

“Best Essays of the Century”

OLLI Classes from March 1, 2021

The class discussions will focus on the first two essays in each date.

1. March 1 – E.B. White “Once More to the Lake” p. 179

Ernest Hemingway “Pamplona in July” p. 98

Richard Wright “The Ethics of Living Jim Crow” p.159

2. March 8 – Rachel Carson “The Marginal World” p. 214

James Baldwin “Notes of a Native Son” p. 220

Eudora Welty “A Sweet Devouring” 246

3. March 15 – Martin Luther King “Letter from Birmingham Jail” 263

Elizabeth Hardwick “The Apotheosis of Martin Luther King” 319

4. March 22 N. Scott Momaday “The Way to Rainy Mountain” 312

Maya Angelou “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” 342

Lewis Thomas “The Lives of a Cell” 359

5. March 29 – Maxine Hong Kingston “No Name Woman” 383

Gretel Ehrlich “The Solace of Open Spaces” 467

Richard Rodriguez “Aria: A Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood” 447

6. April 5 – Cynthia Ozick “A Drugstore in Winter” 490

William Manchester “Okinawa: The Bloodiest Battle of All” 497

Gerald Early “Life with Daughters” 532

7. April 12 Saul Bellow “Graven Images” 564

John Updike “The Disposable Rocket” 549

Joyce Carol Oates “They All Just Went Away” 553

8. April 19 Class members share their own writing and thoughts on the essays we have read together.