

GREAT CONVERSATIONS FROM GREAT BOOKS

Coordinators: Arlyne LeSchack and Judith Zaborowski

Our study group will create a dialogue between the twelve authors (Geoffrey Chaucer, David Hume, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Honore de Balzac, Rudyard Kipling, Luigi Pirandello, Stephen Crane, Jorge Luis Borges, Simone de Beauvoir, Grace Paley, Michael Foucault, and Jhumpa Lahiri) we've selected and our study group. The themes that run through the selections include art and artists, exercising power, history lessons, social critique and subjectivity. We use the Shared Inquiry approach to the material developed by the Great Books Foundation. This approach creates a text-centered and question-driven discussion which allows for full participation of the group.

Text:

Great Conversations edited by Daniel Born, Mike Levine and Donald Whitfield, {The Great Books Foundation, Volume 3, ISBN 1-880-323-17-6} See also www.greatbooks.org

After 25 years as an educator for the NYC DOE, **Arlyne LeSchack** joined the IRP. She has coordinated or co-coordinated six study groups on literature including three Great Conversations groups, and three summer study groups. As a member of the IRP, **Judith Zaborowski** finds that her brain is nourished by our courses and conversations. She has co-coordinated the Great Conversations Study Group with Arlyne for the past three Fall semesters.

Arlyne and Judith attended a training session held by the Westchester Great Books Council.

*** * * * * Syllabus – A Work in Progress * * * * ***

Week 1: The Pardoner's Tale (from *The Canterbury Tales*) by Geoffrey Chaucer

Week 2: An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding (selection) by David Hume

- Week 3: A Defense of Poetry (selection) by Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Week 4: The Unknown Masterpiece by Honore de Balzac
- Week 5: The Man Who Would Be King by Rudyard Kipling
- Week 6: Six Characters in Search of an Author by Luigi Pirandello
- Week 7: The Open Boat by Stephen Crane
- Week 8: The Garden of Forking Paths by Jorge Luis Borges
- Week 9: Introduction to the Second Sex by Simone de Beauvoir
- Week 10: An Interest in Life by Grace Paley
- Week 11: The Body of the Condemned (from Discipline and Punish)
by Michel Foucault
- Week: 12: Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri