



INCLUSION LESSONS FROM THE PULTIZER BOOK CLUB FOUNDER

Every reader and reader's experience is different. These inclusion lessons will be different from yours.

1948	"Tales of the South Pacific" by James A. Michener	Privacy. Inclusion does not require universal access to private aspects of people's lives.
1949	"Guard of Honor" by James Gould Cozzens	Now. People were writing about systemic racism 70+ years ago.
1950	"The Way West" by A. B. Guthrie	Fair trade. Treat the people you do business with respectfully and equitably.
1951	"The Town" by Conrad Richter	Humility. Trying to impress doesn't. Don't assume you know things you don't.
1952	"The Caine Mutiny" by Herman Wouk	Reflect. Do you really understand the person, their situation, and the ramifications of your intended action?
1953	"The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway	Resolution. Skills, effort, strength, creativity, suffering, joy, and endurance are not enough.
1955	"A Fable" by William Faulkner	Resist. People who don't follow bad orders create progress.
1956	"Andersonville" by MacKinlay Kantor	Backyard awareness. People are suffering nearby. Find out and reach out.
1958	"A Death In The Family" by James Agee	Respect bandwidth. Grief, age, beliefs, alcohol and other considerations affect interpretation and response.
1959	"The Travels of Jaimie McPheeters" by Robert Lewis Taylor	People rally around imperfect individuals. Intelligence, humor, kindness, helpfulness, a valuable skill, fairness and optimism are magnetic.
1960	"Advise and Consent" by Allen Drury	Be true. Reflect your principles in your actions; overrule ambition, retribution, expediency, and quid pro quo.
1961	"To Kill A Mockingbird" by Harper Lee	Be childlike. Act like nothing in your life has interfered with your reasoning process.
1962	"The Edge of Sadness" by Edwin O'Connor	Safeguard second chances. Ensure community safety as well as support and supervision.
1963	"The Reivers" by William Faulkner	Try Humor. Break the tension, subvert the insult, be the bigger person and smile.
1965	"The Keepers of the House" by Shirley Ann Grau	Understand your family tree. Reflect on recent generations through an inclusion lens. Think all the way back to your original ancestors, who are everybody's ancestors.
1966	"The Collected Stories of Katherine Ann Porter" by Katherine Anne Porter	Thoughtful service. Giving of yourself involves what you do as well as what you don't
1967	"The Fixer" by Bernard Malamud	Universal suffering and joy. What happens to you happens to all of us.
1968	"The Confessions of Nat Turner" by William Styron	Fact Check. Verify sources like a legit journalist or scholar which, thanks to the internet, is a lot easier to do now that it was during the 1960s.



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1969	"House Made of Dawn" by N. Scott Momaday	Systemic kindness. Unrelenting challenge requires a network of patient, skilled caregivers.
1970	"Collected Stories" by Jean Stafford	Empathy. Terror can follow extreme pain. People don't always have the bandwidth for interaction.
1972	"Angle of Repose" by Wallace Stegner	Silence speaks. People are feeling and reacting even when they are not verbal.
1973	"The Optimist's Daughter" by Eudora Welty	Be classy. Don't talk down to adults with limited education or children. Be especially nice to someone who tried and did not get the desired outcome.
1975	"The Killer Angels" by Michael Shaara	Listen objectively. Be aware of bias, detect misinformation, consider what's not being said.
1976	"Humboldt's Gift" by Saul Bellow	Accessibility. Be clear and memorable without being insulting, boring or pretentious.
1978	"Elbow Room" by James Alan McPherson	Ouch. Insults that bother you may not disturb someone else because they've been subject to so much worse.
1979	"The Stories of John Cheever" by John Cheever	Provide/Get Help. Addressing addiction requires compassionate support.
1980	"The Executioner's Song" by Norman Mailer	Reform. Address societal issues that cause crime, wrongful conviction, imprisonment, recidivism, and death row including, poverty, systemic racism, public education, housing, lack of support for single parents, employment opportunities, substance abuse, guns, mental illness and access to mental health counseling, and the experience of living among people who commit crimes.
1981	"A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole	Think about the wrapper. Instead of judging appearance and behavior, imagine the why: fit-in, stand-out, aspiration, resources, cultural custom, time-crunch, weather, comfort, parental modeling, etc.
1982	"Rabbit Is Rich" by John Updike	Kindness and self-control. Every judgy, nasty thing you say is an invitation for more of the same.
1983	"The Color Purple" by Alice Walker	Sisterhood. Lift each other.
1984	"Ironweed" by William Kennedy	Be Generous. People with virtually nothing give their last nickel and scrap of food to others in need. It's not hard to give when you have resources.
1985	"Foreign Affairs" by Alison Lurie	Embarrassment reveals. Awkwardness/shame about being with someone says you haven't accepted the person you're with and/or you've encountered really judgmental people.
1986	"Lonesome Dove" by Larry McMurtry	One face. Show integrity in all you do. A position of power like law enforcement magnifies disconnects and bad behavior.



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| 1987 | "A Summons to Memphis" by Peter Taylor | Don't forget. Not feasible to mentally delete bad history or possible to make things better without acknowledging wrongs. |
| 1988 | "Beloved" by Toni Morrison | Reparation. When you've done the unspeakable – slavery – fair treatment of Black citizens is the absolute minimum required response. |
| 1989 | "Breathing Lessons" by Anne Tyler | Accept. Manipulation does not end well. |
| 1990 | "The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love"
by Oscar Hijuelos | Perpetuate good. Tap your talent, teach your skill. Recognize and find a path beyond ugliness in your past. Your father's beatings do not make a life of serial womanizing OK. |
| 1991 | "Rabbit At Rest" by John Updike | Heed. Disaster should not be a surprise. |
| 1992 | "A Thousand Acres" by Jane Smiley | Look beyond the obvious. Keeping up appearances is sometimes a strategy to hide big problems. |
| 1993 | "A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain"
by Robert Olen Butler | Act. You know something and have a perspective that others do not. |
| 1994 | "The Shipping News" by E. Annie Proulx | It's OK to move on. Your people and your happiness just might be somewhere else. |
| 1995 | "The Stone Diaries" by Carol Shields | DIY Attitude Makeover. Reinvention is possible. |
| 1996 | "Independence Day" by Richard Ford | Embrace vulnerability. The search for community and connections requires putting yourself out there in a world where the American Dream remains a dream, not reality, and all people are imperfect. |
| 1997 | "Martin Dressler: The Tale of an American
Dreamer" by Steven Millhauser | Visualize the future. Imagine how life can be better for others and what you can do to help create that reality. |
| 1998 | "American Pastoral" by Philip Roth | Admit flaws and unspeakable reality. In yourself, in people you love, in your country. Differences are not flaws. Blame is not acceptance. |
| 1999 | "The Hours" by Michael Cunningham | 24 hours can seem unendurable. Make time for someone in need. |
| 2000 | "Interpreter of Maladies" by Jhumpa Lahiri
experience before you ask, respond or refer. | Audience Awareness. Know who to ask for help and when to offer advice. Consider professional and life |
| 2001 | "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay"
by Michael Chabon | Create. All forms of literature and art have the power to educate, expose, inspire and prompt action. |
| 2002 | "Empire Falls" by Richard Russo | Self-love. Bullies require a victim. Beware that self-love is only one-piece of addressing bullying. |



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2003	"Middlesex" by Jeffrey Eugenides	Transparency. Withholding essential facts is selfish and unfair.
2004	"The Known World" by Edward P. Jones	Morality trumps the system. Evil is evil no matter what the law permits and who has done wrong.
2005	"Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson	Live your beliefs. Do more than preach about the right thing to do.
2006	"March" by Geraldine Brooks	Serve mindfully. Use your skills, interests and uniqueness to do something actually makes a difference.
2007	"The Road" by Cormac McCarthy	Endure. You can handle way more than you think you can.
2008	"The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" by Junot Diaz	No regrets. What you didn't do hurts more than an of the moment penalty.
2009	"Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout	Persevere. You're never too old to get better.
2010	"Tinkers" by Paul Harding	Understand. Lack of knowledge can be a trigger for shame, resentment, fear and bad decisions.
2011	"A Visit from the Goon Squad" by Jennifer Egan	Reconnect. People from your past provide your progress report on personal growth. Time is the Goon.
2013	"The Orphan Master's Son" by Adam Johnson	Truth. See who you really are and how people in your society actually live.
2014	"The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt	Nurture the young. Bad situations trigger bad behavior. Stealing, drugs, and truancy are symptoms of food insecurity, lack of supervision, loneliness, boredom, and PTSD.
2015	"All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr	Find Common Ground. The "enemy" is a person just like you are.
2016	"The Sympathizer" by Thanh Nguyen	Understand Why. Actions and beliefs grow from life experience, ideology, culture, basic needs, relationships, physical/emotional state
2017	"The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead	Know your history. America is a place that not only enslaved people, but informed on and hung escaped slaves and abolitionists, and conducted medical experiments and involuntary sterilization on Black Americans.
2018	"Less" by Andrew Sean Greer	Defy and ignore age. It's just a number.
2019	"The Overstory" by Richard Powers	Connect. Survival and happiness depend on mutual respect of each other and our shared surroundings.
2020	"The Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead	Accountability. Revealing ugly truths in American history is a required step for reforms of the justice and education systems.
2021	"The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich	You. Injustice is prevented by individuals with the conviction and courage to act.



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2022 "The Netanyahus" by Joshua Cohen

Beware of revisionists, including history teachers with an agenda and people who stand in the way of quality education.

2023 "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver

One person can change the direction of someone's life and how another human feels on any given day.

2023 "Trust" by Hernan Diaz

Question accounts of why someone is successful. Myth, omission, lies, and self-deception may mask the truth.