**Literature and Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital**

**Readings Selected by Suzanne Koven MD, MFA**

**Fiction**

Adrian, Chris “The Sum of Our Parts”

Atwood, Margaret “Death By Landscape”

Barrett, Andrea “Ship Fever”

Bloom, Amy “Silver Water”

Butler, Octavia “Bloodchild”

Camus, Albert *The Plague*

Carr, J.L. *A Month in the Country*

Carver, Raymond “Cathedral”

Chekhov, Anton “A Doctor’s Visit”

 “An Awkward Business”

 “Ward Six”

 “Enemies”

Coetzee, J.M. *Disgrace*

 *Slow Man*

Cooper, Bernard “What to Name the Baby”

Dark, Alice Elliott “In The Gloaming”

Dickens, Charles *A Christmas Carol*

Dubus, Andre “The Colonel’s Wife”

Erdrich, Louise *The Round House*

 *The Plague of Doves*

Eugenides, Jeffrey  *Middlesex*

Everett, Percival *James*

Faulkner, William *As I Lay Dying*

Greene, Graham *A Burnt-Out Case*

Greenidge, Kaitlyn *Libertie*

Haddon, Mark *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*

Hamid, Mohsin *Exit West*

Harleman, Ann “Thoreau’s Laundry”

Hawthorne, Nathaniel “Roger Malvin’s Burial”

“The Birthmark” “Rappaccini’s Daughter”

Hempel, Amy “In The Cemetery Where Al Jolson Is Buried”

Hemingway, Ernest “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”

Ishiguro, Kazuo *Never Let Me Go*

 *Klara and the Sun*

 *The Remains of the Day*

Jen, Gish “Who’s Irish?”

Jin, Ha *Waiting*

Jones, Tayari *An American Marriage*

Joyce, James “An Encounter”

Kafka, Franz *The Metamorphosis*

Kang, Han *The Vegetarian*

King, Lily  *Euphoria*

Kingsolver, Barbara *Demon Copperhead*

Lahiri, Jhumpa “The Treatment of Bibi Haldar”

 “The Third and Final Continent”

Lam, Vincent “Winston”

Lianke, Yan *Dream of Ding Village*

Machado, Carmen Maria “The Husband Stitch”

Makkai, Rebecca *The Great Believers*

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia *Love in the Time of Cholera*

Mates, Susan Onthank “Laundry”

Maugham, Somerset *Of Human Bondage*

Maxwell, William *So Long, See You Tomorrow*

McCorkle, Jill “Intervention”

McEwan, Ian *The Children Act*

Melville, Herman “Bartleby The Scrivener”

Morrison, Toni *The Bluest Eye*

 *Sula*

 *Song of Solomon*

 *Beloved*

Munro, Alice “The Bear Came Over The Mountain”

 “Friend of My Youth” “Before the Change”

Murakami, Haruki “Birthday Girl”

Nunez, Sigrid *The Friend*

O’Brien, Tim “The Things They Carried”

O’Connor, Flannery “The Enduring Chill”

 “A Good Man is Hard to Find”

O’Farrell, Maggie *Hamnet*

Pearlman, Edith “Castle 4”

Peters, Torrey *Detransition, Baby*

Porter, Katherine Anne *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*

Pritchard, Melissa *The Flight of the Wild Swan*

Proulx, Annie “The Half-Skinned Steer”

Roth, Philip “Defender of the Faith”

 *Everyman*

 *Nemesis*

Shelley, Mary *Frankenstein*

Singer, Isaac Bashevis “Yentl the Yeshiva Boy”

Smith, Ali *Autumn*

Spark, Muriel *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

St. John Mandel, Emily *Station Eleven*

Stevenson, Robert Louis *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Strout, Elizaveth My *Name is Lucy Barton*

 *Lucy by the Sea*

Tolstoy, Leo “The Death of Ivan Ilyich”

Vuong, Ocean *On Earth We Are Briefly Gorgeous*

Ward, Jesmyn *Salvage the Bones*

Wharton, Edith *Ethan Frome*

Wolitzer, Hilma “The Great Escape”

**Nonfiction**

Anderson, Chase “Taking Back Our Voices-#Humanity is Our Lane”

Aronson, Louise “’Good’ Patients and ‘Difficult’ Patients--Rethinking Our Definitions”

Awdish, Rana *In Shock*

Alcott, Louisa May *Hospital Sketches*

Alexeivich, Svetlana *Voices from Chernobyl*

Angell, Roger “This Old Man”

Arnold, Miah “You Owe Me”

Athill, Diana *Somewhere Towards The End*

Bailey, Elisabeth Tova *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*

Baldwin, James “Notes of a Native Son”

Berger, John *A Fortunate Man*

Biss, Eula *On Immunity*

“The Pain Scale”

Bloom, Amy *In Love*

Borges, Jose Luis “On Blindness”

Boyer, Anne *The Undying*

Broyard, Anatole *Intoxicated By My Illness*

Cadogan, Garnette “Walking While Black”

Case, Molly *How to Treat People*

Chabon, Michael “The Recipe for Life”

Coates, Ta-Nehisi “The Condition of Black Life is One of Mourning”

Colaianni, Alessandra “For Now, We Wait”

Dalton, Clayton “The Risks of Normalizing the Coronavirus”

Davis, Linda “Open After My Death”

De Beavoir, Simone *A Very Easy Death*

Didion, Joan “In Bed”

*The Year of Magical Thinking*

Fey, Tina “Remembrances of Being Very, Very Skinny” and “Remembrances of Being a Little Bit Fat”

Fink, Sheri “Strained By Katrina, A Hospital Faced Deadly Choices”

Franzen, Jonathan “My Father’s Brain”

Gawande, Atul “Letting Go”

Grealy, Lucy *Autobiography of a Face*

Gunther, John *Death Be Not Proud*

Gwartney, Debra “Siri Tells a Joke”

Hall, Donald “Between Loneliness and Solitude”

Hanna-Attisha *What the Eyes Don’t See*

Hata, Susan R. “The Ritual of the Table”

Hemon, Aleksandr “The Aquarium”

Hersey, John *Hiroshima*

Hitchens, Christopher “The Topic of Cancer”

Hodgman, George  *Bettyville*

Jamison, Kay Redfield *An Unquiet Mind*

Jamison, Leslie “The Empathy Exams” “Baggage Claims”

Kalanithi, Paul *When Breath Becomes Air*

Keegan, Claire *Small Things Like These*

Khullar, Dhruv “Why Are We So Bad at Getting Better”

Kidder, Tracey *Strength in What Remains*

 *Rough Sleepers*

Knighton, Ryan *Cockeyed*

Kolker, Robert *Hidden Valley Road*

Koven, Suzanne “Using Humor in the Doctor’s Office”

 “Empathy Examined”

 “They Call Us and We Go”

  *Letter to a Young Female Physician*

 “What is a Mentor?

Lamas, Daniela “You Can Stop Humming Now”

Lepore, Jill “The Lingering of Loss”

Levy, Ariel “Thanksgiving in Mongolia”

Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*

Lopate, Phillip “Portrait of My Body”

Lorde. Audre *The Cancer Journals*

Lucretius “The Nature of Plagues”

Macdonald, Helen *H is for Hawk*

Mairs, Nancy “On Being A Cripple”

Martin, Marlene “Crossing Borders”

May, Katherine *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*

Mitchell, Joseph “Joe Gould’s Secret”

Mooallem, Jon “The House at the End of the World”

 “Three Years Into Covid We Still Don’t Know How to Talk About It”

Moore, Judith *Fat Girl*

Mukherjee, Siddhartha “Same But Different”

Munro, Alice “Night”

Nasar, Sylvia *A Beautiful Mind*

Nealon, Mary Jane *Beautiful Unbroken*

Nimura, Janice P. *The Doctors Blackwell*

Oates, Joyce Carol “The Widow’s Walk”

Ofri, Danielle “Is Your Doctor Listening?”

Patchett, Ann *Truth and Beauty*, “These Precious Days”

Provenzano, Audrey “Caring for Ms. L—Overcoming My Fear of Treating Opioid Use Disorder”

Reisman, Anna “Board Review and the Middle Aged Doctor”

Riederer, Rachel “Patient”

Rieff, David *Swimming in a Sea of Death*

Robinson, Roxana “Paralyzed: Learning To Live In Polio’s Shadow”

Rosenbaum, Lisa “Transitional Chaos or Enduring Harm: The EHR and the Disruption of Medicine”

Roth, Philip *Patrimony*

Rothman, Joshua “What If You Could Do It All Over?

Ruhl, Sarah and Ritvo, Max *Letters from Max*

Sante, Lucy *I Heard Her Call My Name*

Scialabba, George “The Endlessly Examined Life”

Sedaris, David “Now We Are Five”

 “Why Aren’t You Laughing?”

 “The Happy Place”

Senior, Jennifer “What Bobby McIlvaine Left Behind”

Shapiro, Dani *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*

Sharma, Akhil “A Passage to Parenthood”

Sheff, David *Beautiful Boy*

Skloot, Rebecca *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Smith, Patti *Just Kids*

Solomon, Andrew *Far From The Tree*

Stevenson, Bryan *Just Mercy*

Strayed, Cheryl “Heroin/e”

Sweet, Victoria *God’s Hotel*

Thernstrom, Melanie *The Pain Chronicles*

Tisdale, Sallie “Chemo World”

Verghese, Abraham *The Tennis Partner*

Wachter, Robert *The Digital Doctor*

Wang, Esme Weijun *The Collected Schizophrenias*

Weinberg, Richard B. “Communion”

Westover, Tara *Educated*

Williams, Caroline Randall “You Want a Confederate Monument? My Body is a Confederate Monument”

Williams, William Carlos “The Girl With The Pimply Face”

Zarin, Cynthia “An Enlarged Heart”

Zauner, Michelle *Crying in H Mart*

Zuger, Abigail “Moving On”

**Poetry**

Angelou, Maya “Still I Rise”

Bierer, Michael “My Covid Epitaph”

Bishop, Elizabeth “In The Waiting Room”

Boland, Eavan “Quarantine”

Bowe, Geoffrey “Male Nurse Washing a Nun”

Brashler, Anne “He Read To Her”

Campo, Rafael “Elegy for the AIDS Virus”

 “What I Would Give”

Carver, Raymond “What The Doctor Said”

Clifton, Lucille “Donor”

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor “Kubla Khan”

Davis, Cortney “The Body Flute”

Davis, Marilyn “Song For My Son”

Dickinson, Emily “After Great Pain, A Formal Feeling Comes”

Donne, John “Death Be Not Proud”

Doty, Mark “Tiara”

Frost, Robert “After Apple Picking”

 “The Road Not Taken”

Hall, Donald “The Ship Pounding”

Heney, Seamus “Chekhov on Sakhalin”

 ”Digging”

Homer *The Odyssey* (excerpt translated by Emily Wilson)

Jarrell, Randall “The X-Ray Waiting Room In The Hospital”

Kaur, Rupi *Milk and Honey*

Kenyon, Jane “Let Evening Come”

“Notes From The Other Side”

Dorianne Laux “Nurse”

Levertov, Denise “The 90th Year”

Masson, Venetta “Guilt”

 “Passages”

Olds, Sharon “The Death Of Marilyn Monroe”

Perillo, Lucia “Poem Without Breasts”

 “Second Poem Without Breasts”

Plath, Sylvia “Lady Lazarus”

 “Mad Girl’s Love Song”

Rankine, Claudia *Citizen*

Rich, Adrienne “Diving into the Wreck”

Ritvo, Max “Poem To My Litter”

Shakespeare, William “Sonnet #60”

Thomas, Dylan “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night”

Turner, Brian “AB Positive”

Updike, John “Hospital”

Viramontes, Helena Maria “The Moths”

Voigt, Ellen Bryant  *Kyrie*

Whitman, Walt “”I Sing the Body Electric”

Williams, William Carlos “Complaint”

Yeats, W.B. “When You Are Old”

“Politics”

Young, Kevin “Ode To The Hotel Near The Children’s Hospital”

**Graphic Memoirs**

Bechdel, Alison *Fun Home, The Secret to Superhuman Strength*

Chast, Roz *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*

Delisle, Guy *Hostage*

Pekar, Harvey and Brabner, Joyce *Our Cancer Year*

Small, David *Stitches*

**Plays**

Heaney, Seamus *The Cure At Troy*

Miller, Arthur *Death of a Salesman*

O’Neill, Eugene *Long Day’s Journey Into Night*

Shaffer, Peter *Equus*

Shakespeare, William  *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Measure for Measure, Macbeth, Othello*, *Richard III*

Shaw, George Bernard *The Doctor’s Dilemma*

Smith, Anna Deveare *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*

Williams, Tennessee *The Glass Menagerie*

**Films**

*A Beautiful Mind*

*Angels in America*

*Black Women in Medicine*

*Brazil*

*Fences*

*Frankenstein*

*Hilary and Jackie*

*Modern Times*

*Never Let Me Go*

*Rashomon*

*Shadowlands*

**Podcasts**

“The Loving Choice” at *Family Secrets*

“The River Styx” at *The Nocturnists*

“How Do You Cure a Compassion Crisis” at *Freakonomics*