



ADULT READING Challenge

Welcome!

We invite you to explore new literary genres, challenge yourself, and get lost in a good book. Reading can be an adventure. It can impact how we see the world, the way we relate to our friends and neighbors, and it can change how we understand ourselves. Books can make us laugh, they can make us cry, and they can make us think. They are roads to any place we want to go, and they help us navigate towards who we want to be.

Use this reading journal as a guide through a year of reading. We have compiled a list of challenges for you to work with, or you can come up with your own. Set your own pace and complete them in any order. Read any way you wish: physical in-your-hand books, audiobooks, e-books, and graphic novels all count. There is space in each challenge for you to draw, doodle, journal, or take notes on what you're reading.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram at @HocoLibrary or on Twitter at @HoCo_Library, and tag us with what you're reading and share pics of your journal. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

As part of your year of reading, you can use this journal to participate in our Adult Summer Reading Adventure, from June 1 to August 31, 2023. Complete any three challenges or read three books of your own choosing between those dates. Drop by any branch between August 1 - 31 to complete a finisher's card and be automatically entered into prize drawings.

All finishers also receive a limited edition prize, while supplies last. Visit hclibrary.org/summer for more details.

Visit our website (hclibrary.org) and our blog (chapterchats.org) for new and updated reading lists, recommendations, and reviews throughout the year.



**HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**
Public Education for All

Challenge: Pages 6-7

READ A BOOK WITH A "WATER" WORD IN THE TITLE

Summer conjures up memories of time at the beach, the lake, or at the community pool. But water also comes in the form of rain, tears (happy and sad!), fountains and floods. Lean into the variations and choose a book with a "water" word in the title. This can be fiction, nonfiction, graphic novel, or poetry.

Response: Write or draw a memory of water, in any of its forms.

Challenge: Pages 8-9

READ A MEMOIR

While biographies and autobiographies tell the complete story of a person's life, memoirs shift their focus to share stories centered on a theme or significant event in a person's life. Memoirs are an invitation to share experiences, emotions, joys and pains, all told in the voice of the person who experienced them - and they invite you in to walk beside them through the story. Whether it be powerful, inspiring, harrowing, or shocking (or perhaps all of the above!) - make your next read a memoir.

Response: If you were to write your memoirs, what time in your life or what experience would you focus on?

Challenge: Pages 10-11

ASK A HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM INSTRUCTOR FOR A BOOK RECOMMENDATION

We can't lie - our favorite question to get at the library is, "Can you recommend something?" We sure can! Call or visit your favorite branch and ask any Instruction & Research Specialist for a recommendation. They'll be happy to help you find your next favorite read.

Response: What book do you always recommend to people and why?

Challenge: Pages 12-13

READ A BOOK ABOUT AN ADVENTURE.

An "adventure" can be defined in countless ways. For this challenge, you get to set the definition. Read a book about an explorer and or an expedition, a travel memoir, a journey of discovery, an outer-space epic, or a classic tale of adventure.

Response: Write or draw a memory of an adventure you have had, and why it is important to you.

Challenge: Pages 14-15**READ A BOOK WITH A MARYLAND CONNECTION**

Whether the story is set in Maryland, or if the author calls it home, hundreds of amazing books have local connections. Your options for this challenge are plentiful! Pick up a classic horror tale by Edgar Allen Poe, a hardboiled detective thriller by Dashiell Hammet, a book of poetry by Lucille Clifton, or any book with a Maryland connection for this challenge.

Response: Write or draw your favorite place in Maryland, whether it be your living room or the view from Backbone Mountain.

Challenge: Pages 16-17**TAKE A ROAD TRIP**

Visit a faraway place from the comfort of home. Pick up a book about travel, road -tripping, or a book set in a destination you love or want to visit. Fiction and nonfiction both work for this challenge!

Response: Write about or draw a place you want to visit but have never been.

Challenge: Pages 18-19**READ A YOUNG ADULT NOVEL**

Some of the most dynamic, impactful, and powerful examples of literature today can be found in Young Adult Novels. No matter what the birthday math might be, embrace being young at heart and pick up a young adult novel for your next read.

Response: Write about how you might interact with this book at a different age. How might you have reacted to this book when you were 10 or 20 years younger? How might you react to it when you are 10 or 20 years older?

Challenge: Pages 20-21**PAGE AND SCREEN CHALLENGE**

"The book was better," can be fighting words. In this challenge, read a book that was adapted for a TV show or movie, and then watch the adapted version. Enlist a friend to join you and then discuss - which version did you enjoy more, and why

Response: What did you watch and read, and what was the verdict?

Challenge: Pages 22-23**CHECK OUT A TITLE FROM THE EQUITY RESOURCE CENTER**

Howard County Library System's equity resource collection (ERC) includes more than 9,000 fiction and nonfiction titles for all ages across a wide array of topics and formats. Titles were suggested by members of the HCLS Racial Equity Alliance and HCLS' team of selectors. The collection's scope is broad and inclusive. Learn

more and find a variety of suggested reading lists at bit.ly/bvbclists, and pick an ERC book for your next read!

Response: Write about or draw how the author's experience differs from (or is similar to) your own.

Challenge: Pages 24-25**REREAD A LONG-LOST FAVORITE**

Picking up a favorite book is like calling an old friend. It doesn't matter who long it's been - you can pick up right where you left off without missing a beat. Was there a favorite book you read in High School, a sentimental favorite recommended by a friend, or a fairytale that you still think about? For this challenge, read one of your own personal favorites that you haven't picked up in a while.

Response: Why did you choose this book?

Challenge: Pages 26-27**A SHORT & SWEET CHALLENGE**

Shorter works can pack a big punch and can be easier to fit into our busy schedules. Pick up a book of poetry, an anthology of short stories, or a collection of essays and dive in. Fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels all work for this challenge.

Response: Write your own short story in under 100 words or draw a story in one scene.

Challenge: Pages 28-29**CURIOSITY CHALLENGE**

Read a book on any topic that you are curious about. Is there a historical era or event you want to understand better? Are you an aspiring gardener who wants to learn how to grow the perfect tomato? Want to get out of a cooking rut with some exciting new recipes? Pick any title and indulge your curious nature!

Response: What were you curious about, and what did you learn from the title you chose?

Challenge: Pages 30-31**READ A BANNED OR CHALLENGED BOOK**

Reading is a fundamental right for all lifelong learners. When you equip yourself with new knowledge, information, or understanding, no one can take that away from you - but every year, books are challenged and banned across the country. Read any banned or challenged book and ask yourself, "Why didn't they want me to read this?"

Response: Why do you think this book was challenged/banned? or draw a story in one scene.