

## Fun Summer Reads

Summer reading is upon us. Even though many of us are staying home this summer, the idea of a good read on a warm afternoon, sans the beach, the drink with an umbrella, and the foreign language you think you understand (after your third umbrella drink), still sounds pretty good.

But where did this tradition originate? The library of course! In the late 19th century the public libraries in Cleveland, Pittsburg, and Hartford, CT, started summer reading programs for children. The primary goal of these clubs was to teach children book care. Ha! They probably weren't real happy with children who brought their books back crusty from the beach. However, a secondary benefit was to increase the reading skills of children.

Literacy and increasing children's reading skills quickly became the primary focus of public library summer reading programs.

Colleges also got into the act. As more and more Americans

pursued higher degrees, universities started producing reading lists for their incoming freshman. Over the years there has been a great deal of debate about these lists and what connotes a "classic." Now, it seems these lists vary as much as college curriculums.

I am guessing our desire for light fare during the summer may have something to do with the above. It's summer! We want a break from the stress and strain of daily life. Give us the entertainment we deserve and save the intellectual pursuits for colder, darker days. So, without further ado, here is an abbreviated list of guilt-free pleasures:

### From LA Times

*The Spies of Warsaw* by Alan Furst  
A new spy novel by a master of the genre.

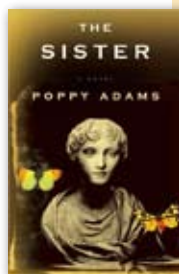


*When you are engulfed in Flames* by David Sedaris  
The piercingly witty humorist takes us from the French countryside to a mobile home in North Carolina and on to Tokyo.

*Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry  
Beneath the floorboards of her room at an Irish mental hospital, 100-year-old Roseanne McNulty conceals a journal describing her youth in Sligo.

### From NPR

*The Sister* by Poppy Adams  
The *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*-type story concerns two English sisters who haven't seen each other in nearly 50 years.



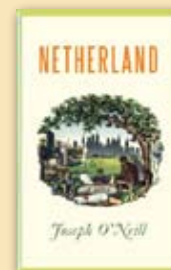
*Exiles* by Ron Hansen  
The intertwined story of the Victorian poet Gerard Manly Hopkins and the sea tragedy that inspired Hopkins' famous poem, *The Wreck of the Deutschland*.

*Shadow Country* by Peter Matthiessen  
A watery, mythological and intensely psychological portrait of Everglades farmer and outlaw E.J. Watson.

**From Newsweek**  
*Crazy Good: The True Story of Dan Patch, the Most Famous Horse in America* by Charles Leershen  
The true story of early

1900's super-horse is wonderful, witty, and wise. A keeper.

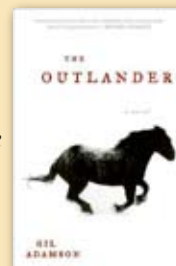
*Netherland* by Joseph O'Neill  
Novel about post-9/11 NYC and cricket. Turns out to be a wonderful combo.



*What Happened* by Scott McClellan  
Loyal Bushman turns against boss in tardy tell-all. For Dems only.

Finally, this librarian has a couple to add to the mix:

*The Outlander* by Gil Adamson  
*Lonesome Dove* with a female protagonist. Wonderful read!



*Child 44* by Tom Rob Smith  
Great setting, characters and twists in this detective story. As good as *Gorky Park*.

Happy reading and cheers!

Kevin Barclay, Bend Public Library