

## Salmon Bake Hats for Sale \$20



### HELP WANTED !

Book Store Sorters  
Book Store Manager  
Plant Sale Chairman  
Salmon Bake Committee

Make your own hours, earn undying affection.

THE FRIENDS NEED YOU !

Call Carol Campbell 360-871-7820 for details

### Fall Reading Recommendations

*Thank you to NPR, Nancy Pearl & our Friends*

*The Bone Clocks* by David Mitchell “another challenging book from the author of *Cloud Atlas*”

*The Heist* by Daniel Silva “one of Nancy Pearl’s ‘best spy series’”

*The Hydrogen Sonata* by Iain M. Banks “the last book from the creator of the science fiction classic series *The Culture*”

*Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow “the American Revolution and early republic through the life of an exceptional emigré”

*All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr “a blind French girl and a German boy’s paths collide during World War II”

*Into Thick Air: Biking to the Bellybuttons of the World* by Jim Malusa “a botanist rides to the lowest points of six continents”

*Astoria: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire: A Story of Wealth, Ambition, and Survival.* by Peter Stark

*The Broken Shore* by Peter Temple “a powerful & complex crime novel with a social conscience set in Port Munro, Australia”

*Semper Fidelis* by Ruth Downie “a mystery set in Roman Britain, includes not only the Emperor Hadrian but Suetonius.”

## T. S. Eliot

Poems are compositions written for performance by the human voice. They're meant to engage the ear as well as the eye – – which makes sense when you consider they began as songs accompanied by a lyre (not a liar). Nobody wrote a poem more eloquently, nor more compellingly, than T. S. Eliot. Problem is, I often have trouble understanding what he's getting at— and I've read *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* several times. (Turns out Eliot deliberately introduced obfuscation into his writings, considering it to be the hallmark of a modern poem.)

Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1888. He was the last of the six surviving children of parents who came from prominent New England families. As a boy he struggled with a congenital illness and became something of a recluse. To fill in lengthy periods of quiet time he read voraciously— to literature's obvious benefit. After being educated at Harvard, the Sorbonne, and Oxford (no wonder his writings are so polished), Eliot worked for a City of London bank then served as a director at the publishing house of Faber and Faber.

In 1927 Eliot became a naturalized citizen of the UK, and joined the Church of England. (After which, his writings take on a decidedly religious bent.) He was greatly influenced by the poet Ezra Pound, who edited his masterpiece, *The Waste Land*, and encouraged Eliot to stay in Europe. In 1948 Eliot received the Nobel prize in Literature for 'his outstanding, pioneer contribution to present-day poetry.' Besides those noted above, his poems include *Ash Wednesday*, *The Hollow Men*, and *Four Quartets* (considered by Eliot to be his finest work). Later in life he focused on writing plays, such as *Murder in the Cathedral* and *The Rock*, and penned thoughtful critiques on such topics as literature, culture, society, and religion. (The *literati* consider him to be the premier critic of the 20th Century.) For such a prominent icon of *belles-lettres*, however, he produced relatively few classics. T. S. Eliot died in London in 1965.

-Essay by Bill Lounsbury

*KRL has all of the poems & plays referenced in this essay.*