This list has been compiled by the Notable Book Council of the American Library Association Reference and Adult Services Division. Books were chosen for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers.

**Fiction**

- **Barfoot, Joan.** *Duet for Three.* Beaufort. The subtle bond that links mothers and daughters is explored in this powerful story of conflicting relationships.

- **Dorris, Michael.** *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water.* Holt. Three generations of native American women relate the events of their lives, demonstrating the impact of blood, secrets, and the will to persevere.

- **Fink, Ida.** *A Scrap of Time: And Other Stories.* Tr. from the Polish by Madeline Levine and Francine Prose, Pantheon. A Holocaust survivor writes a devastating collection of stories about Polish Jews who witnessed the horror of annihilation.

- **Gordon, Mary.** *Temporary Shelter.* Random. Rich stories that reverberate with the flaws of family relationships held in a vise of ethnic and religious heritage.

- **Hall, Donald.** *The Ideal Bakery.* North Point. Death, grief, love, and nostalgia are among the prevalent themes of this diverse collection of brilliantly crafted stories.

- **Hoffman, Alice.** *Illumination Night.* Putnam. Set on Martha’s Vineyard, this enchanting story explores aging, alienation, agoraphobia, maternal love, fidelity, and rejection.

- **Lopate, Phillip.** *The Rug Merchant.* Viking. A modern parable of a small man of integrity and innocence who refuses to be corrupted by the indifference and cynicism of city life.
Nonfiction

- **McMahon, Thomas. Loving Little Egypt.** Viking. A nearly blind physics prodigy and his disabled friends breach the secrets of the telephone system and comically challenge the powers of Thomas Edison and William Randolph Hearst.

- **Menaker, Daniel. The Old Left.** Knopf. These stories, rich in humor and charm, relate the loving but often frustrating relationship between David Leonard and his irascible 90-year-old Uncle Sol.

- **Morrison, Toni. Beloved.** Knopf. Art illuminates history in this powerful story of the black experience and the devastating legacy of slavery after the Civil War.

- **Simpson, Mona. Anywhere but Here.** Knopf. The complex and troubled relationship between a mother and daughter is probed as they move not only from Wisconsin to Beverly Hills, but also toward an acceptance of each other.

- **Stegner, Wallace. Crossing to Safety.** Random. A lyrical exploration of an enduring friendship between two couples through good times and bad.

- **Thornton, Lawrence. Imagining Argentina.** Doubleday. During the recent military regime in Argentina, a Buenos Aires playwright discovers he can "see" the fates of the disappeared ones. A chilling portrayal of terror.

- **Weesner, Theodore. The True Detective.** Summit. A harrowing psychological study of the effects of kidnapping and child molestation on the victim, the abductor, their families, and the investigating detective.

- **Weldon, Fay. The Shrapnel Academy.** Viking. A curious assortment of visitors and Third World servants assemble for a night of comic mayhem at a military institution named after the inventor of the exploding cannonball.

Poetry

- **Lynch, Thomas. Skating with Heather Grace.** Knopf. These elegant, moving poems dwell on death to celebrate life. A remarkable first collection of verse heralding the arrival of an important poetic voice.

- **Olds, Sharon. The Gold Cell.** Knopf. Parents, children, courtship, and married love are the themes of these poignant poems that touch the reader on both emotional and intellectual levels.
Rhodes, Richard. The Making of the Atomic Bomb. Simon & Schuster. The history of our most powerful weapon from its conception in scientific minds to the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is recounted with drama, intensity, and wisdom.


Notable Books 1987
ISBN: 0-8389-5711-0
100 pamphlets, $20
Also available as camera-ready sheets, $10 per set.

ALA Graphics
American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
1-800-545-2433
1-800-545-2444, Illinois
1-800-545-2455, Canada

For single copies, send 50 cents and a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to the Reference and Adult Services Division, ALA.

Many of the books on this list are available in braille, talking books, or large type. Consult your Regional Library for the Blind.