**The Spark: A Mother’s Story of Nurturing Genius**
By: Barnett, Kristine
RJ506.A9 B278 2013

Barnett, the mother of a child prodigy who was diagnosed with autism at the age of two, swiftly draws readers into her family life, sharing her humble upbringing in central Indiana as a member of the New Amish, and her whirlwind romance and marriage to a young man named Michael Barnett. The couple settles down to raise a family, he working at Target, she running a daycare center. When informed that their first child will never read or tie his shoes, the author follows her "mother gut," opening her own pre-kindergarten "boot camp" for autistic kids to prepare them for mainstreaming. Barnett had seen a "spark" in Jake and deeply believed that her child had much higher potential. Indeed, Jake—with an IQ higher than Einstein’s—not only soon reads, but creates an original theorem that may put him in line for a Nobel Prize (at nine, he's been admitted to a nearby university)...

**What a Plant Knows : A Field Guide to the Senses**
By: Chamovitz, Daniel
QK50 .C45 2013

Review from: Booklist June 01, 2012
There is nothing finer than leaning over a luscious, old-fashioned rose and deeply inhaling its intoxicating fragrance, but can that rose also detect one’s equally delightful (one hopes) aroma? Gazing upon a sea of waving sunflowers is a sensory wonder, but can those sunflowers pick up on the color of the shirt one is wearing? Not exactly. A plant can, however, process odors through its type of olfactory stimulus receptors and can discern changes in the quantity, quality, and direction of light sources...

**Why Teach? : In Defense of a Real Education**
By: Edmundson, Mark
LA227.4 .E36 2013

Review from: Booklist July 01, 2013
"Starred Review" Edmundson, professor of English at the University of Virginia, laments the erosion of a college education from a search for learning and meaning in life to a search for career training, online courses, and inflated grades. Exploring education’s changes in recent decades from a purely intellectual pursuit to one that is commercially driven, Edmundson points to demographic and market forces, including the decline in birthrates since the baby boom and the incredible competition for students that has resulted in treating students as consumers. As professors and colleges feel compelled to keep their customers happy, there is a decidedly adverse impact on the quality of education, with less emphasis on the philosophical and more on the practical or even the entertaining...

**Wal-Mart Wars : Moral Populism in the Twenty-First Century**
By: Massengill, Rebekah Peeples
HF5429 .M337 2013

Review from: Choice September 01, 2013
Why does Wal-Mart polarize Americans, and why does it matter? Through a fascinating and insightful analysis of activists' public statements, sociologist Massengill (Princeton Univ.) explains how the Wal-Mart debates reflect profoundly different beliefs regarding economic issues. Like other present and past disputes about economic processes and priorities, these conflicts reveal divergent cultures with their roots in class, region, tradition, and faith. Tracking activists' rhetorical patterns during 2005 and 2006, Massengill discovered that their competing discourses applied similar values to legitimate opposing institutions and actions, while they all expressed deep concerns about ethics within contemporary capitalism...

**American Epic : Reading the U. S. Constitution**
By: Epps, Garrett
KF4550 .E663 2013

Review from: Choice August 01, 2014
Epps (Univ. of Baltimore School of Law) provides an introspective and multifaceted guide to a complete reading of the American founding document. Using four frameworks of review--scriptural, legal, lyrical, and epic--the author makes an examination of the Constitution accessible to every type of reader. Organized to address each line of the Constitution, which appears in the appendix, the book's structure is both straightforward and comprehensive. The numerous biblical, historical, and literary references throughout each section enhance the text's constitutional discussion. Epps is particularly adept at drawing on a wide range of theoretical, as well as popular, resources and employing them to delve into the constitutional applicability of present controversies...
Karabell traces the history of leading indicators, economic statistics including unemployment; inflation; trade; consumer sentiment and spending; the stock market; housing; and Gross Domestic Product (briefly, total market value of all goods and services provided within a country during one year). Leading indicators were designed with limited goals that describe one reality known as the economy, but not all reality known as the world we live in. In the first half of the twentieth century, leading indicators measured industrial nation-states, while now they measure service-driven developed economies and emerging world industrial economies exporting the goods of multinational companies. Karabell recommends crafting tailored indicators for specific needs using the explosion of information in this era of Big Data.

The beauty and mystique of Scotland’s remote Western Isles—the Hebrides—beckon to visitors from near and far. One can only imagine the degree of isolation felt there in the early 1970s before modern advances in communication. Such was the time when MacLeod and her family moved from the London area to the Hebridean island of Papavray in pursuit of a simpler lifestyle. In her capacity as district nurse, MacLeod experienced firsthand how geographical separation has affected the lives of the local people. While delighting in the pastoral innocence that is common among her patients and neighbors, MacLeod learns that tragedy, in various degrees, is always close at hand. She describes how a pervasive sense of community and confidence in humanity saw the locals through many adverse circumstances.

Expect to be moved by this anthology of tales from the front line, written by veteran nurses and nurses-in-training. One contributor describes his experiences as a nursing student at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, when the disease was called gay-related immune-deficiency syndrome, particularly his nurse’s intuition, that is, knowing when a patient is going to die. There was a stigma to the work I was doing, he writes. But I eventually got to a point where I wasn’t afraid to say, when someone asked what I did, I work with persons who are dying of AIDS. Several of the essayists lace their emotional tales with humor. A University of Pennsylvania nursing student records her friends’ reaction to her job: So you actually cleaned up poop?

Authored by the e-learning librarian at the University of California, Berkeley, this book is a guide for any librarian who is educating patrons, whether in a one-shot workshop or an ongoing course. In the first part of the book, Booth lays out her concept of instructional literacy, which has four elements: reflective practice, educational theory, teaching technologies, and instructional design. In the second part, she presents the USER (understand, structure, engage, and reflect) method of instructional design. Each chapter offers goals, a summary, and reflection points.

Today’s music teachers and technicians must teach and service a wide variety of instruments: woodwind, brass, string, and percussion. Pagliaro (formerly, Marymount College/Concordia College) offers a succinct source, provides basic fingering charts, and presents basic terminology and structure for the instruments of the band or orchestra. These include assembly procedures, embouchure hints, tuning, sound production, and playing positions.