2012 Notable Books List
American Library Association
Reference and User Services Association

All information from ALA website, http://TinyURL.com/3q8spn9

Fiction

This lovely and unsettling account of pop trio The Browns reels you in as though the concept of rags to riches were brand new.

Five-year-old Jack vividly narrates the story of his life confined in a room with his mother in this unsettling exploration of resilience and hope.

*A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan. Knopf. 9780307592835.
A’70s punk band becomes the touchstone for a motley crew who spin their interconnected stories over time and distance.

*Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* by Tom Franklin. William Morrow. 9780060594664.
Two men – one black, one white – must confront the secrets surrounding their childhood friendship following the disappearance of two girls in rural Mississippi.

This incisive portrait of the fractured Berglund brood captures the zeitgeist of contemporary America.

Welcome to the worst day of Kevin Quinn’s life as he battles the anxieties of the modern world in steamy Austin, Texas.

*The Surrendered* by Chang Rae Lee. Riverhead. 9781594489761.
The complex entangled lives of three people forever scarred by the Korean War are sympathetically portrayed in gorgeous prose.

An ambitious and idealistic American Marine faces the horror, heroism, futility, and pragmatism of war in this visceral portrayal of life in-country.

A young clerk attempts to establish himself in the artificial and intense world of Dejima, the Dutch trading colony in 1800s Japan.
**Skippy Dies** by Paul Murray. Faber and Faber. 9780865479432. Filled warmth and humor, this coming-of-age novel set in a Dublin boys school is a sprawling homage to adolescence, string theory, donuts, and unrequited love.

**The Lotus Eaters** by Tatjana Soli. St. Martin’s. 9780312611576. The adrenaline high that danger offers infects photojournalist Helen Adams as she documents the war in Vietnam.

**The Lonely Polygamist: A Novel** by Brady Udall. W.W.Norton. 9780393062625. In this big-hearted novel, Golden Richards and his clan navigate their chaotic lives as each clamors to be noticed.

**Non-Fiction**

**Washington: A Life** by Ron Chernow. Penguin. 9781594202667. A landmark biography provides insights into the complexities of this founding father’s character, and brings him fully to life within the context of his times.

**The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Family’s Century of Art and Loss** by Edmund de Waal. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 9780374105976. Blending history, biography and art, this personal account elegantly traces the fate of a European Jewish family and their collection of 246 netsuke.

**Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea** by Barbara Demick. Spiegel & Grau. 9780385523905. Chronicling the experiences of six people, this powerful account draws back the curtain on the brutality of life under a totalitarian regime.

**Travels in Siberia** by Ian Frazier. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 9780374278724. Stricken by Russia love, a writer sets out to experience all things Siberian and takes us along for the rollicking journey.

**The Price of Altruism: George Price and the Search for the Origins of Kindness** by Oren Harman. W.W. Norton. 9780393067781. This moving work provides insight into the mind of a tormented genius attempting to understand an illusive aspect of human nature.

**Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition** by Daniel Okrent. Scribner. 97807432777020. This intoxicating history of the 18th amendment reveals the surprising relationship between Prohibition and other social movements, and explores its lasting impact on American life.

**Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour** by Lynne Olson. Random House. 9781400067589. In this compelling portrait three influential individuals persuade a reluctant President to come to the aid of a beleaguered nation in the early days of WWII.

**The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn** by Nathaniel Philbrick. Viking. 9780670021727. An epic encounter between two iconic individuals is vividly portrayed in fluid, evocative, and decidedly objective prose.

**Just Kids** by Patti Smith. Ecco. 9780066211312. The poet and musician’s endearing memoir about her relationship with Robert Mapplethorpe captures life and art in New York City during the 1960s and ‘70s.

**The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival** by John Vaillant. Knopf. 9780307268938. Russia’s ecological and cultural history serves as the backdrop for this riveting adventure tale of man versus beast.

**The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration** by Isabel Wilkerson. Random House. 9780679444329. The 20th century exodus of over 6 million Black Americans from the South is sensitively retold through the lives of three who left.

**Poetry**

**Unincorporated Persons in the Late Honda Dynasty: Poems** by Tony Hoagland. Graywolf Press. 9781555975494. These poems capture the absurdities and loneliness of American life using matter of fact language and humor.

**Wait: Poems** by C.K. Williams. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 9780374285913. A lifetime of experience is distilled into a slim but significant volume of verse by this Pulitzer and National Book Award winning poet.

Presentation by Lincoln City Libraries Director Pat Leach

Titles Pat discussed in specific are highlighted in yellow. The rest of the list is provided for readers’ convenience.

Bethany BooksTalk – December 16, 2011 / Lunch at the Library – February 1, 2012

Lincoln City Libraries, Lincoln, NE

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