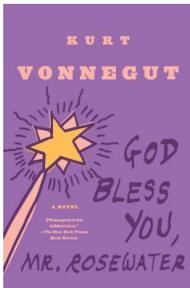




Great Reads for Adults

The Mission Viejo Library has a wide selection of books that would appeal to a variety of readers. Here are a few interesting title suggestions. Follow the link in each title line to find the book in the library catalog.

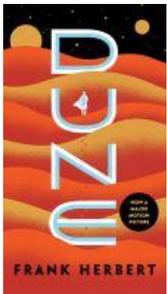
Adult Fiction



[God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater](#)

Kurt Vonnegut | FIC Vonnegut, K.

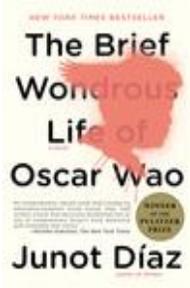
Eliot Rosewater is a millionaire and traumatized World War II veteran who renounces his family fortune and withdraws into a small town on the other side of the country where he can redistribute his wealth to the poor. Relatives and an opportunist conspire to take Eliot's fortune away after labelling him as mentally unfit. But Eliot is sane enough to contrive his own plan that might cause his conspirators' strategy to backfire in his favor.



[Dune](#)

Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson | FIC Herbert, B.

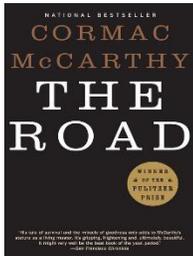
Paul Atreides is a young heir to a noble family, House Atreides, which has the good fortune of trafficking Spice M \acute{e} lange; an in demand drug that makes galactic travel possible. After the betrayal of his family, he is set off on a journey that will transform him into one of the most valuable figures known by humankind.



[The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao](#)

Junot Díaz | FIC Díaz, J.

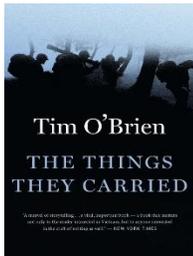
The story of Oscar Wao - an awkward and overweight teenager growing up in New Jersey while contending with the curse of his family's Dominican past. Fantasy and science fiction, an aspiration to become a Latino J.R.R. Tolkien, and, most importantly, virginity all contribute to his failure at living up to the *machismo* Dominican image. Here is what he did about that and the consequences that ensued.



[The Road](#)

Cormac McCarthy | eBook

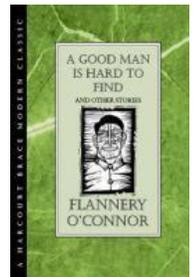
A nameless father and son drift through an unidentified land after an unknown apocalyptic event has nearly wiped out all of civilization. Stripped down to the bare bones of human savagery, survival for these two hinges not on their survival skills but rather on the dynamics of their relationship and the commitment they each have to seeing the other through the dark road ahead.



[The Things They Carried](#)

Tim O'Brien | FIC O'Brien, T.

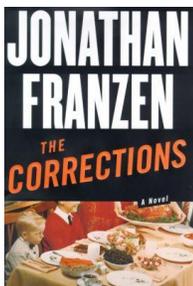
O'Brien uses his wartime experience in Vietnam to interconnect fictitious stories about members of a single platoon fighting during the Vietnam War. These stories range from the soldiers' days during the war, as far back as to their childhoods, and forward twenty years after the end of the conflict to examine the impact the war had on their lives in the following decades.



[A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Stories](#)

Flannery O'Connor | FIC O'Connor, F.

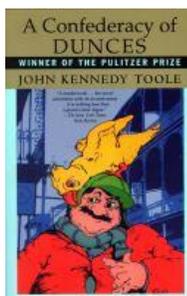
A collection of short stories by master storyteller Flannery O'Connor, these ten tales are not as wholesome as the collection's namesake would suggest. The Southern Gothic stories present disturbed and slightly-off characters and are peppered with elements of religion, death, vice, redemption, and twisted wit.



[The Corrections](#)

Jonathan Franzen | FIC Franzen, J.

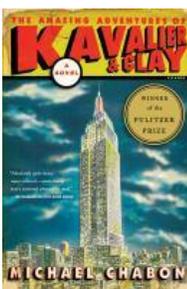
The Lambert children are all grown up and living in big East Coast cities far from their Midwestern hometown. The family's patriarch is being further consumed by the onset of Parkinson's disease while the mother is coping with the reality of her husband's decline and the fact that her children are not present to support either parent. This overbearing wife and mom calls her kids back for a last Christmas together amid family and personal issues.



[A Confederacy of Dunces](#)

John Kennedy Toole | FIC Toole, J.

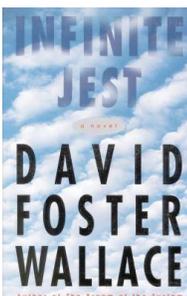
An obese medieval history graduate still living with his mom at the age of thirty is forced to find a job after a series of blundering events follow his misidentification by law enforcement as a vagrant. This comedic piece stands in stark contrast to its author's dark and tragic demise. Toole was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1981 for the title.



[The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay](#)

Michael Chabon | FIC Chabon, M.

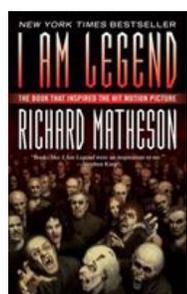
Josef Kavalier, a teenaged Jew and Harry Houdini enthusiast from Prague, uses his escapology skills to arrive in America as his country falls to Nazi invasion. "Joe" carries on in New York with his cousin Sammy Klayman as the two team up to create and illustrate iconic superheroes during the Golden Age of Comic Books. The theme of escapism continues as the pair use their creations to escape society's scorn of Jewish and gay identities.



[Infinite Jest](#)

David Foster Wallace | FIC Wallace, D.

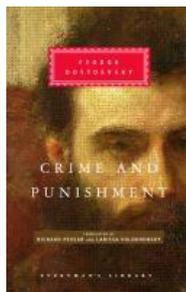
In a not-so-distant future, the Gregorian calendar has been replaced by brand name sponsorship arrangements, the U.S., Canada, and Mexico have merged into the Organization of North American Nations (O.N.A.N.), and the master copy of *Infinite Jest*, a film so engrossing that its viewers die after incessant viewings, is sought. A comedic look at addiction, entertainment, corporate dystopia, institutionalization, and even tennis.



[I am Legend](#)

Richard Matheson | PB Matheson, R.

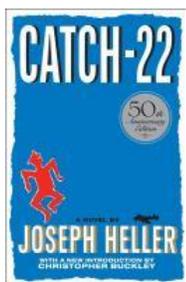
A plague has devastated Earth and left Robert Neville as the apparent last human on the planet. The dead have returned as vampires and would like nothing more than to drink Neville's blood. Neville tirelessly hunts vampires during the day and performs scientific research on their corpses at night while battling serious bouts of loneliness and depression to discover a plague antidote. Humanity's extinction already appears over the horizon.



[Crime and Punishment](#)

Fyodor Dostoyevsky | FIC Dostoyevsky, F.

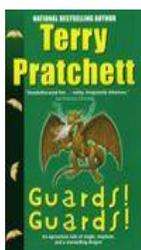
A firm believer in “the ends justifies the means,” Raskolnikov wickedly murders a “stupid” and “greedy” old woman in an act he believes will deliver him from poverty. However, his conscience and, eventually, the law catch up with him as he contemplates the seriousness and the finality of his crime, as well as the value of redemption in what he considers an irredeemable act.



[Catch-22](#)

Joseph Heller | FIC Heller, J.

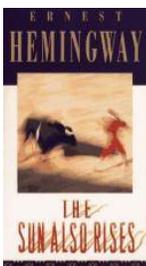
A story about a bombardier serving during WWII who, like the rest of his squadron members, has come to believe that his sole existence is to simply perform violent bombing raids for the benefit of his country’s war bureaucracy. Amid grievous war experiences, Yossarian attempts to convince his superiors that he is unfit for service due to insanity. This only proves he is sane since only the sane would ask for a mental evaluation.



[Guards! Guards!](#)

Terry Pratchett | PB Pratchett, T.

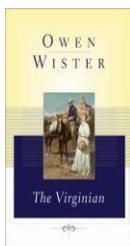
A secret brotherhood conspires to take over Ankh-Morpork by overthrowing the city’s Patrician and installing a puppet king. They steal a forgotten magic book from the Unseen Library to summon a dragon as part of the plan. But the dragon is too powerful for even the brotherhood and becomes a bigger city threat. The nearly obsolete Watch group is reinvigorated and joins the Librarian to save the city from both the dragon and the conspirators.



[The Sun Also Rises](#)

Ernest Hemingway | FIC Hemingway, E.

Hemingway introduces characters from the “Lost Generation,” which emerged from World War I. Expatriates from both America and the United Kingdom wander through Europe as directionless as the moral compass their generation has been handed. Two central characters are the narrator, Jake, who is dealing with impotency due to a war injury, and his ex-lover, Brett, who is unwilling to give up a life of sexual satisfaction.



[The Virginian](#)

Owen Wister | FIC Wister, O.

Here is an iconic novel from the start of the 20th Century that is often cited as the origin of the Western genre. The story is told from the perspective of an East Coast “tenderfoot” as he makes his way through the Wild West. Along the way, he meets a handsome Virginian cowboy who escorts the narrator to his destination. Events from the cowboy’s life are portrayed through Western clichés (gun duels, romance, hangings) but with impactful character depth.



[Maus](#)

Art Spiegelman | 940.5318 SPI



This two-volume series is the only graphic novel to be awarded a Pulitzer prize. "Artie" Spiegelman begins the tale depicting his interview with his father, Vladek, about Vladek's experiences in a Nazi concentration camp. A story-within-a-story emerges as the panels soon depict scenes from the past as Vladek endures through German-occupied Poland. Humans are portrayed anthropomorphically – Jews as mice, Germans as cats, Poles as pigs, Americans as dogs.