

# 2023 Adult Reading Challenge

[orem.beanstack.org](http://orem.beanstack.org)

Read books and earn prizes! It's simple. Read 15 or more books from 30 different categories throughout the year to win a prize. For ages 18 and up. Learn more and sign up at [orem.beanstack.org](http://orem.beanstack.org).

## *Categories*

### **Recommended by a librarian**

Librarians are, of course, an excellent source for book recommendations! Our reference librarians are always happy to suggest a good read, or try the “recommended by a librarian” list on the library catalog.

### **Set on a continent other than Europe or North America**

Books set in North America and Europe feel comfortable to American readers because these places feel familiar. But there's a wide world of other settings; imagining the differences helps expand your perspective.

### **Previously read at least ten years ago**

Revisiting favorite books is an exercise in discovery: how have the changes you've made in your life changed how you perceive the story?

### **A portal fantasy**

Portal fantasies are books that begin in our everyday world, but then a character finds a way into another world—a door, a bridge, a seemingly-ordinary wardrobe—and adventures ensue.

### **About a war other than World War II**

Historical fiction is awash in books about World War II. Instead, try a book that explores the impacts on individuals and societies of other wars.

### **A banned book**

Censorship forces communities into a less compassionate and narrower view of the world. Banned books often contain difficult topics, but when we try to understand these themes rather than ignoring them we bring light and understanding to the world.

### **Poetry**

Poetry might seem like an intimidating thing to read: all those flowery words about some topic you're supposed to interpret. But really, poems are about getting to some sort of insight with the right words. It takes a bit of practice and the willingness to think “I didn't really understand that poem so I'll turn the page and try the next one.” But give it a try and you, too, can fall in love with poems.

### **Related to your favorite hobby**

Hobbies add vibrance and meaning to our lives—and to our reading lists! Whatever you're interested in, there's bound to be a book, either fiction or informational, about it.

### **With a green cover**

Picking a book based solely on the color of its cover is an exercise in unpredictability. Will you love it or hate it? Only reading will give you the answer.

### **Recommended by a friend or family member**

Get your loved ones involved in your reading adventures!

### **In translation**

Books in translation were originally written in a language other than English. Reading them gives us a peek into different cultures, offering different perspectives on literary themes, new descriptions of settings, and multicultural characters.

### **By a BIPOC author**

BIPOC stands for “Black, indigenous, and people of color.” You can choose fiction or nonfiction for this category.

### **Science fiction *not* set in space**

“Science fiction” is often assumed to be “books in space about aliens.” But really, science fiction is a genre that seeks to answer a “what if” question using some branch of science. None of these books have aliens!

### **Memoir**

Memoir is a subgenre of biography. Memoirs are books that focus on specific aspects, time periods, or experiences of a person, rather than the person's entire life. They are often intimate, emotional, and illuminating reading experiences.

### **A literary award winner from the past two years**

When you read a book specifically because it was nominated for an award (and because it sounds good to you, of course), you engage in a larger social conversation about what we value in our literature.

### **Interesting Nonfiction**

What's a topic you've always wanted to know more about? There's probably a book about it! Whether you're looking for informative or narrative nonfiction, put the subject in the search bar and see what you discover.

### **A fairy tale retelling**

These are books that take the old tales from cultures all over the world and retell them in new ways.

### **From our Staff Favorites newsletter**

Every January we publish a Staff Favorites list of our favorite books published the year before. This list includes both fiction and nonfiction.

### **Appealing cover**

Book covers are like the beginning of a new friendship: they give an immediate impression of what *might* be inside, with subtle clues about genre, topic, setting, and style. Despite the “don't judge a book by its cover” adage, picking up a book just because the cover appeals to you is a great way to pick your next read.

### **On a topic you struggled with in school**

Be it algebra, geography, English, history, even PE, we all had a least-favorite subject when we were in school. Exploring yours as an adult, through fiction or nonfiction and without the pressure of a looming exam, will help you see it from a different perspective.

### **With LGBTQIA+ characters or issues**

Books about identity don't fall within one particular genre—all genres have books exploring these issues. You can read nonfiction or fiction for this category.

### **A graphic novel**

The term “graphic novel” refers to a book that includes both text and images, not the genre it falls into, which means you can find graphic novels on almost any subject you can imagine, from memoir to poetry, fiction to science.

### **A classic romance**

The term “classic” can refer to a book that is well-known, of high literary merit, and part of our cultural conversations. Or it can also mean a book that follows the conventions of the genre. You can choose how to interpret it.

### **A ghost story**

Reading horror stories can actually help us deal with our fears better, as unlike literal fearful experiences we know the outcome of a ghost story won't change our life in drastic ways. The hauntings in ghost stories range from mild and gentle to terrifying and violent.

### **Adapted into a film**

Books are a rich source of inspiration for filmmakers. The contrast between the book and the movie's interpretation is always a great debate topic.

### **By a Utah author**

In both fiction and nonfiction, there are plenty of books being written by authors with connections to Utah. The author doesn't have to live here currently, but just have some tie to our state.

### **The 2023 Orem Reads book**

This title will be announced later this year.

### **A western**

Westerns might be the genre with the most-pronounced characteristics. But contemporary writers are breaking the rules, bringing us tales of the American West with new perspectives and very few stereotypes.

### **A novella**

Novellas are short novels—books that have fewer than 200 pages. They are satisfying reads because the details are succinct and the plots tight, to accommodate for the shorter length.

### **You haven't read by your favorite author**

Have you read *everything* your favorite author has ever written? Maybe there's a lesser-known title, a book in a different genre, or something new coming out soon you could try next.