

THE OLD AND THE NEW: STORIES OF HOPE AND DESPAIR

Coordinator: Gloria Plesent

We read two new works - a memoir and a collection of short stories by emerging young writers destined for literary acclaim - and two novels by highly accomplished authors of the recent past. All four books capture the extraordinary resilience and human determination to create a rewarding life and secure a place they can truly call home. The stories are infused with the writer's deep regard and skillful detailing of the hazardous lives of the characters, illuminating the environmental and psychological realities that shape them. The reader is urgently drawn into their darkest thoughts and their courageous moments of hope.

Gloria Plesent has a masters degree in Comparative Literature from Columbia University. She believes that literature helps us keep the long view and reminds us what's finally at stake in life.

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

Americanah by Chimamanda Adiche; (Anchor Books, 2014 , ISBN 307 45592-0)

The Dollmaker by Harriet Arnow; ,(Scribner, 2009. ISBN 978-1439154434)

Evidence of Things Unseen by Marianne Wiggins; (Simon & Schuster, 2001, ISBN 0743258096)

The Tsar of Love and Techno by Anthony Marra; (Hogarth, 2015, ISBN 978-0770436438)