

# 10 must-read books for the summer, recommended by Tec professors



Let literature accompany you this summer! Tec literature professors share with you a list of **10 recommended books to read**.

**Ileana Reyes**, as well as novelists **María de Alva** and **Carlos Calles**, offer you this **top reading list**, along with some **advice if you are looking for motivation** to read.

**Several of these recommendations will also be part of online Reading Clubs**, which will be conducted by Tec teachers.

Learn about the **10 recommended books for reading** in 2024:

**[1. \*Electric Shamans at the Festival of the Sun\*: an emotional journey about a sense of belonging](#)**

**[2. \*Villa Triste\*: a novel of hidden stories](#)**

**[3. \*Until August\*: García Márquez's posthumous work](#)**

**[4. \*Fieras familiares \(Family Beasts\)\*: experiences that teach respect for the life around us](#)**

**[5. \*Kitchen\*: a refuge in the kitchen](#)**

**[6. \*Joyland\*: youthful idealism with a touch of mystery](#)**

[7. \*The Undying\*: a testimony of persistence in life](#)

[8. \*Strange Weather in Tokyo\*: a novel about appreciating solitude](#)

[9. \*The Reader\*: a work about love, horror, and pity](#)

[10. \*Los niños de paja\* \(Straw Children\): for horror lovers](#)

Also, follow these [tips from literature specialists](#) to further enjoy and develop the habit of reading.

**Book recommendations for this vacation season** 1. ***Electric Shamans at the Festival of the Sun*: an emotional journey about a sense of belonging**

[This book](#), recommended by Professor de Alva, is by Ecuadorian author **Mónica Ojeda**, who is **considered one of the 25 best young storytellers in Spanish**, according to Granta magazine.

The work tells the story of **two friends** who leave Guayaquil behind to immerse themselves in a playful experience at a **music festival** called *Ruido Solar* (Solar Noise) at the foot of an Andean volcano in the year 5540.

This territory is where the **missing people** who were taken by political violence and never returned home go to hide, making it an intense experience.

[https://www.instagram.com/p/C6JG96CoqiC/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/p/C6JG96CoqiC/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)

2. ***Villa Triste*: a novel of hidden stories**

Intrigue, **vague loves**, and unforgettable images created from the mundane.

**A man flees from war, from his past, and from himself**, says Calles about the novel by Nobel Prize winner **Patrick Modiano**.

*“As readers, we cling to the minute details that Modiano leaves like crumbs in a forest.*

*However, the **beauty is in the gaps**, in what is not said, in the love that is not declared, and in the tension maintained by secrets,”* says the teacher from PrepaTec Valle Alto.

*Patrick Modiano, author of “Villa Triste” won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2014. Photo: Adobe Firefly.*



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### 3. ***Until August***: García Márquez’s posthumous work

Although ***Until August*** was initially going to be a short story, **Gabriel García Márquez** decided to turn it into a novel along the way. However, it was never published.

*“Both his publisher and his sons reviewed, proofread, and published this book. It is the first work by García Márquez that has a mature woman as the protagonist,”* says Reyes.

This has made it one of the most important publishing events so far in 2024.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C8snreEviL2/?igsh=MWFueTduNmF2N3YxNQ==>

### 4. ***Fieras familiares (Family Beasts)***: experiences that teach respect for the life around us

Pythons, crocodiles, and orangutans fill the pages of this book with fun and adventure.

*“In addition, the pages fill us with **passion for animal life**, questions about their existence and conservation in the fierceness of the global world,”* says de Alva.

**Andrés Cota Hirirart**, the author, is both a zoologist and a writer. He studied biology at UNAM and provides surprising anecdotes and memories about animal life.



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### 5. ***Kitchen: a refuge in the kitchen***

In 1988, Japanese author Banana Yoshimoto published her first work, **Kitchen**, which has gone through more than 50 editions.

*“It tells the story of Mikage who, after losing her grandmother, **takes refuge in the kitchen** and in her neighbor and friend Yuichi’s very peculiar family.*

*It’s a tender and gastronomic novel,”* says Professor Reyes.

It is worth noting that this work has won several **literary awards** and two film adaptations have been made.



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#### 6. *Joyland: youthful idealism with a touch of mystery*

This novel by **Stephen King** features **a murder from the past**, a nostalgic portrait of youthful idealism, **ghosts with ambiguous intentions** and, best of all, the atmosphere of an amusement park full of **supernatural clues**.

*"It's a fun novel to **add mystery** to hot or rainy summer days,"* says Calles.



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## 7. *The Undying: a testimony of persistence in life*

**Anne Boyer** wrote this book as both a **cancer survivor** and as a survivor of the increasingly precarious health care system in the United States.

*“In this book, there’s a mixture of **essay and testimony** about the lack of empathy of a system that forced her to work shortly after surgery.*

*However, it is also **a story about resistance**, persistence in life, and the quest not to die,”* says de Alva.



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### 8. *Strange Weather in Tokyo: a novel about appreciating solitude*

Hiromi Kawakami's book, "**is not a love story** although it's promoted everywhere as one," says Calles. Rather, it is a portrait of the life of a woman who **finds beauty in solitude**.

Later, when company arrives, the protagonist also takes on the process of adapting with a calmness that is refreshing.

"It's a **subtle and quiet novel** to accompany sunsets and star-filled nights," says the PrepaTec professor.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Bd-eqN1F1ka/?igsh=MTI5anVhOGl5djI5cw==>

### 9. *The Reader: a work about love, horror, and pity*

Reyes also recommends a translation of a German book. This is **The Reader** by Bernhard Schlink.

"It's a work that covers the post-World War II generation, family conflicts, and forbidden relationships, and gives some **nods to great works of literature**."

In 2008, this work was adapted for the big screen.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C767MqUoxD1/?igsh=MTB3bmthYXBsaHM3Zw==>

#### 10. ***Los niños de paja (Straw Children): for horror lovers***

In 2003, Mexican author Bernardo Esquinca published the book ***Los niños de paja***, which was chosen by the SEP (Ministry of Public Education) to join the Libros del Rincón (Book Corner) program in 2009.

*“If you like horror, Bernardo Esquinca’s **Los niños de paja** is a collection of short stories inspired by the horror novels of the ‘80s about teenagers, which will surely please and amuse you with a scare or two,”* says de Alva.



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**Tips to further enjoy and develop the habit of reading**



If you want to get into the **world of reading**, **Tec de Monterrey** and PrepaTec experts recommend :

**- If you are going to travel, read books about your destination.**

*Going to London? Read Charles Dickens and Agatha Christie. Going to Paris? Read Modiano, Balzac, and Slimani. Staying in Mexico? Read Alma Delia Murillo, Rafael Bernal, or Elena Garro.*

**- Starting the habit of reading**

Start with **short works**, perhaps **short stories** or **novellas**.

**- Always carry a book with you**

A line at the airport or train station is better with a book than with a cellphone.

**- Make a list of interests and look for related reading.**

**There are books on everything you can imagine.**

**Take notes as you read**, underline quotes, jot down memorable phrases on sticky notes. Write down questions that come up or reflections on what you are reading. They might be useful later.

**- End the day reading**

When we were kids, our parents would read to us, and it calmed us down at the end of the day. It still works.

**- It's okay to leave a book halfway through if you don't like it.**

**Don't blame yourself.** It doesn't matter whether you read **five**, ten, or thirty pages a day. **Read for pleasure and read what you want.**

Think about how many books you read a year and how many years of life you have left. Maybe you will only read fifty, a hundred, or a thousand more books. Take advantage of them. Let them be the ones you really like, and they will leave you with something.

**If you are more visual, look for films that are based on a novel.**

**Read the novel before or after** watching the movie and **compare** the two versions.

**- Join a reading club to discuss books**

You will also find recommendations there from other readers.

The **Tec** will form a **Reading Club** in preparation for the **Monterrey International Book Fair**.

Here is the calendar for you to join (in Spanish).



Círculo de lectura: **Rumbo a la Feria del Libro**

Las **letras** llevan *al norte*

**Miércoles 18:00 hrs.**

**Del 24 de Julio al 25 de Septiembre**

**Abierto a todo público**

Inscripciones en [bit.ly/lecturafilmy](https://bit.ly/lecturafilmy)

Sesiones virtuales por Zoom y presenciales en Casa Naranjos

Mayores informes: [susana.re@tec.mx](mailto:susana.re@tec.mx)



Consulta la lista de lecturas

### Círculo de lectura FIL – PXL

Miércoles, 6:00 PM (duración: 60-90 minutos)

Fecha	Título	Coordina
Julio 24	<i>Chamanes eléctricos en la fiesta del sol</i> , Mónica Ojeda	Rodrigo Esparza Parga (Puebla)
Julio 31	<i>Desmorir</i> , Anne Boyer	María de Alva
Ago 7	<i>Fieras familiares</i> , Andrés Cota Hiriart, primera parte	Susana Ruiz (FIL)
Ago 14	<i>El invencible verano de Liliana</i> , Cristina Rivera Garza	Maricruz Castro (Toluca)
Ago 21	<i>Usted está aquí</i> , Bárbara Colio	Ana Laura Santamaría
Ago 28	<i>El mono infinito</i> , Martha Rivera Palacio	Graciela Armendáriz Chávez (Chihuahua)
Sept 4	<i>Troika</i> , Isabel Zapata	Gabriela Silva (FIL)
Sept 11	<i>Fuego la sed</i> , María Sánchez	Rafael García (FIL)
Sept 18	<i>Canción de protesta</i> , Adolfo Córdova y Daniela Rea	Inés de la peña Prepa TEC EGS
Sept 25	Elaine Vilar (por confirmar título)	Región Occidente Pendiente

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