

# **“Passive” Readers Advisory in the time of Book Challenges**

Jessica Trotter, Capital Area District Libraries

# Agenda

- Defining Passive Readers Advisory
- What gets promoted?
- Considerations
- Policies
- Time to talk

## But first

- I believe strongly in the need for diverse collections in every community.
- I currently **do not** work on the floor of the library.
- I currently work in a relatively safe environment.
  - I understand that is not the case for everyone.

Take what you can use from the layers of this talk.

# Passive Readers Advisory

- Works in place of RA conversations—  
Not everyone wants or has time to  
connect one on one
- Is used to promote/market materials

# Passive Readers Advisory

- Booklists
- Physical Displays—in all forms
  - Single staff pick on a desk
  - Pulled out sections
  - Seasonal displays
  - Shelf talkers
  - Reading Maps
- Digital promotions—all of the above can be repackaged for digital use.



# Displays

“Displays utilize library worker expertise for community interests, collections, services, facilities, and providing access to information and information resources. They introduce users and potential users to library resources and the library’s role as a facilitator of information access.”

–Library-Initiated Programs and Displays as a Resource:  
An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, ALA

# What I'm Not Talking About



[Harris County Public Library Children's Department Bulletin Board Displays](#), circa 2007. Creative Commons.

# Displays (& Booklists)

- Pick your topic
- Select your titles
- Know the rules for your library



# Displays: Pick Your Topic

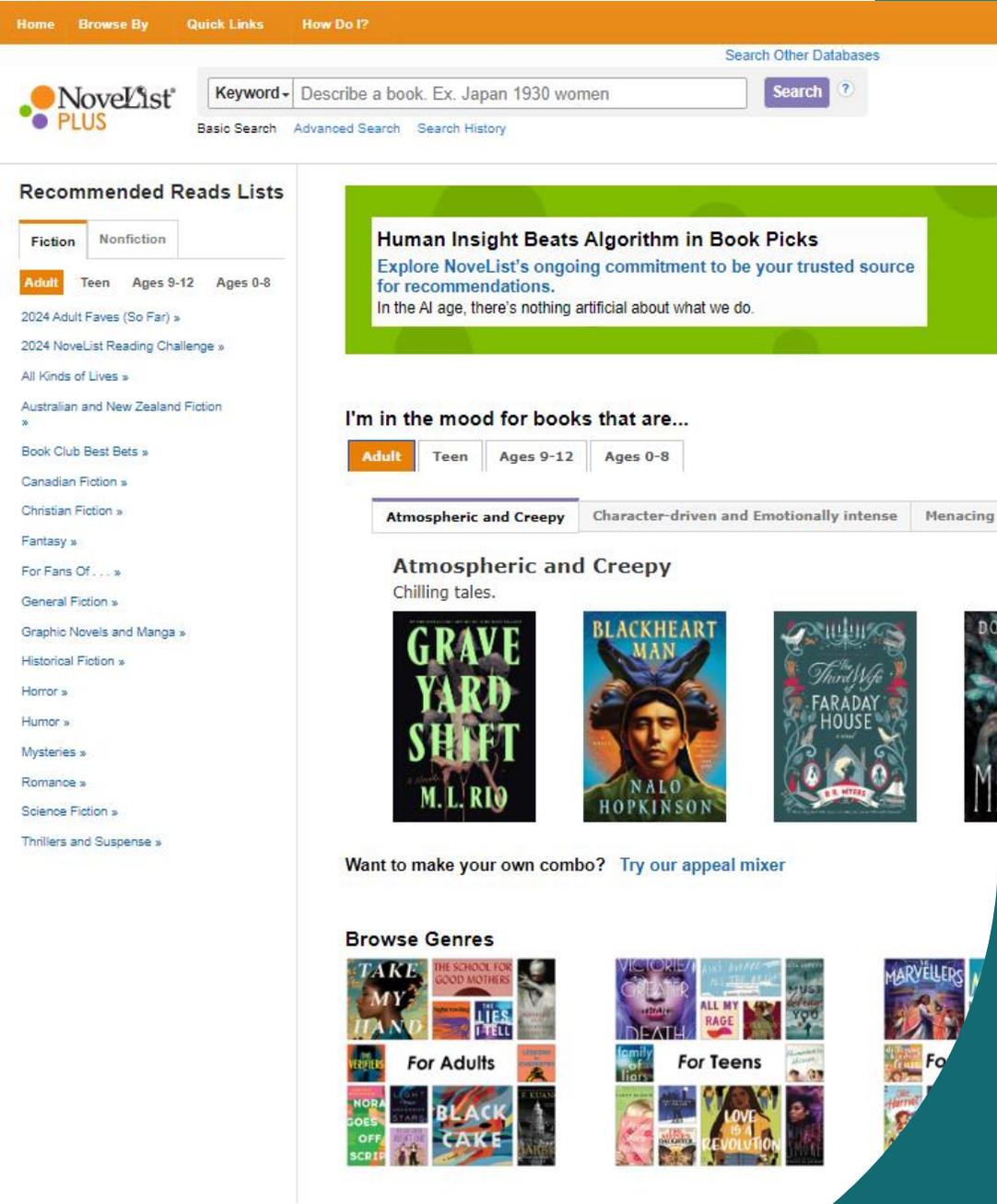
- Genre picks
- Staff Favorites
- Holidays and Observances
- If You Like...
- Timely topics—reactions to the news or media trends

Celebrity Author Display, Jessica Trotter, CADL  
Downtown Lansing,

# Displays: Select Your Titles

- Highlight authors who may not circ as well
- Read-Alikes for high demand authors
- Books from the bottom or top shelf
- Books from underrepresented communities

James Patterson does not need our help.



# Displays: Need Inspiration?

- NoveList Plus
- Book Riot
- Booklist Reader
- BookPage
- National Day Calendar



THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT

## 10 Thrilling Sports Books for Middle Grade Readers

There are a multitude of great middle grade sports books out there. Give these ten a try.

Alice Nuttall | Oct 11, 2024

<<snip>>

Here are some of the best sports books for middle grade readers to kick off your sporty reading.



### Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas

In this heartwarming graphic novel, heroine Bree is starting middle school and is dismayed to find that...

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## Trend Alert

## Cozy SF/Fantasy

by Susan Maguire

Forget monumental quests and bloody battles, the latest trend in sf/fantasy centers stories in which almost nothing happens. Unlike their epic counterparts, these books are light on violence, heavy on vibes, and usually contain a romance subplot. Readers are drawn to cozy sf/fantasy because of the creative world building, imaginative characters, and the feel-good, stress-free escapism the subgenre presents. Including characters from an orc who opens a coffee shop to a monk who travels the world serving tea, these cozy tales, which often feature strong queer representation, will delight readers looking for something chill but satisfying.

**Can't Spell Treason without Tea.** By Rebecca Thorne. 2024. Tor Bramble.

A queen's guard and her girlfriend, a powerful mage, must learn to trust each other while living together for the first time in a rural community, far from their previously dangerous lives.

**Chilling Effect.** By Valerie Valdes. 2019. Harper Voyager. This debut series-starter follows a starship captain and her crew as they contend with such threats as an apparent kidnapping, a cryostasis cartel, an interstellar tyrant, and psychic cats.

**Half a Soul.** By Olivia Atwater. 2022. Orbit.

A woman whose inability to feel was caused by a faerie lord stealing half her soul befriends the season's most eli-

gible bachelor in this Regency-era fantasy that combines romance and mystery.

**I'm Afraid You've Got Dragons.** By Peter S. Beagle. 2024. Simon & Schuster.

This charmer from a subgenre star features a princess teaching herself to read, a not-very-heroic adventurer, a dragon exterminator who can communicate with the beasts, and journeys of coming-of-age and self-discovery.

**Legends & Lattes.** By Travis Baldree. 2022. Tor.

An orc retires from a life of fighting to open a fantasy city's first coffee shop in a novel with themes of defying stereotypes and trusting your friends alongside a slow-burn romance.

**A Psalm for the Wild-Built.** By Becky Chambers. 2021. Tor.com.

In this series-starter from the master of cozy sf, a monk loads up their wagon with spices and supplies and goes on the road, serving tea and listening to people's problems while searching for life's meaning.

**That Time I Got Drunk and Saved a Demon.** By Kimberly Lemming. 2024. Orbit.

This steamy, cozy fantasy that kickstarts a series features a spice farmer who learns the truth about a "threat" to her village only to find herself accompanying a sexy demon on his quest to take down a goddess.

**The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches.** By Sangu Mandanna. 2022. Berkley.

In a cozy fantasy romance that celebrates family and trusting one's instincts, an orphaned witch is hired to tutor three young witches at a secluded house, which holds secrets and a librarian to whom she is inconveniently attracted.

**Winter's Orbit.** By Everina Maxwell. 2021. Tor.

An arranged marriage, palace intrigue, and a suspicious death combine in this romantic adventure with soft sf elements.



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# Consider

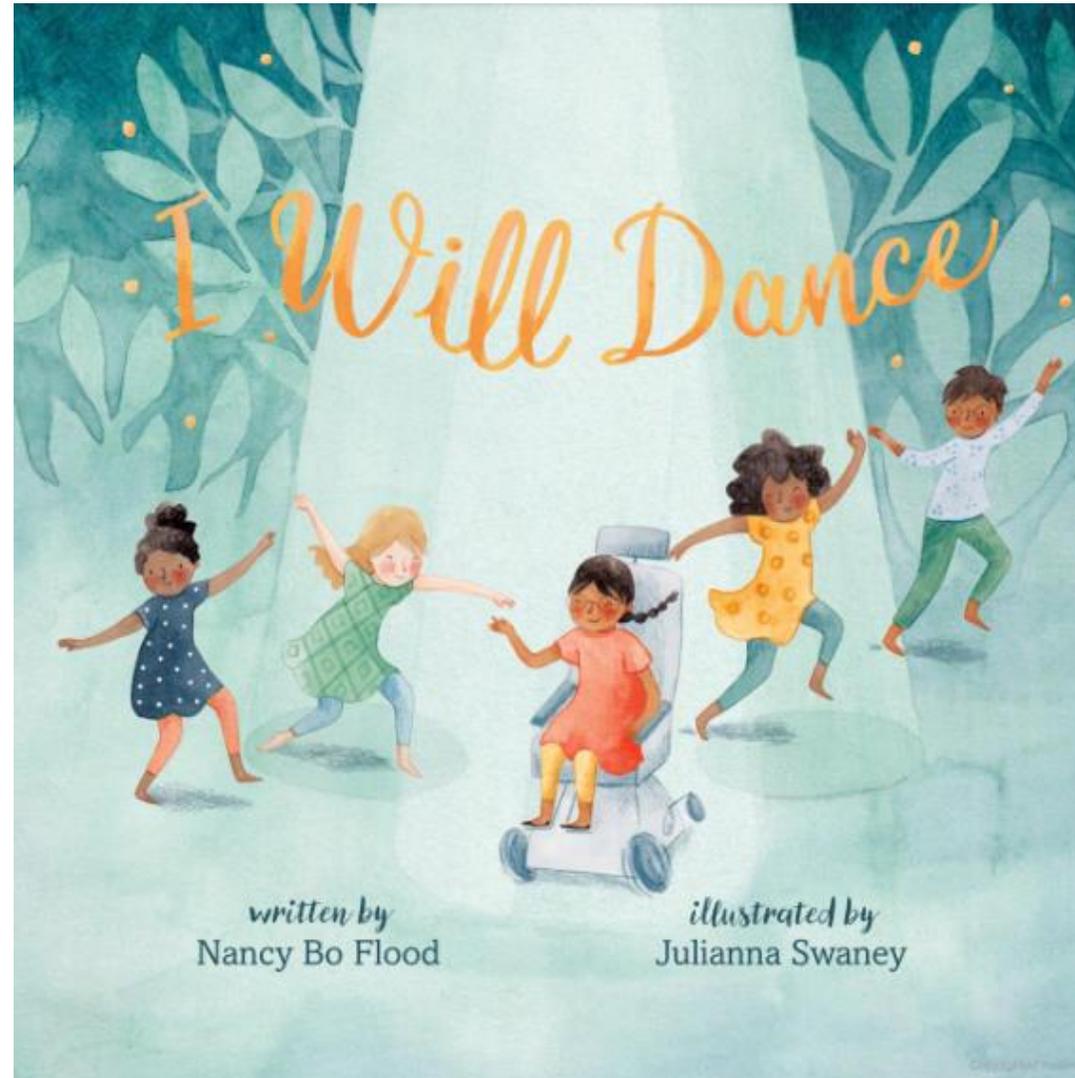
- Can patrons browse titles?
- Will they be comfortable pulling a book off the display?



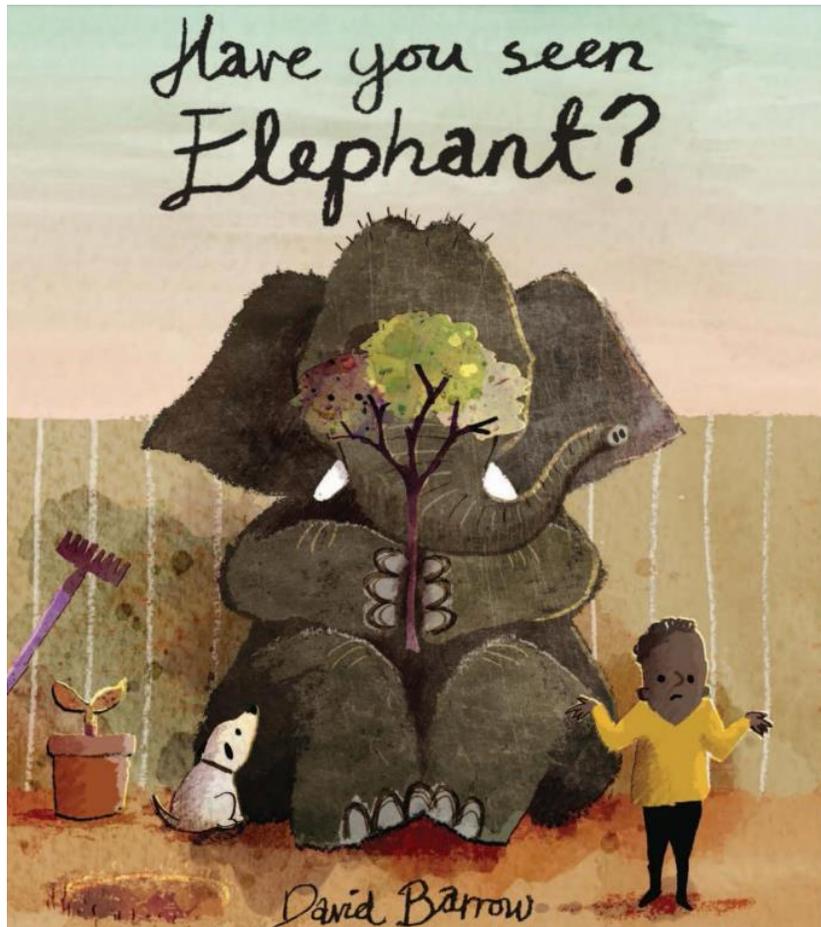
# Displays Dos

- Make your displays diverse year-round.
- Keep displays filled.
- Keep them fresh.
- Challenge yourself to cross promote.

# Casual and Everyday Diversity



# Casual and Everyday Diversity



# Cross Promotion

- Non-Fiction for Adults
- Non-fiction for children
- Links to a Documentary on DTH in Kanopy
- It Identifies *Swans of Harlem* as a staff pick
- It has that single eye-catching pointe shoe.

Dance Theater of Harlem display by Cady Bauer,  
CADL Stockbridge, 2020/4



# Social Media

- Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- Websites
- Catalog Discovery Layers



Instagram Creepy Read Bookstack



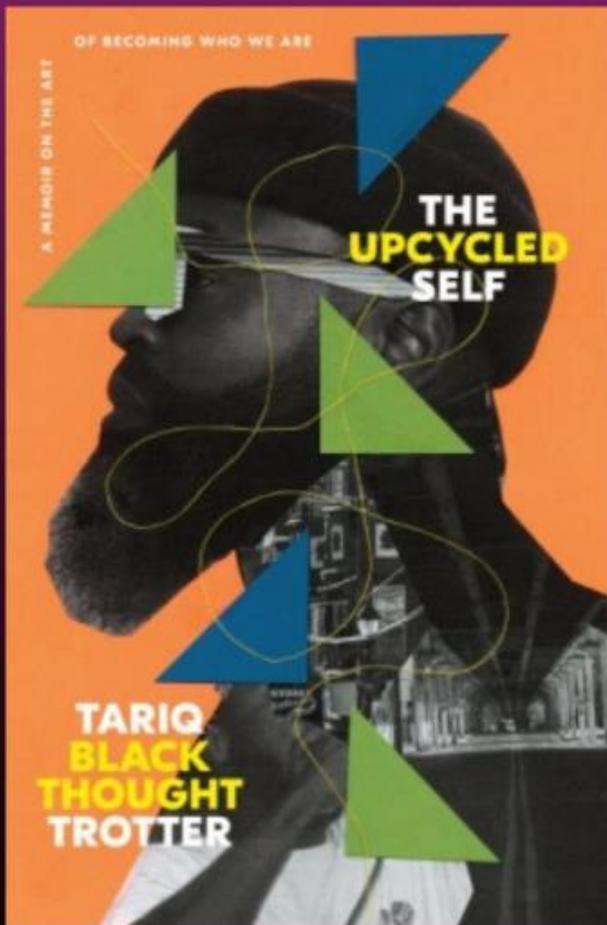
CADL Holt-Delhi

June 14 · 🌐



Have you finished Bridgerton Season 3 Part 2 yet? If it left you wanting more romance, stop by to check out something that might tide you over until season 4.





## Memoir

“He starts it off by saying, “*Most of you know I burned my house down as a kid...*” and let me tell you I did NOT know that.”



**cadlibrary**  
Lansing, Michigan



**cadlibrary** A few titles we loved this month. 📖❤️

@sourcebooks @raynayler @macmillanusa @randomhouse  
@superkiy @simonandschuster #LibrariesofInstagram #Books  
#Podcast #BookBound #Library #BookStore #BookReviews  
#Read

36w

View hidden comments

These comments were hidden because they may be misleading, offensive or spam. People can still tap to view them.



Liked by **equestrianlibrarian** and 10 others

January 23



Add a comment...





Search bar with input field, dropdown menus for 'Keyword' and 'in Library Catalog', and a 'Search' button.

- 2024 Smokey Bear Reading Challenge
- New Adult Books
- New Teen Books
- New Kids Books
- Library of Things

- Children
- Adult & Teen

## 🔍 2024 Smokey Bear Reading Challenge » Children

- Covers
- Grid



# “Challenging” Times: Administrative Considerations



# Policy

A solid Material or Collection policy is an important tool in responding to challenges/complaints/concerns.

Some libraries go a step farther and create Display policies as well.

# Policy

## Highlights of a CADL's collection policy that have been useful:

### “1.6 Policy On Controversial Materials

The Library recognizes that many materials are controversial and that any given item may offend some patrons. Since the library does not promote particular beliefs or views, the collection inevitably will contain various positions, including unpopular or unorthodox positions. The presence of an item in the library does not indicate any endorsement of its content by the library. Selection of materials will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on principles stated in this policy.”

“CADL considers reading, listening, and viewing materials to be individual, private matters and believes that full, confidential, and unrestricted access to information is essential for all patrons to exercise their constitutional rights. Responsibility for choosing what materials an individual will view, read, or consume rests with the individual. Although the staff exercises professional judgment in the selection of all materials, the responsibility for a minor child's use of library materials rests with their parents and/or legal guardians as more fully set forth in ser 102.”

# Policy

Have a solid process in place for complaints as well.

Request for Reconsideration forms can be created for both types of policy and force the complainant to write out their concerns.

CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY  
401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933  
517-367-6300

**REQUEST FOR RE-EVALUATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ LIBRARY: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions if you wish an item in the library's collection be re-evaluated.

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How was this material brought to your attention? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you know what literary critics and/or reviewers think of it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Have you read, seen, or listened to the entire item? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What, in your opinion, is the theme of this material? \_\_\_\_\_

# Time to Talk

# Questions?

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