



Welcome to Acadia Alumni's Summer Reunion Virtual Book Club!

We are excited to be offering you the opportunity to participate in our first-ever virtual book club as part of our virtual summer reunion program offerings.

There are three books to choose from. Each book has a virtual book club leader who will guide you through great collaborative conversation including insights, reactions, feelings, and questions that you had while reading the book. These conversations will occur on Monday, June 28th at 2 pm.

Our three book club leaders and their book of choice are:

Debbie Atkinson, 1976 Class Secretary
***The Breadmaker* by Moira Leigh MacLeod**

It's 1933 and Mabel just wants to bake bread. She leaves the cold shack she shares with her father for the warmth of her kneading table at Cameron's store and gets caught in a snowstorm, sparking events that expose the raw humanity of those around her. Loyalty and betrayal, guilt and shame, and faith and doubt collide as the dirty secrets of the bleak coal mining community throw lives into turmoil. A series of brutal attacks, a murder, and an ambitious sergeant intent on seeing someone hang, reveal a town, oppressed as much by its dreary prospects, as it is by its institutionalized corruption, sexism and racism.

Mabel just wants to bake bread, but she has her own secrets to protect.

The Breadmaker is a rich, beautifully told narrative that seamlessly weaves humor and tragedy into a touching story about life, love and the potential of the human spirit to overcome great odds.

Amy Robinson ('17), Development Coordinator, Office of Advancement
***Burning Down the House* by Russell Wangersky ('84)**

Winner of the 2009 British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, short-listed for the 2008 Writers' Trust Non-Fiction Prize

Thousands of boys dream of becoming firefighters. Some get the chance, and for some of those, the dream becomes a nightmare. *Burning Down the House* is the story of Wangersky's eight-year career as a volunteer firefighter in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, an experience that wound up reaching into every facet of his life and changed the way he saw the world forever. Written in vibrant, luminous prose, the book traces his years from rookie to veteran firefighter and the toll it took on his personal life. Offering a rare glimpse into physical dangers and psychological costs of trying to save strangers' lives, Wangersky

paints a harrowing and sometimes heartbreakingly vivid portrait of the fires, medical calls, and automobile accidents that are the standard fare of the profession.

Visceral and affecting, *Burning Down the House* is an insightful insider's account of the perilous world of firefighting and an unforgettable memoir of how, in finding his passion, Wangersky lost himself.

Steve Healy ('08), Development Officer, Office of Advancement
***The Chain Locker* by Robert Chaulk**

Robert Chaulk's story begins in 1931 when thirteen-year-old Jackie Gould is a stowaway on an old steamer bound for the sealing grounds of the North Atlantic. What the boy thought would be a big adventure, however, quickly turns to toil for Jackie when he is caught out by the crew. But there are bigger adventures in store for the sealers. The ship's supply of blasting powder, which is carried for freeing the vessel from the death grip of the ice, suddenly explodes, forcing all aboard the Viking onto the ice.

In the darkness and confusion, Jackie finds himself drifting away in the night on a piece of ice as the ship burns and disappears. Now his only companion is a 23-year-old sealer. The life and death struggle that ensues soon forces Jackie to lose his childish ways. He will have to help his ingenious companion if they are going to stay alive without the basic necessities of life.

As the drama unfolds, the author draws on a collection of true stories to describe the resourcefulness and courage of the men who went "to the ice" after the seals. Meanwhile, the two young men survive storms, hunger, cold, and thirst. Then, with deliverance tantalizingly near, disaster strikes his friend. Their last hope of rescue is now slipping away, and Jackie is faced with a daunting task: finding a way to save both himself and his new-found friend.

The Chain Locker examines the timeless human precepts of heroism, loyalty, and friendship through the dramatic and true story of the loss of the steamship *Viking*.

For book club registration details, click here: <http://attend.com/2021SummerReunion>

** Please note that the book club participant is responsible for purchasing their own book.