**Churchill: The Power of Words: His Remarkable Life Recounted Through His Writings and Speeches: 200 Readings**
By: Gilbert, Martin (Editor)
DA566.9.C5 G44

Review from: *Choice* December 1, 2012
Opening with an excerpt from Churchill's only novel, the obscure Savrola, and closing with an excerpt from one of his final public speeches made in 1959, this volume chronicles the course of Winston Churchill's life by means of 200 readings drawn from his vast canon of books, articles, and speeches ... Each reading is accompanied by an introductory paragraph describing its relevance and source. The excerpts are supported by 20 maps and 51 photographs. While most of the excerpts are readily available from other published sources, Gilbert has successfully created a source that illustrates the scope of the life and interests as well as the eloquence of the writings of Churchill, the 1953 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

**EcoMind: Changing the Way We Think, to Create the World We Want**
By: Lappé, Frances Moore
GE195 .L375 2011

Review from: *Publisher's Weekly* August 1, 2011
In this latest from the prolific author of the seminal vegetarian manifesto, Diet for a Small Planet, Lappé, a self-described "staunch, hard-core, dyed-in-the-wool possibilist," proposes that what's paralyzing meaningful action on climate change, rising food prices, and other global crises is a collective mental map "mal-aligned both with human nature and with the wider laws of nature." She believes that we need to "reread the premises" underlying our present worldview and develop an "eco-mind," moving from "fixing something outside ourselves to re-aligning our relationships within our ecological home." The book explores seven "thought traps," challenging their "limiting premises" with alternate transformatory "thought leaps." Some of these leaps seem to be achieved mainly by rewording: an unappealing environmentalist posture like the need to limit growth can be transformed by calling growth "waste" and replacing "no-growth" with more positive ideas such as "flourishing" and "genuine progress."

**The Health Care Case: the Supreme Court's Decision and its Implications**
By: Persily, Nathaniel, Gillian E. Metzger, and Trevor W. Morrison (Editors)
KF228.S42 H43 2013

Review from: *Choice* March 01, 2014
This work offers an array of legal perspectives on NFIB v. Sebelius (2012), the case where Chief Justice Roberts surprised many by writing a majority opinion upholding the individual mandate based on Congress's taxing power. The decision, while preserving most of President Obama's signature legislative accomplishment, has unleashed discussions relating to the chief justice's motives, the significance of the decision for the law, and its importance to Constitutional law and the role of the federal government.

**The Secrets of Triangles: a Mathematical Journey**
By: Posamentier, Alfred S. and Ingmar Lehmann (Authors)
QA531 .P67 2012

In this new work, frequent coauthors, most recently of The Glorious Golden Ratio, Posamentier (dean, Sch. of Education, Mercy Coll.) and Lehmann (mathematics, Humboldt Univ., Berlin) address the subject of triangles in remarkable detail. They provide numerous theorems with proofs and also chronicle the construction of triangles with those classic tools-the compass and straightedge. Almost 300 illustrations show the triangles and the construction details discussed.

**Math for Life: Crucial Ideas You Didn't Learn in School**
By: Bennett, Jeffrey O.
QA93 .B444 2012

Review from: *Choice* September 01, 2012
Bennett, an astrophysicist, educator, and author presents an insightful look at the crucial role mathematics plays in understanding the complexities of today’s society; however such relevant considerations are rarely addressed in mathematics education. The premise is simple: basic quantitative reasoning is clearly necessary when one is making personal decisions about taking out a mortgage, playing the lottery, or trying to understand the complexities of the banking crisis, global warming, population dynamics, the US debt, or energy costs. Traditionally, educators do not prepare students to perform this type of reasoning as informed citizens. The author's pleasant, conversational style shows that such insight can be developed without obscure or high-level computation. The ability to recognize relevant aspects of quantitative reasoning while avoiding the "I'm not good at math" syndrome should be both a personal and an educational goal.
Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America
By: Winkler, Adam
KF3941 .W56 2011

Review from: Library Journal September 15, 2011
Constitutional law scholar Winkler (law, Univ. of California, Los Angeles) presents an extensive overview of the history of state and federal attempts to regulate firearms. The author shows how political pressures and popular will can be exerted upon both liberal and conservative politicians to periodically tighten and loosen restrictions on the possession and sale of guns. A central theme of the book is the ripple effect on gun-control laws resulting from pendulum swings in social policy brought about by economic uncertainty and periodic bursts of political and social violence. The author shows how gun-control laws are frequently knee-jerk reactions to sudden shifts in public policy rather than carefully planned political and legal responses to social change and the evolution of constitutional thought.

Worlds of Arthur: Facts and Fictions of the Dark Ages
By: Halsall, Guy
DA152.5.A7 H34 2013

Review from: Library Journal February 01, 2013
Halsall's study is really two books in one. The first argues in great detail against the possibility of proving the existence of King Arthur, or even an "Arthurian" age. The second is an exhaustive survey of written and archaeological records pertaining to late-Roman/early-medieval Britain, laying out what can and cannot be inferred from the records. Halsall concludes by outlining his own ideas-not provable but consistent with the record-of what might support a much more modest picture of some kind of Arthur in fifth- or sixth-century Britain. He does a good job conveying the murkiness of the evidence and the confusions surrounding current arguments for the existence of a warrior king-Briton or otherwise-who could have been the inspiration for Arthur. However, this is not an easy book to follow.

Wins, Losses, and Empty Seats: How Baseball Outlasted the Great Depression
By: Surdam, David George
GV880 .S88 11

Review from: Choice November 01, 2011
In a careful, comprehensive, methodical manner that would make Hercule Poirot or Sherlock Holmes proud, Surdam (economics, Univ. of Northern Iowa) investigates how the national pastime fared in the Depression decade of the 1930s and how Major League Baseball, then a 16-team league, adjusted to dire circumstances in the overall economy. The book's major sections examine the level and nature of the industry's profits in terms of attendance and revenues versus players' salaries and other expenses; the on-field realities of competitive balance and player movement among teams; and innovations and tinkering to cope with the downturn in employment and income, such as revenue-sharing schemes, the manipulation of schedules to get more attractive matchups at key junctures, night games, ladies' days, and radio broadcasts.

Good Thinking: Seven Powerful Ideas That Influence the Way We Think
By: Cummins, Denise
BF441 .C86 2012

Review from: Choice October 01, 2012
People make decisions every hour of every day, but are they the best decisions? Cummins (Univ. of Illinois) addresses this question, elucidating the ways people make decisions and solve problems. An exercise in applied cognitive psychology, the book illuminates the strengths and the pitfalls of the ways people think; readers may be surprised at human cognitive fallibility. As the author shows, people are not entirely rational, so they need to recognize the importance of psychological thought processes that complement the purely logical. Cummins relies on classic sources with only occasional mention of recent findings in cognitive psychology, but she offers a compelling discussion of the current work in cognitive neuroscience that reveals the neural complexities of thought processes.

A Being So Gentle: The Frontier Love Story of Rachel and Andrew Jackson
By: Brady, Patricia
E382 .B825 2011

Review from: Library Journal January 01, 2011
Brady interweaves a tri-fold story: a loving romance, the history of the fledging United States, and a not-so-new tale of dirty politics. Rachel Donelson married, for a brief time, the jealous and abusive Lewis Robards. The confused circumstances of their divorce and Rachel's subsequent courtship with and marriage to Andrew Jackson would haunt Rachel and Andrew for the rest of their lives. Rachel had happily married Jackson, though he was not her social or economic equal. He won her heart with his charismatic presence and resolute personality. By the time their partnership led to the White House, he was a widower: Rachel died between his election and inauguration.