

Gentle Reads Booklist

Updated by Joan Christensen and Judy Yaka 8/09

These titles feature story lines with “old fashioned” qualities.



Place hold

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

By Jane Austen

Call #: F Austen

In this classic English novel, Elizabeth Bennett’s unpleasant first meeting with the proud Mr. Darcy leads to surprising consequences.



Place hold

A SINGLE THREAD

By Marie Bostwick

Call #: F Bostwick

Starting over after a bitter divorce, Evelyn Dixon opens a quilt shop and forms a special bond with three women, and together they find the strength and courage to deal with the unexpected.



Place hold

THE MISTS OF AVALON

By Marion Zimmer Bradley

Call #: Fantasy F Bradley

In the 5th century Christianity was driving out the old religions of Goddess worship and Druidism. The Avalon series explores the conflicts between the new and the old religions as it tells the story of King Arthur from the viewpoints of the women around him.



Place hold

COLD SASSY TREE

By Olive Ann Burns

Call #: F Burns

From his grandfather 14-year-old Will learns the timeless lessons of life: love, death, patience, and hope.



Place hold

THE QUILTER'S APPRENTICE

By Jennifer Chiaverini

Call #: F Chiaverini

Sarah learns how to quilt from a cantankerous old woman and learns the true meaning of friendship.



Place hold

PRAYERS FOR SALE

By Sandra Dallas

Call #: F Dallas

The sentimental story of two women who become inseparable friends when 17-year-old Nit pays the elderly Hennie Comfort to say a prayer for her sweet baby Effie.



Place hold

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF EAST AFRICA

By Nicholas Drayson

Call #: F Drayson

Mr. Malik, a reserved widower and avid bird lover finds himself in a bird count competition with an old nemesis, to determine which of the two can invite the lovely Rose Mbikwa to the Nairobi Hunt Club Ball.



Place hold

WALKING ACROSS EGYPT

By Clyde Edgerton

Call #: F Edgerton

Mattie Rigsbee becomes unlikely friends with a stray dog and a teenage delinquent in her small North Carolina town.



Place hold

THE CHRISTMAS BOX

By Richard Paul Evans

Call #: F Evans

A busy and preoccupied father discovers a Christmas box full of love letters from an old woman to her dead daughter and learns the true meaning of Christmas.



Place hold

STANDING IN THE RAINBOW

By Fannie Flagg

Call #: F Flagg

The light hearted story of the town of Elmwood Spring and its inhabitants.



Place hold

THE LUMBY LINES

By Gail R. Fraser

Call #: F Fraser

When Mark and Pam Walker, a vacationing couple from the East Coast, decide to restore Lumby's ramshackle Montis Abbey and turn it into an inn, it takes a while for the locals to warm up to them; especially the irascible William Beezer, owner of *The Lumby Lines*—the newspaper "worth the paper it's printed on."



Place hold

MRS. MIKE

By Benedict & Nancy Freedman

Call #: F Freedman

Mrs. Mike finds romance and adventure with her husband Sergeant Mike Flannigan of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who is priest, doctor and magistrate in the wilderness of the Great North.





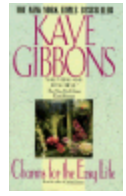
Place hold

NORTH AND SOUTH

By Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell

Call #: F Gaskell

When Margaret Hale moves with her middle class family to a provincial industrial town in northern England she becomes involved in the plight of the local factory workers which conflicts with her growing attraction to one of the mill owners, John Thornton.



Place hold

CHARMS FOR THE EASY LIFE

By Kaye Gibbons

Call #: F Gibbons

Charlie Kate is a self-proclaimed doctor who treats everything from leprosy to malaria with herbs and roots, much to the chagrin of her strong-willed daughter.



Place hold

HOME TO HARMONY

By Philip Gulley

Call #: F Gulley

Quaker pastor Sam Gardner's heartwarming tales about the simple joys and hilarious quirks of the people in his hometown of Harmony.



Place hold

WHERE MERCY FLOWS

By Karen Harter

Call #: F Harter

Having left home because of conflict with her stern father, Sam returns with her five-year-old son after a seven year absence. Her serious health problems require her family's help and personal sacrifice to erase some of the old hurts and anger.



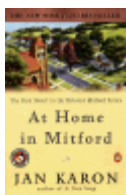
Place hold

FRIENDSHIP CAKE

By J. Lynne Hinton

Call #: F Hinton

Five women of Hope Springs, North Carolina decide to create a church cookbook. Along the way they become a source of solace, support, and strength for each other.



Place hold

AT HOME IN MITFORD

By Jan Karon

Call #: F Karon

In this first novel of the Mitford Years series, Father Tim finds new meaning in his life while the Mitford villagers experience the ups and downs of everyday life.



Place hold

HOME TO HOLLY SPRINGS

By Jan Karon

Call #: F Karon

Anticipating a relaxing retirement, Father Tim returns to his hometown for the first time in decades when he receives an anonymous summons, an event that leads to his discovery of long-buried secrets.





Place hold

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

By Sue Monk Kidd

Call #: F Kidd

14-year-old Lily seeks sanctuary with her beloved nanny and searches for her past and redemption in this coming of age tour-de-force set in the South during the '60s.



Place hold

DEAD DON'T DANCE: A NOVEL OF AWAKENING

By Charles Martin

Call #: F Martin

When the Styles' baby is delivered stillborn and Maggie slips into a deep coma, Dylan begins to question his beliefs.



Place hold

THE SHAPE OF MERCY

By Susan Meissner

Call #: F Meissner

The unforgettable story of a college student who accepts a job as a literary assistant to Abigail Boyle transcribing a mysterious 400-year-old diary by Mercy Hayworth.



Place hold

JUST JANE: A NOVEL OF JANE AUSTEN'S LIFE

By Nancy Moser

Call #: F Moser

Based on historical records, a novel presented as a journal written by Jane Austen follows the author's life from her first love at age twenty until she is a respected author in her late thirties.



Place hold

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

By Baroness Emmuska Orczy

Call #: F Orczy

During the French Revolution's Reign of Terror, an English aristocrat and his small band of dedicated friends undertake dangerous missions to save members of the French nobility from the guillotine.



Place hold

STEP BALL CHANGE

By Jeanne Ray

Call #: F Ray

A long, happy marriage, a great job, and grown kids make the perfect set up for chaos, disruption and a great humorous relationship read.



Place hold

THE LAST SIN EATER

By Francine Rivers

Call #: F Rivers

In Appalachia, a 10-year-old girl is intrigued by the "sin eater" who appears at her grandmother's funeral. So she goes in search of him to have her own sins absolved.





Place hold

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY

By Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Call #: F Shaffer

A chance letter, written by a native of the Island of Guernsey to writer Julie Ashton, begins an exchange that draws Julie into this man's world and the world of his charming, funny and deeply human friends.



Place hold

A WALK TO REMEMBER

By Nicholas Sparks

Call #: F Sparks

When Landon Carter was seventeen his life was changed forever when he fell in love with the minister's daughter.



Place hold

AIRS ABOVE THE GROUND

By Mary Stewart

Call #: F Stewart

Vanessa March did not think it unusual for her husband to take a business trip to Stockholm. What was mysterious was the silence that followed. Then she caught a glimpse of him in a newsreel shot of a crowd near a circus fire in Vienna and knew it was more than strange. It was downright sinister.



Place hold

THE ULTIMATE GIFT

By Jim Stovall

Call #: F Stovall

To inherit a million dollars from his great uncle, Jason Stevens will need to change his life drastically.



Place hold

THESE IS MY WORDS: THE DIARY OF SARAH AGNES PRINE, 1881-1901, ARIZONA TERRITORIES: A NOVEL

By Nancy E. Turner

Call #: F Turner

As Sarah crosses the plains with her family on the way west, she learns to read with help from the other travelers whilst experiencing Indian raids, tragedy, and romance.



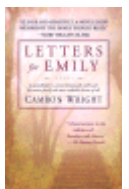
Place hold

GOOD HOPE ROAD

By Lisa Wingate

Call #: F Wingate

After a tornado destroys their town of Poetry, Missouri, 21-year-old Jennilee Lane and her elderly neighbor Eudora Gibson are given a second chance.



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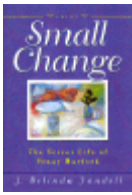
LETTERS FOR EMILY

By Camron Steve Wright

Call #: F Wright

In an attempt to heal the wounds in his splintered family, a dying Harry Wright writes a series of letters to his granddaughter, Emily that can be accessed by cracking the codes hidden in his original poems.





Place hold

SMALL CHANGE: THE SECRET LIFE OF PENNY BURFORD

By J. Belinda Yandell

Call #: F Yandell

By saving her husband's small change, Penny Burford finds her life transformed as well as untold others.

MYSTERY GENTLE READS



Place hold

AUNT DIMITY'S DEATH

By Nancy Atherton

Call #: Mystery F Atherton

Lori Shephard will inherit a sizeable estate if she can discover the secret hidden in a treasure trove of letters found in Aunt Dimity's cottage in England.



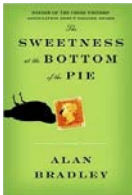
Place hold

JANE AND THE UNPLEASANTNESS AT SCARGRAVE MANOR

By Stephanie Barron

Call #: Mystery F Barron

Jane Austen must find out who murdered the Earl of Scargrave to absolve her friend Isobel from being convicted of the crime.



Place hold

SWEETNESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PIE

By C. Alan Bradley

Call #: Mystery F Bradley

Aspiring chemist 11-year-old Flavia de Luce is intrigued when a dead man turns up in the cucumber patch of her family estate. To her the investigation to find his true murderer is the stuff of science, especially after her father is accused.



Place hold

ANATHEMA

By Colleen Coble

Call #: F Coble

After years of running, Hannah Schwartz has finally built a life for herself—far from the insecure husband who bullied and abused her, from the close-knit Amish community who raised her, then shunned her. Can love heal old wounds . . . or keep the community safe from a deadly danger?



Place hold

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

By Agatha Christie

Call #: Mystery F Christie

In this unique, detective-less mystery, ten strangers stranded on an island are murdered one by one.





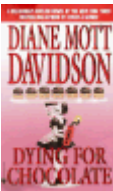
Place hold

GRIME AND PUNISHMENT

By Jill Churchill

Call #: Mystery F Churchill

With three kids to raise on her own, Jane Jeffry sometimes needed a hand with the housework. But just because the Happy Helper cleaning lady didn't know a dust ball if she was choking on it, isn't reason enough to murder her.



Place hold

DYING FOR CHOCOLATE

By Diane Mott Davidson

Call #: Mystery F Davidson

Meet Goldy Bear: a bright, opinionated, wildly inventive caterer whose personal life has become a recipe for disaster when she decides to do a little murder investigating on her own. An added bonus is the great recipes.



Place hold

THE SADDLEMAKER'S WIFE

By Earlene Fowler

Call #: Mystery F Fowler

When her husband, Cole, dies, Ruby is shocked to discover she has inherited part of a cattle ranch and that the family he claimed was dead is very much alive. It is up to her to discover the truth.



Place hold

THE UNEXPECTED MRS. POLLIFAX

By Dorothy Gilman

Call #: Mystery F Gilman

Meet Mrs. Virgil (Emily) Pollifax of New Brunswick, New Jersey—a widow with grown children, volunteer garden club member, and CIA agent.



Place hold

MURDER ON A BAD HAIR DAY

By Anne George

Call #: Mystery F George

The totally opposite, 60-something sisters Patricia Anne and Mary Alice are drawn into investigation when the gallery owner dies at a party for local folk artists, and the girls soon learn that many of the artists had murderous designs on the victim.



Place hold

STEALING WITH STYLE

By Emyl Jenkins

Call #: Mystery F Jenkins

Sterling Glass spends her time appraising heirlooms in the vicinity of her Virginia home. It is through her friend, Peter that she learns that valuable antiques have been found at the local Goodwill.



Place hold

THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE: OR ON THE SEGREGATION OF THE QUEEN

By Laurie R King

Call #: Mystery F King

When Mary Russell meets the famous Sherlock Holmes she becomes his apprentice in the mysteries of detection and finds herself on the trail of kidnappers and a plot to kill Holmes and herself.





Place hold

THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY

By Alexander McCall Smith

Call #: Mystery F McCall Smith

A series of vignettes about how Mma Ramotswe established and developed her No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency.



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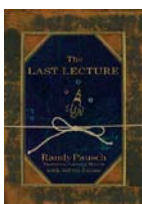
CROCODILE ON THE SANDBANK

By Elizabeth Peters

Call #: Mystery F Peters

Victorian gentlewoman Amelia Peabody has not only inherited her father's fortune, she is also blessed with his strong will as well. Now she's headed for Cairo, accompanied by a girl with a tarnished past, to indulge her passion for Egyptology. Little did she know that murder and a homicidal mummy lay in wait for her.

NONFICTION GENTLE READS



Place hold

THE LAST LECTURE

By Randy Pausch

Call #: 170.44 Pau

The life stories and lessons Randy Pausch wanted to give to his young children as a last legacy before his death.



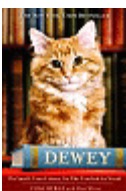
Place hold

THREE CUPS OF TEA: ONE MAN'S MISSION TO PROMOTE PEACE—ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME

By Greg Mortenson

Call #: 371.822 Mor

The inspiring story of the mountaineer who, in gratitude for helping him when he was dangerously ill, built a school in the small Pakistani village of Korphe, and who now continues to build schools in that region of the world in order to make a difference.



Place hold

DEWEY: THE SMALL-TOWN LIBRARY CAT WHO TOUCHED THE WORLD

By Vicki Myron

Call #: 636.809 Myr

No one could have predicted the impact one small orange kitten left in a book drop on a freezing cold Midwestern night would have on a small community in Iowa. This sweet story is for cat lovers and library lovers alike.



Place hold

THE GOOD GOOD PIG: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER HOGWOOD

By Sy Montgomery

Call #: 636.408 Mon

The insightful, funny, and touching story of pig Christopher Hogwood, who started out life as the runt of the litter, and became a 750 pound local celebrity.





Place hold

MARLEY & ME: LIFE AND LOVE WITH THE WORLD'S WORST DOG

By John Grogan

Call #: 636.752 Gro

An amusing chronicle of a hyperactive, mischievous, and lovable yellow Labrador that took over the Grogans' lives.



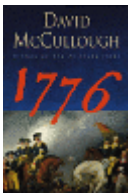
Place hold

MY LIFE IN FRANCE

By Julia Child

Call #: 641.509 Chi

The delightful story of Julia Child's years in France as the wife of a diplomatic officer, and the beginnings of her joie de vivre of French cooking.



Place hold

1776

By David G. McCullough

Call #: 973.3 McC

The intensely human story of those who marched with General George Washington in the critical year of the Declaration of Independence, when the American cause for liberty was dependent on their successful war efforts.