

Funding for Today's Training Provided by



UP LIT AND GENTLE READS

PRESENTED BY
NANCY HOUSEAL
KDLA DIVISION OF
LIBRARY SERVICES

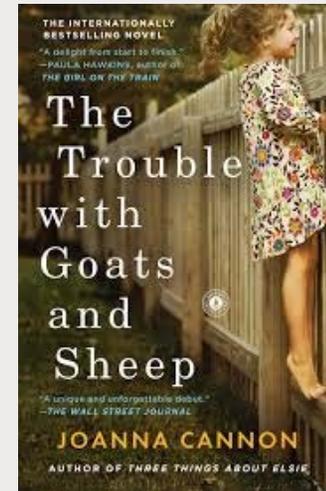
Today's Headlines

- Unsettling political changes
- Economic insecurity
- Terrorism
- Mass shootings
- Social isolation
- Natural Catastrophes



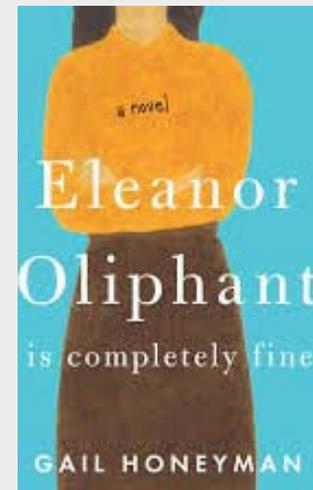
The Trouble with Sheep and Goats by Joanna Cannon

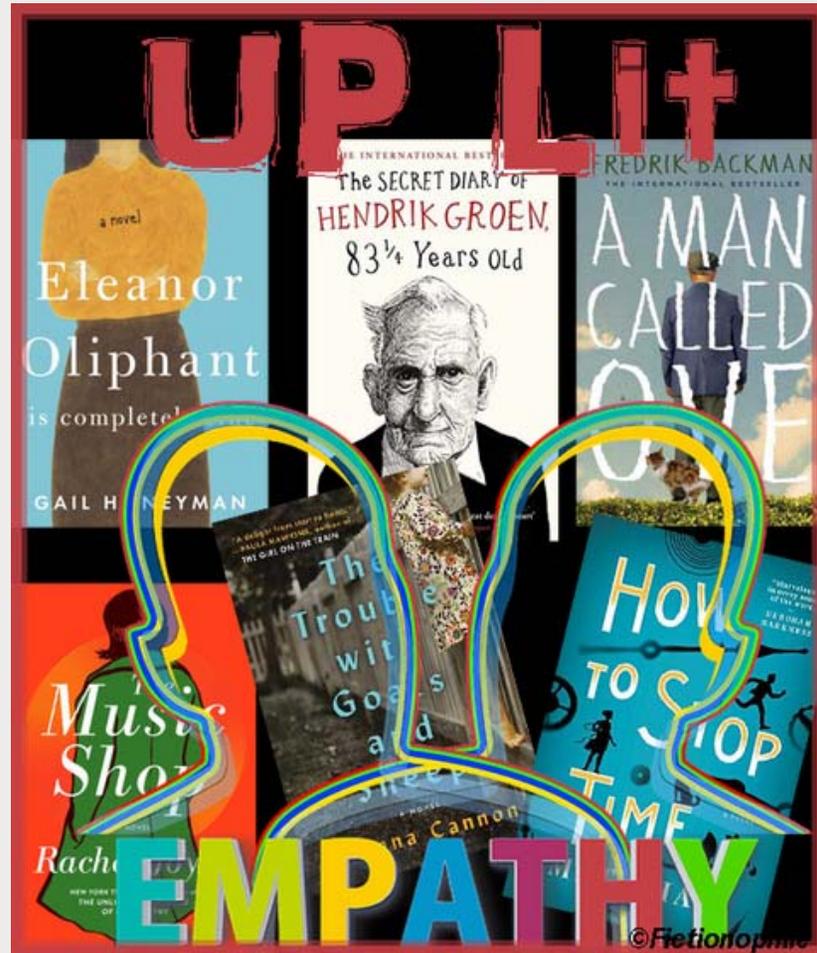
- Centers on 10-year-old Tilly and her best friend, Grace
- Endeavor to uncover the whereabouts of their missing neighbor
- Set in 1970s English suburbia
- Filled with tenderness, companionship and nostalgia



Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

- Eleanor struggles with appropriate social skills
- Has a carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions
- Meets Raymond the IT guy
- Together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk





Characteristics of Up Lit Novels

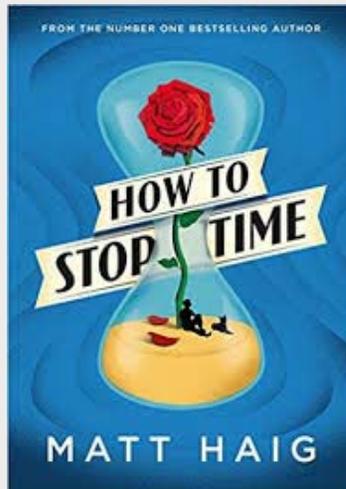
- Strangers demonstrate compassion
- Not sugar-coating for difficult emotions or situations
- Many society outsiders
- Possible to fix what is broken
- Redemption in unlikely friendships
- Strong sense of community

Why Popular with Fans?

- Offers escape from current events
- Satisfies deep need for justice
- Hope sense of hope and kindness will rub off on others
- Can relate to ordinary and extraordinary people living very commonplace lives

Key Titles

How to Stop Time by Matt Haig

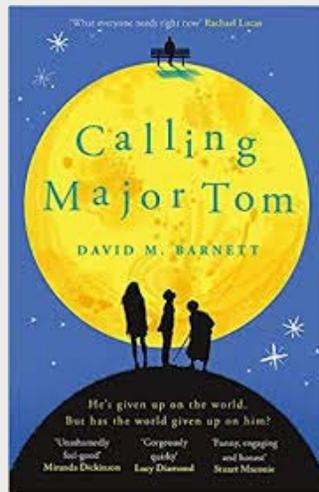


The Summer of Impossible Things by Rowan Coleman

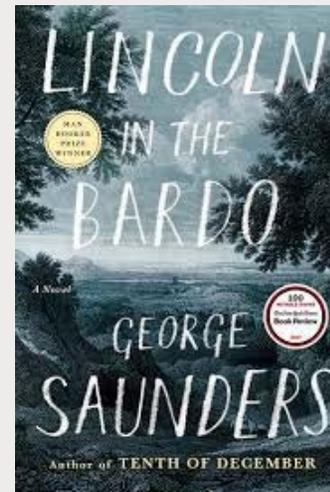


Key Titles

Calling Major Tom by David M. Barnett

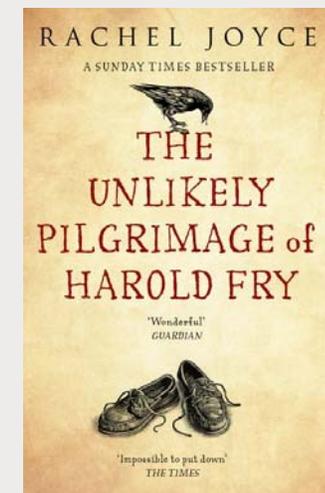


Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders



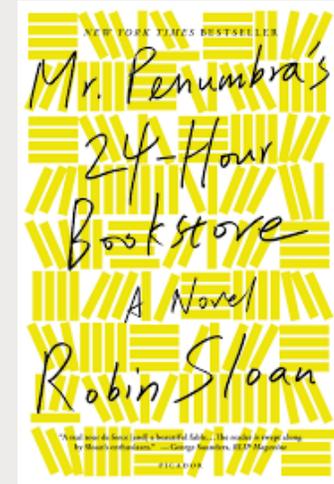
Key Author: Rachel Joyce

- Writes engaging allegorical fiction
- Features ordinary people attempting to come to terms with their pasts and their unanticipated futures
- Charming characters wrestle with failed relationships, lost opportunities and their inevitable mortality
- Uses an effective sense of place
- Has as an optimistic view: no matter your age or your station in life, you can "be ordinary and attempt something extraordinary."



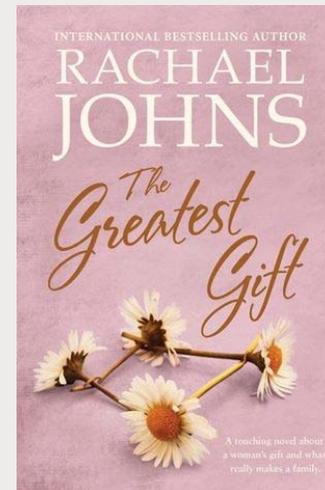
Key Author: Robin Sloan

- Writes about books, reading, and technology
- Often sets stories in San Francisco
- Often features web designers, intrigue, book stores, and global conspiracies
- Offers sharp observations about modern life
- Writing cheerful, friendly, and very charming
- Brisk pacing and buoyant



Key Author: Rachel Johns

- Writes about women's lives and relationships
- Characters are flawed and well-developed
- Moving and engaging writing style



How can I help Up Lit fans?

- Know about the genre's characteristics
- Insert questions into RA interview about desire for themes based on kindness, hope and redemption
- Recommend to readers looking for sense of community
- Promote with best seller lists and displays

Where can I find more information?

- “Gone Girl's Gone, Hello Eleanor Oliphant: Why We're All Reading ‘Up Lit’ ” from the Guardian 3/16/18
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/mar/16/up-lit-eleanor-oliphant-gone-girl-fiction-kindness>
- Popular UpLit Books from Goodreads
<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/uplit>
- “ ‘Up-Lit’ – What Is It? and Why Do We Like It? from Fictionophile.com 4/14/18
<https://fictionophile.wordpress.com/2018/04/14/up-lit-what-is-it-and-why-do-we-like-it/>



Gentle Reads

Triumph through Kindness

Characteristics of Gentle Reads Novels

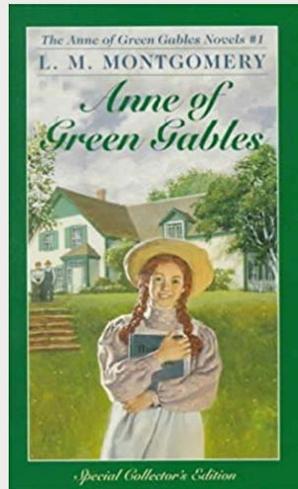
- Idealizes the past
- Favors small-town life
- Features happy endings
- No explicit sex, violence or language
- Universal appeal
- Mainly women protagonists

Why Popular with Fans

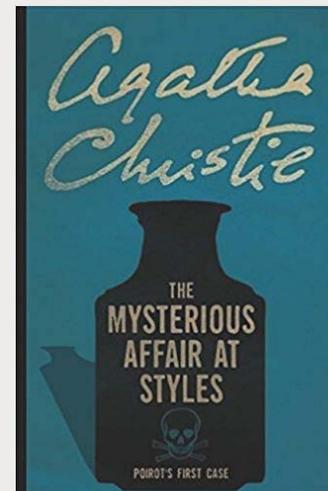
- Welcome refuge from real world
- Like simpler, slower, milder times
- Like showcasing compassion and kindness
- Often humorous
- Often inspiring
- No objectionable elements
- Can relate to protagonists

Key Titles

Anne of Green Gables by
L.M. Montgomery

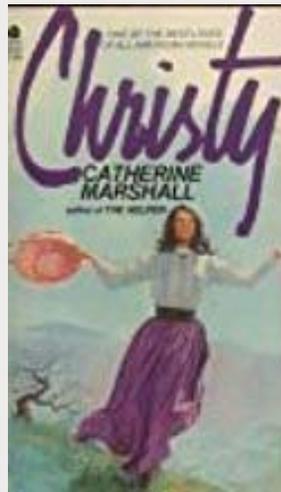


Mysterious Affair at Styles by
Agatha Christie

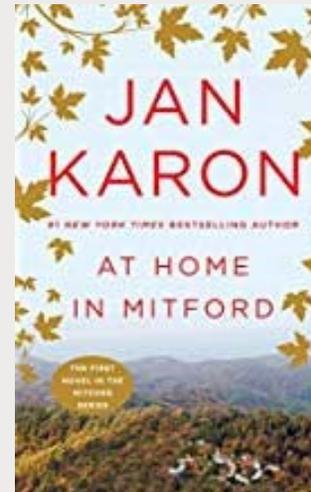


Key Titles

Christy by Catherine Marshall

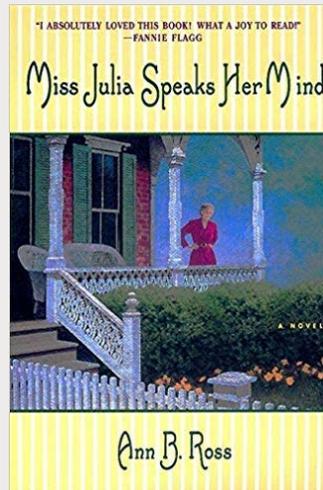


At Home in Mitford by Jan Karon

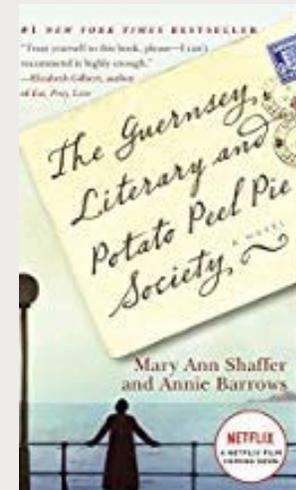


Key Titles

Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind
by Ann B. Ross

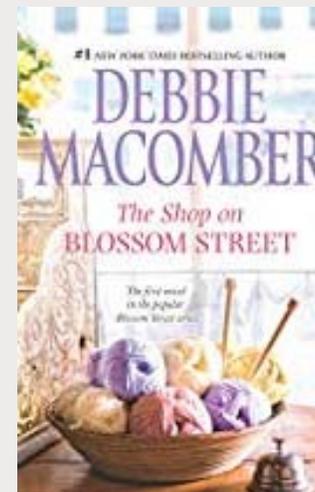


The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by
Mary Ann Shaffer
and Annie Barrows



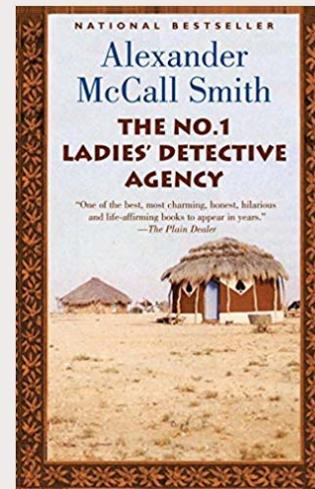
Key Author: Debbie Macomber

- Focuses on family and relationships
- Uplifting tales of overcoming adversity
- Strong human connections
- Leisurely pacing
- Uncomplicated prose style



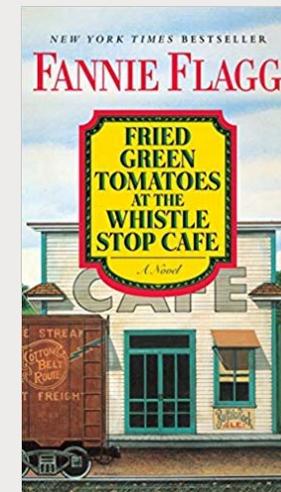
Key Author: Alexander McCall Smith

- Features richly drawn characters,
- Engaging prose style
- Vivid settings
- Character-driven novels
- Gentle, often warm tone



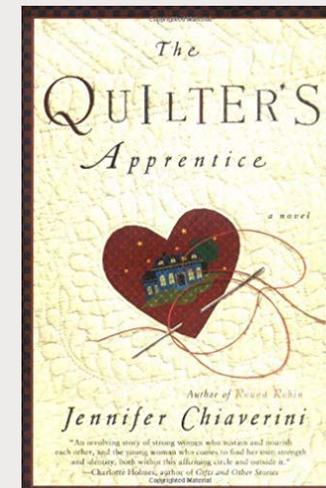
Key Author: Fannie Flagg

- Atmosphere of the rural small town
- Tales heart-warming and heart-breaking.
- Shows vast complexity of humanity
- Strong and true-to-life characterizations
- Strong sense of place and are often nostalgic
- Humorous storytelling style



Key Author: Jennifer Chiaverini

- Writes heart-warming character-centered novels
- Focuses on the dynamics of small town life
- Focus on intergenerational conflict
- Sweetly nostalgic and rich with historic detail



How do I help Gentle Reads fans?

- Be familiar with genre
- Use RA tools to find titles in series
- Ask reader what elements are most important to them—romance, humor, mystery, inspiration
- Clarify terminology
- Recommend to teens who are transitioning to adult books
- Discuss setting favorites

Notable Trends

- Timeless appeal
- Romance
 - *Amish fiction*
 - *Prairie fiction*
 - *Gilded Age'*
 - *Edwardian Period*
 - *U S Civil War*
 - *World War II*
- Mystery
 - *Victorian era*
 - *Gilded Age*
 - *Edwardian Period*
 - *Jazz Age*
 - *Great Depression*
- Cinematic treatments sparks interest



Where can I find more information?

- KYVL's NoveList "Getting Up to Speed in Gentle Reads"
<http://www.kyvl.org/?b=p>
- The League of Extraordinary Librarians "Gentle Reads"
<https://leagueofextraordinarylibrarians.weebly.com/gentle-reads.html>
- Goodreads "Popular Gentle Reads Books"
<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/gentle-reads>

Contact Us

■ In Frankfort
502-564-8306

■ Outside Frankfort
800-928-7000
(choose option #3)

■ Email and phone: 8:00 – 4:30 (ET) M-F

■ Onsite visits: 9:00 – 4:00 (ET) M-F



Remember

Training Events Calendar

<https://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/ContinuingEducationCalendar.aspx>

Archived Training Sessions

<https://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/kdlaarchivedwebinars/Pages/default.aspx>

Follow-up email with
training certificate
(takes 1-2 weeks to arrive)



Final Actions

- Take the Survey
- Download the Presentation
 - Click “Up Lit and Gentle Reads”
 - “Save to my computer”
 - *In the pop-up window:*
 - “Click to Download”
 - “Save”
 - *Choose where to save it*
 - “Save”

