



RECIPE FOR SELECTING A BOOK

Books are to the mind what food is to the stomach. In choosing the right book to satisfy your hunger, it helps to compare reading to eating. Books available in many different flavors appeal to various tastes, so this can be a complex task.

To further complicate matters, reader moods are continuously changing. Sometimes fast food satisfies your appetite, while at other times you may desire a really classy atmosphere or a meatier taste, something you can really sink your teeth into. At times you may be ravenous for a high-calorie meal, while at others it's best to eat light.

Just as there are various types of restaurants, there are various genres of books. Perhaps you're in the mood for Italian or Mexican cuisine, maybe a mystery or western sounds good. How a dish is presented can greatly contribute to your enjoyment. A talented author combines various ingredients in unique ways to cook up a book you can't resist.

KEEP A READING RECORD

- What authors do you especially like?
- Is there a particular type of book or genre that you like?
- Describe a book you really liked or disliked.

What factors did you base your opinion on?

What factors are the most important to you in books that appeal to you or don't?

- What have you read lately?

INGREDIENTS OF BOOK APPEAL

CHARACTERS Psychological ♦Interior ♦Complex motivations ♦Fully developed people	FOCUS	STORY Exterior Situations ♦Events ♦Action
LIGHT Humor ♦Romance	STYLE	SERIOUS Dark ♦Dramatic ♦Violence
FAST Moves quickly ♦ Short chapters ♦ lots of dialogue	PACE	SLOW Complex Plot ♦Deep Themes ♦lots of description
PAST HISTORICAL Interesting location	SETTING: TIME PLACE	PRESENT FUTURE Location not essential
GENTLE Clean	LANGUAGE	GRITTY Strong

BOOK REPORT CARD

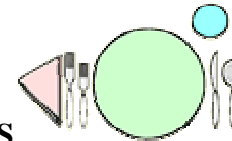
	A	B	C	D	F
Characters					
The characters are interesting & believable					
Plot					
The story proceeds logically The ending is satisfying					
Description					
The images are clear					
Dialogue					
The characters sound real The dialogue enhances plot or character					
Setting					
The setting strengthens the plot					
Theme					
The story reveals truth about human nature					
Originality					
The book: -creates an emotional response -provokes thought -is especially entertaining -has a special or unique element					
Style					
The way the author writes adds to the story					
TOTAL RATING					



Ideas for Reading!



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Authors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Award Winners ◆ Bestsellers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Books of local interest ◆ Book Club Choices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Genres ◆ Read-a-likes/If You Like... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Movies to Books ◆ Series 	<p>Menu of delicious entrees inside:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recipe for Selecting a Book 2. Ingredients of Book Appeal 3. Book Report Card
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TOOLS

Q. Where can I find lists of award winning and notable books, and read-a-likes similar to an author I like?

A. Find our Reader's Advisory Links about books under Reference Tools on the Ottawa Library webpage at www.ottawalibrary.org. There are lots of ideas for reading, links to discussion guides, literary analysis, and author information.

Q. How can I find out what title is next in a series?

A. There is a series list at the Circulation desk. Try Amazon.com or www.kdl.org/libcat/whatsnext.asp.

Q. What books are popular right now?

A. The PW bestseller list is posted by the online catalog.