

## Hopkinton READS 2014

### PLEASE VOTE!

***The Art Forger*** by B.A. Shapiro (2012) 360 pages FICTION Almost 25 years after the infamous art heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum—still the largest unsolved art theft in history— one of the stolen Degas paintings is delivered to the Boston studio of a young artist who agrees to forge the Degas in exchange for a one-woman show in a prestigious gallery. *The Art Forger* is a thrilling novel about seeing—and not seeing—the secrets that lie beneath the canvas.

***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*** by Daniel James Brown (2013) 404 pages NON-FICTION

This book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew team and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal that grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic Games. It is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times drawing on the boys' own journals and photos.

***Fahrenheit 451*** by Ray Bradbury (1950) 179 pages FICTION In this classic, frightening vision of the future, firemen don't put out fires, they start them in order to burn books. Bradbury's vividly painted society holds up the appearance of happiness as the highest goal--a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad. Fire Captain Beatty explains it this way, "Give the people contests they win by remembering the words to more popular songs. Don't give them slippery stuff like philosophy or sociology to tie things up with. That way lies melancholy."

***The Last Policeman*** by Ben H. Winters (2012) 335 pages FICTION This science fiction mystery novel follows a Concord, NH police detective as he investigates a suicide he believes was really a murder. His efforts are complicated by the social, political and economic effects of preparations for, and anticipation of, an asteroid impact six months in the future. The book asks the question why people do things in spite of their long-term unimportance. He consulted with experts not only in astronomy and police techniques but psychology and economics.

***Orange is the New Black*** by Piper Kerman (2011) 327 pages NON-FICTION Follows the author's incarceration for drug trafficking, during which she gained a unique perspective on the criminal justice system and met a varied community of women living under exceptional circumstances. Kerman, a well to do Smith graduate, learns to navigate this strange world with its strictly enforced codes of behavior and arbitrary rules and finds friends in the process.

***This Town: Two Parties and a Funeral — plus plenty of valet parking! — in America's Gilded Capital*** by Mark Leibovich (2013) 386 pages NON FICTION Examines the power wars and exploitative practices of the government in Washington, D.C., revealing how journalism careers are made and broken while news events and scandals are used as networking platforms. By chief national correspondent for *The New York Times Magazine*, the book presents a blistering and often funny examination of our powerful and inbred "media industrial complex."