Elaine Newton—Critic’s Choice
Book Selections 2019-20

**Washington Black** by Esi Edugyan
A rousing adventure that balances fantasy and discovery with the very real sensibilities of its hero, George Washington Black, a young orphaned slave in the 1830's who flees the captivity of a sugar plantation in a hot-air balloon.

**The Friend** by Sigrid Nunez
A moving and insightful story of love, loss, memory and healing, *The Friend* chronicles the deepening bond between a writer and an unwanted dog who becomes her comfort and treasured companion in a time of grief.

**The Guest Book** by Sarah Blake*
Ogden and Kitty Milton are privileged American aristocrats who own an island, where three generations of their family have summered. Blake's impeccable prose conjures the Miltons' wants, fears, charm and clashing values.

*Sarah Blake will join Elaine on stage.

**Machines Like Me** by Ian McEwan
It is London, 1982. Thatcher is in power. The Falklands War rages. Charles Friend is a 32-year-old electronics whiz and stocks trader who sells the house he inherited and buys one of 25 super-intelligent androids.

**Normal People** by Sally Rooney
The intense coming-of-age story follows the entwined lives of two young people, from high school through university, until they proceed into the world. We are invited into their interaction as aspirations widen, class differences intrude, and misunderstandings threaten.

**Flight Portfolio** by Julie Orringer*
Based on a true story, *Flight Portfolio* is a thriller—meticulously researched, seething with secrets, strategies and innuendo. The narrative reveals the secret activities of a group of Americans mandated to whisk world-famous artists and authors out of Nazi-occupied France.

* Julie Orringer will join Elaine on stage.

Thursday lecture, 10am · Artis—Naples, Daniels Pavilion
Saturday lecture, 10am · Artis—Naples, Hayes Hall