



Good for Book Groups

Selected Fiction

from

1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die*

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***1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die** is “a bold and bright reference to the novels and the writers that have excited the world's imagination.” Find this fascinating reference book (Dewey Number: 016.813 One) near the first floor Information Desk to see the complete list of 1001 titles.

Located in the Fiction Collection Under the Author's Last Name

The Blind Assassin

Margaret Atwood

A multi-layered story of family secrets, sibling rivalry, political chicanery and social unrest, with a novel-within-a-novel as a background.

City of God

E.L. Doctorow

The theft and mysterious reappearance of a cross from a Manhattan church precipitates a hunt for the culprits that uncovers a strange prophecy about a rebirth of the United States.

Middlesex

Jeffrey Eugenides

A girl's friendship with a classmate and her sense of identity are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite, a situation with roots in her grandparents' desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s. By the author of *The Virgin Suicides*.

The Corrections

Jonathan Franzen

A mother is determined to bring her Midwestern family together for a “perfect” family holiday despite her husband's struggle with Parkinson's disease and dementia, and the difficulties their grown children have in their own lives.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Mark Haddon

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Atonement

Ian McEwan

In 1935 England, a thirteen-year-old girl who witnesses an event involving her sister and a young male friend becomes the victim of her own imagination.

Saturday

Ian McEwan

A successful, happily married neurosurgeon is drawn into a confrontation with a small-time thug following a minor motor vehicle accident.

Life of Pi

Yann Martel

A zookeeper's son sets sail for America. After the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.

Family Matters

Rohinton Mistry

The patriarch of a small discordant family in Bombay lives in a crumbling apartment with his two middle-aged stepchildren, one of whom plots to turn over the round-the-clock care of her stepfather to her sweet-tempered younger sister.

The Plot Against America

Philip Roth

In a novel of alternative history, aviation hero and isolationist Charles A. Lindbergh defeats Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election, negotiating a cordial accord with Adolf Hitler, accepting his conquest of Europe and anti-Semitic policies, and igniting a storm of fear for Jewish families throughout America.

The Double

Jose Saramago

Renting a recommended video to ease his depression, a divorced history teacher is unsettled to see a man in the video who looks exactly the way he looked five years earlier. When he decides to find his double, he learns a difficult lesson about the impact of experience on one's identity.

Unless

Carol Shields

A writer's idyllic life is shattered when her daughter begins to sit on a gritty street corner with a sign reading "GOODNESS" around her neck, and the writer attempts to determine what drove her daughter to her bizarre, new existence.

The Story of Lucy Gault

William Trevor

A young girl's life in 1920s Ireland seems to be falling apart after the threat of arson drives her family from their country home.

Fingersmith

Sarah Waters

Growing up as a foster child among a family of thieves in Victorian London, an orphan plans to play a key role in a swindle scheme devised by their leader, but her growing pity for their helpless victim could destroy the plot.

The Red Queen

Margaret Drabble

Receiving the two-hundred-year-old memoir of a Korean crown princess from an anonymous sender, an Oxford scholar discovers striking similarities to her own life.

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