

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

FICTION:

Banks, Russell. [Lost Memory of Skin](#). Ecco. (9780061857638)

A surprisingly sympathetic exploration of the lives and treatment of sex offenders and how this reflects on our society.

Barnes, Julian. [The Sense of An Ending](#). Knopf. (9780307957122)

A 60-something retiree living near London searches through his memories to discern what role, if any, he may have played in a decades-old tragedy.

deWitt, Patrick. [The Sisters Brothers](#). Ecco (9780062041265)

A darkly comic and quixotic quest western tale about two brothers whose divergent world views are presented in sparkling prose and originality.

Goldman, Francisco. [Say Her Name](#). Grove. (978082119810)

Poetic novelization of the author's struggle to cope with his young wife's accidental death.

Harbach, Chad. [The Art of Fielding](#). Little, Brown. (9780316126694)

One man's failure to attain perfect on the baseball field reveals the pain and beauty that life offers in this psychologically astute novel.

MacLeod, Alexander. [Light Lifting](#). Biblioasis. (9781897231944)

Seven fearless short stories explore the limits of physical and emotional endurance in muscular prose.

Obrecht, Téa. [The Tiger's Wife](#). Random House. (9780385343831)

After the death of her beloved grandfather, a young doctor navigates family history, folklore, and love across ethnic barriers in a war-torn country.

***Ondaatje, Michael.** [The Cat's Table](#). Knopf. (9780307700117)

An adventurous 21-day ocean voyage filled with a rich assortment of characters and escapades resonates through a boy's life on his way to a new life.

Phillips, Arthur. [The Tragedy of Arthur](#). Random House. (9781400066476)

In an adulthood marred by family dysfunction, an author who dislikes Shakespeare reluctantly finds himself in possession of the Bard's lost gem. Or does he?

Russell, Karen. [Swamplandia!](#) Knopf. (9780307263995)

An inventive story set in an alligator theme-park navigates boundaries between childhood and adulthood, imagination and reality, in an American landscape both familiar and surreal.

Torres, Justin. [We the Animals](#). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. (9780547576725)

Searing portrait of a troubled, mixed-race working class family centers on the youngest son as he struggles to find his identity amid affection and abuse.

Trevor, William. [Selected Stories](#). Viking. (9780670022069)

These finely sculpted and timeless stories provide a greater appreciation for finding beauty in the minutiae of daily life.

NONFICTION:

Adams, Mark. [Right Turn at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time](#). Dutton (9780525952244) *985 Ada*

In this humorous travelogue, the author sprinkles historical anecdote with investigative reporting as he retraces the steps of early explorers into ancient Peru.

***Bartók, Mira.** [The Memory Palace](#). Free Press. (9781439183311) *Biography Bartok*

Beautifully wrought memoir chronicles the 17-year estrangement of the author and her homeless, schizophrenic mother, and the painful reunion that brings them together.

Gleck, James. [The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood](#). Knopf. (9780375423727) *303.438 Gle*

This comprehensive study, a melodious interplay between science and literature, documents the transmission of human knowledge from the talking drums to the Internet.

Greenblatt, Stephen. [The Swerve: How the World Became Modern](#). Norton. (9780393064476) *940.21 Gre*

Meditation on the power of literature, examining how a medieval book hunter's serendipitous discovery of an ancient prose poem provides a theoretical bridge to the Renaissance.

***Hillenbrand, Laura.** [Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption](#). Random House. (9781400064168) *Biography Zamperini*

An Olympic runner's physical and inner-strength is tested by the experience and aftermath of a plane crash, 42 days at sea, and Japanese imprisonment.

Hitchens, Christopher. [Arguably: Essays](#). Twelve. (9781455502776) *081 Hit*

Polymath and public intellectual displays his considerable range and biting wit in these thoughtful, incisive pieces that provoke and challenge.

Homans, Jennifer. [Apollo's Angels: A History of Ballet](#). Random House. (9781400060603) 792.809 *Hom*
Elegant, authoritative work traces the evolution of classical dance from the 16th century to today, highlighting social and cultural dimensions of this traditional art form.

***Kahneman, Daniel.** [Thinking, Fast and Slow](#). Farr, Strauss, Giroux. (9780374275631) 153.44 *Kah*
Entertaining look at the complexities and oddities that characterize our mental processes from the only psychologist ever to have won the Nobel Prize for Economics.

Marable, Manning. [Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention](#). Viking. (9780670022205) *Biography Malcolm X*
Definitive work on his life and transformation from petty thief to charismatic leader during the turbulent civil rights era.

***Millard, Candace.** [Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President](#).
Doubleday. (9780385526265) 364.152 *Mil*
Era of great corrupt and change in U.S. history is illuminated through the tragic story of two men – one destined for greatness, the other a madman.

***Mukherjee, Siddhartha.** [Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer](#). Scribner. (9781439107959)
616.944 *Muk*
The history of these diseases and their treatment is examined through the stories of those seeking to discover a cure and the individuals affected.

Reitman, Janet. [Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most Secretive Religion](#). Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt. (9780618883028) 299.936 *Rei*
An investigation of the origins, personalities, and controversies of this uniquely American religious movement.

POETRY:

(Lincoln City Libraries does not own either of these)

Rimbaud, Arthur. *Illuminations*. Translated by John Ashbery. Norton. (9780393076356)
A vigorous new translation of the French prodigy's last poems as rendered by one of America's finest contemporary poets.

Bartlett, Jennifer, Shelia Black, and Michael, Northen. *Beauty is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability*. Cinco
Puntos. (9781935955054)
Collection of poems and essays that provides insight into the lives of the estimated 50 million Americans with disabilities.

*indicates “the most appealing six titles on this list” as evaluated by Pat Leach

Annotations from:

“2012 List”, American Library Association, January 23, 2012.

<http://www.ala.org/rusa/awards/notablebooks/lists/2012> (Accessed October 2, 2012)

Document ID: ff6f01c9-b001-a964-5da0-733a8a19cbde

**Presented by Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries
NLA/NSLA/MPLA Fall 2012**

Presented as a Lincoln City Libraries BooksTalk: Bethany Branch Nov 2 2012 & Gere Branch Nov 5 2012