

2018: An Entangled World

Literature: Voices of the Inseparable

Introductory Questions

- Does literature bring us together, or is reading best done alone?
- Many of this year's selections were written by authors from two cultures. How do these selections, and perhaps literature in general, bridge (or reinforce) separations between people?
- Why do so many people turn to poetry to express the pain and pleasure of love? Is there a reason poetry is particularly associated with intimate feelings?
- How does literature help us remember the past (or speak to the future)? Can we trust fictional accounts of the past, or are written accounts inevitably biased?
- What causes a work of literature to last? How does the literary canon—that is, a body of work agreed to be “important”—connect us to the past?

Poems

Love and Friendship

- [I Gave Myself to Him](#) | Emily Dickinson
- [\[i carry your heart with me\(i carry it in\)\]](#) | e.e. cummings
- [Supple Cord](#) | Naomi Shihab Nye
- [A Dog Has Died](#) | Pablo Neruda
- [Look Up](#) | Gary Turk
- [Wild Geese](#) | Mary Oliver
- [Valentine](#) | Carol Ann Duffy

Communities Large and Small

- [Mending Wall](#) | Robert Frost
- [Yertle the Turtle](#) | Dr Seuss
- [For Want of a Nail](#) | Proverb

Hauntings and The Haunted

- [self-portrait in case of disappearance](#) | Safia Elhillo
- [This Hour and What is Dead](#) | Li-Young Lee
- [Inventory](#) | Richard Hoffman

Longer Works

- [The Egg](#) | Andy Weir
- [The Rules of the Game](#) | Amy Tan