

Book Group Rx

Having a hard time getting everyone to finish the chosen book? Are there rumblings about books all being tragically depressing? Or epically long? Are you yearning for classics, but others are reluctant? Here are suggestions for a little boost. (For more ideas, please email FIC@spl.org; the Fiction Department librarians will be thrilled to hear from you!)

****Accessible Classics**

Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen
Red Sky at Morning by Richard Bradford
My Antonia by Willa Cather
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
The Scarlet Letter
by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Arrowsmith by Sinclair Lewis
The Optimist's Daughter
by Eudora Welty
House of Mirth by Edith Wharton

Companion Books

The Chosen by Chaim Potok /
Holy Days by Lis Harris
Howards End by E.M. Forster /
On Beauty by Zadie Smith
My Jim by Nancy Rawles /
Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf /
The Hours by Michael Cunningham

Ultimately Uplifting

(or at least not too depressing)
The Romance Reader by Pearl Abrams
Peace Like a River by Leif Enger
Plainsong by Kent Haruf
The Country of the Pointed Firs
by Sarah Orne Jewett
My Latest Grievance by Elinor Lipman
The Highest Tide by Jim Lynch
Lost in the Forest by Sue Miller
The Autobiography of
Miss Jane Pittman
by Ernest J. Gaines
Gilead by Marilynne Robinson
The Soloist by Mark Salzman
Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner
Tortilla Flat by John Steinbeck
Meely La Beauve by Ken Wells

Short Books (not necessarily easy)

The Stranger by Albert Camus
Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress
by Sijie Dai
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Desperate Characters by Paula Fox
The Curious Incident of the
Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon
Heat Wave by Penelope Lively
Daisy Miller by Henry James
Animal Farm by George Orwell
When the Emperor Was Divine
by Julie Otsuka
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Nonfiction and Memoirs

Daughter of Persia
by Sattareh Farman-Farmaian
Travels with Myself and Another
by Martha Gellhorn
Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert
The Tender Bar by J.R. Moehringer
The Omnivore's Dilemma
by Michael Pollan
The Places Between by Rory Stewart
The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls
Night by Elie Wiesel

Books to Movies

Possession by A.S. Byatt
A Passage to India by E.M. Forster
All the Pretty Horses
by Cormac McCarthy
The Human Stain by Philip Roth
This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolff

****Twice-Read Books:**

It's okay to revisit something you read in high school because you had to. It will be a completely different book this time!