



Literary ELEMENTS



Adult Summer Reading Club – Top Rated Books

Fiction

- Above the East China Sea*** by Sarah Bird – On Okinawa the lives of a military brat and a girl who died in WWII are intertwined.
- All Day and a Night*** by Alafair Burke – A recent murder forces a NYPD Detective to revisit the guilt of a convicted serial killer.
- All Fall Down*** by Jennifer Weiner– A woman uses pills to deal with recurrent pain and the increasing challenges in her life.
- The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion*** by Fannie Flagg- Story of five women who worked in a gas station during WWII.
- All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr – A blind French girl and a German boy try to survive WWII in occupied France.
- Another Piece of My Heart*** by Jane Green – A teenager attempts to drive a wedge between her stepmother and father.
- The Arsonist*** by Sue Miller – A series of summer house fires exposes the deep social faults in a small New Hampshire town.
- The Art of Hearing Heartbeats*** by Jan-Phillip Sendker – A daughter travels to Burma to find her missing father.
- The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak - Death relates the story of a girl living in Nazi Germany who steals books.
- Boy Still Missing*** by John Searles – A teen falls in love with his father's mistress and their affair leads to an accidental death.
- The Boy Who Could See Demons*** by Carolyn Jess-Cooke – A psychologist tries to help a boy who says he has a demon friend.
- Calling Me Home*** by Julie Kibler – Story of an interracial romance in 1930's Kentucky and its tragic consequences.
- China Dolls*** by Lisa See – Three women navigate the "Chop Suey Circuit"--America's all-Asian revues of the 1930s and '40s.
- Claude and Camille*** by Stephanie Cowell – A fictional account of the life of Claude Monet and the woman who was his muse.
- A Circle of Wives*** by Alice LaPlante– A detective investigates the murder of a doctor who turns out to have been a polygamist.
- Concealed in Death*** by J. D. Robb - When twelve bodies are found, a NYPD Lieutenant tracks down the victim's stories.
- Cut and Thrust*** by Stuart Woods- A New York attorney goes to L.A. for the Democratic National Convention and faces peril.
- Dear Mr. Knightley*** by Katherine Reay – An anonymous benefactor puts a girl through college as long as she writes to him.
- The Dinner*** by Herman Koch – Two couples meet in an Amsterdam restaurant to discuss a difficult decision about their sons.
- Doctor Sleep*** by Stephen King– In this sequel to *The Shining*, a grown-up Danny struggles with his psychic powers.
- Elizabeth is Missing*** by Emma Healy– An elderly woman with dementia is convinced her best friend is missing.
- A Family Affair*** by Fern Michaels – A young dancer finds an unexpected partner and finally is able to live according to her heart.
- The Fault in Our Stars*** by John Green – The life of a 16 year-old is changed when she meets a boy in a cancer support group.
- The First Phone Call From Heaven*** by Mitch Albom- A man investigates when people start receiving phone calls from the dead.
- Four Friends*** by Robyn Carr – Four women living the San Francisco suburbs support each other through tragedies and triumphs.

The Giver by Lois Lowry – A teenager discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

The Gods of Guilt by Michael Connelly– A defense attorney investigates after a past client, a former prostitute, turns up dead.

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt - A young boy becomes obsessed with a small painting after his mother is killed.

The Good Sister by Wendy Corsi Staub – A girl who is being bullied confides in a mysterious online friend with deadly results.

Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn – The story behind a wife’s disappearance may be much stranger than anyone suspects.

Gun Games by Faye Kellerman – A detective and his wife investigate a teenager’s suicide witnessed by a former friend’s son.

Heart Like Mine by Amy Hatvany– When a woman dies unexpectedly she leaves behind two children and a secret.

The Husband’s Secret by Liane Moriarty - A woman opens a hidden letter from her husband and finds a life changing secret.

I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes- A retired secret agent is called to investigate a murder which leads to an international manhunt.

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd – Tells of the unlikely friendship between a slave and a plantation owner’s daughter.

Joshua: a Brooklyn Tale by Andrew Kane – Explores the entanglements of three lives against a backdrop of racial tensions.

Keep Quiet by Lisa Scottoline - A father and son find their lives in turmoil in the aftermath of a deadly hit and run.

The Lie by Hesh Kestin- A human-rights lawyer is tapped by the Israeli police to serve as an arbiter of interrogation methods.

Life After Life by Kate Atkinson – A woman who dies and is reborn again and again tries to change history.

The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman- When a childless couple finds a baby their decisions have repercussions.

Margot by Jillian Cantor - A reimagining of the life of Anne Frank’s sister whose life is altered when Anne becomes famous.

The Martian by Andy Weir- Stranded alone on Mars by a dust storm an astronaut struggles to survive.

Mary Coin by Marisa Silver– Imagines the lives of both the photographer and the subject of an iconic Depression-era photograph.

The Matchmaker by Elin Hilderbrand -Chronicles what happens after a woman's true love returns to her 27 year after they parted.

Me Before You by JoJo Moyes – A bond forms between a quadriplegic man and the young woman hired to care for him.

The Midwife of Venice by Roberta Rich – A Jewish midwife must decide if she will break the law by delivering a countess' baby.

Missing You by Harlan Coben- Deadly events occur when a NYPD detective contacts an ex-boyfriend on an online dating site.

Murder as a Fine Art by David Morrell - Author De Quincey is the major suspect in a series of ferocious mass murders.

Murder in Murray Hill by Victoria Thompson – In 19th century New York a detective and a midwife try to find a missing woman.

The Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman - A girl grows up in her father's Coney Island museum of curiosities.

Natchez Burning by Greg Iles - The Mayor of Natchez investigates when his much respected father is accused of murder.

The Obituary Writer by Ann Hood – The lives of a 1960’s wife and an independent woman in the early-20th-century are linked.

Once We Were Brothers by Ronald Balson - A wealthy Chicago philanthropist is accused of being an SS officer.

One Plus One by JoJo Moyes – A single mom finds an unexpected help in the form of an obnoxious tech millionaire.

The Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline – A foster child helping an elderly woman discovers they have much in common.

The Other Story by Tatiana de Rosnay– A successful writer is forced to reexamine his family's disturbing past.

The Paris Architect by Charles Belfoure – An architect in Paris is paid handsomely to devise secret hiding spaces for Jews.

The Pearl That Broke Its Shell by Nadia Hashimi– Two Afghan girls, separated by a century, disguise themselves as boys.

Perfect by Rachel Joyce- An 11-year-old boy makes an error that brings tragedy to several lives, including his own.

A Perfect Life by Danielle Steel – A mother and daughter confront challenges, cope with celebrity and work through tragedy.

The Red Thread by Ann Hood – A woman who lost her daughter runs an adoption agency that places Chinese girls in America.

Remember Me by Mary Higgins Clark – A mysterious presence seems to haunt a mother and baby in their Cape Cod mansion.

River Road by Jayne Ann Krentz - A forensic genealogist makes shocking discoveries about her aunt's death.

The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion - A professor of genetics sets up a project designed to find him the perfect wife.

The Round House by Louise Erdrich –A teenager sets out to find the person responsible after his mother is attacked.

The Secrets of Mary Bowser by Lois Leveen - A freed slave returns to Virginia to spy on the Confederates.

The Silver Star by Jeannette Walls - Two sisters are sent to live with their widowed uncle and learn the truth about their parents.

A Simple Murder by Eleanor Kuhns – A former soldier-turned-traveling weaver tries to solve a murder in a Shaker community.

The Sisters Weiss by Naomi Ragen – A teenager from an ultra-Orthodox Jewish family contacts her estranged aunt.

Skin Game by Jim Butcher– Chicago wizard Harry Dresden must help a hated enemy rob the Lord of the Underworld.

Sweetwater Creek by Anne River Siddons - A girl finds her world changing after the arrival of a rebellious debutante.

Sycamore Row by John Grisham –Controversy arises when a wealthy man kills himself and leaves his fortune to his black maid.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin - An unexpected event changes the life of a curmudgeonly bookstore owner.

The Supreme Macaroni Company by Adriana Trigiani – An Italian-American shoemaker tries to balance work, family and love.

That Night by Chevy Stevens – A woman and her boyfriend, wrongfully convicted of murdering her sister, try to clear their names.

Thinking of You by Jill Mansell - A woman tries to deal with her empty nest syndrome, a new job and a pathological roommate.

Those Who Saved Us by Jenna Blum - A history professor learns the truth about her mother's choices in Nazi Germany.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee – A girl is changed when her father defends a black man accused of raping a white woman.

Top Secret Twenty One by Janet Evanovich - Bounty hunter Stephanie Plum becomes immersed in an ultra-secret case.

True Love by Jude Deveraux –A woman gets drawn into the unsolved disappearance of an ancestor when she inherits a house.

The Twentieth Wife by Indu Sundaresan - In the 16th century, a young woman becomes one of India's legendary heroines.

Under the Wide and Starry Sky by Nancy Horan - Follows the relationship of Robert Louis Stevenson and his American wife.

Unlucky 13 by James Patterson – A photo of a killer from her past shatters the happy world of a detective who is new mother.

The Visionist by Rachel Urquhart - After killing her abusive father in fire a girl and her brother seek refuge with the Shakers.

Waking the Dead by Heather Graham- A painting with a deadly past may be linked to a series of murders in New Orleans.

Walking on Water by Richard Paul Evans - A man learns important lessons as he comes to the end of his cross-country walk.

A Well-Tempered Heart by Jan-Philipp Sendker - An attorney makes a 2nd trip to her ancestral homeland in search of guidance.

When We Were Strangers by Pamela Schoenewaldt - A seamstress emigrates from Italy to America in the 19th century.

Where'd You Go Bernadette by Maria Semple- A teenager tries to find her troubled and quirky mother when she goes missing.

Whistling Past the Graveyard by Susan Crandall - A white child becomes an unlikely companion to an African-American woman.

A White Wind Blew by James Markert - Music comes to a tuberculosis hospital in the prohibition-era American South.

The Wild Zone by Joy Fielding - In a South Beach bar, three men make a bet that has unintended and deadly consequences.

The Witness by Nora Roberts – A young woman tries to atone for a tragic act she witnessed long ago.

Written in My Own Hearts Blood by Diana Gabaldon- After being presumed dead Jaimie returns to find things have changed.

The Woman Upstairs by Claire Messud - A bitter schoolteacher's life is upended when she befriends the family of a new student.

Nonfiction

50 Children by Steven Pressman – The story of fifty Jewish children who were brought from Nazi-occupied Austria to America.

American on Purpose by Craig Ferguson - The host of "The Late, Late Show" traces his journey from Glasgow to Hollywood.

The Death of Santini by Pat Conroy - The author tells of efforts to reconcile with his harsh father who inspired *The Great Santini*.

The Fortune Teller's Kiss by Brenda Serotte – A poet who had polio tells of her childhood as a Sephardic Jew in New York.

Finding Me by Michelle Knight & Michelle Buford- One of the victims of Ariel Castro tells of her abduction and time in captivity.

A House in the Sky by Amanda Lindhout– Account of the author's 459-days held hostage at the hands of Somali Islamist rebels.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou – The famed author and poet recalls her difficult childhood.

The Innocent Man by John Grisham – True story of a mentally ill man who was wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death.

The Manor by Mac Griswold - History of a Long Island plantation that reveals the little-known story of Northern slavery.

Newtown by Matthew Lysiak – A journalist chronicles the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Sous Chef by Michal Gibney– Tells what twenty-four hours in an upscale New York restaurant kitchen is like.

Steinbrenner by Bill Madden – A biography of the irascible owner of the Yankees written by a New York Daily News columnist.

The World According to Bob by James Bowen – A tale of the relationship between a homeless man and his cat.