



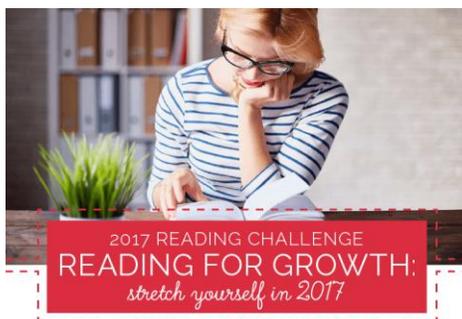
January 2017

**The 2017 Modern Mrs. Darcy Reading Challenge**

By Kathie

I'm a huge fan of reading challenges, almost to the point of being obsessive about them. It's a passion that isn't shared by very many people in my life, which is why I find the online communities a great place to go and share this passion. My favorite challenges are the seasonal ones created by @megtristao from Semi-Charmed Kind of Life, but this year, I was looking for something to revitalize my reading over a longer period.

I was thrilled when I came across the 2017 Modern Mrs. Darcy Reading Challenge! There are two different challenges from which you can choose, depending on whether you want to read for fun, or read for growth, in 2017.



- a Newbery Award winner or Honor book
- a book in translation
- a book that's more than 600 pages
- a book of poetry, a play, or an essay collection
- a book of any genre that addresses current events
- an immigrant story
- a book published before you were born
- three books by the same author
- a book by an #ownvoices or #diversebooks author
- a book with an unreliable narrator or ambiguous ending
- a book nominated for an award in 2017
- a Pulitzer Prize or National Book Award winner



- a book you chose for the cover
- a book with a reputation for being un-put-down-able
- a book set somewhere you've never been but would like to visit
- a book you've already read
- a juicy memoir
- a book about books or reading
- a book in a genre you usually avoid
- a book you don't want to admit you're dying to read
- a book in the backlist of a new favorite author
- a book recommended by someone with great taste
- a book you were excited to buy or borrow but haven't read yet
- a book about a topic or subject you already love



Since I was looking to get back into reading adult books again this year, I chose to do the Reading for Fun challenge, with the possibility of moving on to the Reading for Growth as the year progresses. Here are my potential choices for each category:

**A book you chosen for the cover** - TBD

I'm waiting to see if something jumps out at me before I commit to this category.

**A book with a reputation for being un-put-down-able** – The Bookshop on the Corner by Jenny Colgan

This looks like a feel-good book, and one that was “devoured in less than 24 hours” by a friend on Goodreads.

**A book set somewhere you've never been but would like to visit** – The Year of Living Danishly: My Twelve Months Unearthing the Secrets of the World's Happiest Country by Helen Russell

There is so much in the news about the quality of life in Scandinavian countries (and a cruise to that region is on my bucket list!), so I'm curious to see what the author discovers on her travels).

**A book you've already read** - Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions Into Adulthood by Lisa Damour

I thoroughly enjoyed this book the first time I read it, and I find as the teenage years progress around our house, it's a good time for a refresher.

**A juicy memoir** - Stories I Only Tell My Friends by Rob Lowe

I've had this one on my radar for a long time, and will likely listen to it as an audiobook as it's read by Rob Lowe.

**A book about books or reading** – 84, Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff

This is a book I've wanted to read for a few years now, and is letters between a bookshop owner and a customer that developed into a friendship of many years.

**A book in a genre you usually avoid** - News of the World by Paulette Jiles

This one is the January selection for the Modern Mrs. Darcy bookclub, and I'm intrigued to try a Western while other will be discussing it.

**A book you don't want to admit you're dying to read** – What I Was Doing While You Were Breeding by Kristin Newman

Newman's escapades around the world as a single woman, while enjoying what each country has to offer (including the local men) sounds like a bit of an escape from ordinary life.

**A book in the backlist of a new favorite author** – Out of Easy by Ruta Sepetys

I read Salt to the Sea this past year, and it was one of my favorite YA books.

**A book recommended by someone with great taste** - Everyone Brave is Forgiven by Chris Cleave

If you visit our library, you'll know that our assistant librarian, Alison, has excellent book recommendations. This one was of her favorite books last year, and I loved Little Bee, so I'm looking forward to trying this one

**A book you were excited to buy or borrow but haven't read yet** – Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

There's been so much great buzz about this book, and it's time to finally read it!

**A book about a topic or subject you already love** – Give Your Child The World by Jamie C. Martin

I love books that talk about inspiring young readers. Martin discusses exposing children to the world through books, and provides examples and suggestions of the best children's literature from around the world.

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