet Ashton corresponds with Dawsey Adams and other members of a literary society created as a front during the Nazi occupation of the British channel island Guernsey. Through letters, Juliet learns about their wartime experiences. Intrigued, Juliet sails to Guernsey, where she finds new inspiration. 2008
- Jan. 7, 2010 The Gift of Rain by Tan Twan Eng
Philip Hutton, son of a prosperous British trader and his Chinese second wife, is sixteen when he first meets Japanese diplomat Hayato Endo in 1939 Penang. Philip's relationship with Endo, his beloved aikido sensei, changes when the Japanese occupy Malaya during World War II. 2008
- Feb. 4, 2010 Dreamers of the Day by Mary Doria Russell
Ohio schoolteacher Agnes Shanklin receives an inheritance after her entire family dies in a flu epidemic. She decides to travel and arrives in Egypt during the 1921 Cairo Peace Conference. Agnes

befriends Winston Churchill and Lawrence of Arabia while she falls in love with a German spy. *2008*

- Mar. 4, 2010 The Sisters : The Saga of the Mitford Family by Mary S. Lovell
The Sisters explores the lives and times of six aristocratic British sisters, their family relationships, artistic successes, scandals, and tragedies and traces their involvements in clashing political ideologies between the World Wars. One of them, Diana, married British fascist Oswald Mosley and became "the most hated woman in England," spending most of World War II in prison. *2001*
- Apr. 1, 2010 The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell
Scottish shop owner Iris Lockhart is shocked to learn she has a great-aunt Esme, who has been in a psychiatric hospital for more than sixty years. When the hospital closes, Esme, deemed mentally fit, is released to Iris. Esme's story gradually comes out. *2006*
- May 6, 2010 Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese
Twin brothers Shiva and Marion Stone's Indian-nun mother dies during their birth and their British father abandons them. As revolution brews decades later, Marion, a surgeon, flees to America, where he eventually confronts his past. *2009*
- June 10, 2010 Summer Reading by Hilma Wolitzer
Lissy, insecure second wife of a Wall Street tycoon, hosts a book club at her Hamptons home. Angela, a retired professor haunted by past love, leads the group while Lissy's resentful housekeeper Michelle eavesdrops. The women find inspiration in literature. *2007*

The Rumford Book Discussion Group meets at 10:30AM. Discussions last approximately 1½ hours. Selected titles are available through OSL at the Rumford Branch Library. Contact Adult Services Librarian Joyce May at the Weaver Library, 41 Grove Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914, 434-2453 or jmay@eplib.org for more information.