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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Top Ten Favorite Discussible Books of 2010

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1. [*The Help*](#) by Kathryn Stockett
2. [*Cutting for Stone*](#) by Abraham Verghese
3. [*Sarah's Key*](#) by Tatiana de Rosnay
4. [*Still Alice*](#) by Lisa Genova
5. [*The Book Thief*](#) by Marcus Zusak
6. [*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*](#) by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
7. [*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*](#) by Jamie Ford
8. [*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*](#) by Rebecca Skloot
9. [*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*](#) by Stieg Larsson
10. [*Little Bee*](#) by Chris Cleave

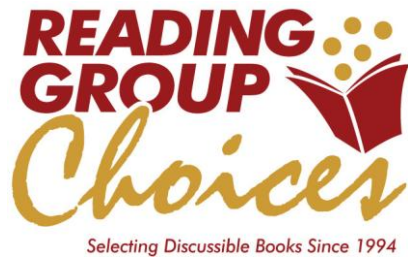
(April, 2011, Chester, MD) –The results are in. [Reading Group Choices](#), a print and online resource for book clubs surveyed thousands of reading groups representing over 100,000 reading group members to find out their ***Favorite Discussible Books of 2010***.

There was one run-away favorite of hundreds of book clubs and reading groups, and it was - the envelope, please! - [*The Help*](#) by Kathryn Stockett! It seems that a great many book group members could relate their personal experiences to the characters', whether they were from the South or elsewhere.

Talia of the **Pauline Robinson Book Club** (Denver, CO) found the [*The Help*](#) resonated profoundly with her members. "This group is made up of predominately African American women, some that even had aunts and grandmothers that told stories of being 'the help.' The discussion was passionate as book club members spoke about the book characters, a white writer writing about African Americans, the historical time period and present day events.

And Phyllis' **Read Between the Wines** (Hopewell Junction, NY) book group was struck by the gripping realism and courage of the characters. "The story was so real, the characters so strong and brave. We have a woman in our group who grew up in the south and could talk about what it was like in the 60's through her personal experience. As a group we all felt outraged about how these women were treated and felt such compassion for them."

In fact, discussions of [*The Help*](#) were especially lively if the members originated from different areas of the Country. "We are a group of women with very diverse backgrounds, and each brought the feelings of the time described in the book at that time of our lives. Perhaps the most enlightening meeting in a long time," says Barb of **The Read 'Em and Eat Book Club** (Egg Harbor Township, NJ).



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"We have a mixture of Southerners and Northerners who are part of our group, and it was wonderful talking from each of the gal's perspectives based on where they lived," echoes Carmilia of **The Mission Swamp Book Group** (Murrells Inlet, SC).

Still, forty-two percent of the book groups who chose ***The Help*** as their favorite book live in the South. "We're in the South, and it hit home," says Maureen of the **Whisperwood Book Club** (Cary, NC). When asked why they chose ***The Help***, Cindy of **Butterbeans and Fudge** (Mount Olive, MS) said simply, "We are proud Mississippians!"

Of course, ***The Help*** wasn't the only vote-getter for **Favorite Discussible Book of 2010**. Many groups chose ***Cutting for Stone*** by Abraham Verghese because they thought it was well-written, had good character development, and dealt with different cultures and geographies. "We're reading many books about women's issues especially in developing countries; [it is] very well-written," says Betsy of **The Street Talkers** (Ridgefield, CT). "This compellingly written novel had so many memorable characters and themes that we still often refer to it months later," echoes Lynne of **The Wallingford Irregulars** (Seattle, WA).

The survey results also produced fascinating tips from book clubs around the nation; chock full of good ideas about how to make book club discussions more lively, stimulating and enjoyable. **RGC** will be sharing these in upcoming newsletters and on the **Reading Group Choices** website.

Reading Group Choices, a recognized authority in discussible book club selections, provides a multitude of fun and useful resources for book clubs and reading groups on their website including their printed guide, ***Reading Group Choices: Selections for Lively Book Discussions***, now in its 17th edition (\$6.95), and a free monthly e-newsletter. Mead's blog, *On the Bookcase* features one-on-one interviews with book authors, details regarding upcoming book festivals, tips for book club hosts (such as popular book club fare) and even a humorous commentary on book club etiquette. Explore their website at (www.readinggroupchoices.com).

