

Carnegie-Stout Public Library
Presents:

The 9th Annual Great Reading Challenge!



*The Great Reading
Challenge of 2024*

The RULES and GOALS of the GRC 2024

1. This yearlong reading challenge is open to adults 18+.
2. Please sign up at the Reference Desk, Recommendations Desk, via our website (carnegiestout.org) or on the Beanstack app.
3. Use this log or the Beanstack app to track your reading.
4. Pick the books you read based on the categories within this packet, or choose the books you want to read and find categories that fit. You can do it either/both ways.
5. READ! Read a lot of books, and spend a lot of time reading! 😊
6. We are not picky about rule-following. Feel free to ask us questions to clarify categories (etc.) but we trust your judgement too!
7. The GRC is all about achieving your own personal reading goals. You set your reading goals and let us know how you did. To further aid in helping readers, we have included additional ways to track reading. Read “Ways to Track Your Reading” for more information.

New in 2024: Ways to Track Your Reading

- Fill out this paper log or download the digital version available as a fillable PDF form on our website.

OR

- Access the Beanstack App and then track your reading in the app one of two ways:
 - 1.) The traditional way, where you count the number of books you read.
 - 2.) Our new option! Count the amount of time spent reading.

At the end of the year (**due by 1/3/25**), you will submit to the library ONE of the following totals:

- 1.) The total number of books read (as we have always done).
- 2.) The total number of minutes/hours read (you can add the time length of an audiobook you listened to, and use a timer to track your paper/eBook reading for this total).

IF you want to know more....

- We decided to give people the option of recording the time spent reading because some of us are slower readers and don't read as many books throughout the year, but we do spend a lot of time reading. Also, some folks read books that are very long. If they read 30 books in the year, but those books were all over 900 pages, that's a different kind of reading experience. Track your reading whichever way works best for you.
- The way that we calculated time spent reading was to look at the average time it takes to read a 300-page book (the average length of an adult book). We then multiplied it out and attached meaningless but fun reading levels to reach!

With the new type of tracking, here are some numbers to keep in mind when reading, or deciding how you want to track. These levels are only for fun. Try to reach the level that works for you.

If you choose to track the number of books you read in 2024:

Read 12-29 books = BRONZE LEVEL

Read 30-49 books = SILVER LEVEL

Read 50-69 books = GOLD LEVEL

Read 70-89 books = PLATINUM LEVEL

Read 90-199 books = DIAMOND LEVEL

Read 200+ books = GRC CHAMPION ALL-STAR

If you choose to track time spent reading in 2024:

Please see the numbers below to get an idea of the amounts of time you might want to spend reading. You don't have to choose a particular level, this is just to show you how to reach these particular levels in case you want to set one as your goal. The number of hours is approximate, so feel free to use your best judgement and round your time as needed. Don't forget that audiobook minutes count too!

Read 78 hours = BRONZE LEVEL

EXAMPLE: Read 3x a week for 30 minutes (90 minutes per week) = 4680 minutes → 78 hours of reading

Read 156 hours = SILVER LEVEL

EXAMPLE: Read 3x a week for 60 minutes (180 minutes per week) = 9360 minutes → 156 hours of reading

Read 208 hours = GOLD LEVEL

EXAMPLE: Read 4x a week for 60 minutes (240 minutes per week) = 12480 minutes → 208 hours of reading

Read 260 hours = PLATINUM LEVEL

EXAMPLE: Read 5x a week for 60 minutes (300 minutes per week) = 15,600 minutes → 260 hours of reading

Read 312 hours = DIAMOND LEVEL

EXAMPLE: Read 6x a week for 60 minutes (360 minutes per week) = 18720 minutes → 312 hours of reading

Read 728 hours = GRC CHAMPION ALL-STAR

EXAMPLE: Read 7x a week for 120 minutes (840 minutes per week) = 43,680 minutes → 728 hours of reading

Frequently Asked Questions about the GRC:

- 1. Do I have to read a book from every category in the book log?** You can do that if you wish, but you definitely do not have to. You get to set your own overall reading goals based on your needs and how it fits your reading this year.
- 2. Do the books have to be fiction/non-fiction?** Many of the categories can be either/or. There are some categories that are specific, but many more categories can be fulfilled with whatever book you find that fits.
- 3. Can I listen to an audiobook/read an eBook, read a kid's or teen book, etc. for the GRC?**
Absolutely! We love all the reading formats and encourage you to read in whatever way you prefer or most enjoy. The only slight limitation is that the reading ought to be more substantial chapter books. Generally, closer to 200 pages. This is mainly relevant if you are counting books read, versus minutes.
- 4. How many books (or minutes) do I have to read to win the Great Reading Challenge?** The GRC is a personal goal-oriented reading challenge, but to put a number on it – you should read at least 12 books or read for 78 hours or the equivalent to reading one half hour, three times a week to finish or “win” the GRC. (See above info regarding tracking reading minutes.)
- 5. Do I really have to be 18 years or older to participate in the GRC?** Yes, officially. However, if you are under 18 and inspired to read a bunch of different categories in the GRC, we will always encourage you to read! Feel free to follow along unofficially.
- 6. What does “Create a Category!” mean?**
For the first part of the booklog, Reading A to Z, there is a category under each letter called “Create a Category!” This just means you get to decide how to use that letter and what the category is. For example, if the book you are reading just doesn't fit any category well, or you already used the appropriate category, you get to be creative! It's your time to shine! For the 'Create a Category' in “A”: You could say “Read a book where the main character lives in Alaska” Or “Read a book with an Apple on the cover.” The wackier the category, the better! Have fun with it! Please feel free to share your category creations and maybe we will make it an official category in 2025.

Questions or comments? Contact ajohnson@carnegiestout.org

The Great Reading Challenge of 2024

Part 1: READING A to Z

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **A**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **A**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **B**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **B**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **C**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **C**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **D**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **D**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **E**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **E**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **F**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **F**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **G**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **G**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **H**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **H**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

The Great Reading Challenge of 2024

Part 1: READING A to Z

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **I**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **I**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **J**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **J**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **K**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **K**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **L**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **L**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **M**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **M**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **N**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **N**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **O**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **O**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **P**

Title: ★★★★★

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **P**

Category/Title: ★★★★★

The Great Reading Challenge of 2024

Part 1: READING A to Z

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **Q**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **Q**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **R**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **R**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **S**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **S**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **T**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **T**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **U**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **U**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **V**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **V**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **W**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **W**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with/contains **X**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **X**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

The Great Reading Challenge of 2024

Part 1: READING A to Z

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **Y**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **Y**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book by an author whose last name starts with **Z**

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Create a category! Any book connected to the letter **Z**

Category/Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Part 2: READING THROUGH THE AGES & PAGES

Read a book written between 1600-1700

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book written between 1700-1800

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book written between 1800-1900

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book written in the 1900s

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book written in the 2000s

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book written in the 2010s

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book written in the 2020s

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book that is between 200-300 pages long

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book that is between 301-400 pages long

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book that is between 401-500 pages long

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book that is between 501-600 pages long

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

The Great Reading Challenge of 2024

Part 2: READING THROUGH THE AGES & PAGES

Read a book that is between 601-700 pages (= 2 bks read)

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book that is between 701-800 pages long (= 2 bks read)

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a book that is between 801-1000 pages long (=3 bks read)

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Part 3: READING BY GENRE & FORMAT

Read a Fiction book

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Fiction book

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Fantasy book

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Fantasy book

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Graphic Novel

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Graphic Novel

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Mystery

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Mystery

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Romance book

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Romance book

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Science Fiction book

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Read a Science Fiction book

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

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Part 3: READING BY GENRE & FORMAT

Read a Thriller

Title: ★★★★★

Read a Thriller

Title: ★★★★★

Listen to an Audiobook

Title: ★★★★★

Listen to an Audiobook

Title: ★★★★★

Read an eBook

Title: ★★★★★

Read an eBook

Title: ★★★★★

Part 4: READING BY THEME & APPEAL

Great adult books for readers who enjoy books about...

Academies of Magic

Title: ★★★★★

Alien Invasions

Title: ★★★★★

Altered Memories

Title: ★★★★★

Ancient Enigmas

Title: ★★★★★

Apocalypses

Title: ★★★★★

Band of Survivors

Title: ★★★★★

Books about Books

Title: ★★★★★

Chosen Families

Title: ★★★★★

Clones

Title: ★★★★★

The Great Reading Challenge of 2024

Part 4: READING BY THEME & APPEAL

Great adult books for readers who enjoy books about...

Confronting Mortality

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Dark Academia

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Enemies to Lovers (Romance)

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Facing Racism

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Faerie Realms

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Fake Relationships

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Final Girls

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Forbidden Love

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Generation Ships

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Grumpy-Sunshine (Romance)

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Haunted Houses

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Human and Animal Bonds

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Immigrant Experiences

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Inspired by Real Events

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

LGBTQIA+ Lives

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

The Great Reading Challenge of 2024

Part 4: READING BY THEME & APPEAL

Great adult books for readers who enjoy books about...

Life During Wartime

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Life in Small Towns

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Living with Disabilities

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Locked Room Mysteries

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Love in Disguise

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Missing Memories

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Monsters

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Office Life

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Quests

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Road Tripping

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Robots and Computers

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Second Acts

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Take Place Over 24 Hours

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Time Loops

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Unlikely Friendships

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

The Great Reading Challenge of 2024

Part 4: READING BY THEME & APPEAL

Great adult books for readers who enjoy books about...

Unreliable Narrators

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Women of Steel

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Book Appeal: Darkly Humorous

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Book Appeal: Dramatic

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Book Appeal: Funny

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Book Appeal: Heartwarming

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Book Appeal: Intricately Plotted

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Book Appeal: Offbeat

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

Book Appeal: Spiritual

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆



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Part 5: READING ROULETTE

Read a book in the surprise category during that month and it counts as two books read or double the minutes for the GRC. RR categories will be announced on the library website, social media and at the Recommendations Desk.

January 2024: Read a Novella

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

February 2024: Galentines! Read a book with a strong female friendship

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

March 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

April 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

May 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

June 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

July 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

August 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

September 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

October 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

November 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆

December 2024:

Title: ☆☆☆☆☆



The Great Reading Challenge of 2024

**Do you ever need help finding books
to fit the categories in the GRC?
Read on for some searching suggestions.**

- 1.) First, be sure to come to Carnegie-Stout and visit our website regularly (carnegioustout.org). We will have book displays and tags marking books that fit certain categories throughout the year. Keep an eye out!
- 2.) Second, attend adult book clubs and special GRC events throughout the year to get ideas for books to read.
- 3.) Ask a Librarian! We are happy to search for ideas for you.
- 4.) You will find a very special GRC resource near the Recommendations desk on first floor. There is a flip-through binder that has a current list of books that are grouped by theme. Many themes from the Part 4 section are listed in the binder. It is a great resource!
- 5.) Google can be your friend when searching for book ideas. Just enter a phrase in google.com, such as "A fiction book about chosen families" and you will get many lists and books to investigate. Lists about very specific categories and topics can be found on websites like Goodreads and Wikipedia. Then, just hop on over to the C-SPL website and check our online catalog to see if we own the item and if we have it in your desired format.
- 6.) Finally, try using NoveList, our reader's advisory database. It is an incredible resource for finding "read-alikes" and finding books to fit different categories and themes. A librarian will be happy to show you how to use it. We also have a handy little paper guide called "Carnegie-Stout Reading Resources" that help you describe and pick your next favorite book. Look for them at the Recommendations Desk on first floor.

GRC Part 4 HELP – DEFINITIONS OF Themes and Appeals

SEE OUR WEBSITE AND THE GRC BINDER (1ST FLOOR) FOR BOOK IDEAS

ANCIENT ENIGMAS

- A plot that revolves around an investigation into ancient secrets and enduring historical mysteries.

BAND OF SURVIVORS

- A group of individuals who have withstood a common challenging event or circumstance and have managed to persevere despite great adversity.

CHOSEN FAMILIES

- A chosen family, sometimes called a found family, is formed by choice, rather than by birth. Chosen families can include nontraditional family units, close friends, and people with shared interests or goals.

DARK ACADEMIA

- Moody and mysterious narratives that usually take place within the confines of an esteemed university or boarding school.

ENEMIES TO LOVERS

- Two characters who have an intense hatred for one another at first and are often forced to work towards a common goal. So, they start relying on and opening up to each other, revealing a side of themselves they don't show the rest of the world. This leads them to trust each other and eventually realizing that they are falling in love.

FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

- A common trope in romance novels, the couple starts out faking a relationship for one reason or another and along the way, they fall in love for real.

FINAL GIRLS

- Final girls are the lone female survivors of a horrific event – from those targeted by serial murders to those who fight supernatural monsters. They see their friends or classmates die off throughout the story and then must battle, and sometimes even defeat, the creatures that ordinary humans can't outlast.

FORBIDDEN LOVE

- When taboo or circumstance tries to prevent two individuals from (openly) being in a relationship.

GENERATION SHIPS

- Sci-fi books about a spacecraft on which a crew is living on-board for at least several decades, such that it comprises multiple generations.

LOCKED ROOM MYSTERIES

- A crime is committed with no possible way for a murderer to get in or out of an area, or, a locked room. The writer provides the reader all the clues they need to solve the case at the very beginning, layering in evidence and red herrings in expertly plotted mysteries that keep readers guessing.

LOVE IN DISGUISE

- A character disguised as someone else falls in love and needs to learn to reveal themselves for who they really are.

SECOND ACTS

- Something a person devotes their later life to, after retiring or quitting a former occupation.

TIME LOOPS

- A plot device whereby characters re-experience a span of time which is repeated, sometimes more than once, with some hope of breaking out of the cycle of repetition.

UNRELIABLE NARRATORS

- Unreliable narrators weave stories based on half-truths, either by concealing information intentionally or because their perceptions are (knowingly or unknowingly to themselves) limited in some way.

WOMEN OF STEEL

- Books about strong, courageous women who are leaders and decision-makers and are usually the protagonist of the story.

