

What Ohlone Students Read in 2007

This year we look to English 162 students for reading suggestions ranging from science fiction to biography. Thanks to Alison Kuehner's English 162 class for their enthusiastic and interesting book reviews.

The Ohlone College Library and Ohlone College Book Club wish you a most excellent year of reading.

Reviews written by Jhalisa Walker:

Baby Girl by Jihad

Jihad writes about a girl that is similar to the story Robin Hood. She robs the rich to give to the homeless and dejected. She had a hard life growing up, but now with help of others she's starting to make a difference.

Fabulosity by Kimora Lee Simmons.

Kimora Lee Simmons writes about her life growing up in St. Louis Missouri becoming one of the first bi-racial models, and eventually becoming the CEO of Baby Phat Clothing line. She talks about how she grew up with no father and how she always got made fun of cause she was bi-racial. There are many other challenges that she talks about, but through it all she managed to become successful and fabulous, and that's what she teaches young ladies to be in this book.

[*The Color Purple*](#) by Alice Walker.

The Color Purple is about the main character Celie dealing with her trials and tribulations. Celie basically learns how to defend herself and speak up and gain power, respect and a whole lot of confidence. Various characters such as Nettie, Shug, and Sophia helped her to become a woman.

Reviews written by Rich Scheno:

The Exile by Allan Folsom.

This was one of the few books that really engaged my emotions. It was fast paced and me angry and horribly frustrated. The genre is Fiction and it is about an international hit man who is so wily, so vicious, and audacious beyond words who always escapes by the seat of his pants. By the end of the book you are so ready for this character to die and get his payback and when it happens it is gratifying yet scary because you want to rejoice about a death. If you want a book that is a pure thriller this book is great for you, it had me begging to get rid of the evil villain until his death.

[*The Hobbit*](#) by J.R.R. Tolkien.

This book was so amazing that I became hooked and went on to read *The Fellowship of the Ring*. I was swept up engrossed by the fantasy type world the author created who took years to develop. It took such thought and creativity to write a book like this and I really respect the talent. The book and the trilogy had it all characters with deep relationships, good and evil, happiness and sadness, and of course loss. There were new races, new cultures, magic, demons, a sweeping quest, and so on. It was great to get lost and escape

from daily life in to the world of these characters. I would recommend this book to anybody who enjoys books of the genre Fantasy because this book in particular really gets your brain moving and thinking about this world that doesn't exist can have such an amazing background and how these characters live their lives and fight off mystical villains.

[The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini.

I enjoyed this book because it taught the history and culture of Afghanistan through the story during on period of time which is much easier to swallow when weaved within a book then straight out of history class. I enjoyed the relationship of the boyhood friends and struggled when the one has to leave the county. The story is about Karma and justice and that your past actions can come back to hold you accountable. It is also about doing the right thing, taking responsibility for your actions and righting a wrong. There was sadness but a degree of satisfaction to. I found this a pleasant read, enjoyed the authors style and look forward to the next book by this author. I recommend this book to anybody who enjoys fictional stories about real life situations and also a book that can teach you a life lesson in time.

Reviews written by Catherine Wharton:

Looking for JJ by Anne Cassidy.

Jennifer Jones was missing nowhere to be found for the murder of her best friend. No one knew what was wrong with her she had a boyfriend who cared and a loving parent named Rosie. Later she was found thanks to Alice a local teenager who had done her research. JJ was arrested for murder and sent to jail for 6 years but with bail got out.

Pretties by Scott Westerfield.

Tally was a young teenager who had it all a nice boyfriend, looks popular friends but little did she know her past would soon remind her of the horrid life of being pretty brings.

[A Walk to Remember](#) by Nicholas Sparks.

This novel is based on a true story of two young teenagers of the total opposites who find true love in one another. They show each other that life is short and that you should make the best of it. When tragic comes everything tears apart but they will always remember the time they had together.

Reviews written by Haleh Ghaffari:

One Minute Manager by Kenneth Blanchard.

One Minute Manager written in story format and it is a quick read. This book disclose three secrets to successful managing: One Minute Goals, One Minute Reprimands, and One Minute Praising. Millions of people around the world have advantaged from reading *The One Minute Manager* and applying its practical management techniques to their jobs and lives. This book has helped leaders and managers in organizations to increase their productivity, job satisfaction, and personal prosperity.

[Funny in Farsi](#) by Firoozeh Dumas.

Funny in Farsi is an autobiography that Dumas tells the story of her family coming to the United States from Iran when she was seven years old. She points out the challenges of living in a country whose culture is noticeably different than her own. Dumas explains most of her relatives who follow her family and came to the U.S. She states funny stories about them. When you are reading this book you will laugh out loud on each chapter; then put yourself in every situation, which the author explains about her life. It is fun to see the foreign people's perspective about the United States.

[*The Definitive Book of Body Language*](#) by Allan Pease.

Body language helps readers understand nonverbal communication concepts, which have good illustrations and pictures that assist the reader. For example the most common gestures of liars, the common male and female courtship gestures and signals, the secret signals of cigarettes, glasses, and makeup, how palms and handshakes are used to gain control, how the legs reveal what the mind wants to do ...

Reviews written by Shi Yun Chen:

[*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*](#) by J.K. Rowling.

This book is the final one in the book series of Harry Potter novels. It's one of the new books and best sellers in 2007. Harry Potter novels had began since 1997 and this last one really puts an amazing ending to the fiction story. The book brings the readers into a magical world; the book is like an adventure so as soon as you pick up the book, it drags you into a place full of wonders and happiness. The last reminder: DO NOT justify Harry Potter from its movie series, it's way better to read it than watch it!

[*The Da Vinci Code*](#) by Dan Brown.

The Da Vinci Code is a novel that mixed with mystery and detective and thrill. Maybe many people have watched the movie that's based on this book, but personally I think the book is more fun to read. Because as you read along, you follow the clue to find the solution, and when you got the final truth you will be amazed how deep and ingenious that the author laid the hidden thread. However, the vocabulary in this book is not easy for the English learners, to get through the whole book and enjoy it may take some time because while you want to inspect, you have to understand some English terms before getting into the story.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck.

It is an old story, which tells the tragic story George Milton and Lennie Small. The author, John Steinbeck is a well-known story writer and his books are mostly easy to read. This is a perfect book for pastime reading, simple but affecting. It's a story that took place in California during the Great Depression, between two extremely different people: George and Lennie. Even though George is intelligent but Lennie has mental weakness, they are similar at some point: they are nice and they both have their own dream. Reading the book makes me think a lot and fell so touching because George and Lennie and other characters are like alive under Steinbeck's pen. It's also a perfect book for English learners, well it's a short but remarkable book.

Reviews written by Kathryn Casey:

For Hearing People Only by Matthews Moore and Linda Levitan.

This book answers some of the most commonly asked questions about the Deaf community, its culture and the “Deaf Reality”. It is written in a question, answer format. Each chapter introduces a question from a hearing person’s perspective and is answered from a Deaf person’s perspective. This book is great for anyone who is new to a Deaf community or is curious about Deaf culture.

Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture by Carl Padden and Tom Humphries.

This book was written by two Deaf authors. Deaf people living in a hearing world. These authors explain Deaf, not as an illness, a consequence or a negative thing, however simply as a given. This book is filled with many different stories of how Deaf people were educated. Many were forced to be oral and when they couldn’t pronounce words correctly they were harshly punished, sometimes to near death. Through hearing people’s control, amazingly Deaf people have managed to keep their precious language alive.

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren.

Many People have the questions, “Why am I here? What is my purpose?” Rick Warren helps us understand why we were created, by whom, and for what purpose. God has designed you and gifted you for a unique life, one that will honor him and satisfy you more than you could ever imagine. Let your days be driven with purpose, his purpose.