

Pat Conroy Reading Map

The Southern Pines Public Library presents a year-long Author Read Series featuring selected author Pat Conroy. This Reading Map was designed to help readers explore the many different appeal factors in Conroy's works. Enjoy!

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Pat Conroy is a New York Times bestselling author and has been called a “magician of the page.” His stories are compelling, his language lyrical, and his characters authentically drawn. He credits his mother for inspiring his love of books and the English language.

Conroy's life as a military brat, son of a Marine Corps pilot, has had significant influence on his writing. One high school English teacher, Eugene Norris, was also an early literary influence on Conroy. It was Norris who gave Conroy a copy of Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward Angel*, which he describes as “one of the pivotal events of my life.” He says, in fact, in *My Reading Life*, that he owes his life as an artist to Thomas Wolfe. Conroy's fans agree that the results of these many influences are great reads!



Thomas Wolfe, an early 20th century author, was born in Asheville, NC.

Multiple copies of Conroy's books are available for checkout at the Library!

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Pat Conroy Bio

Donald Patrick Conroy, born October 26, 1945 in Atlanta., was the first of seven children.

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Check out Conroy's [biography](#) from his website.

The library's [Contemporary Authors](#) database explores how Conroy "has worked some of his most bitter experiences into stories that present ironic, often jarring, yet humorous views of life and relationships in the contemporary South."

The [New Georgia Encyclopedia](#) describes how the constant moves with his family during his childhood, along with the abusive behavior of his father, produced a degree of uncertainty and insecurity in the young boy that undoubtedly contributed to the search for acceptance and belonging that is a dominant theme in his fiction.

Conroy currently resides in Beaufort, SC with his wife, novelist Cassandra King.



Conroy attended the Citadel Military Academy in Charleston, SC. He wrote his first book, *The Boo*, while he was there as a tribute to a beloved teacher. The book was at first banned by the school but the ban was later lifted.

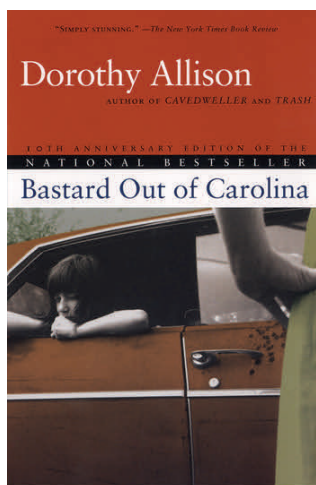
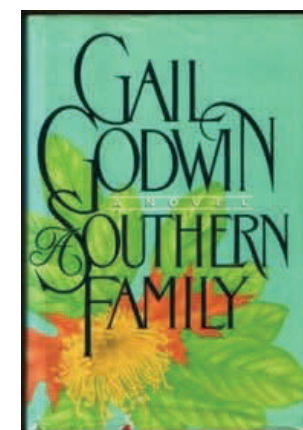
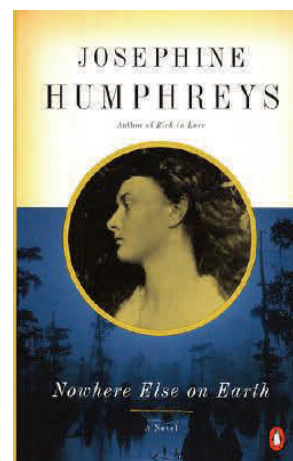
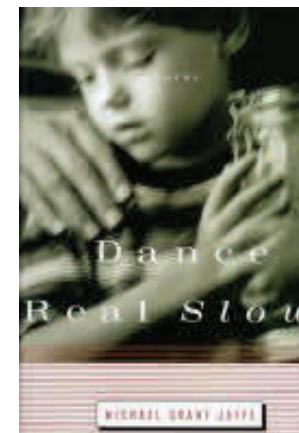
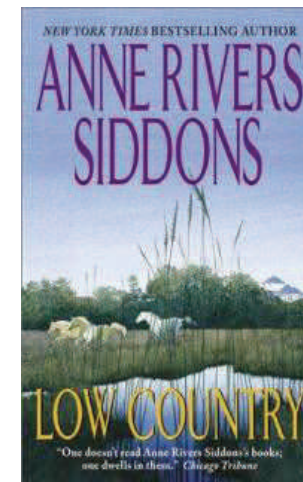
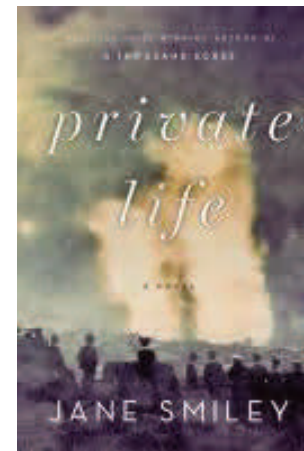
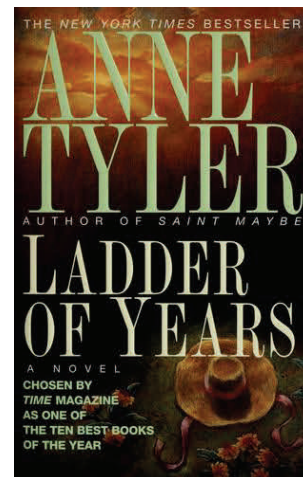


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Clyde Edgerton
Gail Godwin
Jane Hamilton
Josephine Humphreys
John Irving
Michael Jaffe
Wally Lamb
Alice McDermott
Larry McMurtry
Jill McCorkle
Tim O' Brien
Reynolds Price
Ann Rivers Siddons
Jane Smiley
Lee Smith
Anne Tyler
Rebecca Wells



Pat Conroy Reading Map

Conroy's Fiction The New Georgia Encyclopedia describes Conroy's novels as "essentially coming of age or initiation stories in which the male protagonists undergo long and perilous quests in search of maturity and wholeness."

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Conroy provides description and reviews for all his books on his [website](#).

***The Great Santini* (1976)**
Summary and reviews at [litlovers.com](#)

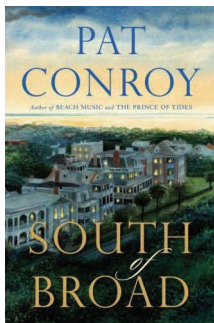
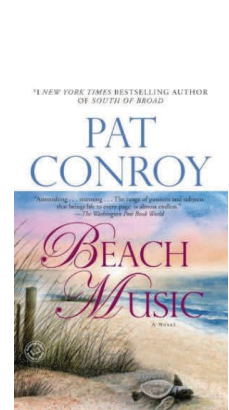
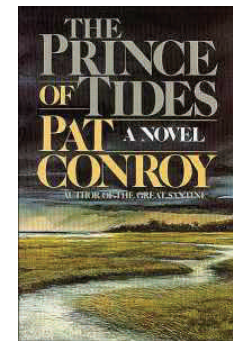
***The Lords of Discipline* (1980)**
Reviews found through [Bowker's BooksInPrint](#).

***The Prince of Tides* (1986)**
Summary and reviews from [litlovers.com](#)

***Beach Music* (1995)**
Summary and reviews from [litlovers.com](#).

***South of Broad* (2009)**
Summary and reviews from [Bookbrowse.com](#)
Tip: Did you know you can access reviews from the [library catalog](#)?

Think you know
Pat Conroy's books?
Take the
[Fun Trivia Quiz!](#)



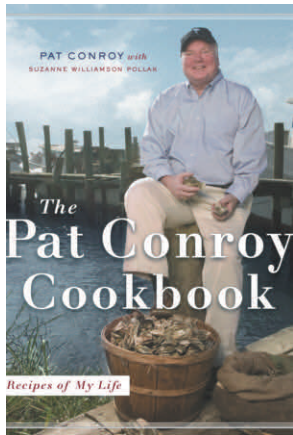
Conroy's website says that *South of Broad* is a love letter to the city of Charleston, SC, and a celebration of lifelong friendship.

*Multiple copies of
Conroy's books are available
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library!*

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Conroy's Non-Fiction

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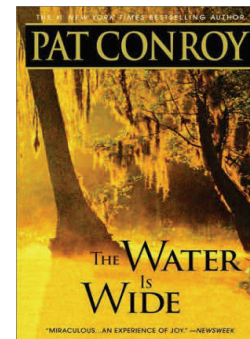
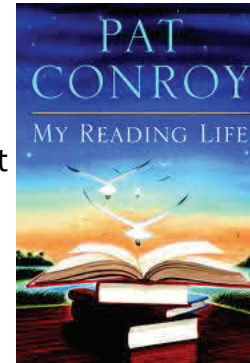
The Boo (1970) Self-published, Conroy's first book .

The Water is Wide (1972) A fictionalized account of Conroy's experience as a teacher in a poor Gullah community on an island off South Carolina.

My Losing Season (2002) Conroy's experience as a point guard for the 1966-67 Citadel Bulldogs. [New York Times review](#)

The Pat Conroy Cookbook (2004) Conroy says he "never enjoyed writing anything more" than this book. [New York Times review and interview with Conroy](#)

My Reading Life (2010) USA Today said this book "opens a door to literature." Summary and book reviews from [Bookbrowse.com](#), [The Washington Post](#), [USA Today](#)
Conroy provides description and reviews for all his books on his [website](#).



Don't miss the Gullah Language and Traditional Folk Music program at the library during the Palustris Festival! On Sunday, March 25, Sharon Cooper-Murray will present a lecture and folk music demonstration of the Gullah people of Daufuskie Island Conroy wrote about in *The Water is Wide*.



Pat Conroy Reading Map

The Movies Based on the Books

The links below will redirect you to the Internet Movie Database description.

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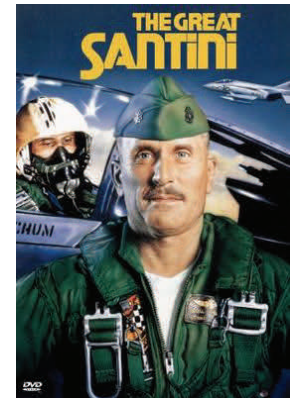
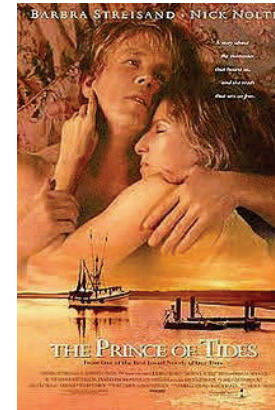
[Conrack](#) (1974) based on the Water is Wide
Starring Jon Voight and Antonio Fargas.
Nominated for Best Drama Adapted from
another medium by the WGA.

[The Great Santini](#) (1979) Starring Robert Duvall,
Blythe Danner and Michael O'Keefe.
Nominated for two Oscars.

[The Lords of Discipline](#) (1983) Starring David
Keith, Robert Prosky, Bill Paxton.

[The Prince of Tides](#) (1991) Starring Barbara
Streisand and Nick Nolte. The screenplay was
also written by Conroy. Nominated for 7
Oscars.

[The Water is Wide](#) (2006, TV) Starring Jeff
Hephner, Frank Langella, and Alfre Woodard.



Don't miss
the free
screenings of two
of these movies
at the
library!
Sunday, Dec. 7
and
Sunday, Apr. 15
2:30-4:30 pm

The above movies
are available for
checkout at the library!



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Conroy provide's Reader's Guides for most of his books on his [website](#).

Discussion questions for *Beach Music*, *South of Broad*, and *My Reading Life* are also available at [ReadingGroup Guides.com](#) and [Bookbrowse.com](#)

Fun Stuff:

Pat Conroy [trivia](#) and quotes at [Goodreads.com](#).

Conroy's wife, [Cassandra King](#), has written four novels that are available for checkout at the library:

Making Waves *Queen of Broken Hearts*
The Sunday Wife *The Same Sweet Girls*

Don't miss "[My Reading Life](#)" on Nov. 20 from 3-4 at the library! A local Celebrity panel will discuss how particular books or authors have influenced their lives.

"I became a novelist because of *Gone With the Wind*, or more precisely... a Southern novelist" - Pat Conroy, *My Reading Life*

