

For further reading on topics from this year's Washtenaw Reads selection, check out these titles:

So Rich, So Poor by Peter Edelman (2014)

(Peter Edelman's opposition to the 1996 welfare reform act is discussed in *\$2.00 a Day*)

Edelman offers a liberal look at American wealth distribution and welfare systems. He examines income inequality and argues that the increasing poverty among children and people of color is a call for reform. Similar to *\$2.00 a Day*, this book provides a detailed look at the history of welfare and poverty in the United States.

Hand to Mouth by Linda Tirado (2015)

A personal account of what it's like to live in poverty in the United States. In rough language, Tirado recounts her experiences with SNAP, welfare, and underemployment. This book originated as a blog post in 2013 that went viral. Similar to *\$2.00 a Day*, this book provides a first hand account of the instability and turmoil of living with little to no reliable income.

The American Way of Eating by Tracie McMillan (2012)

Journalist McMillan goes undercover at low-wage jobs in the food industry to discover how American food is produced, and why low-income families eat the packaged and processed foods they do, despite health concerns. McMillan concludes that American families would make healthier choices given the financial means.

Evicted by Matthew Desmond (2016)

A recent NYT Bestseller, *Evicted* examines eight different families living in poverty and overly burdened by housing costs. Desmond looks at the state of affordable housing without vilifying either party and offers solutions to America's housing crisis.

White Trash by Nancy Isenberg (2016)

A historical look at the origins of class in the United States, from colonial to present day, focusing in particular on the impoverished south. Like *\$2.00 a Day*, *White Trash* pushes against stereotypes that suggest poor Americans are undeserving of the American dream, and demonstrates how politics have shaped our perceptions of the working class and poor.

Fire in the Ashes by Jonathan Kozol (2012)

Kozol's latest book follows the lives of children who grew up homeless and/or

impoverished during the late '80s and '90s, including where these families are today, how they were able to overcome the many societal and personal obstacles they faced, or, sadly, how they failed. Like *\$2.00 a Day*, this book portrays how social policy surrounding education and welfare affects the lives of children born into poverty in the United States.

Born on Third Base by Chuck Collins (2016)

Written from the perspective of a wealthy “one-percenter” who gave up his trust fund and dedicated his life to reducing inequality. Rather than touching on social policy and government driven means to aid the poor as seen in *\$2.00 a Day*, Collins suggests ways in which individuals can help those in need.

The Great Divergence by Timothy Noah (2012)

Noah examines the trend of growing income inequality in the United States, focusing on government and social policies that have contributed to the shrinking of the middle class and the widening gap between the very rich and very poor.

Broke, USA by Gary Rivlin (2010)

Broke, USA is an expose of the ways that businesses and individuals are preying on and profiting off of the very poor, whose financial strife can lead them to unsavory and even unethical lenders, pawnshops, and credit companies. Similar to *\$2.00 a Day*, this book also includes personal stories of Americans who have been exploited because of their poverty.

Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance (2016)

A personal memoir that complicates the fairy-tale American dream of generational upward mobility by exploring the difficult relationships between a Yale graduate and the poor, rural southern community from which his family has risen. Like *\$2.00 a Day*, this book examines the stereotypes and the real social and political obstacles that hinder the extremely poor, particularly in rural communities.