

ALA Notable Books

Since 1944, the goal of the Notable Books Council has been to make available to the nation's readers a list of 25 very good, very readable, and at times very important fiction, nonfiction, and poetry books for the adult reader.

ALA Notable Books Winners – 2015 List

Fiction:

DB 79182 *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr – *Historical Fiction/WWII Fiction*

DB 79793 *The Bone Clocks* by David Mitchell – *Literary Fiction/Low Fantasy*

DB 79856 *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan – *Literary Fiction/Contemporary Fiction*

DB 81104 *The Enchanted* by Rene Denfeld – *Literary Fiction/Low Fantasy*

DB 80095 *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan – *Historical Fiction*

DB 78213 *On Such a Full Sea* by Change-Rae Lee – *Science Fiction*

DB 78227 *Orfeo* by Richard Powers – *Literary Fiction*

DB 81165 *Something Rich and Strange* by Ron Rash – *Literary Fiction/Short Stories*

DB 79693 *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel – *Science Fiction*

DB 81029 *Tigerman* by Nick Harkaway – *Science Fiction/Super Heroes*

Nonfiction:

DB 80265 *The Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution* by Jonathan Eig – *History/Medical History/Women's Movement*

DB 76306 *Blood Royal: A True Tale of Crime and Detection in Medieval Paris* by Eric Jager Little – *True Crime/World History*

DB 78990 *Dark Invasion:1915; Germany's Secret War and the Hunt for the First Terrorist Cell in America* by Howard Blum – *History/WWI/Terrorism*

DB 79189 *Factory Man: How One Furniture Maker Battled Offshoring, Stayed Local – and Helped Save an American Town* by Beth Macy – *Business*

DB 79535 *In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette* by Hampton Sides – *Adventurer Biography/Seafaring History*

DB 80873 *Jerry Lee Lewis: His Own Story* by Rick Bragg – *Musician Biography*

DB 80035 *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson – *Criminal Law*

DB 79369 *No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the US Surveillance State* by Glenn Greenwald – *Political History/Intelligence Service*

DB 81130 *Pandora's DNA: Tracking the Breast Cancer Genes Through History, Science, and One Family Tree* by Lizzie Stark – *Medical History/Cancer/Women's Health*

DB 80065 *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore – *Author Biography/Comic Books/Sociology*

DB 78463 *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert – *Science/Natural History/Evolution/Environment*

Poetry:

DB 81379 *The Blue Buick: New and Selected Poems* by B.H. Fairchild

DB 81044 *Gabriel: A Poem* by Edward Hirsch

ALA Notable Books Winners – 2014 List

Fiction:

DB 77188 *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – *Contemporary Fiction*

DB 76417 *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson – *Literary Fiction/Historical Fiction/Low Fantasy*

DB 77467 *Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat – *Contemporary Fiction*

DB 78230 *Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See* by Juliann Garey – *Literary Fiction/Psychology Fiction*

DB 77862 Enon by Paul Harding – *Literary Fiction*
 DB 78365 The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards by Kristopher Jansma – *Contemporary Fiction/Coming of Age Story*
 DB 76318 The Dinner by Herman Koch – *Literary Fiction/Crime Fiction*
 DB 78290 A Constellation of Vital Phenomena by Anthony Marra – *Literary Fiction/Historical Fiction/War Fiction*
 DB 76884 The Woman Upstairs by Claire Messud – *Literary Fiction*
 DB 76696 A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki – *Literary Fiction*
 DB 77453 The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt – *Literary Fiction*
Nonfiction:
 DB 77421 Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly, and the Making of the Modern Middle East by Scott Anderson – *Biography/World History/WWI History/Middle East*
 DB 78513 Year Zero: A History of 1945 by Ian Buruma – *World History/Post-WWII History*
 DB 78252 On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand-Year History by Nicholas Basbanes – *World History/Inventions/Anthropology*
 DB 77138 The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown – *Sports History*
 DB 77656 Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital by Sheri Fink – *Journalism/Disaster History*
 DB 76297 On the Map: A Mind-Expanding Exploration of the Way the World Looks by Simon Garfield – *Geography*
 DB 77605 Johnny Cash: A Life by Robert Hilburn – *Biography/Music-Country*
 DB 77387 The Skies Belong to Us: Love and Terror in the Golden Age of Hijacking by Brendan Koerner – *True Crime*
 DB 78401 The Faraway Nearby by Rebecca Solnit – *Literature/Essays*

ALA Notable Books Winners – 2013 List

Fiction:

DB 75524 This Is How You Lose Her by Junot Diaz – *Contemporary Fiction/Short Story Anthology/Bestseller*
 DB 76157 Half-Blood Blues by Esi Edugyan – *WWII Fiction*
 DB 75307 A Hologram for the King by Dave Eggers – *Literary Fiction/Bestseller*
 DB 75641 The Round House by Louise Erdrich – *Literary Fiction/Crime Fiction/Native American Fiction/Bestseller*
 DB 74826 Canada by Richard Ford – *Literary Fiction/Bestsellers*
 DB 75765 Billy Lynn's Halftime Walk by Ben Fountain – *War Fiction/Global War on Terror*
 DB 75493 The Dog Stars by Peter Heller – *Science Fiction/Bestsellers*
 DB 74282 The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson – *Literary Fiction/Bestseller*
 DB 76196 The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce – *Contemporary Fiction*
 DB 75233 The Headmaster's Wager by Vincent Lam – *Historical Fiction/Asian Fiction*
 DB 75368 One Last Thing Before I Go by Jonathan Tropper – *Contemporary Fiction/Humor Fiction*
 DB 76211 Battleborn by Claire Vaye Watkins – *American West Fiction/Short Story Anthology*

Nonfiction:

DB 74457 Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo
 DB 74307 Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain
 DB 76283 Some of My Best Friends are Black: The Strange Story of Integration in America by Tanner Colby
 DB 76241 Turing's Cathedral: The Origins of the Digital Universe by George Dyson

DB 76136 Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis
by Timothy Egan

DB 75387 Why Does the World Exist?: An Existential Detective Story by Jim Holt

DB 76148 Engines of Change: A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars by Paul Ingrassia

DB 75707 Leonard and the Last Supper by Ross King

DB 76162 The Ocean of Life: The Fate of Man and the Sea by Callum Roberts

DB 74545 Why Be Happy When You Could be Normal? By Jeanette Winterson

Poetry:

DB 76353 Inferno by Dante Alighieri, translated by Mary Jo Bang

DB 76141 Stag's Leap by Sharon Olds

ALA Notable Books Winners – 2012 List

Fiction:

DB 74780 Lost Memory of Skin by Russell Banks – *Contemporary Fiction*

DB 73935 The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes – *Bestsellers/Literary Fiction*

DB 74172 The Sisters Brothers by Patrick DeWitt – *The West Fiction/Crime Fiction*

DB 74564 Say Her Name by Francisco Goldman – *Literary Fiction*

DB 73791 The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach – *GLBT Fiction/Sports Fiction*

DB 73205 The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obreht – *Literary Fiction/Family Story*

DB 73963 The Cat's Table by Michael Ondaatje – *Bestsellers/Historical Fiction*

DB 72823 Swamplandia! by Karen Russell – *Bestsellers/Literary Fiction*

DB 74451 Selected Stories by William Trevor – *Short Fiction/Irish Fiction*

Nonfiction:

DB 74362 The Memory Palace by Mira Bartok

DB 73808 The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood by James Gleick

DB 73856 The Swerve: How the World Became Modern by Stephen Greenblatt

DB 72129 Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand

DB 74186 Arguably: Essays by Christopher Hitchens

DB 73255 Apollo's Angels: A History of Ballet by Jennifer Homans

DB 73958 Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman

DB 72930 Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention by Manning Marable

DB 73787 Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President by
Candace Millard

DB 72227 The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer by Siddhartha Mukherjee

DB 73558 Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most Secretive Religion by Janet Reitman

Poetry:

DB 74050 Beauty is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability, edited by Jennifer Bartlett, Sheila Black, and
Michael Northen

ALA Notable Books Winners – 2011 List

Fiction:

DB 71989 Room by Emma Donoghue – *Suspense Story/Bestseller*

DB 71810 A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan – *Literary Fiction*

DB 72709 Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter by Tom Franklin – *Mystery*

DB 71329 Freedom by Jonathan Franzen – *Literary Fiction/Bestseller/Oprah's Book Club Selection*

DB 71710 The Surrendered by Chang-Rae Lee – *Korean War Fiction*

DB 70845 Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War by Karl Marlantes – *Vietnam War Fiction/Bestseller*

DB 71475 *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* by David Mitchell – *Historical Fiction/Asian Fiction/Bestseller*

DB 72359 *Skippy Dies* by Paul Murray – *Literary Fiction/Ireland Fiction*

DB 73276 *The Lonely Polygamist* by Brady Udall – *Contemporary Fiction*

Nonfiction:

DB 72132 *Washington: A Life* by Ron Chernow

DB 74286 *The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss* by Edmund de Waal

DB 71547 *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* by Daniel Okrent

DB 71405 *The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn* by Nathaniel Philbrick

DB 70661 *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

DB 70750 *Just Kids* by Patti Smith

DB 74579 *The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival* by John Vaillant

DB 71929 *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson

ALA Notable Books Winners – 2010 List

Fiction:

DB 69893 *The Year of the Flood: Post-Apocalyptic, Book 2* by Margaret Atwood – *Literary Fiction/Science Fiction*

DB 71839 *Await Your Reply* by Dan Chaon – *Literary Fiction*

DB 68617 *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave – *Political Fiction/Bestseller*

DB 73193 *Spooner* by Pete Dexter – *Literary Fiction*

DB 71092 *Tinkers* by Paul Harding – *Literary Fiction/Bestseller*

DB 70450 *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann – *Literary Fiction*

DB 69148 *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison – *Historical Fiction/Bestseller*

DB 69470 *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin – *Historical Fiction/Bestseller*

Nonfiction:

DB 68856 *Columbine* by Dave Cullen

DB 69795 *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers

DB 70623 *The Good Soldiers* by David Finkel

DB 68618 *The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon* by David Grann

DB 72354 *The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science* by Richard Holmes

DB 72175 *Snakehead: An Epic Tale of the Chinatown Underworld and the American Dream* by Patrick Radden Keefe

DB 69472 *Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen* by Christopher McDougall

DB 69495 *Tears in the Darkness: The Story of the Bataan Death March and Its Aftermath* by Michael Norman and Elizabeth M. Norman

DB 72577 *Provenance: How a Con Man and a Forger Rewrote the History of Modern Art* by Lainey Salisbury and Aly Sujo

DB 72422 *The Hawk and the Dove: Paul Nitze, George Kennan, and the History of the Cold War* by Nicholas Thompson