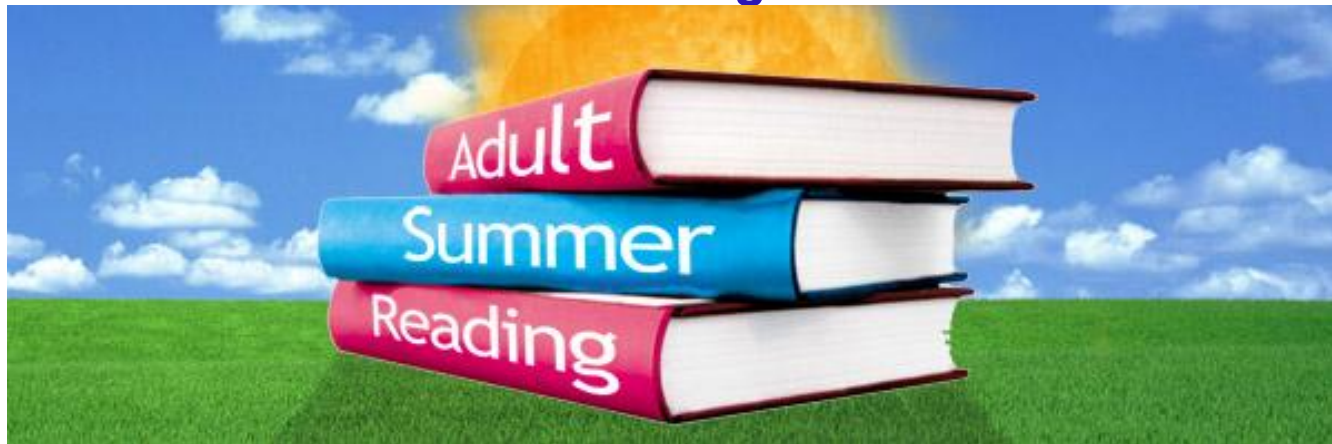


# Woonsocket Harris Public Library READER RECOMMENDATIONS

Great Reading Suggestions from the WHPL  
2015 Adult Summer Reading Book Club Members



We've had an overwhelming response for the Library's Summer Reading Book Club for Adults. Thank you to all of our reader members who have offered their personal review of book recommendations (using a 1-5 star rating, with 5 stars being BEST).

The lively list of patron reviews below is a sampling of titles that are currently available in the Ocean State Libraries system.

## FICTION

***Before I Go to Sleep* by S. J. Watson ★★★★★**

"Wow! What a great book! Totally had me hooked. It kept my interest until the very end...and a very shocking ending. I want to read it again!" – Janet K.

***The Blood Gospel* by James Rollins and Rebecca Cantrell ★★★★★**

"It's like Dan Brown and Anne Rice had a baby and it became an author drawing from the best of both. Quests for ancient artifacts and vampires are all you need to know."- Martin R.

***Cain* by James Byron Huggins ★★★★★**

"I absolutely loved this book. It had me captivated from page one. All of my assumptions were wrong. The author did a fabulous job of hiding truth in plain sight. I truly could not put this book down. And, what an ending! I cannot wait to read more from the author!" – Ryan D.

***Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by Laini Taylor ★★★★★ (Young Adult, Book 1, Daughter of Smoke and Bone trilogy)**

"Karou is a teenage orphan raised by supernatural beings called chimaerae. She believes she is human and that her guardians care for her, but knows nothing else about whom or what she is. When a chain of events cause her to lose the only family she knows, and she loses everything...she just may get the answers she seeks." – Kayla H.

***Fifty Shades of Grey* by E. L. James ★★★★★ (Book 1, Fifty Shades trilogy)**

“*Fifty Shades of Grey* was a pretty good book, in my opinion. The genre is erotic fiction. A college student interviews Christian Grey and soon finds she is falling in love with him. But Christian does not want a typical relationship. He wants her on his own terms.” – Christina C.

***A Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin ★★★★★ (Book 1, A Song of Ice and Fire 5-book series)**

“The author goes from character to character, explaining each role in the kingdom. The book starts off slow, but by the end one can’t wait to read the next book in the series (*A Clash of Kings*).” – Jennifer A.

***Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn ★★★★★**

“*Gone Girl* was a suspenseful and interesting book. Full of some serious plot twists and turns. It literally took me about two days to read this book because it was so intense that I didn’t want to put it down. Amy Dunne is possibly the craziest female character I’ve seen in a novel.” – Bonnie P.

***Grey* by E.L. James ★★★★★**

“I have read the *Fifty Shades* trilogy and was looking forward to this book. This book really gives you an inside look into how messed up Christian Grey was. I felt connected to him when he did his best to hide his feelings.” – Jennifer A.

***House* by Frank Peretti ★★★★★**

“An interesting book, to say the least. It completely messes with the mind all the way, but at the same time is hard to put down. A good book, but not one of the best books I’ve read.” – Ryan D.

***House Rules* by Jodi Picoult ★★★★★**

“A small family of three begins a terrible journey through the court system. A child with Asperger’s syndrome is on trial for a crime that his mother thinks he could not commit. The story is well told and the book is hard to put down.” – Ashley Z.

***If Tomorrow Comes* by Sidney Sheldon ★★★★★**

“This novel depicts the story of an ordinary woman who is wrongfully sentenced to prison, her revenges against those who ruined her life, and her later life as a con artist.” - Anonymous

***Inside the O’Briens* by Lisa Genova ★★★★★**

“This was a good story about a family dealing with Huntington’s Disease. It is a hard disease and it affects everyone in the family. I was disappointed in how the author ended the book...it left me still wondering about one of the characters.” – Janet K.

***The Killer Next Door* by Alex Marwood ★★★★★**

“Love how this book uses chapter by chapter to describe the tenants. It helps you to really know the characters. This book was actually pretty scary, as the author uses great description when speaking about the murderer. My favorite book this summer!” – Bonnie P.

***The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier ★★★★★**

“Honor Bright, a young Quaker, comes to America in 1850 to escape a personal heartache. Soon, she becomes embroiled in more heartache, the horrors of slavery, and the dangers of the Underground Railroad. As a Quaker, Honor is opposed to slavery, but she soon finds that even her fellow Quakers have established measures in which to take to avoid being prosecuted under the Fugitive Slave Act.” – Margaret Mc.

***Leaving Time* by Jodi Picoult ★★★★★**

“This suspenseful novel tells the tale of how Jenna tries to find her mother, Alice, who disappeared mysteriously. Two people who try to help her...Serenity Jones, who is a psychic and Virgil Stanhope, who originally investigated Alice’s case 10 years earlier. Many facts about elephants also make this Picoult novel a must read!” – Margaret R.

***Lethal* by Sandra Brown**

“Brown takes you down South in her rural setting suspense novel. In a rush to find The Bookkeeper, a deep undercover FBI agent takes you through the deep South, where he encounters a widow and a small child, and unravels the mystery of the bookkeeper.” - Ashley Z.

***Mean Streak* by Sandra Brown ★★★★★**

“A very suspenseful, romantic novel, *Mean Streak* has you guessing throughout the book. Written for a mature audience, this book has many twists and turns, like the mountain that it all takes place on.” – Ashley Z.

***Miss Don’t Touch Me* by Hubert ★★★★★.5 (Graphic Novel)**

“Fabulous! A quick romp through a 1930’s mystery. The drawings give you the perfect vintage feel. I would recommend to almost all my graphic novel reading friends. (Does contain some alluded to adult activities, but so worth it!) – Jenni B.

***Ms. Marvel. Vol. 3, Crushed* by G. Willow Wilson et al. ★★★★★ (Young Adult Graphic Novel)**

“Fun! Fun! Fun! I love that so much can be packed into one book! Kamala gracefully handles everything thrown her way (as graceful as a teenager can). The writers really know how to keep the storyline moving while making sure to include new arcs. Can’t wait for the next installment!” – Jenni B.

***The Plot against America* by Philip Roth ★★★★★**

“This is a chilling look at what America might have become if the isolationist movement had been more powerful and Charles Lindberg had been elected President in 1940. The tensions builds quickly as American Jews begin to feel threatened in a country increasingly hostile to them. Once you begin reading, it’s hard to put this book down. Just as you fear the worst will happen at any moment, things return to normal in an implausible ending. Despite the awkward, abrupt ending and this book’s shortcomings as alternate history, it is well worth reading for its gut-churning examination of a fork in the road where America nearly went wrong.” –Ray B.J.

***Princess Decomposia and Count Spatula* by Andi Watson ★★★★★ (Young Adult Graphic Novel)**

“This was a fun little book, not really what I was expecting. I did enjoy the drawings. This graphic novel puts a fun twist on love in the underworld. Fun, light and easy! Good for teens although most place it at high school.” - Jenni B.

***Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard ★★★★★ (Young Adult)**

“In a world where people are separated by the color of their blood-- the Silvers, who have superhuman abilities and rule and the Reds, who are powerless and treated as servants and slaves—one Red girl shocks the country when it is revealed that she has abilities that should be impossible for any Red to possess. Read along as she sparks a rebellion, fights for her life, and struggles with her heart.” – Kayla H.

***The Storyteller* by Jodi Picoult ★★★★★**

“This book is about a young woman trying to escape tragedies from her past, especially her mother’s death. She works nights in a bakery to be by herself. Everything changed when she joins a grief support group and met an elderly gentleman. He eventually confessed what he did in his past and asked her to help him end his life. Through lengthy discussions, she finds out that he had a connection to her grandmother. This is a spine chilling and sad, sad story. An excellent book.” - Anonymous

***The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett ★★★★★**

“Queen Elizabeth happens on a bookmobile parked outside of Buckingham Palace, and feels obliged, out of politeness, to borrow a book. A whole new world opens up to the Queen through literature. She can explore the outside world and connect with the commoners to all of the life experiences her Royal position in life has sheltered her from. Bennett’s droll sense of humor chides various authors as the Queen remarks on their competence. A quick read and delightful novella.” – Margaret Mc.

***Whirlwind* by Nancy Martin ★★★★★**

“It’s about Cliff, a recluse of 10 years, back from Cambodia and war. And it’s about Liza, a whirlwind of a woman, needing quiet at her family’s lodge. Cliff, the caretaker, clearly does not want her there and Liza refuses to leave. It’s about helping each other find themselves. It made me cry at the end.” – Jayne Mc.

***The Wind Dancer* by Iris Johansen ★★★★★**

“The *Wind Dancer*, a statue belonging to one family but stolen by another, takes place in Renaissance Italy. The story is of a slave bought by a man in Florence, a feud between the two families, their battles and tragedies, and the love between the slave and the owner.” – Jayne Mc.

## **NONFICTION**

***A Box of Darkness* by Sally Ryder Brady ★★★★★**

“The story of a marriage not without its troubles and frustrations. It was also filled with love and four great children.” – Judy O.

***Chasing the Rising Sun: The Journey of an American Song* by Ted Anthony ★★★★★**

“Excellent story of American musical journey through one song, House of the Rising Sun. It discovers how American traditions and culture move through the modern world, propelled by technology, globalization and recorded sound.” – Judy O.

***The Invisible Garden* by Dorothy Sucher ★★★★★**

“Dorothy Sucher went to visit an old friend in Vermont and fell for a little blue house set on ten overgrown acres. She and her husband bought it on the spot; her gardening adventures were about to begin. She had been a city girl all her life, and had a lot to learn. Dorothy shares her adventures in a series of essays, centered on her Vermont home, and the garden there draws her back to a centered place of being, a more conscious way to live. Exquisitely written.” – Margaret Mc.

***The Johnstown Flood* by David McCullough ★★★★★**

“An informative social history of the times after the Civil War. This is the incredible story of one of the most devastating natural disasters of its time.” – Judy O.

***Journey into Mohawk Country* by H.M. van den Bogaert ★★★★★ (Young Adult Graphic Nonfiction)**

“What a great glimpse of history through the journal of a 23 year-old! A brave young man records his ventures into dangerous territory in a diary to reaches across the years. Very fitting after my short trip to upstate New York. A good view of what was expected of people at such a young age that long ago.” – Jenni B.

***Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories that Heal* by Rachel Naomi Remen ★★★★★**

“Prominent physician and Crohn's disease patient Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen offers insight into the spiritual issues people encounter when faced with illness — issues of suffering, worth and meaning, faith, courage and love — immeasurable factors in the healing process. Remen, a pioneer in the mind/body connection, found through her patients' life stories that talking is a great healer, as is simply listening.” – Margaret Mc.

***The Monuments Men* by Robert Edsel ★★★★★**

“During WWII, Hitler's armies looted valuable art and artifacts from museums and private collections for the creation of a Fuehrer Museum. Protecting and recovering this art was tasked to a group known as the Monuments Men. They were curators, art historians, and archivists who focused on preserving Europe's treasures, which included churches, historical sites, art, and artifacts. This book delivers the unusual story of an almost insurmountable task, carried out by ordinary individuals with an extraordinary mission.” – Margaret Mc.

***The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey* by Rinker Buck ★★★★★**

“A must read for American History buffs. The Buck brothers set about in an ambitious adventure and attempt to experience traveling along the Oregon Trail the old fashioned way -- in a covered wagon, led by a team of mules. Delivered with a lively and moving tone, *The Oregon Trail* is a significant work of history and Buck draws the reader in to experience the journey of a lifetime.” – Margaret Mc.

***Panama Fever* by Matthew Parker ★★★★★**

“The epic story of one of the great human achievements--the building of the Panama Canal. It blends the history of the times. It mirrors the treatment of people of color today. “ – Judy O.

***A Random Act* by Cindi Broaddus ★★★★★**

“Cindi survived the unthinkable...someone threw a glass jar of acid off of a bridge that Cindi was driving under. This is her story about surviving it and not losing hope. This is a great book. Cindi is a strong woman, a true survivor.” – Janet K.

***The Reason I Jump* by Naoki Higashida ★★★★★**

“This book is about a 13 year-old boy with autism. Through his own words, he describes what it is like to live with autism. Courageously, he tells us his emotions, his struggles and, with the help and support of family, lives a productive life.” - Anonymous

***The Rough Riders* by Theodore Roosevelt ★★★★★**

“A President wrote this book! Yup! Filled with cowboys, scholars, land spectators, American Indians, and Native American triumphs and defeats.” – Jason B.

***A Storm Too Soon* by Michael Tougias ★★★★★**

“Fast paced story of disaster, survival and an incredible rescue by the Coast Guard.” – Judy O.

***The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough ★★★★★**

“An in-depth look at the Wright brothers and their sister Catherine. Gives an appreciation of their accomplishments.” – Judy O.



**“We live for books.” – Umberto Eco**