The Notable Books Council, a group of readers’ advisory experts within the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association, has announced its selections for the 2013 Notable Books List.

Since 1944, the goal of the Notable Books Council has been to make available to the nation’s readers a list of twenty-five or twenty-six very good, very readable, and at times very important fiction, nonfiction, and poetry books for the adult reader. A book may be selected for inclusion on the Notable Books List if it possesses exceptional literary merit, expands the horizons of human knowledge, makes a specialized body of knowledge accessible to the nonspecialist, has the potential to contribute significantly to the solution of a contemporary problem, or presents a unique concept.

This year’s list was selected from titles published between December 1, 2011, and November 30, 2012.

**FICTION**


Yunior, a smooth-talking Dominican, explores the complexity of love, fidelity, and cultural identity in these inventively uncompromising stories.


Two aging African-American musicians return to Berlin to find their friend, a jazz trumpeter, arrested in Nazi-occupied France.


In a nod to Godot, an American salesman is in Saudi Arabia to close a deal which may salvage his way of life.


On the Ojibwe reservation, Oop hunts for his mother’s attacker and learns that law does not always provide justice.


The twin teenage children of once upstanding citizens who rob a bank are left to fend for themselves. The murders come later, in Saskatchewan.

The Bravo Squad was caught live on camera in a firefight. Now temporarily stateside, they are being exploited in a hyped-up victory tour.

A man, his dog, his airplane, and a will to survive in post-apocalyptic Colorado.

In a surreal sortie to a world of fabricated reality, Pak Jun Do is forced to become many people by the North Korean government.

Delivering a letter to a dying friend becomes a five-hundred-mile journey of reflection and redemption.

What happens when you are blind to the realities of war? Percival, a Chinese expatriate in Vietnam, makes bad bets with tragic consequences.

No one can understand how Silver has made such a mess of his life. Can he fix it before the clock runs out?

The aching beauty of Nevada from the mid-1800s to the present is depicted in these nuanced and elegant stories.

**NONFICTION**

Documents the lives of the slum dwellers of Annawadi, whose work as garbage pickers barely keeps them alive.

Compelling arguments for why we should turn down the volume.

Answering a simple question uncovers the surprisingly complex roots of contemporary segregation.

The story of the eccentric personalities whose work in Los Alamos and Princeton initiated the modern era.

Illuminates one man’s quest to document and preserve the culture of indigenous American tribes.

Why something instead of nothing?

From the Model T to the Prius, we are what we drive.

The personal story and public politics of life beside plutonium triggers.

Think you know everything about da Vinci and his masterpiece? An enlightening and entertaining treatment of an iconic subject.

Queen—8, assassins—0.

Sail and swim through our threatened waters towards ideas for creating a sustainable future.

Religion, sex, class, libraries, politics, madness, art—the memoir of a young woman discovering the sanctuary of literature.

**POETRY**

A rollicking, contemporary trip through the Underworld.

An arc of verses that touch the raw nerve of betrayal, lost love, forgiveness, healing, and finding peace.