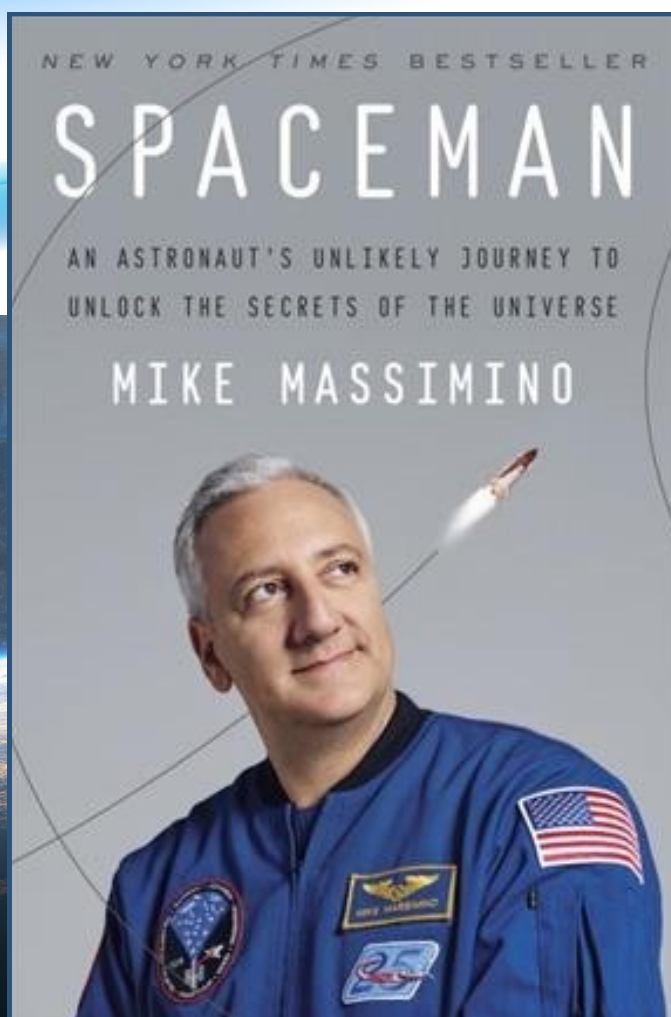


LONG ISLAND READS

One Island—One Book

2018 Reader's Guide



Long Island Reads

is Sponsored by The Nassau Library System
& The Public Libraries of Suffolk County

About Long Island Reads



One Island-One Book

longislandreads



One Book projects are community-wide reading programs. The first **One Book** project was initiated by the Washington Center for the Book in 1998. Since then, the concept has spread across the United States and around the world. Seattle librarian, Nancy Pearl, author of *Book Lust* and *More Book Lust*, and NPR book critic, is the mastermind behind the **One City, One Book** phenomenon.

To see a listing of **One City, One Book** projects visit the Library of Congress website at www.read.gov/resources/. Projects are listed by state, city and author. While at the Library of Congress site, check out their Center for the Book.

The **Long Island Reads** Committee is a group of librarians and library employees from Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island, New York who volunteer to work on this island-wide reading initiative. Each spring people in Nassau and Suffolk read the same book, participate in discussions of the selection, and enjoy related events in public libraries.

Many Long Island Reads events take place during

National Library Week, April 8 - 14, 2017

For more information about Long Island Reads One Island - One Book visit:

www.longislandreads.org

About Mike Massimino



Mike Massimino, a former NASA astronaut and the first person to tweet from space, is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Columbia University and the Senior Advisor for Space Programs at the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum. He received his Bachelor of Science from Columbia and Masters of Science in both Mechanical Engineering and in Technology and Policy, as well as his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Honors & Awards

After working as an engineer at IBM, NASA and McDonnell Douglas Aerospace, along with academic appointments at both Rice University and the Georgia Institute of Technology, Mike was an astronaut candidate by NASA in 1996. A veteran of two space flights, the fourth and fifth Hubble Space Telescope servicing missions in 2002 and 2009, Mike has achieved many accomplishments including a team record for the number of hours spacewalking in a single space shuttle mission.

He has also received a number of awards during his NASA career including two NASA Space Flight Medals, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the American Astronautical Society's 2009 Flight Achievement Award, and the Star of the Italian Solidarity (Italian Knighthood). He has received a 2017 Christopher Award, the 2017 Columbia University Community Impact Outstanding Community Service Award, and the 2017 Communications Award of the National Space Club. He is also the holder of two patents and author of many engineering research papers.



Back at his alma mater, Columbia, Mike is teaching an undergraduate engineering course, Introduction to Human Space Flight, which harnesses his years of academic and professional experience. He is also working with The Art of Engineering, a course in which all first-year engineers attend design lectures and work on engineering projects with socially responsible themes.

News & Television Appearances

Mike has made numerous television appearances including a six-time recurring role as himself on the CBS hit comedy “The Big Bang Theory.” He hosted Science Channel’s “The Planets” and its special “The Great American Eclipse,” and will be featured in National Geographic Television’s upcoming series “One Strange Rock.”

He is a frequent guest on television news and talk show programs including NBC’s Today Show, ABC’s Good Morning America, CNN, and FoxNews. He has also appeared on The Late Show with David Letterman, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, and on Neil deGrasse Tyson’s “Star Talk” radio and television shows.

Mike’s book, Spaceman: An Astronaut’s Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe, has received rave reviews and is a New York Times Bestseller.

The street that Mike grew up on in Franklin Square, NY has been renamed “Mike Massimino Street.”

Bio from mikemassimino.com



Synopsis of the Book

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to find yourself strapped to a giant rocket that's about to go from zero to 17,500 miles per hour?



Or to look back on Earth from outer space and see the surprisingly precise line between day and night? Or to stand in front of the Hubble Space Telescope, wondering if the emergency repair you're about to make will inadvertently ruin humankind's chance to unlock the universe's secrets? Mike Massimino has been there, and in *Spaceman* he puts you inside the suit, will all the zip and buoyancy of life in microgravity.

Massimino's childhood space dreams were born the day Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. Growing up in a working-class Long Island family, he catapulted himself to Columbia and then MIT, only to flunk his first doctoral exam and be rejected three times by NASA before making it through the final round of astronaut selection.

Taking us through the surreal wonder and beauty of his first spacewalk, the tragedy of losing friends in the Columbia shuttle accident, & the development of his enduring love for the Hubble Telescope - which he & his fellow astronauts were tasked with saving on his final mission - Massimino has written an ode to never giving up & the power of teamwork to make anything possible.

Spaceman invites us into a rare, wonderful world where science meets the most thrilling adventure, revealing just what having "the right stuff" really means.

Mike Massimino & *Spaceman* Online

REVIEWS

Forbes: <http://bit.ly/2nmllEg>

Kirkus: <http://bit.ly/2DVWNgV>

New York Times: <http://nyti.ms/2rS3cFf>

Newsday: <https://nwsdy.li/2DM5qr4>

Publisher's Weekly: <http://bit.ly/2FtpZcp>



SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Website: <http://www.mikemassimino.com/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Astro_Mike

Spaceman on Goodreads: <http://bit.ly/2d42Sto>

Mike Massimino on Goodreads: <http://bit.ly/2DOSDIF>

INTERVIEWS

NPR: <http://n.pr/2BBQ4UI>

PBS: <http://to.pbs.org/2rStOWA>

VIDEOS

CNN: <http://cnn.it/2DSf9A4>

Suggestions for Reading Critically

Adapted from the Library of Congress Center for the Book Guidelines

The best stories are those that connect to human experience. They reveal an important truth, or provide a profound sense of kinship between reader and writer. Searching for, identifying, and discussing these truths deepens the reader's appreciation of the story. Asking questions, reading carefully, imagining yourself in the story, analyzing style and structure, and searching for personal meaning in a work of literature all enhance the work's value and the discussion potential for your group. Here are some helpful suggestions on how you can become a more critical reader.

Make notes and mark pages as you go. Reading for a book discussion – whether you are the leader or simply a participant – differs somewhat from reading purely for pleasure. As you read a book in preparation for a discussion, ask questions of yourself & mark down pages to which you might want to refer again. Make notes like, "Is this significant?" or "Why does the author include this?" Making notes as you go slows down your reading but saves you the time of searching out important passages later.

Ask tough questions of yourself and the book. Obviously, asking questions of yourself as you read means you don't know the answer yet, and sometimes you never will discover the answers. Don't be afraid to ask hard questions because often the author is presenting difficult issues for that very purpose. Look for questions that may lead to in-depth conversations with your group and make the readings more meaningful.

Pay attention to the authors' messages. As with any skill, critical reading improves with practice. A good author uses every word in a text deliberately. Try to be aware of what the authors are revealing about themselves and what they want you to learn about life from their perspectives.

Analyze themes. Analyze the important themes of a story & to consider the premises with which the author started. Imagine an author mulling over the beginnings of the story, asking, "what if" questions.

Get to know the characters. When you meet the characters in the book, place yourself at the scene. Think of them as you do the people around you. Judge them. Think about their faults and their motives. What would it be like to interact with them? Are the tone and style of their dialogue authentic? Read portions aloud to get to know the voices of the characters.

Notice the structure of the stories as well as the organization of the entire book. Sometimes the structure of the book illustrates an important concept or helps to create a mood. Notice how the editor structured the book. How do the stories relate to each other? How are the individual stories and selections structured?

Who are the narrators? How does the sequence of events unfold to create the mood of the story? Is it written in flashbacks? Does the sequence of actions make sense to you?

Make comparisons to other stories and works. Compare the book and the stories to others that have a similar theme or style. Often, themes run through an author's works that are more fully realized by comparison. Comparing one author's work to that of another can help you solidify your opinions, as well as illuminate qualities you may otherwise miss.

Suggested Book Discussion Questions

Provided by Janet Schneider, Peninsula Public Library, Karen Shaw-Widman, East Meadow Public Library, Carol Stern, Glen Cove Public Library & Donna Mazovec, Huntington Public Library



- 1) What do you think was the most exciting achievement for a boy from Franklin Square, Long Island with a dream? Was it becoming a Hubble guy, “one of the Jedi?” Was it becoming a role model for others who dream of walking among the stars?
- 2) Mike was part of the team that repaired arguably the most important science instrument ever built. Did this book open your eyes or change your feelings about the reasons behind the space program, and space exploration in general?
- 3) Mike frankly discusses the risks, the costs, and the times NASA came up tragically short. Did he convince you as a reader that they were worth it?
- 4) Had you ever heard of improving one's eyesight as dramatically as Mike does in this book? Does anyone understand that process?
- 5) Mike Massimino's childhood fascination with space was born the day Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, but his journey was an unlikely one. He was rejected not once, not twice, but three times by NASA before finally making the cut. What were some of his other obstacles (unrelated to vision)? How did he overcome them?

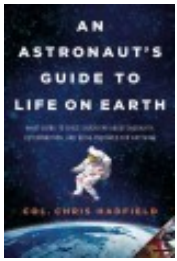
Suggested Book Discussion Questions

Provided by Janet Schneider, Peninsula Public Library, Karen Shaw-Widman, East Meadow Public Library, Carol Stern, Glen Cove Public Library and Donna Mazovec, Huntington Public Library

- 6) At a press conference following the STS-109 mission, a NASA administrator tells the crowd: “Somebody asked if we’re going to send kids into space. We have sent kids into space. We sent Mike Massimino.” Which of Mike’s habits & qualities might have generated that comment? How did Mike’s childlike enthusiasm set him apart from other astronauts?
- 7) One of Mike’s signature characteristics is his positive attitude. He pursued his dream and never gave up, even when it seemed most unlikely. Did his choices make sense to you? If you had been in his shoes would you have made different choices?
- 8) Mike is a loyal friend and very close to his family. Do you think Mike could have been an involved father and husband considering all the time it took to be an astronaut?
- 9) During the final Hubble repair mission in 2009, Mike became the first person to use Twitter in outer space. He's still active on Twitter, and has made a series of high profile appearances as himself on the Big Bang Theory TV show. What is his purpose in being involved in these entertaining activities? Do they reflect well on him professionally?
- 10) Mike mentions several phrases such as “where I came from, kids didn’t grow up to be astronauts,” or “coming from where I came from, saying I want to grow up to be an astronaut was like saying I want to grow up to be Spider-Man.” What was it about growing up on Long Island did he feel was a hindrance? Was it his close-knit family? His Italian-American heritage?
- 11) Public service is a core principle for Mike. Has he fulfilled that goal? How?

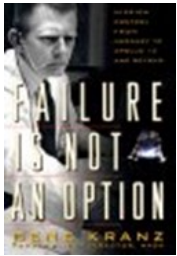
If you enjoyed Mike Massimino's *Spaceman* ...

Look for these Non-Fiction Picks



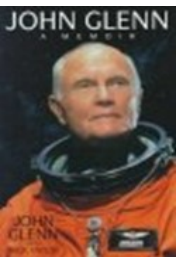
***An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth* by Chris Hadfield, c. 2015**

Hadfield takes readers into his years of training & space exploration to show how to make the impossible possible. He developed an unconventional philosophy at NASA: Prepare for the worst -- and enjoy every moment of it. By thinking like an astronaut, you can change the way you view life on Earth -- especially your own.



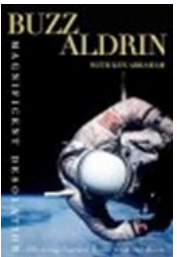
***Failure Is Not an Option: Mission Control from Mercury to Apollo 13 and Beyond* by Gene Kranz, c. 2000**

The man who headed the "tiger team" that saved the Apollo 13 astronauts gives an insider's view of NASA Mission Control, from the early years of trying to catch up with the Russians to the end of the manned space program.



***John Glenn: a Memoir* by John Glenn with Nick Taylor, c. 1999**

The first American astronaut to orbit the globe recalls a life testing the limits, from his days as a daredevil test pilot, to his terms in the U.S. Senate, to his most recent flight into space aboard the shuttle Discovery.



***Magnificent Desolation: The Long Journey Home from the Moon* by Buzz Aldrin with Ken Abraham, c. 2009**

Recounts the astronaut's life and career, including his childhood, the landmark 1969 moon landing, and his battles with alcoholism and depression after his fame.



***The Mercury 13: the Untold Story of Thirteen American Women and the Dream of Space Flight* by Martha Ackmann, c. 2003**

Profiles the thirteen women, all pilots who passed the same battery of tests as the Mercury 7 astronauts, who were chosen as America's first female astronauts but who were refused the opportunity to participate.

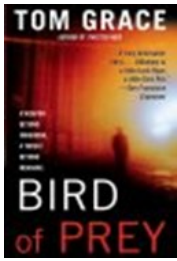


***Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space* by Lynn Scherr, c. 2014**

A portrait of the first American woman astronaut covers her service aboard the panel that investigated the shuttle disasters, her co-founding of a science-education organization for girls, and her guarded personal life.

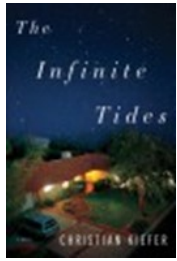
If you enjoyed Mike Massimino's *Spaceman* ...

Look for these Fiction Picks



***Bird of Prey* by Tom Grace, 2004**

When a killer satellite known as Zeus imperils astronaut Kelsey Newton and her crewmates aboard the International Space Station, it is up to her fiancé, ex-Navy SEAL Nolan Kilkenny, to uncover the truth about the diabolical weapon and the megalomaniacal tycoon who controls its.



***The Infinite Tides* by Christian Kiefer, c. 2012**

During a mission aboard the International Space Station, astronaut Keith Corcoran receives news that his wife has left him and that his sixteen-year-old daughter has died in a car accident, and returns to his empty home where he gradually recovers at the side of an unlikely friend.



***The Last Pilot* by Benjamin Johncock, c. 2015**

A tale set against a backdrop of the international space competition of the mid-twentieth century follows the inner life of Air Force test pilot Jim Harrison, who in the wake of a devastating tragedy secretly accepts a high-risk offer from NASA.



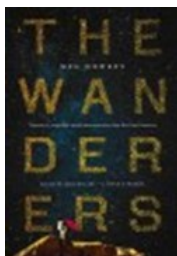
***The Martian* by Andy Weir, c. 2014**

Stranded on Mars by a dust storm that compromised his space suit and forced his crew to leave him behind, astronaut Mark Watney struggles to survive in spite of minimal supplies and harsh environmental challenges that test his ingenuity in unique ways.



***Red Moon* by Michael Cassutt, c. 2001**

A suspenseful odyssey inside the Soviet space program follows one young man, Yuri Ribko, as he journeys from engineering student to Soviet cosmonaut, under the secret auspices of his KGB uncle.



***The Wanderers* by Meg Howrey, c. 2017**

Training for the first-ever mission to Mars, three astronauts share experiences that push the boundary between the real and surreal while irrevocably changing their relationships and familial bonds.

The Long Island Reads 2018 Committee

Laura Accardi	Patchogue-Medford Library	Deborah Kinirons	Uniondale Public Library
Valerie Acklin	Bellmore Memorial Library	Donna Mazovec	Huntington Public Library
Azuree Agnello	West Babylon Public Library	Karen McCahey	Patchogue-Medford Library
Samantha Alberts	Suffolk Cooperative Library System	Cathi Nashak	Uniondale Public Library
Caroline Ashby	Nassau Library System	Thérèse Purcell Nielsen	Huntington Public Library
Donna Diamond	Book Talk Leader	Marcia Olsen	Retired
Martha DiVittorio	Bellmore Memorial Library	Jacqueline Rinaldo	Syosset Public Library
Ellen Drucker-Albert	Cold Spring Harbor Library	Karen Shaw-Widman	East Meadow Public Library
Ellen Getreu	Hewlett-Woodmere Library	Carol Stern	Glen Cove Public Library
Lauren Gilbert	Sachem Public Library	Sally Stieglitz	Adelphi University
Ann Gilmartin	Levittown Public Library	Myrna Velez	Brentwood Public Library
Candace Hope	Huntington Public Library	Emilee Walsh	Smithtown Library
Jocelyn Kaleita	Westhampton Library		

Beth Gates, Long Island Reads Suffolk Chair, Rogers Memorial Library

Janet Schneider, Long Island Reads Nassau Chair, Peninsula Public Library

Reader's Guide compiled by: Beth Gates, Rogers Memorial Library;

Donna Mazovec, Huntington Public Library

Cathi Nashak, Uniondale Public Library



Contact your public library for more information about
Long Island Reads events during
National Library Week, April 8 – 14, 2018

Long Island Reads 2018 Evaluation

1. Have you read, or do you plan to read, *Spaceman*? Yes ___ No ___
2. Have you visited the Long Island Reads website at www.longislandreads.org? Yes ___ No ___
3. Which library do you belong to? _____
4. Please let us know what you thought about today's program.

5. Have you participated in any Long Island Reads events in the past? Yes ___ No ___

6. Are you in a book club? Yes ___ No ___

Is it a library book club or independent?

7. If you would like to suggest an author or title for Long Island Reads 2019, please do so below.

Are you a library employee? Yes ___ No ___

Do you reside in Nassau ___ or Suffolk ____

Additional comments:

Please return this form to a member of the LI Reads committee here today or to:

Beth Gates, Rogers Memorial Library
91 Coopers Farm Road
Southampton, NY 11968

Thank you for participating in Long Island Reads!