Literary fiction

The help by Stockett, Kathryn
Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. Aibileen is a wise, regal black maid raising her seventeenth white child. Minny, Aibileen’s best friend, can cook like nobody’s business but can’t mind her tongue. It is 1962, and these three ordinary women are about to take one extraordinary step that forever changes a town and the way women -- mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends -- view one another.

Fic-Sto

Fried Green Tomatoes At the Whistle Stop Café by Flagg, Fannie
Middle aged Evelyn Couch, befriends eighty-year-old Ninny Threadgood, who tells her the story of the Whistle Stop Cafe and the two women who ran it in the 1930s.

Fic-Flag

The Secret Life of Bees by Kidd, Sue Monk
After her “stand-in mother,” a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

Fic-Kid

The Invention of Wings by Kidd, Sue Monk
It follows Hetty “Handful” Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. Inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke (a feminist, suffragist and, importantly, an abolitionist), Kidd allows herself to go beyond the record to flesh out the inner lives of all the characters, both real and imagined.

Fic-Kid

Where the Heart Is by Letts, Billie
Novalee Nation, seventeen, pregnant, and living in a Wal-Mart store discovers friendship, encouragement, direction and love with a group of caring people in Sequoyah, Oklahoma.

Fic-Let

The Poisonwood Bible by Kingsolver, Barbara
Nathan Price and his family move to the Belgian Congo in 1959, and the experiences they have while living in Africa affect each member of the family in a different way.

Fic-Kin

The Language of Flowers by Diffenbaugh, Vanessa
The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions, but for Victoria Jones it’s been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, Victoria is eighteen and emancipated.

Fic-Dif

A Man Called Ove by Backman, Fredrik
A feel-good story. This novel about the angry old man next door is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others.

Fic-Bac

Water For Elephants by Gruen, Sara
Ninety-year-old Jacob Jankowski finds himself haunted by memories of his past in the circus and the freaks, exotic animals, and other people he encountered as a performer.

Fic-Gru

Still Alice by Genova, Lisa
Alice Howland, a fifty-year-old cognitive psychology professor at Harvard, starts to experience early-onset Alzheimer’s, initially becoming disoriented around town and eventually losing track of rooms in her home before resigning from Harvard and attempting to hold onto the severe change in her life.
The Midnight Library by Haig, Matt

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself?

Fic-Hai

Twelve Tribes of Hattie by Mathis, Ayana

Hattie gives birth to nine more children, whom she raises with grit, mettle, and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave. She vows to prepare them to meet a world that will not be kind. Their lives, captured here in twelve luminous threads, tell the story of a mother's monumental courage--and a nation's tumultuous journey.

Fic-Mat

Flight Behavior by Kingsolver, Barbara

Tired of living on a failing farm and suffering oppressive poverty, bored housewife Dellarobia Turnbow, on the way to meet a potential lover, is detoured by a miraculous event on the Appalachian mountainside that ignites a media and religious firestorm that changes her life forever.

Fic-CD-Kin

Looking For Alaska by John Green

Miles “Pudge” Halter is done with his safe life at home, and his obsession with famous last words only makes him crave “the Great Perhaps” (Rabelais). But at Culver Creek Boarding School, life becomes the opposite of safe. Because of gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy, self-destructive, screwed up Alaska Young.

YA Gre

Minding Frankie by Binchy, Maeve

When Noel learns that his terminally ill former flame is pregnant with his child, he agrees to take guardianship of the baby girl once she’s born. But as a single father battling demons of his own, Noel can’t do it alone. Fortunately, he has a competent, caring network of friends, family and neighbors.

Fic-Bin

What Alice Forgot by Moriarty, Lianne

Alice Love is twenty-nine, crazy about her husband, and pregnant with her first child. So imagine Alice’s surprise when she comes to on the floor of a gym (a gym She HATES the gym) and is whisked off to the hospital where she discovers the honeymoon is truly over--she’s getting divorced, she has three kids, and she’s actually 39 years old.

Fic-Bin

The World According To Garp
By Irving , John

The World According to Garp is a comic and compassionate coming-of-age novel that established John Irving as one of the most imaginative writers of his generation.

Fic-Irv

The Rosie Project by Simson, Graeme

Genetics professor Don Tillman’s ordered life is thrown into chaos when love enters the equation. Never good with social cues, Don explains his difficulty empathizing with others, which he forthrightly says is a defining symptom of the autism spectrum, as a result of his brain simply being wired differently.

Fic -SIM

White Oleander by Fitch, Janet

Astrid, the only child of a single mother, struggles to find a place for herself in a world full of foster homes and impossible circumstances, after her mother is jailed for murder.

Fic-Fit

The Book of Ruth by Hamilton, Jane

The black sheep of her troubled family, Ruth struggles to keep the peace between her mother, her young son, and her slightly off-the-wall husband and to put the pieces back together when a heated situation boils over.

Fic-Ham