

AUTHOR

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

125 BOOKS
WE LOVE

#LOVEREADING



There's no greater feeling than falling deeply in love... with a book!

The power of reading has been at the heart of The New York Public Library since our founding. So, for our 125th anniversary, our expert librarians crafted this list of 125 titles—published in the last 125 years and crossing an array of genres and formats—that inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Dive into this list of books we love and discover the magic of a great story.

Learn more: nypl.org/125

#LOVEREADING

LITERARY FICTION

- The Adventures of Augie March**
Saul Bellow, 1953
- The Bonfire of the Vanities**
Tom Wolfe, 1987
- Brooklyn**
Colm Tóibín, 2009
- Cloud Atlas**
David Mitchell, 2004
- The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter**
Carson McCullers, 1940
- Housekeeping**
Marilynne Robinson, 1980
- The House of Mirth**
Edith Wharton, 1905
- Life After Life**
Kate Atkinson, 2013
- Lolita**
Vladimir Nabokov, 1955
- Money: A Suicide Note**
Martin Amis, 1984
- Motherless Brooklyn**
Jonathan Lethem, 1999
- On the Road**
Jack Kerouac, 1957
- Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit**
Jeanette Winterson, 1985
- Portnoy's Complaint**
Philip Roth, 1969
- The Round House**
Louise Erdrich, 2012
- The Shipping News**
Annie Proulx, 1993
- Stone Butch Blues**
Leslie Feinberg, 1993
- The Virgin Suicides**
Jeffrey Eugenides, 1993
- A Visit from the Goon Squad**
Jennifer Egan, 2010
- White Noise**
Don DeLillo, 1985

125
YEARS

"ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE IS THE SUPERB, THE SUPREME ACT OF TRULY GREAT CIVILIZATIONS. OF ALL THE INSTITUTIONS THAT PURPORT TO DO THIS, FREE LIBRARIES STAND VIRTUALLY ALONE IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS MISSION."

—Toni Morrison

HISTORICAL FICTION

- The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay**
Michael Chabon, 2000
- Atonement**
Ian McEwan, 2001
- Beloved**
Toni Morrison, 1987
- The English Patient**
Michael Ondaatje, 1992
- Julian**
Gore Vidal, 1964
- The Quiet American**
Graham Greene, 1955
- Rules of Civility**
Amor Towles, 2011
- Train Dreams**
Denis Johnson, 2011
- The Underground Railroad**
Colson Whitehead, 2016
- Wolf Hall**
Hilary Mantel, 2009

"LIBRARIES RAISED ME... I COULDN'T GO TO COLLEGE, SO I WENT TO THE LIBRARY THREE DAYS A WEEK FOR 10 YEARS."

—Ray Bradbury

SUSPENSE

- Along Came a Spider**
James Patterson, 1993
- And Then There Were None**
Agatha Christie, 1939
- The Big Sleep**
Raymond Chandler, 1939
- Devil in a Blue Dress**
Walter Mosley, 1990
- The Hound of the Baskervilles**
Arthur Conan Doyle, 1902
- Rebecca**
Daphne du Maurier, 1938
- The Talented Mr. Ripley**
Patricia Highsmith, 1955

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic**
Alison Bechdel, 2006
- Maus: A Survivor's Tale**
Art Spiegelman, 1986
- Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood**
Marjane Satrapi, 2003
- Watchmen**
Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, 1987

#LOVEREADING

AROUND THE WORLD

- Giovanni's Room**
James Baldwin, 1956
- The God of Small Things**
Arundhati Roy, 1997
- A House for Mr. Biswas**
V.S. Naipaul, 1961
- The Kite Runner**
Khaled Hosseini, 2003
- Midnight's Children**
Salman Rushdie, 1981
- Mrs. Dalloway**
Virginia Woolf, 1925
- My Brilliant Friend**
Elena Ferrante, 2012
- One Hundred Years of Solitude**
Gabriel García Márquez, 1970
- The Orphan Master's Son**
Adam Johnson, 2012
- Out Stealing Horses**
Per Petterson, 2005
- The Remains of the Day**
Kazuo Ishiguro, 1989
- The Stranger**
Albert Camus, 1946
- Things Fall Apart**
Chinua Achebe, 1958
- The Unbearable Lightness of Being**
Milan Kundera, 1984
- White Teeth**
Zadie Smith, 2000
- The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle**
Haruki Murakami, 1997
- A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Stories**
Flannery O'Connor, 1955
- Interpreter of Maladies**
Jhumpa Lahiri, 1999
- Olive Kitteridge**
Elizabeth Strout, 2008
- Runaway**
Alice Munro, 2004
- The Stories of John Cheever**
John Cheever, 1978
- Tenth of December**
George Saunders, 2013
- What We Talk About When We Talk About Love**
Raymond Carver, 1981

SHORT STORIES

"THE LIBRARY HELPS YOU TO SEE, NOT ONLY THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE, BUT THAT YOU'RE NOT REALLY ANY DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE."

—Maya Angelou

ABOUT THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Since our founding in 1895, The New York Public Library has been dedicated to the mission of providing free and open access to knowledge and opportunity for all.

With 92 locations, the Library is the nation's largest public library system. Our 125th anniversary in 2020 is a moment to celebrate the enduring power of libraries and reaffirm our values of trust, respect, and free access to information.

Learn more: nypl.org/125

