**Restoration: God's Call to the 21st-Century World**
*by Patrick Q. Mason*

A Latter-day Saint scholar's reflection on what it means to participate in the ongoing Restoration. “I love this book for the paradigm shifts that Patrick Mason caused in my understanding of my covenant role as a Latter-day Saint and disciple of Christ. He has an expansive view of what it means to be part of this work and is honest about not knowing answers to many of the trigger issues we face today. Every time I read this book, I have a renewed energy to be part of God’s work in a modern, holistic context.”

Bobbi May (Humanities Center Program Administrator)

**Devotions by Mary Oliver**

A carefully curated collection of Mary Oliver’s poetry, spanning 1963 to 2015. “Celebrated for their perspicacious and conversational style, Oliver’s poems impart an earthy wisdom rooted in direct observations of suffering and renewal in nature. For Oliver, the steps of devotion are simple and accessible: ‘Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.’ This highly readable volume, curated by Oliver herself and published just two years before her death in 2019, serves as a brilliant introduction to the enduring legacy of one of America’s most beloved poets.”

Shannon Stimpson (Rhetoric and Writing Studies, Pedagogy)

**Torto Arado by Itamar Vieira Junior**

A contemporary novel that draws on Brazilian literary traditions to depict Brazil’s current socio-political landscape. “The story is about two sisters who live in a rural village that is a legacy of the country’s slavery era. It is fascinating how the novel alternates narrative perspectives and explores lingering issues from the colonial past to the present day, such as the exploitation of rural workers, religious syncretism, and gender- and class-based violence, among other relevant topics for reflecting on Brazil today. For English speakers, the book was recently translated and published by Verso Books with the title *Crooked Plow*.”

Patricia Baialuna de Andrade (Portuguese Literature)

**The Discworld Series**
*by Terry Pratchett*

A comic, fantasy book series set on a flat planet resting on the backs of four elephants. “The Discworld books are my favorite series in any genre. Terry Pratchett combines familiar fantasy tropes with genuinely funny characters, insights into human nature, and satiric social commentary. It is hard to nail down a specific book, but if forced to choose, I would point to *Going Postal* (about a Han Solo-like free agent who combats big-city corruption alongside a golem), *The Color of Magic* (about Rincewind, an inept warlock), and *The Wee Free Men* (about a young girl who learns to use magic with integrity while mentoring a band of cartoonishly violent faeries).”

Kerry Soper (Popular Culture and Comedy)

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**Past Lives**

*A touching modern romance that wrestles with the choices we make in life.*

“Childhood friends Nora and Hae Sung are split apart after Nora’s family emigrates from South Korea to America. Twenty years later, they reunite online and later in person. Will their friendship turn into a love affair? Or have the two changed too much during the time they were apart? Though characterized as a romance, *Past Lives* goes beyond genre expectations to touch on the fracturing of identity and history that is part of the immigrant experience.”

Marc Yamada (East Asian Film and Literature)

**The Quiet Girl**

*A historical fiction film set in rural Ireland that contemplates the true meaning of family.*

“Set in 1981 Ireland, a neglected girl is sent away from her family to live with foster parents on a farm for the summer, where she is nurtured and truly loved for the first time. This beautifully arresting, quiet film, largely voiced in Gaelic, becomes a meditation on chosen family. We loved how this stunning, underseen film portrays the transformative importance of parental love in a young person’s life.”

Marie-Laure Oscarson (Assistant Director, International Cinema)

**Certified Copy**

*A dramatic romance film about a middle-aged British writer who spends an afternoon with a French woman while promoting his book.*

“This is a film I have taught annually since I first saw it in theaters in Paris in 2010. Set in Tuscany with French and British leads, it is directed by the late, great Iranian New Wave auteur Abbas Kiarostami. The film includes three spoken languages and raises questions by evoking language. A matronly Italian café owner asks Juliette Binoche’s character, ‘Why doesn’t your husband speak your language?’ and here the film’s meaning begins to unravel. Are the two leads married? Were they formerly? Did they just meet, and he recognized her need to work through issues? *Certified Copy* explores the traditional cinematic couple by offering us a garden of forking paths to understanding.”

Bob Hudson (French Literature, Film, and Cuisine)