

PREFACE & SLO County Reads

2008 Book Rationale

Why was *Montana 1948* selected as the 2008 PREFACE book?

1. The book addresses universal issues of family, trust, loyalty, and justice.
2. The book presents a contrast between an idyllic childhood and the complexity of adult life.
3. The book invites self reflection.
4. The book depicts generational and cultural experiences in the midwest.
5. The book challenges the readers to critically analyze the roles, rights, and responsibilities of people in positions of power.
6. The book portrays a view of an experience of a powerless minority in rural America.
7. The book is provocative and filled with complicated life circumstances and ethical dilemmas.
8. The book illustrates how individual choices and events can have long lasting effects and significantly impact the lives of others.
9. The book explores how important decisions in life are sometimes made extremely difficult when the only choices are constrained by competing values.
10. The book showcases strong literary qualities through its elegant prose and in key moments of surprise as the plot unfolds.

Book Selection Criteria - campus-wide committee (faculty, staff, & students)

Four Main Criteria - the book should:

1. Be engaging to students
2. Generate issues of social relevance and intellectual depth
3. Have a broad appeal across disciplines
4. Generate issues of personal relevance

(Possible themes: students' futures, transition, independence, exploration of values, cross-cultural awareness)

Book Guidelines

- a. Readable/Accessible
- b. Generally between 200-400 pages
- c. Living author



PREFACE
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The Cal Poly Shared Reading Program

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