This witty and entertaining book illustrates the serendipitous and circular nature of life. Burke provides fifty mini-chapters, each following a chain of interconnected historical events that take us through time and space, only to bring us back to where we began. The book is difficult to describe, but is a delightful read and leaves the reader awe-struck at the meaningful connections in life.

The Caines bring together new information about how the brain functions and education reform. First developed for members of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the book provides useful, practical advice on teaching and learning to make schools more efficient and productive. The “factory method”, used in our public schools today, is not compatible with our new knowledge about how the human brain learns. This would be a valuable read for any pre-service or practicing teacher.

Fritjov Capra has been recognized as an eloquent spokesperson for modern scientific, social, and philosophical thought. In this book, he records the thoughts, dreams, and wonderings of many of the men and women who changed the way we think about our world during the twentieth century. Capra weaves a fascinating tapestry depicting the “oneness” of all things.

Ficino was the leader of the Platonic Academy in Florence during the fifteenth century. This book contains letters between Ficino and some of the most famous and infamous figures in European history. Mixing philosophy, humor, and advice, it is an interesting (although slow) read, and a guide for spiritual seekers.
This book provides a true introduction to Christian Humanism, as explained by St. Thomas Aquinas. The spiritual seeker will find much to wonder about in this synthesis of faith and reason, moral and political science, and Hellenism and Christianity. Few spiritual writers have been so open to the influence of so many differing traditions, and so able to join them into a meaningful doctrine.

John Goodlad has brought out a new and updated version of this classic commentary on public education to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Phi Delta Kappa. In this new edition, he addresses the social and educational goals of education, the corruption of the educational process in our schools, accountability and improvement among teachers, and the problem of leadership in improving our schools. It is informative and thought-provoking for everyone, but especially useful for pre-service teachers.

This book of daily meditations was written, largely, in the years preceding World War II and during the War. It addresses man’s ability to sustain faith in the midst of trying, frightening times. Although the meditations were written 60 years ago, they are still useful in coping with today’s daily news and helping one find a sturdy foundation of faith.

Recent scientific research into the functioning of the human brain has revealed that 50% or fewer adults develop the capability to employ critical thought. For educators, this fact becomes immensely important. Education runs the risk of becoming indoctrination. Creativity dwindles, as we’ve already discovered among the eight-year olds studied at MIT. This book gives the reader helpful hints, techniques, and strategies for use in helping our students develop the ability to think critically and creatively.

While Whitehead’s work, once considered classic, has fallen from University syllabi in recent years, this treatise on the ultimate purposes of education is worth every pre-service teacher’s time. Today’s new teachers should know what education was supposed to be, and how it has changed over the years. Thomas Jefferson and Whitehead should be on the reading list of every Foundations of Education course.