

The Reading Agency August booklist for Adults For the Love of Books

To celebrate Book Lovers' Day on 9 August, we have compiled a list of books all about the joy of reading, bookshops and libraries! The list also includes titles which think are perfect for inspiring a love of reading.

***The Library at Night* by Alberto Manguel (Yale University Press)
ISBN: 9780300151305**

A celebration of reading, of libraries, and of the mysterious human desire to give order to the universe. Manguel, a guide of irrepressible enthusiasm, conducts a unique library tour that extends from his childhood bookshelves to the "complete" libraries of the Internet, from Ancient Egypt and Greece to the Arab world, from China and Rome to Google.

***A Little History of Literature* by John Sutherland (Yale University Press)
ISBN: 9780300205312**

Beloved author, John Sutherland, who has researched, taught, and written on virtually every area of literature, guides both young readers and the adults in their lives on an entertaining journey "through the wardrobe" to show how literature from across the world can transport us and help us to make sense of what it means to be human.

***The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams (HarperFiction)
ISBN: 9780008391324**

When Aleisha discovers a crumpled reading list tucked into a tattered library book, it sparks an extraordinary journey just when Aleisha needs an escape from her troubles at home. And when widower Mukesh arrives at the library, desperate to connect with his bookworm granddaughter, Aleisha introduces him to the magic of the reading list. An anxious teenager and a lonely grandfather forming an unlikely book club of two.

***What to Read Next: How to Make Books Part of Your Life* by Stig Abell (John Murray)
ISBN: 9781529337242**

For a whole year on his train to work, Stig Abell read books from across genres and time periods. Then he wrote about them, and their impact on our culture and his own life.

Frances, Bobbi, Nick and Melissa ask each other endless questions. As their relationships unfold, in person and online, they discuss sex and friendship, art and literature, politics and gender, and, of course, one another.

***Conversations with Friends* by Sally Rooney (Faber & Faber)
ISBN: 9780571333134**

Described by the New York Times as a 'new kind of adultery novel', *Conversations with Friends* is also sharp, biting funny fiction that digs deep into identity and communication; slicing into the divide between who we are, and who we present ourselves to be. Hooking a reader from the first page, this modern love story about growing up and the infinite complexities of intimacy is a masterful debut from a major new talent.

***Widow's Welcome* by D. K. Fields (Head of Zeus)
ISBN: 9781789542509**

Muggings, brawls gone bad, debts collected - Detective Cora Gorderheim has seen it all. Until she finds a Wayward man with his mouth sewn shut. Cora fears this is not only a murder, but a message. As she digs into

the dead man's past, she finds herself drawn into the most dangerous event in the Union: the election. In a world where stories win votes, someone has gone to a lot of trouble to silence this man. Who has stopped his story being told?

***The Bookshop of the Broken Hearted* by Robert Hillman (Faber & Faber)**

ISBN: 9780571349784

Tom Hope has been lonely since his wife Trudy left, taking little Peter with her. Enter Hannah Babel, quixotic smalltown bookseller. When she asks him to move in, and help her build Australia's most beautiful bookshop, Tom dares to believe they could make each other happy. But it is 1968: twenty-four years since Hannah and her own little boy arrived at Auschwitz. Tom Hope is taking on a battle with heartbreak he can barely even begin to imagine.

***Queenie* by Candice Carty-Williams (Orion)**

ISBN: 9781409180074

Queenie Jenkins' life seems to be steadily spiralling out of control in Candice Carty-Williams luminous debut, which is by turns hilariously funny, dramatic and tender, with a heroine to root for.

***The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz (Faber & Faber)**

ISBN: 9780571368099

When a young writer dies before completing his first novel, his teacher, Jake, (himself a failed novelist) helps himself to its plot. The resulting book is a phenomenal success. But what if somebody out there knows? Somebody does. And if Jake can't figure out who he's dealing with, he risks something far worse than the loss of his career.

***Word Perfect* by Susie Dent (John Murray)**

ISBN: 9781529371314

From the real Jack the Lad to the theatrically literal story behind stealing someone's thunder, *Word Perfect* is a brilliant linguistic almanac full of unforgettable stories, fascinating facts, and surprising etymologies tied to every day of the year. You'll never be lost for words again.

***Anita and Me* by Meera Syal (HarperCollins)**

ISBN: 9780006548768

It's 1972. Meena is nine years old and lives in the village of Tollington. As one of the few Punjabi inhabitants of her village, her daily struggle for independence is different from most. But more than anything, she wants to roam the backyards of working-class Tollington with feisty Anita Rutter and her gang. *Anita and Me* paints a comic, poignant, and compassionate vision of a British childhood in the Seventies, a childhood caught between two cultures, each on the brink of change.

***Love in Colour* by Bolu Babalola (Headline)**

ISBN: 9781472268884

The most iconic love stories of myth and folklore from West Africa to Ancient Greece, vibrantly reimagined in bold, striking prose; *Love in Colour* beautifully illustrates the timelessness of classic storytelling.

***The Little Library Cookbook* by Kate Young (Head of Zeus)**

ISBN: 9781784977672

Paddington Bear's marmalade, a Neopolitan pizza with Elena Ferrante, afternoon tea at Manderley... Here are 100 delicious recipes inspired by cookery writer Kate Young's well-stocked bookshelves.

***The Library* by Bella Osborne (Head of Zeus)**

ISBN: 9781801100489

Tom is a teenager and blends into the background of life. After a row with his dad and facing an unhappy future at the dog food factory, he escapes to the library. Maggie is a pensioner and has been happily alone for ten years, at least that's what she tells herself. When Tom comes to her rescue a friendship develops that could change her life. They each set out to prove that the library isn't just about books - it's the heart of their community.

***Mr Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan (Atlantic Books)**

ISBN: 9781782391210

Perfect reading for ardent bibliophiles, Sloan's whimsical novel introduces a very singular bookstore, an outrageous global conspiracy and a very confused nocturnal bookseller.

***Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo (Penguin Books)**

ISBN: 9780241984994

Tracking the lives and loves of a dozen British women through generations and social classes, *Girl, Woman, Other* weaves a distinctive, illuminating tapestry of modern British life.

***Stories to Make you Smile* edited by Fanny Blake (Simon & Schuster)**

ISBN: 9781398505797 (e-book)

A seriously entertaining collection of feelgood stories guaranteed to put the smile back on your face written especially by ten bestselling novelists Jenny Éclair, Mark Watson, Veronica Henry, Eva Verde, Richard Madeley, Katie Fforde, Dorothy Koomson, Vaseem Khan, Helen Lederer and Rachel Hore. *Stories to Make you Smile* is a co-commission between The Reading Agency and Specsavers as part of World Book Night 2021.

***Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid (Bloomsbury)**

ISBN: 9781526612168

Charting the relationship of a black babysitter with her employer from the white liberal elite, Reid's layered and razor-sharp debut holds a mirror up to race, privilege and gender in twenty-first century America.

***The Library Book* by Susan Orlean (Atlantic Books)**

ISBN: 9781782392286

After moving to Los Angeles, Susan Orlean became fascinated by a mysterious local crime that has gone unsolved since it was carried out on the morning of 29 April 1986: who set fire to the Los Angeles Public Library, ultimately destroying more than 400,000 books, and perhaps even more perplexing, why? With her characteristic humour, insight and compassion, Orlean uses this terrible event as a lens through which to tell the story of all libraries - their history, their meaning and their uncertain future as they adapt and redefine themselves in a digital world.