

Fort Collins Regional Library District
Catchy Classics: Timeless Tales For You to Enjoy

Austen. **Persuasion.** Long ago, Anne Elliott let the love of her life get away. In this case, she had allowed herself to be persuaded by a trusted family friend that the young man she loved wasn't an adequate match because of his lower social station and that Anne could do better. The novel opens some seven years after Anne sent her beau packing, and she's still alone. But then the officer she never stopped loving comes back from the sea.

Bird. **Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains.** NF 917.88 In 1872, Isabella Bird, daughter of a clergyman, set off alone to the Antipodes in search of health and found she had embarked on a life of adventurous travel. In 1873 she rode her horse through the American Wild West, a terrain only newly opened to pioneer settlement. Her letters tell of unspoiled landscapes and abundant wildlife, of encounters with wolves and grizzly bears, and her reactions to the volatile passions of the miners and pioneer settlers.

Bronte. **Wuthering Heights.** In early nineteenth-century Yorkshire, the passionate attachment between a headstrong young girl, Catherine Earnshaw, and a foundling boy, Heathcliff, brought up by her father, causes disaster for them and many others, even in the next generation.

Dumas. **Count of Monte Cristo.** Edmond Dantes is a young sailor who is unjustly accused of aiding the exiled Napoleon. As punishment he is sentenced to life imprisonment in a French island fortress. After 14 years, Dantes makes a daring escape by taking the place of a dead companion; he is sewn into a burial shroud and thrown into the sea. Having learned from his dead prison mate of a vast treasure on the island of Monte Cristo, Dantes eventually makes his way there to uncover and claim it.

Gilbreth. **Cheaper by the Dozen.** NF 813.52 No growing pains have ever been more hilarious than those suffered loudly by the riotous Gilbreth clan. First, there are a dozen red-haired, freckle-faced kids to contend with. Then there's Dad, a famous efficiency expert who believes a family can be run just like a factory. And there's Mother, his partner in everything except discipline. You can be sure they're not only cheaper, they're funnier by the dozen.

Heller. **Catch-22.** Set in a World War II American bomber squadron off the coast of Italy, Catch-22 features John Yossarian, who is furious because thousands of people he has never met are trying to kill him. Yossarian is trying to decode the meaning of Catch-22, a mysterious regulation that proves that insane people are really the sanest while supposedly sensible people are the true madmen.

Kerouac. **On the Road.** On the Road chronicles Jack Kerouac's years traveling the North American continent with his friend Neal Cassady, "a sideburned hero of the snowy West." As "Sal Paradise" and "Dean Moriarty," the two roam the country in a quest for self-knowledge and experience.

Kipling. **Kim.** Kim is the story of Kimball O'Hara, the orphaned son of an officer in the Irish Regiment who spends his childhood as a vanga-bond in Lahore. The book is a powerful evocation of place and of a young man's quest for identity.

Orczy. **Scarlet Pimpernel.** During the French Revolution a mysterious English nobleman known only as The Scarlet Pimpernel snatches French aristos from the jaws of the guillotine, while posing as the foppish Sir Percy Blakeney in society. Percy falls for and marries the beautiful actress Marguerite St. Just, but she is involved with Chauvelin and Robespierre, and Percy's marriage to her may endanger the Pimpernel's plans to save the little Dauphin.

Steinbeck. **Cannery Row.** Unburdened by the material necessities of the more fortunate, the denizens of Cannery Row discover rewards unknown in more traditional society. Henry the painter sorts through junk lots for pieces of wood to incorporate into the boat he is building, while Lee Chong stocks his grocery with almost anything a man could want. Doc, a young marine biologist who ministers to sick puppies and unhappy souls, unexpectedly finds true love.

Stoker. **Dracula.** The Dracula mythology has inspired a vast subculture, but the story has never been better told than by Stoker. He aims to terrify and succeeds, portraying the awesome power of evil to corrupt even the virtuous heroine, Lucy. Only the old magic--a crucifix, garlic, and a wooden stake--can provide effective weapons against Count Dracula's appalling strength.

Verne. **Journey to the Center of the Earth.** An adventurous geology professor mounts an expedition that descends into a subterranean world of luminous rocks, antediluvian forests, and fantastic marine life--a living past that holds the secrets to the origins of human existence.

Wells. **War of the Worlds.** They came from outer space--Mars, to be exact. With deadly heat-rays and giant fighting machine they want to conquer Earth and keep humans as their slaves. Nothing seems to stop them as they spread terror and death across the planet. It is the start of the most important war in Earth's history. And Earth will never be the same.