**Walla Walla Public Library Big Idea Talks:**

**Literature and Human Rights**

**September 26, October 3, October 10, October 17, 2018**

**By Richard Middleton-Kaplan**

Below is a list of readings that will be referred to in each week’s lecture followed by additional suggested readings for that week’s topic:

**FIRST GATHERING: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26:**

1. **Part One: The role and value of literature in the study of human rights.**

* Poem: Lawrence Ferlinghetti, “Constantly risking absurdity.”
* Poem: Marianne Moore, “Poetry.”
* Essay: Vered Cohen-Barzilay, “Foreword: The Tremendous Power of Literature,” in *Freedom: Stories Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. (New York: Amnesty International, 2009): x-xii.
* Essay: Seamus Heaney, “Poetry’s Power against Intolerance,” rpt. in *Blooming through the Ashes: An International Anthology on Violence and the Human Spirit*. Ed. Clifford Chanin and Aili McConnon. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 2008: ix-xii.

1. **Part Two: “See it human.”**

* Play: Arthur Miller, *All My Sons*.
* Essay: Emmanuel Levinas, “The Name of a Dog, or Natural Rights,” from *Difficult Freedom.* 1963. Trans. Seán Hand. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1990: 151-53.

**Suggestions for further readings and viewings for Week One topics:**

* Film: *My Neighbor My Killer* (documentary) (dir. Anne Aghion, U.S.A./France, 2009). DVD.
* Non-fiction prose: Jean Hatzfield. *Life Laid Bare: The Survivors in Rwanda Speak*. Trans. Linda Coverdale. New York: Other Press, 2006.
* Non-fiction prose: Jean Hatzfield. *A Time for Machetes: The Killers Speak*. Trans. Linda Coverdale. London: Serpent’s Tail, 2006.
* Novel: Duong Thu Huong, *Novel Without a Name*.
* Novel: Dany Laferriere, *Dining with the Dictator*.
* Novel: Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*.
* Novel: Georgi Vladimov, *Faithful Ruslan*. 1978. Trans. Michael Glenny. Brooklyn: Melville House, 2011.
* Novella and film: Herman Melville, *Billy Budd*, paired with the film adaptation *Beau Travail* (dir. Claire Denis, France, 1999).
* Play: Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*.
* Plays: Sophocles, *Ajax* and *Antigone*.