Adult Summer Reading Program

June 23 - August 19, 2017
Registration Begins June 1, 2017

BUILD A BETTER WORLD

Read and have fun making a difference this summer!

• Read for your own pleasure
  OR aloud to a child or friend in need
• Get involved by joining a WPL Community Conversation
• Learn something new by attending a class or program
  (i.e., arts, gardening, wellness)

Track your own reading, classes, and/or event participation
at mywpl.org and win prizes!

Bronze Level Prize: 3 books, classes, or events
Silver Level Prize: 6 books, classes, or events
Gold Level Prize: 9 books, classes, or events

All prizes may be collected at the Main Library or any Branch.
For more information visit mywpl.org or call 508-799-1655 ext. 3.

Adult Summer Reading List

Build a Better World Through Reading

All selected titles concern individual or collective efforts
to improve one’s quality of life, issues that affect our
community, or the challenges and thrills of starting over.

Fiction

Secrets in Summer by Nancy Thayer
Spending her days at the library and her nights stargazing and contemplating a new relationship, Darcy is unexpectedly drawn into the summertime dramas of three families, including those of her recently married ex, a situation that compels Darcy to consider what she truly wants.

Requiem, Mass. by John Dufresne
Struggling with his mother’s latest delusions, his father’s absence, and his sister’s social withdrawal, young Johnny becomes increasingly obsessed with saving his family. Written by a Worcester, MA native, set in the Grafton Hill neighborhood.

Exit West by Mohsin Hamid
Presents the story of two young lovers whose furtive affair is shaped by local unrest on the eve of a civil war that erupts in a cataclysmic bombing attack, forcing them to abandon their previous home and the lives they once knew.

Ghana Must Go by Taiye Selasi
The sudden and unexpected death of a renowned surgeon in Ghana has rippling repercussions on his family, both from his first marriage and his second, as truths are uncovered and betrayals are exposed, ultimately bringing everyone closer together.

Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English by Natasha Solomons
After Jack and Sadie Rosenblum and their baby daughter escape Berlin at the beginning of World War II, they settle in England, where Jack discovers that he is barred from joining a golf club, after which he hatches a plan to start his own.
**The Grapes of Wrath** by John Steinbeck
Debuts the hardships and suffering endured by the Joads as they journey from Oklahoma to California during the 1930s Depression.

**The Sympathizer** by Viet Thanh Nguyen
Follows a Viêt Cong agent as he spies on a South Vietnamese army general and his compatriots, as they start a new life in 1975 Los Angeles.

**Challenger Deep** by Neal Schusterman
A brilliant but troubled high school student pretends to engage in sports activities and uses his artistic talents to document his voyage to the world’s most southern point while his friends observe his increasingly unbalanced behavior.

**Perfect Little World** by Kevin Wilson
Joining a psychologist’s utopian experiment involving children collectively raised apart from their biological families, a pregnant teen struggles with the group’s growing hostilities and funding challenges while fighting her feelings for the doctor.

**Letters from Paris** by Juliet Blackwell
Returning to the Louisiana hometown she fled as a young woman, Claire unearths an antique sculpture in an ancestor’s attic that inspires her to learn about the centuries-old art of Parisian maskmaking and the story of a woman immortalized in a beautiful work of art.

**Paradise Lot** by Eric Toensmeier
Packed full of useful info about designing a productive permaculture garden, this title is also a charming story of two single guys, both plant nerds, with a wild plan: to realize the garden of their dreams and meet women with whom to share it.

**Hillbilly Elegy** by J.D. Vance
Shares the poignant story of the author’s family and upbringing, describing how they moved from poverty to an upwardly mobile clan that included the author, a Yale Law School graduate, while navigating the demands of middle-class life.

**Atlas Obscura** by Joshua Foer
Offers a tour of the world’s most unique and amazing places, highlighting natural wonders, weird and magical structures, and mind-boggling events from around the globe, from New Zealand to Turkmenistan to Virginia.

**The Boy who Harnessed the Wind** by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
This immensely engaging tale relates how an enterprising teenager in Malawi builds a windmill from scraps he finds around his village and brings electricity, and a future, to his family.

**Clean: Overcoming Addiction and Ending America’s Greatest Tragedy** by David Sheff
Combines personal stories and experiences with cutting edge research to describe a new way of treating substance addiction as well as accompanying mental illnesses.

**When I Was Puerto Rican** by Esmeralda Santiago
Magic, sexual tension, high comedy, and intense drama move through an enchanted yet harsh autobiography, in the story of a young girl who leaves Puerto Rico for New York’s tenements and a chance for success.

**The East Side of Addiction** by James DiReda, Henry Grosse, and Jack Maroney
A gritty depiction of a Worcester, MA neighborhood’s descent into addiction and the collateral damage suffered by their families and the community at large. Written to give hope to a generation devastated by the current opioid epidemic.

**When Breath Becomes Air** by Paul Kalanithi
A young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal diagnosis describes his examination into what truly makes a meaningful life.

**Savor: Mindful Eating, Mindful Life** by Thich Nhat Hanh and Dr. Lilian Cheung
A Buddhist leader and a Harvard nutritionist offer cutting-edge science and deep Buddhist wisdom on the subject of eating with one’s health and the welfare of the planet in mind.

**The Boy who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope** by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
This immensely engaging tale relates how an enterprising teenager in Malawi builds a windmill from scraps he finds around his village and brings electricity, and a future, to his family.