Gelfand List of Favorite Books

Sid is a compulsive reader with an organized approach to life, so he also organized our family's reading. He combs through the New York Times Book Review and the book section of the New Yorker each week, notes the most interesting new books, places them on his to-get list, and plots to get them as soon as possible, mostly through local libraries. Sometimes it takes several years, but he usually succeeds in capturing the books he wants.

Our daughter, Laura, and I then read the best of his catch. These are the books Sid thinks we will like or must read even if we don't like them. This reading list includes our top choices, the absolute best of the best, which we compiled for fellow readers. One limitation of the list we offer here is that it is old. I lost the newer version through a series of misadventures that are familiar to computer users. We hope to restore the newer section of the list, but meanwhile, there is much good reading here.


**Blood Will Tell: The Murder Trials of T. Cullen Davis** / Gary Cartwright / KF224.D33 C37 Stacks Level 2. You can get away with anything in Texas, if you're rich.


**Catch 22** / Joseph Heller / PS3558.E476 C3 1961 Stacks Level 2. Just a reminder, this is a classic.

**China Men** / Maxine Hong Kingston / E184.C5 K5 Stacks Level 1. The trials of early Chinese immigrants.


**Everest: A Climbing History** / Barry Unsworth / DS119.7.F736 Stacks Level 1. The ultimate adventure.

**Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas** / Hunter Thompson / PS3507 .E867 H6 Stacks Level 2. A literary curmudgeon's paean to the cocktail hour. Even non-drinkers will enjoy it.

**The Fire Next Time** / James Baldwin / E185.61.B195 Stacks Level 1. The suppression of the blacks; their rage.

**From Beirut to Jerusalem** / Thomas Friedman / DS119.7.F736 Stacks Level 1. An informed, dispassionate voice.


**Hillerman, Tony** [author] / Check UNIS for individual titles. Great mysteries set in Indian Reservations.

**The Hour** / Bernard DeVoto / PS3507 .E867 H6 Stacks Level 2. A literary curmudgeon's paean to the cocktail hour. Even non-drinkers will enjoy it.

**The Last Place on Earth : Scott and Amundsen's race to the South Pole** / Roland Huntford / G875.S5 H86 1986 Stacks Level 1. One of the greatest polar adventurers of all time.
Stacks Level 2. A tragi-comedy about a walking academic disaster.


Men at Axlir /Dominic Cooper / Salt Lake City Library: fic C77645 me. Wonderful tale of Iceland.


Portnoy's Complaint / Philip Roth / PS3568.O855 P6 Stacks Level 2. As with Lolita, this is better known for its daring contents than its superb writing. The Professor of Desire / PS3568.O855 P7 Stacks Level 2. An academic novel and perhaps Roth's best.
The Reformation: a history of European civilization from Wyclif to Calvin, 1300-1564 / Will Durant / CB53.D85 V.6 Stacks Level 1, and the rest of the series, The Story of Civilization / Will & Ariel Durant / CB53.D85 Stacks Level 1. The Durants at their best, the epilogue is a masterpiece.

The Vale of Laughter / Peter DeVries / PS3507.E8673 V3 Stacks Level 2. Good comedy, but avoid his somber, philosophical books. Through the Fields of Clover. PS3507.E8673 T47 Stacks Level 2.