

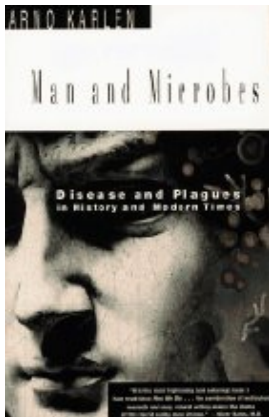
Epidemics: From History to Hollywood

March 27, 2009

www.usu.edu/science/unwrapped

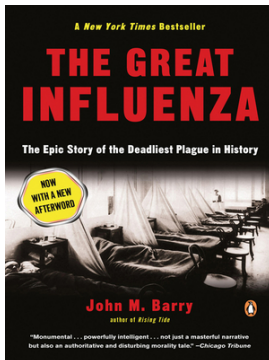


Suggested Readings from Speaker Jeanne Rudzki Small:



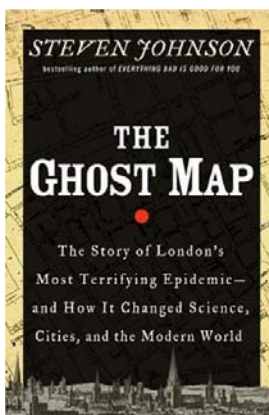
Arno Karlen. *Man and Microbes: Disease and Plagues in History and Modern Times*. New York: Simon and Schuster, Touchstone Book, 1995. ISBN 0-684-82270-9. Chapter Nine (“Victory, it seems”), pp. 129-147

(Amazon.com Review) “Whereas many popular books on microbes focus on contemporary pathogens and emerging epidemics, Arno Karlen's *Man and Microbes* provides a historical look at the coevolution of humans and microorganisms. With amazing detail, Karlen describes the origins of historical plagues (smallpox, cholera, influenza, polio, and others) as well as the emergence of scourges such as hemorrhagic fever (Ebola and its cousins), Lyme disease, Legionnaires' disease, and even the deep mysteries of retroviruses such as HIV.”



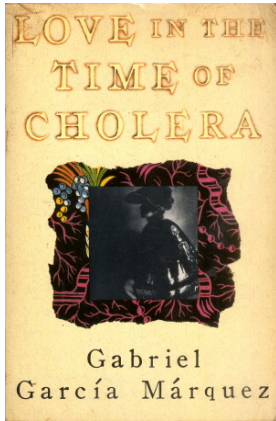
John M. Barry. *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History*. New York: Penguin Books, 2004. ISBN 0-14-303448-0. Chapters Seven and Eight, pp. 98-115.

(Karen Brudney, MD, Massachusetts Medical Society) “The connection among public health, epidemic disease, and politics can be seen throughout history, from the responses to the Black Death in Italian cities in 1348 to the response -- or lack thereof -- to the resurgence of tuberculosis on the part of the New York City Department of Health in the 1980s. John M. Barry spells out this connection in fascinating detail in *The Great Influenza*. In his meticulous description of the dire consequences that resulted when short-term political expediency trumped the health of the public during the 1918 influenza pandemic, Barry reminds his readers that the government response to an epidemic is all too often colored by the politics of the moment.”



Steven Johnson. *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic – and How It Changed Science, Cities and the Modern World*. New York: Penguin, Riverhead Books 2006. ISBN 1-59448-925-4. Portion of Chapter “Friday, September 8: The Pump Handle”

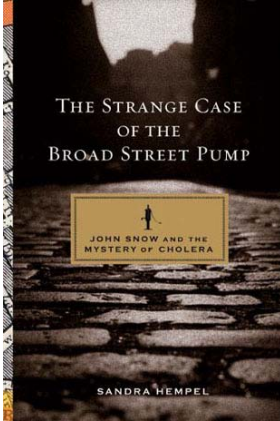
(*Publishers Weekly*) “Idiosyncratic thinker and cultural historian Johnson ... uncovers the history of murderous cholera infestations in London and the scientific research that revealed the microbial origins of the outbreaks.”



Gabriel García Márquez. *Love in the Time of Cholera*. New York: Random House, Vintage Books 1988. ISBN 978-0-307-38973-2. Pp. 105-116.

(Barbara Hoffert, *Library Journal*) “While delivering a message to her father, Florentino Ariza spots the barely pubescent Fermina Daza and immediately falls in love. What follows is the story of a passion that extends over 50 years, as Fermina is courted solely by letter, decisively rejects her suitor when he first speaks, and then joins the urbane Dr. Juvenal Urbino, much above her station, in a marriage initially loveless but ultimately remarkable in its strength. Florentino remains faithful in his fashion; paralleling the tale of the marriage is that of his numerous liaisons, all ultimately without the depth of love he again declares at Urbino's death. In substance and style not as fantastical, as mythologizing, as the previous works, this is a compelling exploration of the myths we make of love.”

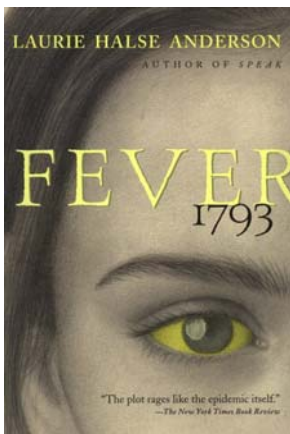
Additional Readings:



Sandra Hempel. *The Strange Case of the Broad Street Pump: John Snow and the Mystery of Cholera*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2007. ISBN 0-52025-049-4.

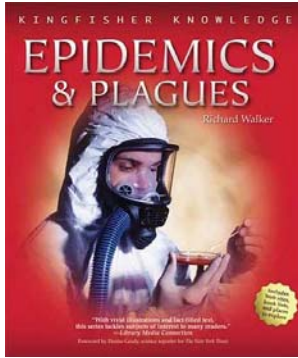
(Amazon.com Review) “In 1831, an unknown, horrifying, and deadly disease from Asia swept across continental Europe and North America, killing millions and throwing the medical profession into confusion. In this gripping book, Sandra Hempel tells the story of John Snow, a reclusive doctor without money or social position, who--alone and unrecognized--had the genius to look beyond the conventional wisdom of his day and uncover the truth behind the pandemic.”

For Young Readers:



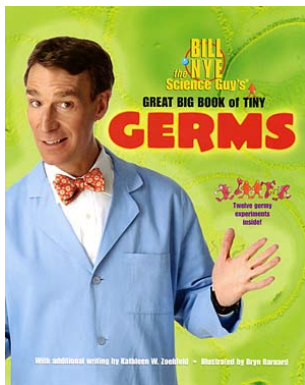
Laurie Halse Anderson. *Fever 1793*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2002. ISBN 0-52025-049-4.

(Amazon.com Review) “On the heels of her acclaimed contemporary teen novel *Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson surprises her fans with a riveting and well-researched historical fiction. *Fever 1793* is based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that wiped out 5,000 people--or 10 percent of the city's population--in three months. At the close of the 18th century, Philadelphia was the bustling capital of the United States, with Washington and Jefferson in residence. During the hot mosquito-infested summer of 1793, the dreaded yellow fever spread like wildfire, killing people overnight. Like specters from the Middle Ages, gravediggers drew carts through the streets crying ‘Bring out your dead!’ The rich fled to the country, abandoning the city to looters, forsaken corpses, and frightened survivors.”



Richard Walker. *Epidemics and Plagues*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Kingfisher Knowledge Series, 2007. ISBN 0-75346-161-7.

(Amazon.com Review) “Richard Walker provides a compelling historical view ...Young scientists who wish to discover everything from the development of polio in ancient Egypt to the Black Plague and its spread through Europe during the 1300s to modern epidemics like AIDS and West Nile virus will enjoy exploring *Epidemics and Plagues*, which is a wonderful addition to this exciting scientific series.”



Bill Nye. *Bill Nye the Science Guy's Great Big Book of Tiny Germs*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2005. ISBN 0-78680-543-9.

(Donna Marie Wagner, Harris County Public Library, Houston, Texas, *School Library Journal*) The TV "Science Guy" presents a clear, concise overview that most children will enjoy. Nye covers bacteria, viruses, how germs travel and attack humans, the immune system, and the history of the pox, plagues, and other little diseases. He touches on how germs were discovered, vaccinations, antibiotics, HIV and AIDs, keeping safe and germ free, and why we love and hate germs. Activities are included at the end of each chapter. The step-by-step experiments conclude with a short explanation of how, what, why, when, or where.”