The Reading List
2016

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced its selections for the 2016 Reading List as well as the short lists and read-alikes. Established in 2007 by the CODES section of RUSA, The Reading List seeks to highlight outstanding genre fiction that merit special attention by general adult readers and the librarians who work with them.

ADRENALINE


Three sisters are driven apart in the aftermath of one’s disappearance. When a violent crime occurs new fears arise and relationships shift again. Long-term effects of family grief are exploited by the compulsions of a psychopath. Brutal and disturbing, this is ultimately a story of love and empowerment.

Read-alikes

Short List

FANTASY


In this enchanted old-world fable, villagers threatened by a blighted magical wood allow the resident wizard to take one daughter into servitude for ten years. When he chooses klutzy Agnieszka, she faces an unexpected future and confronts the dangers of a wider political world and the roots of magical corruption.

Read-alikes

RUSA Reading List Council

RUSA Reading List Council members are Ann Chambers Theis, co-chair, Henrico County Library; Valerie Morgan Taylor, co-chair, Chester County Library; Phillip Ballo, National University; Jessica D. Barrientos, Westminster Public Library; Sharon R. Castleberry, De Soto Public Library; Amy Gomkiewicz, Eagle Public Library; Rebecca M. Greer, Poinciana Library; Neil Hollands, Williamsburg Regional Library; Lauren Kage, NoveList; Tammy Ryan, Phoenix Public Library; Janet Schneider, Oceanside Library.
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Short List

HISTORICAL FICTION


Raised by his eccentric ex-suffragette godmother to be a free-thinker, young Noel is thrown into chaos when the London Blitz forces him into the home of a scam artist loyal only to her layabout son. Thrust together, the two oddballs are forced to find a way through the wartime landscape.

Read-alikes
- Willis, Connie. All Clear (#1) and Blackout (#2). Spectra.

Short List

HORROR


Flamboyant antiques dealer Asmodeus “Sax” Saxon-Tang made his fortune by accidentally killing a vampire who had a horde of treasure. To protect the only person he loves, his niece, he’s forced to return to old Europe to assemble an eccentric team of vampire hunters in this gory, witty caper.

Read-alikes

MYSTERY


Cold cases cast a twenty-five year shadow of grief and guilt on the lives of two survivors of traumatic teenage crimes. New leads and new cases bring them back to Oklahoma City as past and present intersect in this poignant and compelling story of lives forever changed by random violence.

Read-alikes
- French, Tana. In the Woods. Viking.

Short List

ROMANCE


Sassy relationship advice columnist Veronica overcomes her commitment anxiety and gains confidence with the help of mountain-climbing librarian Gabe. Steamy romance evolves into a strong relationship as they scale a mountain of family conflicts and share secrets against a majestic Jackson Hole backdrop.

Read-alikes

Short List
FROM COMMITTEES OF RUSA


SCIENCE FICTION


Insurgent Darrow inveigled his way into high Gold society in 2014’s Red Rising. In this dramatic, high octane follow-up, conflicting loyalties and his own ambitions lure Darrow into an untenable web of deceptions. Bolstered by new alliances, Darrow battles to overthrow corrupt lunar leadership and bring freedom to Mars.

Read-alikes
- Card, Orson Scott. *Ender’s Game*. Tor.

Short List

WOMEN’S FICTION


Anxious to escape the strict upbringing of her uncle’s Flushing grocery, Korean-American Jane accepts an au pair position in the pretentious household of two Brooklyn academics and their adopted Chinese daughter. Park has created a bright comic story of falling in love, finding strength, and living on one’s own terms.

Read-alikes

Short List