

Sci-Fi/Fantasy Readers' Advisory
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
2025

Fantasy Readers' Advisory

Epic Fantasy/Quest Fantasy

- J. R. R. Tolkien – The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit
- George R. R. Martin – Song of Ice and Fire series (Game of Thrones)
- Robert Jordan – Wheel of Time
- Terry Brooks – Shannara series
- Terry Goodkind – The Sword of Truth series
- David Eddings – Belgariad and Mallorean sagas
- Steven Erikson – Malazan series
- Robin Hobb – Realms of the Elderlings series
- Brian Sanderson – Stormlight Archive series, Mistborn series
- Sue Lynn Tan – Celestial kingdom series

Sword & Sorcery

- Robert E. Howard – Conan, Kull
- Fritz Leiber
- Michael Moorcock – Elric Series
- Fred Saberhagen – The Book of Swords
- Marion Zimmer Bradley – Sword and Sorceress anthology Series

Heroic Fantasy

- David Gemmell
- R. A. Salvatore
- Patrick Rothfuss – The Kingkiller Chronicle series
- Jessica Amanda Salmonson – Tomoe Gozen trilogy
- Lloyd Alexander – Chronicles of Prydain series
- Mercedes Lackey – Valdemar novels
- Tamora Pierce – Tortall novels
- Ursula K. Le Guin – Earthsea novels

Magical Creatures

Dragons

- Gordon R. Dickson – Dragon Knight series
- Christopher Paolini – Inheritance Cycle
- Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman – Dragonlance
- Patricia C. Wrede – Enchanted Forest Chronicles
- Naomi Novik – Temeraire novels
- Mercedes Lackey – Joust series
- Cecelia Holland – Dragon Heart
- Robin Hobb – Rain Wilds Chronicles
- Cressida Cowell – How to Train Your Dragon
- Andrew Peterson – The Wingfeather Saga
- Tui T. Sutherland – Wings of Fire series
- Rebecca Yarros – The Empyrean Series

Faerie

- Elizabeth Bear – Promethean Age series
- Holly Black – Modern Faerie Tales
- Melissa Marr – Wicked Lovely series
- Julie Kagawa – Iron Fey series
- Maggie Stiefvater – Books of Faerie
- Sarah J. Maas – Court of Rose and Thorns series

Other Creatures

- Mercedes Lackey – Valdemar series
- Peter S. Beagle – The Last Unicorn
- Brian Jacques – Redwall series
- Neil Gaiman – Stardust

Fairy Tales

Snow White

- Gregory Maguire—Mirror, Mirror
- Gail Carson Levin—Fairest
- Alex Flinn—Mirrored
- C.J. Redwine—The Shadow Queen

Sleeping Beauty

- Mercedes Lackey – The Gates of Sleep
- Robin McKinley—Spindle’s End
- Alex Flinn – A Kiss in Time

Beauty and the Beast

- Alex Flinn – Beastly
- Mercedes Lackey – Fire Rose
- Robin McKinley—Rose Daughter
- Cat Hellisen—Beastkeeper

Cinderella

- Gregory Maguire –Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister
- Gail Carson Levin—Ella Enchanted
- Alex Flinn – Bewitching

Miscellaneous tales

- Gregory Maguire –Wicked series
- Mercedes Lackey—Black Swan
- Alex Flinn—Towering, Cloaked
- Heather Dixon—Entwined
- Marissa Meyer—Heartless
- Sarah Cross—Tear You Apart, Killing Me Softly

Mythology

- Rick Riordan – Percy Jackson series, Heroes of Olympus series, Red Pyramid series, Magnus Chase series, etc.
- Patricia A. McKillip—Riddle Master trilogy
- Neil Gaiman – American Gods, Anansi Boys
- Sue Lynn Tan – Celestial Kingdom series

Arthurian Legends

- Stephen R. Lawhead – Pendragon Cycle
- Marion Zimmer Bradley – Avalon series
- Diana Paxson – Hallowed Isles series
- T.H. White – The Once and Future King
- Susan Cooper – Dark is Rising series

Urban Fantasy

- Jim Butcher – Dresden Files series
- Laurell K. Hamilton – Anita Blake series
- Patricia Briggs – Mercy Thompson series
- Kim Harrison – Rachel Morgan series
- Ilona Andrews—Kate Daniels series
- Anne Bishop – Others series
- Cassandra Clare – Mortal Instruments series
- P.C. and Kristin Cast – The House of Night
- Claudia Gray – Evernight series
- Bordertown (anthology series)

Magical Realism

- Yann Martel—Life of Pi
- Audrey Niffenegger—The Time Traveler’s Wife
- Alice Hoffman
- Sarah Addison Allen
- Anna-Marie McLemore—The Weight of Feathers, When the Moon was Ours
- Laura Ruby—Bone Gap
- Stacey Lee—The Secret of a Heart Note

Cozy Fantasy

- Diana Wynne Jones – Howl’s Moving Castle
- J.R.R. Tolkien—The Hobbit
- TJ Klune –The House in the Cerulean Sea
- Travis Baldree – Legends & Lattes
- Andrea Eames – A Harvest of Hearts
- Sangu Mandanna – A Witch’s Guide to Magical Innkeeping
- Caitlin Rozakis – The Grimoire Grammar School Parent Teacher Association
- Rebecca Thorne – Tomes & Tea series
- Julie Leong – The Teller of Small Fortunes

Science Fiction Readers' Advisory

Hard Science Fiction

- Arthur C. Clarke—Rendezvous with Rama, Fall of Moondust
- Greg Bear—Forge of God, Darwin series, Tangents
- Ben Bova—Grand Tour of the Universe Series
- Kim Stanley Robinson—Antarctica, Mars trilogy
- Greg Benford—Timescape, Galactic Center series
- Larry Niven—Ringworld series

Soft Science Fiction

- Arthur C. Clarke—Childhood's End, The Hammer of God
- Robert Heinlein—Stranger in a Strange Land, The Moon is a Harsh Mistress
- Frank Herbert—Dune
- Lois Lowry—Gathering Blue, The Giver
- Mary Doria Russell—The Sparrow, Children of God
- Dan Simmons—Hyperion Series

Aliens

- First Contact
 - Walter Tevis—The Man who Fell to Earth
 - Stanislaw Lem—Solaris
 - Carl Sagan—Contact
 - C.J. Cherryh—Foreigner series
 - Nancy Kress—Probability Moon
- Alien Invasion
 - H.G. Wells—War of the Worlds
 - Jack Finney—The Body Snatchers, made into Invasion of the Body Snatchers
 - Ray Bradbury – The Martian Chronicles
 - David Brin—Uplift Series
 - Arthur C. Clarke—Childhood's End
 - Orson Scott Card—Ender's Game
 - Rick Yancey -- The 5th wave
- Aliens & Alien Worlds
 - Ursula K. Le Guin – The Left Hand of Darkness
 - China Miéville -- Embassytown
 - Adrian Tchaikovsky – Children of Time

Biological & Genetic Engineering

- H.G. Wells—Island of Dr. Moreau
- Robert A. Heinlein—Friday
- Michael Crichton—Andromeda Strain, Jurassic Park
- Dan Wells—Extreme Makeover
- Greg Bear—Darwin's Radio, Darwin's Children
- Justin Cronin – Passage trilogy

Cyberpunk

- William Gibson—Neuromancer
- Vernor Vinge—Rainbows End
- Pat Cadigan—Mindplayers
- Rudy Rucker—Hylozoic, Ware Series
- Neal Stephenson—Snow Crash
- Ernest Cline – Ready Player One
- Richard K. Morgan – Altered Carbon
- Dan Wells—Blue Screen
- Chuck Wendig—Zer0es
- James Dashner—Mortality Doctrine series

Mechanical Beings

- Isaac Asimov—Robot Series, I Robot
- Philip K. Dick—Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
- Frederick Pohl—Man Plus
- A. A. Attanasio—Solis
- Arthur C. Clarke—2001: A Space Odyssey
- Fred Saberhagen—Berserker Series
- Daniel H. Wilson—Robopocalypse
- Debra Driza—Mila 2.0 series
- Claudia Gray – Defy the Stars
- Martha Wells – Murderbot Diaries
- Kazuo Ishiguro – Klara and the Sun

Military Science Fiction

- Robert Heinlein—Starship Troopers
- Joe Haldeman—The Forever War
- David Drake—Hammer's Slammer, RCN series
- David Weber—Honor Harrington Series
- Orson Scott Card—Ender's Game
- "Jack Campbell"—Lost Fleet Series
- John Ringo—Legacy of the Aldenata series
- Tanya Huff—Valor Confederation series,
- John Scalzi—Old Man's War series

Space Opera

- Iain M. Banks—Culture series
- Stephen R. Donaldson—The Gap Series
- Lois McMaster Bujold—Vorkosigan series
- C.J. Cherryh—Alliance-Union Series
- Frank Herbert, Brian Herbert —Dune series
- Kevin J. Anderson—Saga of Seven Suns
- James S. A. Corey—Expanse series
- Garth Nix—A Confusion of Princes
- Rhoda Belleza—Empress of a Thousand Skies

Psychic Abilities

- A.E. van Vogt—Slan
- Alfred Bester—Demolished Man
- Madeleine L'Engle—A Wind in the Door
- Stephen King—Firestarter
- Dan Simmons—The Hollow Man
- Anne McCaffrey—Pegasus series, Tower and the Hive series
- Connie Willis--Crosstalk

Utopian or Dystopian Worlds

- Ray Bradbury—Fahrenheit 451
- Anthony Burgess—A Clockwork Orange
- Aldous Huxley—Brave New World
- George Orwell—1984
- Margaret Atwood—The Handmaid's Tale, The Year of the Flood
- Lois Lowry—The Giver
- Suzanne Collins—The Hunger Games trilogy
- Veronica Roth—Divergent trilogy
- James Dashner—The Maze Runner
- Ally Condie – Matched Trilogy
- Scott Westerfield – Uglies

Apocalyptic or Post-Apocalyptic Fiction

- Mary Shelley—The Last Man
- Nevil Shute—On The Beach
- Walter M. Miller—A Canticle for Liebowitz
- Justin Cronin—Passage trilogy
- Richard Matheson—I Am Legend
- David Brin—The Postman
- Neal Stephenson—Seveneves
- William R. Forstchen—John Matheson series

Common Subgenres

Alternate Worlds -- Fantasy

- Orson Scott Card – Tales of Alvin Maker
- Naomi Novik – Temeraire novels
- Ian Tregillis—Milkweed Triptych
- Susan Clarke—Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell
- Kit Whitfield—In Great Waters

Alternate History – Science Fiction

- Philip K. Dick—The Man in the High Castle
- Harry Turtledove—World War and Colonization series, Guns of the South, Great War series,
- Harry Harrison—Eden series, Stars and Stripes Forever
- Kathleen Ann Goonan—In Wars Times
- Ben H. Winters—Underground Airlines

Parallel Worlds -- Fantasy

- C.S. Lewis – Chronicles of Narnia
- Terry Brooks – Landover series
- Frank Beddor—Looking Glass Wars
- Neil Gaiman – Coraline, Graveyard Book
- Patricia A. McKillip—The Bards of Bone Plain
- China Miéville—The City & the City
- V.E. Schwab – Shades of Magic series
- Lisa Maxwell—Unhooked
- Genevieve Cogman—Invisible Library series

Parallel Worlds – Science Fiction

- Charles Stross—Merchant Princes series, Empire Games
- Taylor Anderson—Destroyermen series
- Kay Kenyon—Entire and the Rose series
- Iain M. Banks—Transition
- Claudia Gray—Firebird series

Steampunk -- Fantasy

- Cassandra Clare—Infernal Instruments series
- Gail Carriger—Parasol Protectorate series, Finishing School series, Custard Protocol series
- Ian Tregillis—The Alchemy Wars series
- Emma Jane Holloway—The Baskerville Affair series
- Carrie Patel—Recoletta series

Steampunk – Science Fiction

- K.W. Jeter—Morlock Night, Infernal Devices
- Paul D. Filippo—The Steampunk Trilogy
- William Gibson & Bruce Sterling—Difference Engine
- Cherie Priest—Clockwork Century Universe
- George Mann—Newbury and Hobbes Investigations
- Kenneth Oppel—Airborn series
- Philip Reeve—Mortal Engines series
- Scott Westerfeld—Leviathan Trilogy
- Alan Moore—The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen

Time Travel – Science Fiction

- H.G. Wells—The Time Machine
- Connie Willis—Doomsday Book, To Say Nothing of the Dog, Blackout, All Clear
- Madeleine L'Engle—A Wrinkle in Time
- Kage Baker—Company series
- Octavia E. Butler—Kindred
- Michael Crichton—Timeline
- Jack Finney—Time and Again
- Richard Matheson—Bid Time Return
- Eric Flint's 1632 Universe (Ring of Fire)
- Stephen King -- 11/22/63
- Elan Mastai—All Our Wrongs Today
- Doctor Who

Time Travel -- Fantasy

- Mark Twain—A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
- Diana Gabaldon—Outlander series
- Orson Scott Card—Enchantment
- Audrey Niffenegger—The Time Traveler's Wife

- Mary Pope Osborne—Magic Tree House books
- John Stephens—Book of Beginnings series

Humorous Fantasy

- Terry Pratchett—Discworld
- Robert Asprin—Myth Adventures
- Peter David—Apropos of Nothing
- Jasper Fforde—Shades of Grey, Thursday Next and Nursery Crimes, The Last Dragonslayer
- Piers Anthony—Xanth
- Jonathan Stroud—Bartimaeus trilogy
- Glen Cook—Garrett, P.I.
- Christopher Moore—Practical Demonkeeping, Bloodsucking Fiends, Coyote Blue
- William Goldman—The Princess Bride
- Neil Gaiman/Terry Pratchett—Good Omens
- A. Lee Martinez – Helen & Troy's Epic RoadQuest
- Tina Connolly—Seriously Wicked series
- Cynthia Hand, Brodi Ashton, Jodi Meadows—My Lady Jane

Humorous Science Fiction

- Douglas Adams—Hitchhiker's Guide Trilogy; Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency
- Eoin Colfer—And Another Thing
- Larry Niven—Draco Tavern series
- Simon Haynes—Hal Spacejock Series
- Harry Harrison—Stainless Steel Rat; Bill the Galactic Hero; Star Smashers of the Galaxy
- Spider Robinson—Callahan Series
- A. Lee Martinez
- Alan Dean Foster
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GameLit/LitRPG

- Chris Van Allsburg – Jumanji
- Ernest Cline – Ready Player One
- Marie Lu – Warcross
- Matt Dinniman – Dungeon Crawler Carl
- Shirlaloon – He Who Fights With Monsters

Genreblending

Fantasy Mystery

- Jim Butcher – Dresden Files
- Jasper Fforde – Thursday Next and Nursery Crimes novels
- Kim Harrison – Rachel Morgan series
- Glenn Cook – Garrett, PI series
- Charlaine Harris – Southern Vampire mysteries(True Blood)
- Alex Bledsoe—Eddie LaCross series
- P.J. Brackston – Brothers Grimm mysteries
- T.L. Huchu – Edinburgh Nights series

Science Fiction Mysteries and Thrillers

- Isaac Asimov—The Caves of Steel
- Alfred Bester—The Stars My Destination, The Demolished Man
- Lee Martinez—The Automatic Detective
- Kristine Kathryn Rusch—Retrieval Artist series
- Ben H. Winters—The Last Policeman trilogy
- Gene Wolfe—A Borrowed Man
- Robert Kroese—The Big Sheep
- Blake Crouch—Dark Matter
- Olivia Waite – Murder by Memory

Dark Fantasy

- Stephen King—Dark Tower series
- Ransom Riggs—Miss Peregrine series
- Neil Gaiman—Neverwhere, The Ocean at theEnd of the Lane
- Rachel Vincent—Menagerie series
- Levi Black—Mythos War series
- Sarah Maria Griffin – Eat the Ones You Love
- Emma Newman – The Vengeance

Science Fiction Horror

- Mary Shelley—Frankenstein
- John Wyndham—The Day of the Triffids
- Jack Finney—Body Snatchers
- Greg Bear—Hull Zero Three
- Daryl Gregory—Pandemonium

- Stephen King—Under the Dome
- Scott Sigler—Infected
- Jeffrey Thomas—Punktown novels
- Jessica Levai – The Glass Garden
- Mira Grant -- Overgrowth

Paranormal Romance

- Diana Gabaldon – Outlander series
- Christine Feehan – Carpathian series
- Sherrilyn Kenyon – Dark Hunter series
- Karen Marie Moning—Fever series
- Laurell K. Hamilton – Anita Blake series,Meredith “Merry” Gentry series
- Jayne Castle – Harmony series
- Laini Taylor – Daughter of Smoke and Bonesseries
- Rosie Danan – Fan Service

Romantasy

- Sara J. Maas – A Court of Thorns and Roses
- Rebecca Yarros – Empyrean series
- Hannah Nicole Maehrer – Assistant to the Villain series
- Caroline Peckham – Zodiac Academy
- Lauren Roberts – Powerless trilogy
- Tricia Levenseller – What Fury Brings

Science Fantasy

- Edgar Rice Burroughs—Barsoom series
- Anne McCaffrey—Dragonriders of Pern
- Marion Zimmer Bradley—Darkover series
- Robert Silverberg—Majipoor series
- Sheri S. Tepper—The Land of True Game series
- Matthew Hughes—Henghis Hapthorn stories
- Marissa Meyer—Lunar Chronicles
- Fan Wilde – A Philosophy of Thieves
- Oliver K. Langmead – City of All Seasons

Online Resources

- www.amazon.com
- www.barnesandnoble.com
- www.fantasticfiction.com
- www.locusmag.com
- <http://www.worldswithoutend.com/>
- Science Fiction Encyclopedia -- <http://www.sf-encyclopedia.com/>
- Tips for Finding Good Science Fiction Books -- <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/features/6-tips-finding-good-science-fiction-book>
- Expanding Worlds | SF & Fantasy Trends and Titles To Know -- <https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/Expanding-Worlds-SF-Fantasy-Trends-and-Titles-To-Know>

Awards for Science Fiction and Fantasy

- Hugo Awards – <http://www.thehugoawards.org/hugo-history>
- Nebula Awards -- <https://nebulas.sfw.org/>
- World Fantasy Award -- <http://www.worldfantasy.org>
- Mythopoeic Awards -- <http://www.mythsoc.org>
- British Fantasy Awards – <http://www.britishfantasysociety.org/>
- British Science Fiction Awards -- <http://www.bsfa.co.uk/bsfa-awards>
- Arthur C. Clarke Award-- <http://www.clarkeaward.com>

Other Resources

- Buker, Derek M. *The science fiction and fantasy readers' advisory : the librarian's guide to cyborgs, aliens and sorcerers*. Chicago : American Library Association, 2002.
- Drout, Michael D. C. *From here to infinity : an exploration of science fiction literature*. Prince Frederick, MD : Recorded Books, ©2006.
- Drout, Michael D. C. *Rings, swords and monsters: exploring fantasy literature*. Prince Frederick, MD : Recorded Books, ©2006.
- Herald, Diana Tixier and Bonnie Kunzel. *Fluent in fantasy : the next generation*. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2008.
- Hollands, Neil. *Read on...fantasy fiction*. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2007.
- Orr, Cynthia and Diana Tixier Herald. *Genreflecting : a guide to popular reading interests*. Santa Barbara, California : Libraries Unlimited, 2013.

KDLA Book Discussion Kits

- <https://kdla.ky.gov/Library-Support/kits/Pages/default.aspx>