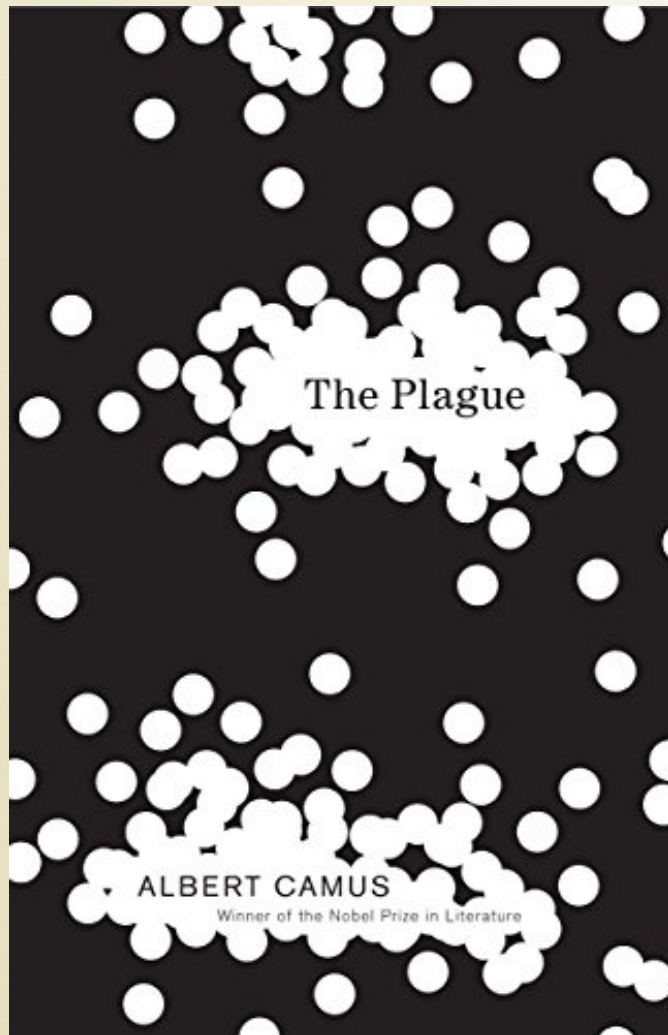


WHAT WE ARE READING



Author: Albert Camus

The Plague (1947)

“Its relevance lashes you across the face.” —Stephen Metcalf, *The Los Angeles Times* • “

A redemptive book, one that wills the reader to believe, even in a time of despair.” —Roger Lowenstein, *The Washington Post*

A haunting tale of human resilience and hope in the face of unrelieved horror, Albert Camus' iconic novel about an epidemic ravaging the people of a North African coastal town is a classic of twentieth-century literature.

The townspeople of Oran are in the grip of a deadly plague, which condemns its victims to a swift and horrifying death. Fear, isolation and claustrophobia follow as they are forced into quarantine. Each person responds in their own way to the lethal disease: some resign themselves to fate, some seek blame, and a few, like Dr. Rieux, resist the terror.

An immediate triumph when it was published in 1947, *The Plague* is in part an allegory of France's suffering under the Nazi occupation, and a timeless story of bravery and determination against the precariousness of human existence.