

ADULT FICTION BOOK BAG TITLES

Alvarez, Julia. How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents. Four sisters from the Dominican Republic adjust to life in the United States. Also appropriate for a young adult audience.

Alvarez, Julia. In the Time of the Butterflies. Fictionalized account of the Mirabel sisters who fought against the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic.

Austen, Jane. Persuasion. The troubled romance of poor Captain Wentworth and upper class Anne Elliot.

Austen, Jane. Sense and Sensibility. Austen's first novel about two sisters romantically pursuing unsuitable men.

Baldwin, James. Go Tell it on the Mountain. A troubled African-American family in 1930's Harlem and the difficult relationship between teen-age John and his preacher stepfather.

Banks, Russell. Affliction. A dark novel about a New Hampshire small town policeman whose life is coming apart and devolving into violence.

Banks, Russell. Cloudsplitter. Novel about the abolitionist John Brown as narrated by his son Owen.

Banks, Russell. Sweet Hereafter. A school bus crash kills 14 children in a small upstate New York town. The aftereffects of the tragedy are told by several narrators.

Banks, Russell. Trailerpark. Related stories set in a New Hampshire trailer park.

Barker, Pat. Regeneration. Booker Prize nominee novel is the fictional account of the hospitalization of poet and soldier Siegfried Sassoon for condemning World War I.

Barnes, Linda. Flashpoint. Boston private detective Carlotta Carlyle investigates the murder of elderly Valentine Phipps.

Beattie, Ann. Park City: new and selected stories. 36 stories, mostly culled from earlier collections, of contemporary life.

Beckett, Samuel. Murphy. The first published novel by Beckett about a poor Irishman, Murphy, trying to make his fortune in London.

Benet, Stephen Vincent. The Devil and Daniel Webster. Short story in which the famous lawyer and orator Webster takes on the Devil to save the soul of New Hampshire farmer Jabez Stone.

Benford, Gregory. The Martian Race. Science fiction novel of rival manned missions to Mars.

Black, Benjamin. Christine Falls: a novel. First book in a crime series by Booker Prize-winning author John Banville, under the pen name Black. The novel introduces pathologist Quirke who investigates the death of a young woman in 1950's Dublin.

Bohjalian, Chris. The Double Bind. A troubled young woman working at a homeless shelter obsessively investigates the background of a homeless man who recently died.

Bohjalian, Chris. Midwives. A rural midwife is accused of murder when a patient dies during a major storm.

Bohjalian, Chris. Water Witches. A former New York lawyer is involved in the dispute between a ski area seeking to expand and opponents (including his sister-in-law, a dowser).

Boyle, T. C. A Friend of the Earth. In 2025 global warming has devastated the world. Strident environmentalist Ty Tierwater reflects back on his attempts to save the earth in this darkly humorous novel.

Bradbury, Ray. Fahrenheit 451. In this futuristic novel, the government has ordered all books be destroyed. One "fireman" begins to question a way of life that despises literature.

Brooks, Geraldine. March. March, an idealistic abolitionist, leaves his New England home to join the Union army during the Civil War. A different look at the father in *Little Women* (loosely modeled on Louisa May Alcott's own father).

Brooks, Geraldine. Year of Wonders: a novel of the plague. The story of an English village infected by the Bubonic Plague in 1665 and their self-imposed quarantine, as told by a young widow in the village.

Brown, Rosellen. Before and After. A teenage boy is accused of killing his girlfriend in small-town New Hampshire, and his family is torn apart.

Cain, James M. Double Indemnity. A 1935 "noir" novel of a wife's attempt to kill her husband while making it appear to be an accident.

Canfield, Dorothy. The Home-Maker. An at-home wife and mother must work to support the family when her husband is injured. First published in 1924.

Cannon, LeGrand. Look to the Mountain. 1942 novel of a pioneer family in the New Hampshire wilderness near Mt. Chocorua.

Card, Orson Scott. Pastwatch: the redemption of Christopher Columbus. Future scientists on a doomed Earth try to change the past by altering Columbus' journey to the new world.

Cather, Willa. Death Comes for the Archbishop. Two priests go to the New Mexico frontier in 1851 to spread Catholicism.

Cather, Willa. O Pioneers! The young daughter of Swedish immigrants takes over the family farm on the Nebraska frontier.

Chabon, Michael. The Yiddish Policemen's Union. In this alternative history/murder mystery policeman Meyer Landsman tries to find out who killed a chess prodigy in Sitka, Alaska, which became the home of displaced Jews after World War II.

Chevalier, Tracy. The Lady and the Unicorn. In 1490 a French nobleman commissions the creation of six tapestries, designed by the talented artist Nicholas and woven in Brussels by master weaver Georges.

Chopin, Kate. The Awakening. A Victorian wife and mother realizes there is more to life than her circumscribed circumstances allow.

Christie, Agatha. The Body in the Library. Miss Marple helps her friends Colonel and Mrs. Bantry solve the mystery of the corpse in their library.

Christie, Agatha. The Murder of Roger Ackroyd. Retired detective Hercule Poirot solves the murder of wealthy Ackroyd, who knew too much.

Clark, Mary Higgins. No Place Like Home. Ten-year-old Liza accidentally kills her mother. As an adult, the now re-named Celia returns to her childhood home and mysterious murders occur.

Craig, Philip R. and William G. Tapply. First Light. Two mystery authors combine forces, and detective characters, to solve a murder on Martha's Vineyard. Boston Lawyer Brady Coyne and retired cop J. W. Jackson work together to solve the mystery.

Dalby, Liza. The Tale of Murasaki. Fictional biography of Murasaki Shikibu, author of *The Tale of Genji*, in 11th century Japan.

Davies, Robertson. The Cunning Man. Jonathan Hullah, a holistic doctor, reflects on his life and career while pondering the mysterious death of a priest at the altar.

DeLillo, Don. White Noise. 1985 National Book Award winner. A Midwestern college professor and his family are exposed to a toxic cloud.

Doctorow, E. L. Loon Lake. During the Great Depression young runaway Joe ends up at the Adirondack estate of an industrialist.

Dorris, Michael and Louise Erdrich. The Crown of Columbus. Two Dartmouth professors, and lovers, travel to the Caribbean to find Christopher Columbus' lost diary and a treasure he may have left.

Doyle, Arthur Conan. A Study in Scarlet. In this first story, detective Sherlock Holmes first meets Dr. Watson, who has just returned from war.

DuBois, Brendan. Primary Storm. Former Defense Department employee Lewis Cole, now a New Hampshire journalist, is a suspect in the attempted assassination of a presidential primary candidate.

Erdrich, Louise. Love Medicine. The first book in Erdrich's series about Native American modern life. Interrelated stories about the Kashpaw and Lamartine families of North Dakota from the 1930s to the present.

Family Album

Flaubert, Gustave. Madame Bovary. Romantic Emma is bored with her dull life and husband. Her search for passion has tragic consequences.

Foster, Hannah. The Coquette. First published in 1797, this is a fictionalized account of the life of poet Elizabeth Whitman, an unmarried woman who died in childbirth.

Francis, Dick. Reflex. Jockey Philip Nore discovers the death of a professional sports photographer was not an accident.

Frazier, Charles. Cold Mountain. National Book Award-winning first novel. Confederate soldier Inman deserts after being severely wounded and heads home, while the woman he loves struggles to maintain the family farm during wartime.

Freda, Joseph. Suburban Guerrillas. Suburban life in a typical New Hampshire town.

Gardner, Erle Stanley. The Case of the Stuttering Bishop. Attorney Perry Mason solves the murder of a millionaire, which involves a mysterious bishop and possible long-lost daughter.

George, Elizabeth. A Great Deliverance. The first Inspector Lynley mystery, introducing Scotland Yard inspector Thomas Lynley, eighth Earl of Asherton, and his assistant, the stolidly middle class Sgt. Barbara Havers. They are called to the village of Keldale to solve a gruesome murder.

Graver, Elizabeth. Unravelling. Aimee Slater leaves her family's New Hampshire farm for a new life in the Lowell textile mills, only to return a year later.

Haldeman, Joe. The Forever War. Award-winning science fiction classic. William Mandella is a soldier in the long-lasting war with the alien Taurans. The larger problem is the effect of space travel on soldiers who don't age.

Hammett, Dashiell. The Glass Key. 1930's novel by a master of hardboiled detective novels. Gambler Ned Beaumont tries to find out who killed a senator's son.

Hammett, Dashiell. The Maltese Falcon. Detective Sam Spade's partner is murdered. Spade becomes involved with a mysterious woman and others seeking a valuable statue.

Hardy, Thomas. Under the Greenwood Tree. The romance of Dick Dewy and teacher Fancy Day, who is chased by other, wealthier suitors.

Hebert, Ernest. The Dogs of March. New Hampshire factory worker Howard Elman has job troubles, family issues, and a rich neighbor who wants to buy his property.

Hebert, Ernest. The Kinship. Two related novels by New Hampshire author Hebert. Contents include *A Little More Than Kin* and *The Passion of Estelle Jordan*, chronicling poor, illiterate families trying to survive.

Hebert, Ernest. The Old American. In a departure, New Hampshire novelist Hebert writes an historical novel about Native American Caucus-Meteor who kidnaps a settler during the French and Indian War and escapes with him to Canada.

Hesse, Hermann. Siddhartha. A young man leaves his comfortable home in search of enlightenment.

Hoeg, Peter. Smilla's Sense of Snow. Eskimo Smilla stubbornly investigates the death of her six-year-old neighbor in Copenhagen, uncovering a conspiracy.

Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God. Janie Crawford is a southern African American woman in the 1930's, outspoken and accused of killing one of her three husbands.

Irving, John. The Cider House Rules. Dr. Wilbur Larch runs an orphanage in rural Maine, where the never-adopted Homer Wells also lives.

Irving, John. A Prayer for Owen Meany. In 1953 an eleven-year-old boy hits a baseball that kills his friend's mother. The boy, Owen Meany, believes he is an instrument of God.

James, Henry. Daisy Miller. Daisy is a careless and flirtatious young American woman visiting Europe in the mid-1800's.

James, P. D. Cover Her Face. The first Adam Dalgliesh mystery novel in which the brilliant Scotland Yard inspector investigates the murder of a young maid.

Jen, Gish. Mona in the Promised Land. The Chinese-American Chang family moves to the affluent suburbs where teen-age daughter Mona assimilates by converting to Judaism.

Jin, Ha. Waiting. Lin Kong, a doctor in the Chinese Army, is trapped in an arranged marriage, and cannot marry the nurse he loves.

Kanter, Lynn. Her Own Vietnam Box. Kanter explores the life of Della Brown and the haunting effects of her time in Vietnam with great emotion and insight.

Kelly, James Patrick. Burn. Nebula Award winning science fiction novella by New Hampshire author Kelly. A billionaire creates a Utopia called Walden on a far planet, but the original inhabitants resist.

Kress, Nancy. Beggars in Spain. A Hugo and Nebula Award-winning novel. Leisha has been genetically modified to never need sleep, and is considered an outcast in her future society.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. Interpreter of Maladies. Pulitzer Prize-winning stories of Indian families, both in the United States and India.

Lee, Harper. To Kill a Mockingbird. Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of racism and one Southern lawyer's fight to defend a wrongly accused African American man.

Le Guin, Ursula. The Left Hand of Darkness. An emissary from the League of All Worlds tries to convince the government of the planet of Winter (where citizens are neither male or female) to join the confederation. 1969 winner of Hugo and Nebula awards.

Lethem, Jonathan. Motherless Brooklyn. Lionel Essrog, a Brooklyn orphan with Tourette's Syndrome, tries to solve the murder of his mentor and boss Frank Minna. Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Lively, Penelope. Moon Tiger. Booker Prize Award. Former war correspondent Claudia Hampton is dying of cancer and reminiscing about her life, especially a tragic affair with a soldier.

London, Jack. The Call of the Wild. Classic brief novel about the dog Buck, transported to the Alaskan Gold Rush and transformed into a sled dog.

Maclean, Norman. A River Runs Through It: and other stories. Maclean was a retired English professor who began writing fiction at age seventy. He writes of the rugged Montana woods of his youth.

Mahfouz, Naguib. Palace Walk. The first novel in a trilogy about three generations of an Egyptian family. The family of a prosperous but tyrannical merchant live in post-World War I Cairo.

Malamud, Bernard. The Natural. Malamud's first novel, about athlete Roy Hobbs who wants to become a professional baseball player.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. Love in the Time of Cholera. Florentino falls in love with young Fermina, who rejects him for a wealthy doctor. Fifty years later, after the doctor's death, Florentino again proclaims his love.

Martel, Yann. Life of Pi. Winner of the Man Booker Prize. Young Pi Patel is shipwrecked, finding himself on a lifeboat with a wild Bengal tiger.

Mayor, Archer. Bellows Falls. Lt. Joe Gunther is a Brattleboro, Vermont, police detective. He is brought to the nearby town of Bellows Falls to investigate a case of sexual harassment, which evolves into drug crimes and murder.

Mayor, Archer. St. Albans Fire. Vermont police detective Gunther investigates arson and murder from Vermont to New Jersey.

McEwan, Ian. Atonement. Nominated for the Booker Prize. Thirteen-year-old Briony makes a tragic assumption one day, ruining the lives of those close to her. Later, during World War II, she tries to make amends.

Metalious, Grace. Peyton Place. New Hampshire author's novel about small town life in rural New England became immensely popular and notorious following its publication in 1956.

Mishima, Yukio. Spring Snow. Set in Tokyo in 1912, this is a tragic love story involving a young man descended from a noble Samurai family and his complicated relationship with a young woman chosen to marry a royal prince.

Moon, Elizabeth. The Speed of Dark. In this near future scenario, disease no longer exists. An autistic man is faced with surgery that will "cure" his autism, but fears how this may change him.

Morrison, Toni. Beloved. Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about Sethe who was born a slave and escaped to Ohio. Years later she is still haunted by her dead baby, known only as Beloved.

Morrison, Toni. Jazz. In 1926 Harlem a middle-aged cosmetics salesman kills his young mistress and his wife attacks the corpse at the funeral.

Morrison, Toni. Paradise. The tiny town of Ruby was founded by former slaves. Current residents blame the residents of the "convent" for their problems and decide to take action.

Mosher, Howard Frank. A Stranger in the Kingdom. Winner of the New England Book Award. In 1952 rural Vermont a new Presbyterian minister is accused of a brutal murder.

Mosher, Howard Frank. Where the Rivers Flow North. Several stories and the title novella (later made into a movie) about fictional Kingdom County, Vermont.

O'Brien, Tim. Going After Cacciato. Frustrated by the war in Vietnam, an Army private lays down his rifle and begins to walk from the jungles of Vietnam to the streets of Paris.

Otsuka, Julie. When the Emperor was Divine. A Japanese-American family is sent to an internment camp for three years during World War II.

Parker, Robert B. Trouble in Paradise. Parker's other popular fictional hero, Jesse Stone, police chief of Paradise, Massachusetts, must deal with a gang of thieves.

Potok, Chaim. The Chosen. National Book Award finalist. Two Jewish boys meet in 1940's Brooklyn. This is the story of their friendship and differences of faith (one is from a progressive Orthodox family, the other is Hasidic).

Roth, Philip. American Pastoral. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Swede Levov's comfortable life in New Jersey comes to a screeching halt in 1968 when his teenage daughter Merry becomes involved in a violent protest against the Vietnam War. First book in Roth's trilogy about American society.

Roth, Philip. The Human Stain. In 1998, Professor Coleman Silk is forced to retire from his college position due to a false charge of racism. Yet no one knows his 50-year-old secret. Third book in Roth's trilogy about American society.

Russo, Richard. Empire Falls. Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Mild-mannered Miles Roby runs the local diner in blue collar Empire Falls, Maine.

Sarton, May. As We Are Now. A retired schoolteacher is placed in a nursing home as her health declines, where she is extremely unhappy. Sarton (poet, novelist) lived in Nelson, New Hampshire, for many years.

Sarton, May. Kinds of Love. A retired couple decides to spend the winter in their New England vacation home. Sarton (poet, novelist,) lived in Nelson, New Hampshire, for many years.

Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein. Classic 19th century horror story about a monster created from dead bodies and brought to life.

Shreve, Anita. The Weight of Water. A woman researches a century-old murder on Smuttynose Island (the Isles of Shoals) and also comes to doubt her marriage and husband's faithfulness.

Stegner, Wallace. The Spectator Bird. National Book Award winner. Joe Allston is retired and just waiting to die. A postcard prompts him to reread his journal of a trip to Denmark and relive memories of that trip.

Steinbeck, John. The Grapes of Wrath. Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winning novel of the Great Depression, when the Joad family is forced from their Oklahoma farm and become migrant workers in California.

Tan, Amy. The Joy Luck Club. Four Chinese immigrant women begin meeting in 1949 to share their experiences and lives, later including their daughters.

Tey, Josephine. The Daughter of Time. The recuperating Inspector Alan Grant of Scotland Yard decides to uncover the true history of Richard III, reviled as a murderer.

Tanizaki, Junichiro. Some Prefer Nettles. Tanizaki was a renowned Japanese novelist of the first half of the 20th century. The story of the troubled marriage of a Japanese couple in 1920's Tokyo and the clash between traditional Japanese ways and modern "Western" changes.

Tyler, Anne. Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant. Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner Award. A family, damaged by the desertion of the father/husband, comes together when the now elderly mother, Pearl, dies.

Van Gulik, Robert. The Chinese Bell Murders. Judge Dee, magistrate in the ancient Chinese city of Poo-Yang, solves three mysteries, including the murder of young Pure Jade.

Vickers, Salley. The Other Side of You. A psychiatrist's session with a patient, trying to find the reason for her suicide attempt, uncovers his own feelings of guilt and grief following a childhood tragedy.

Vreeland, Susan. Girl in Hyacinth Blue. Interconnected stories of the history of an unknown Vermeer painting, which eventually came into the possession of an American school teacher.

Walker, Alice. The Color Purple. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. Celie is a young woman, abused first by her stepfather, then her husband. Much of the story is told in Celie's letters to her sister, a missionary in Africa.

Walters, Minette. The Shape of Snakes. Mrs. Ranelagh is determined to solve the 20 year old mystery of the death of a neighborhood eccentric black woman, despite the costs.

Welty, Eudora. The Ponder Heart. Award-winning author's humorous novella about the Ponder family as told by Edna Earle Ponder, one of the last living descendants of this Mississippi family.

Wetherell, W. D. The Wisest Man in America. For almost 50 years New Hampshire native Ferris has correctly predicted the New Hampshire presidential primary winner. Renowned journalist Max has chronicled his picks over time, and they have forged a deep and complicated relationship.

Wilder, Thornton. Our Town. Pulitzer Prize-winning play about life in fictional Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, exemplifying small town life in early 20th century America. Wilder spent time at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough.

Wilson, Harriet E. Our Nig. Considered to be the first novel published by an African American woman in this country (1859). Story of a young mixed race woman who is an indentured servant in a Massachusetts household. Wilson herself, born in Milford, New Hampshire, became an indentured servant.

Winterson, Jeanette. The Passion. A soldier in Napoleon's army falls in love with Villanelle of Venice, in this fantastical romance.

Winters, Ben H. The Last Policeman. The planet is on the brink of extinction due to an advancing asteroid. Yet police detective Hank Palace is still on the job in Concord, NH, investigating a suspicious suicide.

Youngblood, Shay. Black Girl in Paris. A young woman leaves the South for the literary life of expatriates in Paris in the 1980's.

