

# Spring Retreat Book List and Movie Discussion plan

New England Council Spring Retreat - Thursday - Sunday, May 2nd to May 5th, 2024

***The Garden Party and Other Stories*** by Katherine Mansfield **ISBN: 0062490494**

Mansfield's work is innovative, startlingly perceptive and aglow with colour. These fifteen stories were written towards the end of Katherine Mansfield's tragically short life. Many are set in the author's native New Zealand, others in England and the French Riviera. All are revelations of the unspoken, half-understood emotions that make up everyday experience - from the blackly comic to the vividly impressionistic evocation of family life. "All that I write," Mansfield said, "all that I am - is on the borders of the sea. It is a kind of playing."

***Tales of the Jazz Age*** by F. Scott Fitzgerald **ISBN: 0307476375**

This anthology of best-loved short stories and "novelettes" including "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz" is set in the Jazz Age, Fitzgerald's own term for the Roaring Twenties of newly confident, post-war America. This collection shows a comic genius at work, fashioning every genre from low farce to shrewd social insight, along with fantasy of extraordinary invention. These stories illuminate the unique talent who went on to write *The Great Gatsby*, and to become one of the enduring icons of American literature.

***The Glimpses of the Moon*** by Edith Wharton **ISBN: 0020383053**

In 1922, two years after winning the Pulitzer Prize for *The Age of Innocence*, Edith Wharton wrote a novel that was acclaimed by *The New York Times* and quickly became an international bestseller. Out of print for decades, *The Glimpses of the Moon* details the romantic misadventures of a 1920's couple with the right connections but no money.

***Three Plays*** by Luigi Pirandello **ISBN: 9780199641192**

We will be reading *Henry IV* from this collection of the plays that established Pirandello's reputation as an innovative dramatist. Pirandello ranks with Strindberg, Brecht, and Beckett as a seminal figure in modern drama. Innovative and influential, he broke decisively with the conventions of realist theatre to foreground the tensions between art and reality. In the brilliant *Henry IV*, a young man believes himself to be the Holy Roman Emperor; attempts to cure him of his delusion have disastrous consequences.

**Note:** The book list is based on information from the various publishers.

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***Movie Discussion:***

We are currently in the process of finding suitable movies to preview and discuss on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, related to the Spring Retreat Theme. When we settle on choices (possibility of 2 or 3 films) we will send you the list of titles and watch options, including streaming sources and YouTube.