



Best Books of 2007

Enjoy the Best Books of 2007, as chosen by the Materials Selection Team at the King County Library System. Each section is presented in alphabetical order by author.

Adult Fiction

- Call Me By Your Name** by **André Aciman** ISBN: 9780374299217
Seventeen year-old Elio falls in love with a summer guest at his family's home on the Italian coast.
- Heartsick** by **Chelsea Cain** ISBN: 9780312368463
*An all-too-human homicide detective and a fearless reporter trail a Portland serial killer in this debut thriller. For fans of **The Silence of the Lambs**.*
- Five Skies** by **Ron Carlson** ISBN: 9780670038503
A remote Idaho gorge is the setting for this story of three men rebuilding their lives as they construct a motorcycle stunt ramp.
- The Yiddish Policemen's Union: A Novel**
By **Michael Chabon** ISBN: 9780007149827
What if the Jewish community resettled in Alaska after World War II? Chabon combines black comedy with a hardboiled detective story in this inventive alternate history.
- Then We Came to the End**
By **Joshua Ferris** ISBN: 9780316016384
*Every unhappy workplace is unhappy in its own way and this failing Chicago ad agency is no exception. For fans of **The Office**.*
- The Camel Bookmobile**
By **Masha Hamilton** ISBN: 9780061173486
A young New York librarian moves to Kenya to manage a most unusual traveling library.
- Loving Frank: A Novel** by **Nancy Horan** ISBN: 9780345494993
Local author Horan's first novel imagines the affair between Frank Lloyd Wright and the wife of one of his clients.
- A Thousand Splendid Suns**
By **Khaled Hosseini** ISBN: 9781594489501
*Two women survive thirty years of Afghan history in this devastating follow-up to **The Kite Runner**.*
- Tree of Smoke** by **Denis Johnson** ISBN: 9780374279127
The nephew of a legendary war hero is drawn deep into the moral confusion of Vietnam War espionage.
- Run** by **Ann Patchett** ISBN: 9780061340635
A traffic accident on a snowy Boston night brings together two seemingly unconnected families.
- Bridge of Sighs** by **Richard Russo** ISBN: 9780375414954
Russo chronicles fifty years in the lives of three small-town friends as two of them, now married, make plans to visit the third, an ex-pat living in Venice.
- The Terror: A Novel** by **Dan Simmons** ISBN: 9780316017442
An Arctic adventure becomes a terrifying fight for survival in this fictional account of the lost Franklin expedition.
- Mothers & Sons: Stories** by **Colm Tóibín** ISBN: 9781416534655
Nine sets of mothers and sons face each other as adults in this collection of short stories.

Adult Nonfiction

- The Canon: A Whirligig Tour of the Beautiful Basics of Science** by **Natalie Angier** ISBN: 9780618242955
Science was never so sexy as it is in this approach to physics, chemistry, geology, biology and astronomy.
- A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier**
By **Ishmael Beah** ISBN: 9780374105235
At the age of 13, Beah was enlisted by the national army to fight rebels in Sierra Leone.
- Dog Years: A Memoir** by **Mark Doty** ISBN: 9780061171000
Two dogs steer their owner through heartbreaking personal loss.
- At Large and at Small: Familiar Essays**
By **Anne Fadiman** ISBN: 9780374106621
*Fans of **Ex Libris** will appreciate this author's second collection of "familiar essays"—writings that are equal parts head and heart.*
- Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance**
By **Atul Gawande** ISBN: 9780805082111
Just how much does the average ER doctor owe in student loans? In this collection of essays, Dr. Gawande examines areas where the medical profession has room for improvement.
- God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything**
By **Christopher Hitchens** ISBN: 9780446579803
The acerbic journalist recounts the worst aspects of religious belief in a book that made him a National Book Award finalist.
- Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil** by **Deborah Rodriguez** ISBN: 9781400065592
In 2002, Rodriguez went to Afghanistan with an aid group. There she transformed and empowered the lives of Afghani women by starting a beauty school.
- Born On A Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant: A Memoir** by **Daniel Tammet** ISBN: 9781416535072
One of only 50 known autistic savants offers a unique perspective on thought and memory.
- The Clarks Of Cooperstown: Their Singer Sewing Machine Fortune, Their Great and Influential Art Collections, Their Forty-Year Feud**
By **Nicholas Fox Weber** ISBN: 9780307263476
This talented family helped shape our nation's appreciation of art.
- The World Without Us** by **Alan Weisman** ISBN: 9780312347291
How long would it take the residue of mankind to disappear from the earth?
- The Great Upheaval: America and the Birth of the Modern World, 1788-1800** by **Jay Winik** ISBN: 9780060083137
Winik examines a pivotal period in American history in the context of the world political stage.

Picture Books for Children Ages 4-8

Living Color by Steve Jenkins ISBN: 9780618708970
The paper collage artist brings together the worlds of science, art, and animals in this rendering of animals united by their vibrant colors.

Orange Pear Apple Bear by Emily Gravett ISBN: 9781416939993
Four words make a book? The pale watercolor illustrations have a life and energy of their own and create humor and excitement with four marvelous words.

Beetle Bop by Denise Fleming ISBN: 9780152059361
Action is the key to this book about "Striped beetles, spotted beetles, all-over-dotted beetles." Kids will want to dance with the colorful pages and then go outside to find the real thing.

Leaves by David Ezra Stein ISBN: 9780399246364
In spare, precise text, a young bear observes leaves as they change through the seasons. This book will expand young minds thinking about their own world.

The All-I'll-Ever-Want Christmas Doll by Patricia McKissack, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney ISBN: 9780375836152
Three sisters receive one doll and learn what it really means to share in this story packed with the spirit of the season.

Children's Fiction for Ages 8-12

The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio by Lloyd Alexander ISBN: 9780805083330
A young adventurer seeks treasure on the legendary Road of Golden Dreams. During his adventures, Carlo is robbed, mistaken for a warrior and a prince, and risks his life for a prize that might not exist.

Jack Plank Tells Tales by Natalie Babbitt ISBN: 9780545004961
Jack Plank is a pirate and teller of tales looking for a new career.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis ISBN: 9780439023443
Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves. When a disreputable preacher steals money from Elijah's friend, Elijah pursues him on a dangerous journey to America.

Robot Dreams by Sara Varon ISBN: 9781596431089
Dog, Robot and other mute creatures suffer all-too-human ordeals in this elegiac story of friendship, loss and forgiveness. A wordless graphic novel.

The Aurora County All-Stars by Deborah Wiles ISBN: 9780152060688
House, the team captain of the Aurora County All-Stars baseball team has been sidelined for a year because of a broken elbow. Now the biggest game of the season is coming fast.

Candyfloss by Jacqueline Wilson ISBN: 9781596432413
At the same time that Floss must decide between her mother or her father, her best friend begins to reject her.

Nonfiction for Children Ages 8-12

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sís ISBN: 9780374347017
Peter Sís shows what life was like for a child who loved to draw growing up on the communist side of the Iron Curtain.

Artist to Artist: 23 Major Illustrators Talk to Children About Their Art ISBN: 9780399246005
Twenty-three of the most honored and beloved artists in children's literature talk informally to children about their adventures in illustration.

Jabberwocky: The Classic Poem from Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There by Christopher Myers ISBN: 9781423103721
Myers re-imagines the famous poem as a face-off on the basketball court.

Bronzeville Boys and Girls by Gwendolyn Brooks ISBN: 9780060295059
First released in 1956, Brooks' poems about African-Americans are matched with Faith Ringgold's vibrant illustrations to show the universality of children living in an urban community.

At Gleason's Gym by Ted Lewin ISBN: 9781596432314
This book describes the activities at Brooklyn's famous Gleason's gym, where boxers such as Muhammed Ali trained.

Fiction for Teens

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie ISBN: 9780316013680
When smart, nerdy fourteen-year-old Arnold Spirit Jr. transfers to a school 22 miles away from his Spokane Reservation home, he struggles with leaving his family, friends and heritage behind.

Re-Gifters by Mike Carey ISBN: 9781401203719
Dixie has two loves, hapkido and fellow martial artist Adam. When Dixie uses her tournament fee money to buy an expensive gift for Adam she learns the true meaning of gifts given and received.

Before I Die by Jenny Downham ISBN: 9780385751551
Sixteen-year-old Tessa has ten things she wants to do before succumbing to her advanced leukemia. They include having sex, committing a crime and falling in love.

Tamar by Mal Peet ISBN: 9780763634889
When Tamar's beloved grandfather commits suicide he leaves behind a box of items that reveal his activities as a Dutch Resistance fighter in WWII.

Mouse Guard, Volume 1: Fall 1152 by David Petersen ISBN: 9781932386578
The Mouse Guard protects mice from predators as they travel between the Mouse Territories in the 12th century. When a grain merchant disappears, three brave Guards, Lieam, Kenzie and Saxon are sent to investigate.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt
As the Vietnam War rages abroad, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood has a battle at home—Wednesdays, when he must study Shakespeare under the watchful eye of Mrs. Baker.



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