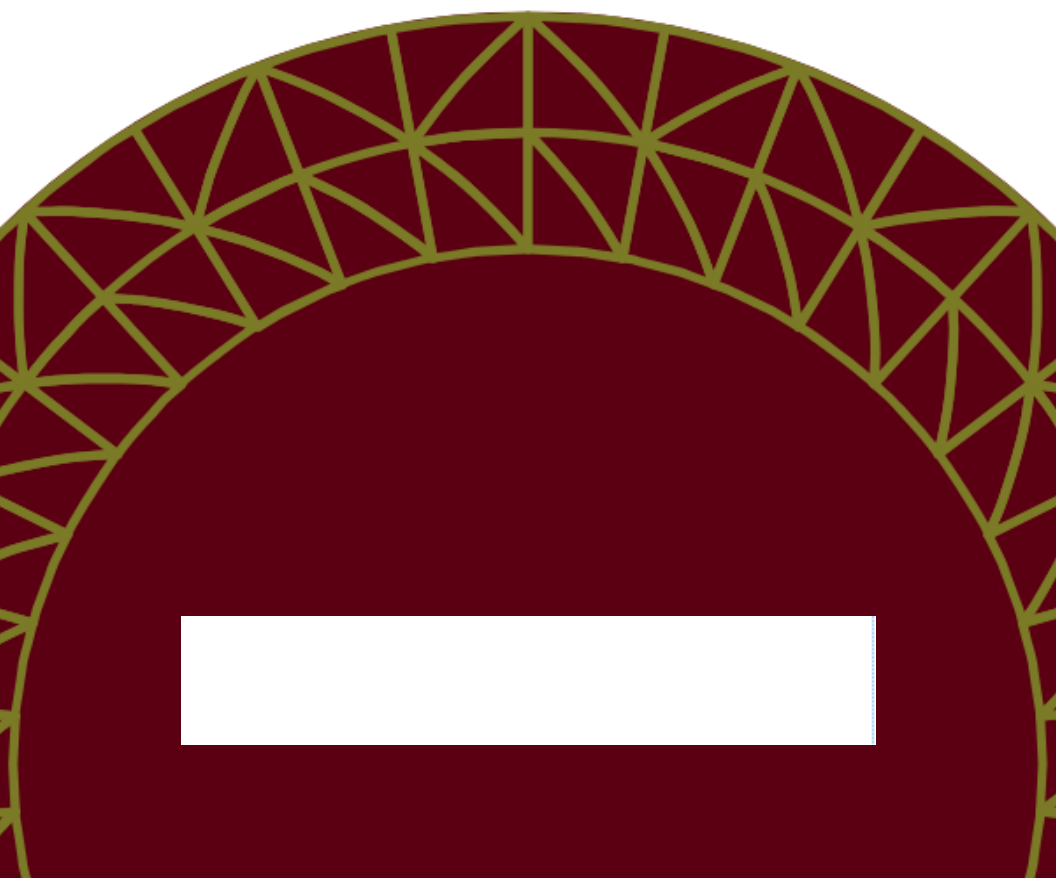


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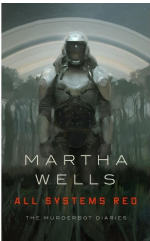


Sci-Fi/Fantasy

Science fiction is a broad genre of fiction that often involves speculations based on current or future science or technology. Within the context of the story, its imaginary elements are largely possible within scientifically established or scientifically postulated laws of nature (though some elements in a story might still be pure imaginative speculation). Exploring the consequences of such differences is the traditional purpose of science fiction, making it a "literature of ideas".

Fantasy uses magic and other supernatural forms as a primary element of plot, theme, and/or setting. Fantasy is generally distinguished from science fiction by the expectation that it steers clear of technological themes, though there is a great deal of overlap between the two. (Goodreads)

All Systems Red by Martha Wells



Pace: Brisk

Characterization: Flawed, Likeable, Snarky

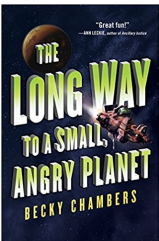
Storyline: Action-packed

Frame/Tone: Suspenseful

Style: Candid

Notes:

The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet by Becky Chambers



Pace: Relaxed, Serial

Characterization: Likeable, Familiar

Storyline: Character-driven

Frame/Tone: Heartwarming

Style: Engaging

Notes:

***Chimes at Midnight* by Seanan McGuire**



Pace: Swift

Characterization: Flawed, Strong-female

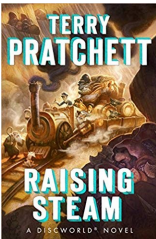
Storyline: Intricately Plotted, World-building

Frame/Tone: Atmospheric, Darkly Humorous, Suspenseful

Style: Gritty

Notes:

***Raising Steam* by Terry Pratchett**



Pace: Engrossing, Serial

Characterization: Vivid, Quirky, Recognizable

Storyline: Plot Driven, World-building

Frame and Tone: Humorous, Philosophical

Style: Tongue-in-Cheek

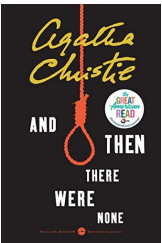
Notes:

Genre Notes

Mystery

Mystery fiction is a loosely-defined term that is often used as a synonym of detective fiction — in other words a novel or short story in which a detective (either professional or amateur) solves a crime. The term "mystery fiction" may sometimes be limited to the subset of detective stories in which the emphasis is on the puzzle element and its logical solution (cf. whodunit), as a contrast to hardboiled detective stories which focus on action and gritty realism. However, in more general usage "mystery" may be used to describe any form of crime fiction, even if there is no mystery to be solved. For example, the Mystery Writers of America describes itself as "the premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime writing field, aspiring crime writers, and those who are devoted to the genre". (*Goodreads*)

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie



Pace: Fast-paced, classical

Characterization: Multiple Perspectives

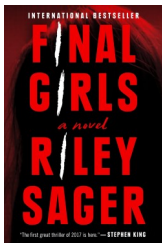
Storyline: Intricately Plotted, Multiple Plots

Frame and Tone: Haunting, Menacing, Suspenseful

Style: Attention Grabbing

Notes:

Final Girls by Riley Sager



Pace: Fast-paced, Intriguing

Characterization: Tough, Multiple Perspectives

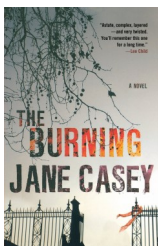
Storyline: Intricately Plotted, Non-Linear

Frame and Tone: Psychological, Suspenseful

Style: Gritty, Ominous

Notes:

The Burning by Jane Casey



Pace: Page-turning

Characterization: Multiple Perspectives, First in Series

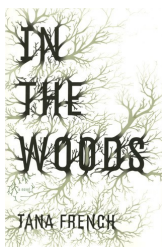
Storyline: Plot-driven, Twisty

Frame and Tone: Suspenseful, Tense

Style: Gritty, Richly Detailed

Notes:

In the Woods by Tana French



Pace: Intensifying

Characterization: Complex, Introspective

Storyline: Character-driven, Twisty

Frame and Tone: Disturbing, Moody, Lyrical

Style: Richly Detailed, Dark

Notes:

Genre Notes

Graphic Novel

A graphic novel is a narrative work in which the story is conveyed to the reader using sequential art in either an experimental design or in a traditional comics format. The term is employed in a broad manner, encompassing non-fiction works and thematically linked short stories as well as fictional stories across a number of genres. (Goodreads)

Graphic novels can be fiction or non-fiction, and are written for all ages and a wide variety of audiences. They are often suggested as confidence-builders for readers with low literacy, since the action-oriented plots are easier to follow, and written narrative is reinforced with image sequences. That said, the graphic novel is not remedial or simplistic, but rather literary and visual art in its own right.

Jane by Aline Brosh McKenna and Ramón K. Perez



Pace: Fast-paced

Characterization: Sympathetic, Mysterious

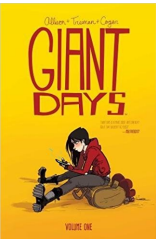
Storyline: Action-oriented

Frame and Tone: High-drama, Charming, Gothic

Style: Engaging

Notes:

Giant Days 1 by John Allison and Lissa Treiman



Pace: Relaxed

Characterization: Sassy

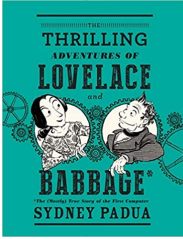
Storyline: Episodic, Domestic

Frame and Tone: Contemporary. Lavish, Upbeat

Style: Dialect-filled, Witty

Notes:

***The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage* by Sydney Padua**



Pace: Episodic

Characterization: Quirky, Recognizable

Storyline: Unconventional

Frame and Tone: Whimsical

Style: Witty, Self-Aware

Notes:

***A Bride's Story* by Kaoru Mori**



Pace: Leisurely

Characterization: Historical, Realistic

Storyline: Thought-provoking, Sweet

Frame and Tone: Historical Detail, Lush

Style: Graceful

Notes:

Genre Notes

Historical Fiction

Historical fiction presents a story set in the past, often during a significant time period. In historical fiction, the time period is an important part of the setting and often of the story itself. Historical fiction may include fictional characters, well-known historical figures or a mixture of the two. Authors of historical fiction usually pay close attention to the details of their stories (settings, clothing, dialogue, etc.) to ensure that they fit the time periods in which the narratives take place.

In some historical fiction, famous events appear from points of view not recorded in history, showing historical figures dealing with actual events while depicting them in a way that is not recorded in history. Other times, the historical event or time period complements a story's narrative, forming a framework and background for the characters' lives. Sometimes, historical fiction can be for the most part true, but the names of people and places have been in some way altered. (Goodreads)

***Flight of the Sparrow* by Amy Belding Brown**



Pace: Emotionally Gripping

Characterization: Determined, Transformative, Brave

Storyline: Character-driven,

Frame and Tone: Historically Detailed, Mesmerizing

Style: Descriptive, Richly Detailed

Notes:

***Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah**



Pace: Engrossing, Intensifying

Characterization: Strong-willed, Well-Developed

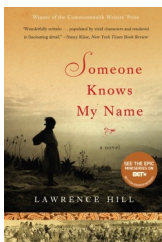
Storyline: Character-driven

Frame and Tone: Dramatic, Moving

Style: Compelling

Notes:

Someone Knows My Name by Lawrence Hill



Pace: Densely Written, Measured

Characterization: Diverse, Strong Female, Own Voices

Storyline: Character-driven

Frame and Tone: Moving, Historically Detailed

Style: Compelling

Notes:

Burial Rites by Hannah Kent



Pace: Riveting

Characterization: Intriguing, Secretive, Fierce

Storyline: Character-driven

Frame and Tone: Dramatic, Moving, Reflective

Style: Elegant, Poetic, Spare

Notes:

Genre Notes

A Vocabulary of Appeal

PACING

breakneck, compelling, deliberate, densely written, easy, engrossing, fast paced, leisurely paced, measured, relaxed, stately, unhurried

CHARACTERIZATION

detailed, distant, dramatic, eccentric, evocative, faithful, familiar, intriguing secondary (characters), introspective, lifelike, multiple points of view, quirky, realistic, recognizable, series (characters), vivid, well developed, well drawn

STYLE

austere, candid, classic, colorful, complex, concise, conversational, direct, dramatic, elaborate, elegant, extravagant, flamboyant, frank, graceful, homespun, jargon, metaphorical, natural, ornate, poetic, polished, prosaic, restrained, seemly, showy, simple, sophisticated, stark, thoughtful, unaffected, unembellished, unpretentious, unusual

FRAME AND TONE

bittersweet, bleak, contemporary, darker (tone), detailed setting, details of [insert an area of specialized knowledge or skill], edgy, evocative, exotic, foreboding, gritty, hard edged, heartwarming, historical details, humorous, lush, magical, melodramatic, menacing, mystical, nightmare (tone), nostalgic, philosophical, political, psychological, romantic, rural, sensual, small town, stark, suspenseful, timeless, upbeat, urban

STORY LINE

action oriented, character centered, complex, domestic, episodic, explicit violence, family centered, folksy, gentle, inspirational, issue oriented, layered, literary references, multiple plotlines, mystical, mythic, open-ended, plot centered, plot twists, racy, resolved ending, rich and famous, romp, sexually explicit, steamy, strong language, thought-provoking, tragic

BookRiot's Tips for Getting the Best Book Recommendations from Your Library

by Kristen Kwisnek

COME READY TO SHARE THE TITLES OF A FEW BOOKS YOU'VE LOVED

Genres you gravitate towards, authors whose work you consistently enjoy, or movies and TV shows you like watching would also be great to have in mind. Knowing this information will give your librarian a good place to start for suggesting read-alikes.

HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU IN A BOOK

Is it the storyline? Characters? Writing style? Setting? Pacing? Think about the books you call favorites. Was it the action-packed plot that grabbed your attention? Was it the growth of the characters that spoke to you? Was it the beautiful language that made reading the book a joy? Figuring out the appeal certain books had for you can be incredibly helpful in narrowing down the kind of book you'd enjoy next.

DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF "READING MOOD" YOU'RE IN

If you've been down in the dumps, you may want a light and amusing book to lift your spirits. Then again, you may find value in identifying with a character up against some challenges and a dramatic or emotionally intense title might fit your need better. Do you want brain candy? To learn something? To escape? There is bound to be a book that will fit your mood, so pinpointing how you want your reading experience to feel will help your librarian out a lot.

SHARE YOUR FORMAT PREFERENCES

Knowing your format preference will ensure that time isn't wasted searching for titles that aren't available in your favorite format. If you're an ebooks-only kind of reader, it would be a bummer to get a recommendation for a book that's only available in print.

IDENTIFY TRIGGERS OR THINGS THAT YOU KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO READ ABOUT

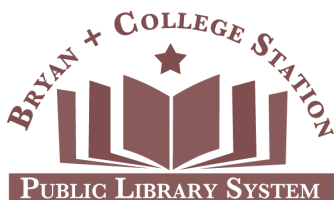
The last thing a good librarian would want to do is recommend a book that makes you uncomfortable or reminds you of past trauma. If zombies or violence aren't your thing, make it known.



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