

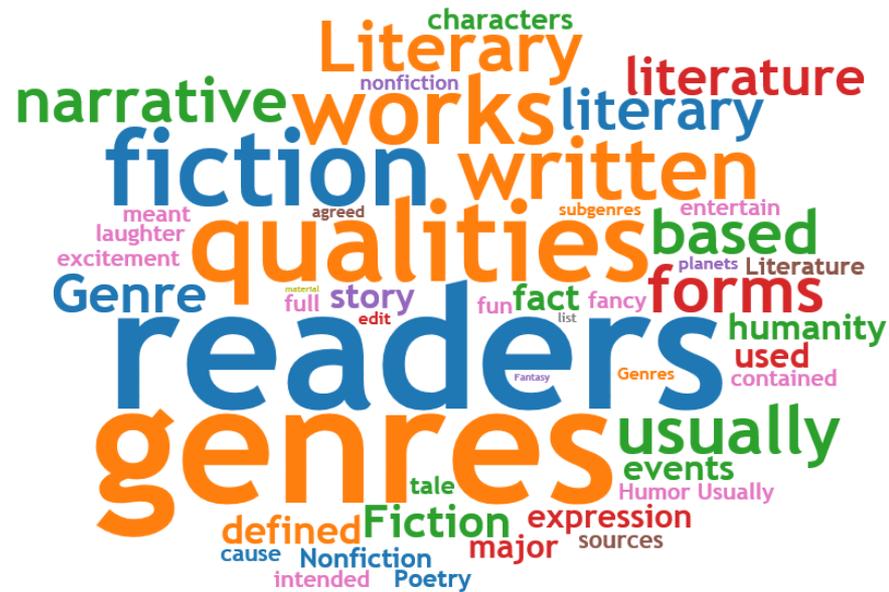
# Reader's Advisory for All

Presented by Michelle Will  
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# Why are we here today?



# What we want to accomplish



# No pressure

You will not be expected to ...

- \* Know every author/title/genre on the planet
- \* Read every book on the planet
- \* Write a review or annotation
- \* Start a blog
- \* Take a quiz
- \* Change your style



# What is Readers Advisory?

- \* Finding books that readers want to read
- \* Understanding why reader's want to read a certain book or genre
- \* Having an open mind
  - \* Positive attitude
  - \* Be responsive
  - \* Commit to serving the reader
  - \* Enjoy the conversation

# A Little Jargon

- \* *Readers Advisory = Talking about books*
- \* *Appeal*: Refers to those elements in a book, whether definable or just understood, that make reader enjoy the book.
- \* *Genre*: Any sizeable group of fiction authors and/or specific titles that have similar characteristics and appeal. Genre books are written to a particular, specific pattern. Also, *subgenre*.

# Where to Begin?

- \* Remember the First Amendment
- \* Become a better listener
- \* Learn about your own reading style
- \* Talk, join, pay attention
- \* Free yourself



## Remember the First Amendment

Everyone has the right to read whatever they want.

Judge others as you want to be judged.

Readers have the right to disagree.  
It is perfectly fine to judge books by the cover.

# Become a Better Listener

- \* What does the reader focus on?
  - \* Setting
  - \* Pace
  - \* Atmosphere
  - \* Characters
  - \* How the book makes them feel
  - \* Lessons learned
- \* The reader will tell you exactly what they like

# What to Listen for

- \* **Descriptions of pacing:** page-turner, gripping, fast, lots of action, descriptive, detailed, research
- \* **Descriptions of the story:** violent, gentle, family-centered, tragic, inspirational, racy, spooky, thought-provoking
- \* **Descriptions of the atmosphere/tone:** bleak, suspenseful, upbeat, humorous, magical, romantic
- \* **Other descriptions:** cast and characters, storyline, length of the book, writing style

# Learn About Your Reading Style

- \* Think about the last book you read
  - \* What words pop into your head
    - \* A place? A time period?
    - \* Names of characters?
    - \* Issues? Topics? Conflicts? Lessons?
    - \* Pace?
    - \* Emotions?
- \* Were you ever aware of why you read the books you read?

# Talk, Join, and Pay Attention

- \* Talk about books with friends and family
- \* Join or start a book discussion group
- \* Always be familiar with the best sellers
- \* Go to a book store and browse
- \* Keep a book journal
- \* Be familiar with what your library offers readers
- \* Subscribe to a newsletter

# Free Yourself

- \* Use suggestions from others
- \* Talk about what you know
- \* Limit yourself

# No More Fear!

- \* You do not have to read a book a day
- \* You do not need to know about every author on the shelf
- \* The measure of success is not whether the reader actually accepts your suggestions
- \* Success comes when readers realize that the library is a place they can go to talk about books