

Great Summer Reads at the Library
Kris Wiley for The News-Review

With just three weeks left in the Summer Reading Program, I am inhaling titles to complete the 30-book reading log for adults.

There still is time for everyone to read for a chance to win prizes. For details, stop by the library's front desk or visit the library's website at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org; click on "Summer Reading Program."

Thanks to a nudge from book group member Linda, I just reread "The Remains of the Day" by Kazuo Ishiguro, which fits the category "A book by a Nobel Prize-winning author."

Revisiting this novel of a man reminiscing on his life as the butler at Darlington Hall in 1920s and 1930s England was pure joy.

Stevens has served with distinction and dignity – through the death of his father, the intrigue of Lord Darlington's clandestine meetings with Nazi officials and the deeply significant relationship with Darlington Hall's housekeeper, Miss Kenton – but at a high personal cost.

If you enjoy brilliant character studies that explore themes of regret and duty, this may be the book for you. Plus, it was adapted into an extraordinary movie starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson.

Thanks to a nudge from book group member Pat, I finally read the classic "Things Fall Apart" by Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe, which fits the category "A book set in an African country."

If you are interested in the clash between tradition and change and the effects of colonization, you may enjoy this novel featuring Okonkwo, who has made a name for himself as a powerful man in his community despite his humble beginnings.

The book begins with descriptions of the Igbo people and their customs. Christian missionaries and European colonizers then enter the scene, and the Igbo people's world is forever changed. Okonkwo's fate is especially tragic.

"Things Fall Apart" is the first novel in The African Trilogy. "Arrow of God" and "No Longer at Ease" continue the storyline.

For more book recommendations, visit the Staff Picks display at the library or the "Staff Picks" booklist on the library's online catalog at roseburg.bibliionix.com.

SRP Bonus #3 for Adults

The library's final bonus survey for adults this summer ties into The New York Times' list of the best 100 books of the 21st century.

We're asking participants to share their 10 favorite books published since January 1, 2000. One winner will be drawn randomly from all fully completed submissions and receive a \$25 gift card to Level Up Frozen Yogurt at 1143 NE Stephens St. in Roseburg.

To participate, visit the library's website, and click on "Summer Reading Program." Click on the link labeled "August Bonus Survey" to complete the survey. Alternately, stop into the library for a paper survey, or email me at kwiley@roseburgor.gov with your responses. The survey closes Aug. 17.

The Times' list, located on their website at www.nytimes.com, is a fascinating compilation that has generated a lot of discussion. I can't wait to see how our local readers' tastes compare.

This Week's Library Events

Monday, August 5-Saturday, August 10, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - StoryWalk® at Eastwood Park

Tuesday, August 6, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Tuesday, August 6, 1-2 p.m. – Children's program: Basket weaving, day 1

Wednesday, August 7, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime at Stewart Park Pavilion

Thursday, August 8, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime at library

Thursday, August 8, 1-2:30 p.m. – Teen program: Beads and bracelets

Friday, August 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m. – Children's program at Stewart Park Pavilion: Butterfly Garden visit and seed bombs