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It always amazes me when I look back at the books I chose to read over the past year. I try to remember what made me pick up that particular book (ooh, pretty cover...) or why I trudged through that one (aha, surprise ending that made it all worthwhile). What I've discovered over that years is that while I am drawn to adult nonfiction, I will read just about anything I can get my hands on (including cereal boxes and really old magazines). Some books were mediocre this year, others were a nice way to pass the time and just a lucky few made it to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Books I Read This Year List.

*Sophie's Squash* by Pat Zietlow Miller. Really? A book about a squash? Oh, yes! Sophie and her squash, Bernice, teach us what true friendship is all about. (Children's Picture Book, 2014)

*The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes. A sweet, charming look at the seemingly everyday life of 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Billy Miller and his family. (Children's Fiction, 2014)

*Sing* illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld. A beautifully illustrated book inspired by the Sesame Street song, *Sing*, written and composed by Joe Raposo. (Children's Picture Book, 2014)

*Phoebe and Digger* by Jeff Newman. Phoebe thinks her new baby brother is the root of all of her problems, but her perspective changes after a trip to the playground with her favorite toy, Digger. (Children's Picture Book, 2014)

*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi. Thirteen year old Charlotte faces a transatlantic voyage without her family in 1832 and discovers that she is able to hold her own with the mutinous crew. (Children's Fiction, 1990)

*Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson. If you could live your life over and over again, what changes would you make along the way? Ursula gets that opportunity and has a chance to alter the course of history. (Adult Fiction, 2013)

*The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert. Alma, a botanist born in 1800, is on the leading edge of evolution and science in a male-dominated world that doesn't recognize her brilliance. (Adult Fiction, 2013)

*Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness* by Susannah Cahalan. A gripping memoir about a young woman's struggle with an undiagnosed brain disease that nearly left her in utter darkness. (Adult Nonfiction, 2012)

*Notes from a Blue Bike: The Art of Living Intentionally in a Chaotic World* by Tsh Oxenreider. Life is about the choices we make and this book recounts one family's decision to live according to their passions and values. (Adult Nonfiction, 2014)

*Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less* by Greg McKeown. If I could only recommend one book, this would be it. In life we tend to think we can do it all and in doing so our focus is divided in a hundred different directions. The book is about "...learning how to do less but better so you can achieve the highest possible return...". This book has been a game changer both professionally and personally. (Adult Nonfiction, 2014)

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