

## STILL KICKING: LITERATURE OF THE FEISTY ELDERLY

This lively discussion course will consider five books by, for and about gutsy seniors: Margaret Atwood's short stories *The Stone Mattress*, Sigrid Nunez's novel *What Are You Going Through*, Lionel Shriver's *Shall We Stay or Shall We Go*, Roz Chast's graphic novel *Can't We Talk of Something More Pleasant*, and James McBride's magical-realism mystery, *Deacon King Kong*—as well as selected poems, comics and cartoons. A course for those who want a book club on steroids.

The five textbooks are available as new and used paperbacks as well as on Kindle through <http://www.amazon.com> and elsewhere. In the past students have found books much easier than Kindles to access for class discussion. A detailed syllabus as well as additional stories, poems, essays and discussion suggestions will be provided both in a Xeroxed package and emailed to students as a Word document file.

### Tentative Syllabus

Date	Assignment for Class	Theme/Topic/Chuckle
Class 1	Introduction to Course, and Discussion of <i>Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?</i> by Roz Chast	First the Parents Die
Class 2	Discussion of <i>Shall We Stay or Shall We Go</i> , Lionel Shriver, 1-164	We're Next—Six Choices
Class 3	Discussion of <i>Shall We Stay or Shall We Go</i> , Lionel Shriver, 165-266	And Six More Choices
Class 4	Discussion of <i>What Are You Going Through?</i> Sigrid Nunez	Helping a Friend Kick the Bucket
Class 5	Discussion of <i>Stone Mattress</i> , Margaret Atwood, 1-116	Old Enmities Die Hard
Class 6	Discussion of <i>Stone Mattress</i> , Margaret Atwood, 155-286	Those We'd Be Happy Seeing Dead
Class 7	Discussion of <i>Deacon King Kong</i> , James McBride, pp. 1-195	So We Have a Life Sentence?
Class 8	Discussion of <i>Deacon King Kong</i> , James McBride, pp. 196-370	Let's Laugh, Live, Love.

**LEADER:** At 79, Lois Marie Harrod considers herself a gutsy geriatric. She's spent her life teaching, reading, and writing. Her 18<sup>th</sup> book of poetry *Spat* was published in June 2021. See [www.loismarieharrod.org](http://www.loismarieharrod.org).

**LOCATION:** Zoom

**WEDNESDAYS:** 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., 8 weeks beginning March 2 through April 20

**MAXIMUM:** 18