The top ten books librarians across the country loved recommending in 2014.

FAVORITES OF THE FAVORITES

THE STORIED LIFE OF A. J. FIKRY: A Novel
by Gabrielle Zevin
(Algonquin Books)
“A middle-aged bookseller mourning his lost wife, a feisty publisher’s rep, and a charmingly precocious abandoned child come together on a small island off the New England coast in this utterly delightful novel of love and second chances.”
—Beth Mills, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY

THE ROSIE PROJECT:
A Novel
by Graeme Simsion
(Simon & Schuster)
“Don Tillman, a brilliant geneticist, thinks that having women fill out a six-page, double-sided questionnaire before a date is logical and reasonable. Rosie Jarman, an impetuous barmaid, thinks Don should loosen up and learn to live a little. Follow the unlikely pair in this laugh-out-loud, feel-good story of unexpected joys, discovery and love.”
—Paulette Brooks, Elm Grove Public Library, Elm Grove, WI

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE: A Novel
by Anthony Doerr
(Scribner)
“Set during World War II Europe, this novel is sobering without being sentimental. The tension builds as the alternating, parallel stories of Werner and Marie-Laure unfold, and their paths cross. I highly recommend this beautiful and compelling story.”
—Kelly Currie, Delphi Public Library, Delphi, IN

THE GOLDFINCH
by Donna Tartt
(Random House)
“Fans of The Secret History will rediscover the Tartt they loved back in 1992. Readers who love the novelist for her richly developed, dark, multi-layered characters and thoroughly researched topics will not be disappointed. Tartt pulls together many threads of a story across a long span of pages and into a complete masterpiece.”
—Kim Dorman, Princeton Public Library, Princeton, NJ

WE WERE LIARS
by E. Lockhart
(Delacorte Press)
“This brilliant and heartbreaking novel tells the story of a prestigious family living on a private island off the coast of Massachusetts. Full of love, lies, secrets, no shortage of family dysfunction, and a shocking twist that you won’t see coming. Though this book is written for teens, it shouldn’t be overlooked by anyone looking for a fantastic read.”
—Susan Balla, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT

FANGIRL
by Rainbow Rowell
(St. Martin’s Griffin)
“At turns funny, sweet, smart, and sad, Fangirl traces Cath’s journey to independence as she begins college, struggles to have an identity separate from her twin sister, find her voice and passion as a writer and fall in love, maybe, for the first time. As sharp and emotionally resonant as Rowell’s previous novel, Eleanor & Park.”
—Stephanie Chase, Hillsboro Public Library, Hillsboro, OR

LANDLINE
by Rainbow Rowell
(St. Martin’s Press)
“Landline explores the delicate balance women make between work and family, considering the tradeoffs and pain. Rowell has a special gift for offering incredible insights into ordinary life. Never heavy-handed, Rowell’s writing is delivered with humor and grace. I finish all of her books wanting to laugh and cry at the same time—they are that moving. Landline captured my heart.”
—Andrea Larson, Cook Memorial Public Library, Libertyville, IL

STATION ELEVEN:
A Novel
by Emily St. John Mandel
(Knopf)
“An actor playing King Lear dies onstage just before a cataclysmic event changes the future of everyone on Earth. What will be valued and what will be discarded? Will art have a place in a world that has lost so much? What will make life worth living? These are just some of the issues explored in this beautifully written dystopian novel. Recommended for fans of David Mitchell, John Scalzi and Kate Atkinson.”
—Janet Lockhart, Wake County Public Libraries, Cary, NC

ONE PLUS ONE:
A Novel
by Jojo Moyes
(Pamela Dorman Books)
“A single mom, her math genius daughter, her eye-shadow-wearing stepson, a wealthy computer geek and a smelly dog all get into a car… it sounds like the start of a bad joke, but it’s actually another charming novel from Jojo Moyes. It’s more of a traditional romance than Me Before You, but will also appeal to fans of quirky, hard-working characters. A quick read and perfect for summer.”
—Emily Wichman, Clermont County Public Library, Milford, OH

LONGBOURNE: A Novel
by Jo Baker
(Knopf)
“Using Pride and Prejudice’s familiar setting and characters, Baker tells a very different story of family, love and self-discovery. Bold and intelligent, Sarah is an orphaned housemaid whose days are filled with hard, body-punishing work. Baker doesn’t sugarcoat. A beautiful, uplifting novel full of mystery, hope and romance. Highly recommended for Austen fans and historical fiction readers.”
—Jenifer May, Secaucus Public Library, Secaucus, NJ

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