



# Joyce Muller

## Great Readers, Great Leaders

*The second in our Great Readers and Leaders Bookmark Series features books selected by Joyce Muller, Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing at McDaniel College.*

## Joyce's Bio

Joyce is the first president of the Friends of the Carroll County Public Library. She was a member of the CCPL Board of Trustees from January 2001 until her second term expired in December 2010, serving as president of the Board in 2005 and 2006. It is impossible to overstate the impact Joyce has had on the quality of public library service in Carroll County during the past decade. We look forward to her continued involvement in the activities of CCPL through her new role with the Friends.

Joyce is a voracious reader whose recommendations and insights are sought by fellow book club members, CCPL staff, and many other book lovers in the community. She is a lifelong resident of Carroll County and customer of the Westminster Branch. Through Joyce's involvement, McDaniel and CCPL have forged a strong partnership to present programs to the community, including On the Same Page Community Read initiatives, and the recent Day for Booklover's held at McDaniel.

Joyce joined the staff of McDaniel College (then Western Maryland College) in 1979. She is a superb writer who has created an award winning program of print communications for McDaniel. Among her achievements is the creation of The Hill magazine for alumni and friends, which was awarded a Bronze Medal for overall excellence by the Council for Advancement of Support of Education in 2008 in its highly competitive International Circle of Excellence Awards Program. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> medal earned by the magazine since its launch in 1985.

Joyce was named to Outstanding Young Women of America in 1980. She served on the Board of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce from 1996-99.

## Joyce's Reads

### *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie*

A book about the love of books. Two boys are transported through reading forbidden works: Balzac, Zola, Tolstoy, Bronte and find love in a remote village during China's "reeducation" cultural revolution.

### *Gilead by Marilynne Robinson*

"A good sermon," Marilynne Robinson writes, "is one side of a passionate conversation." This epistle takes the form of a letter from 76-year-old John Ames, a fourth-generation Congregationalist minister, to his young son.

### ***The History of Love by Nicole Krauss***

A multi-layered story told through two compelling narrators, an elderly Jewish man and WWII survivor, and a teenaged girl, both living in NYC. Part comic and part sad, a bit of a mystery but certainly not a tragedy.

### ***Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout***

Olive Kitteridge is as abrasive as sandpaper and unapologetically rude. A retired math teacher, she uses her sharp tongue to shape neighbors and former students. You will root her on by book's end.

### ***Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones***

Civil war rages on a copper-rich tropical island called Bougainville in the early 1990s. All whites have fled except Mr. Watts, an eccentric New Zealander married to a local woman. He reopens the village school and begins to read Dickens' *Great Expectations* aloud. Your heart breaks for the islanders; the end leaves you inspired.

### ***An Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England by Brock Clarke***

Probably the oddest title in this list, it opens with a man who accidentally burns down the home of Emily Dickinson, and in the process, kills two people. Released from prison, he sets out to begin anew only to suffer accusation as one by one, the homes of other famous New England writers are torched. Odd, yet funny.

### ***Netherland by Joseph O'Neill***

A post-9/11 story that follows a cricket-playing expatriate Dutchman who is chasing the American dream in NYC and befriends a shady but charming Trinidadian businessman who dreams of building an international cricket stadium.

### ***The Secret Scripture by Sebastian Barry***

Long-time resident of an Irish mental hospital, 100-year-old Roseanne McNulty begins writing to reconstruct her troubled life while psychiatrist Dr. Grene attempts to manage her relocation due to the hospital's planned demolition. A haunting story.

### ***Lark and Termite by Jayne Phillips***

A battle-weary Korean War veteran leads the reader to a small West Virginia town where a feisty family of women tend to a damaged son, Termite, who possesses gifted insights. The reader witnesses the echoes of war and the revelations of its leading characters.

### ***The Housekeeper and the Professor by Yoko Ogawa***

A single mother is hired to care for a brilliant mathematics professor whose brain damage prevents him from remembering anything for more than an hour and 20 minutes at a time. He befriends the housekeeper's young son, nicknames him "Root" and the reader is treated to a moving story that is unforgettable.

### ***The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell***

Set in exotic 18th-century feudal Japan where the Dutch East Indies Company maintains the West's only trading post. The hero, Jacob de Zoet, clings to a contraband copy of the Psalms, and travels to the island near Nagaska to audit the company's fraudulent books. Pirates, a kidnapping, a rescue raid, a secret scroll, and ritualistic crime all stack up for a thrilling story.

### ***Swamplandia! by Karen Russell***

The Bigtree alligator-wrestling dynasty is in decline after Mom Hilola Bigtree, the "swamp centaur" and star performer dies. Her three teenagers struggle to stay afloat in a swampy world that is sinking despite their resourcefulness. Truly original voices, often satirical. Watch for new works by this author!

### ***The Cat's Table by Michael Ondaatje***

The story of an 11-year-old boy's journey—a 21-day voyage from Sri Lanka to 1950s London, all on his own. Aboard ship, he makes friends with two other boys who live by only one rule: to do every day at least one thing that is forbidden.

