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 a 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.