Book recommendations quiz: what should I read next?: taste sheet and catalogue

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Choose a theme mode. Confirmed absent requires a full absence check: none of these records has one, so any checked theme leaves no matches. Avoid known notes removes listed matches only. Unlisted themes may still appear. A result does not confirm absence.

Taste worksheet: genre _____; mood _____; pace _____; theme mode _____; themes to check _____; already read IDs _____.

Each record has a free eBook source. Page counts and print/audio editions are unknown; those choices are not offered. Genre, mood and pace are editorial labels.

For a random pick, use equal paper slips for the records left after applying your chosen mode and read marks. For preferences, add genre 3, mood 2 and pace 1. Break tied scores by record ID. Keep up to three records.

B01 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Courtship, first impressions and family pressure around Elizabeth Bennet. Labels: romance, witty, steady. Notes: bereavement. Limitation: Its social satire takes more room than a modern romance plot. Project Gutenberg 1342. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1342

B02 Persuasion by Jane Austen

Anne Elliot meets the naval officer she once turned down. Labels: romance, reflective, slow. Notes: bereavement. Limitation: Much of the tension rests on manners and missed chances. Project Gutenberg 105. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/105

B03 Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen

The Dashwood sisters face love and money after their father's death. Labels: romance, reflective, steady. Notes: bereavement, illness. Limitation: The sisters' financial dependence shapes the choices open to them. Project Gutenberg 161. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/161

B04 Emma by Jane Austen

A confident matchmaker misreads the people around her. Labels: romance, witty, slow. Notes: bereavement. Limitation: The central character's errors may frustrate readers who want an easy heroine. Project Gutenberg 158. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/158

B05 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle

Watson recounts twelve cases solved by Holmes. Labels: mystery, curious, brisk. Notes: violence, death. Limitation: The stories include period prejudices and threats to women. Project Gutenberg 1661. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1661

B06 The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

An apparent family curse leads Holmes and Watson to Dartmoor. Labels: mystery, tense, brisk. Notes: violence, death. Limitation: The threat to people and animals makes this a darker detective choice. Project Gutenberg 2852. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2852

B07 The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins

Several narrators trace a stolen diamond and the secrets around it. Labels: mystery, curious, slow. Notes: drug use, death, racism. Limitation: Its colonial attitudes and long accounts need patient reading. Project Gutenberg 155. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/155

B08 The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins

A late-night encounter draws a drawing master into a family mystery. Labels: mystery, tense, steady. Notes: coercion, death, mental distress. Limitation: Confinement and control of women run through the story. Project Gutenberg 583. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/583

B09 The Time Machine by H. G. Wells

A time traveller visits a distant future divided between two peoples. Labels: science fiction, curious, brisk. Notes: violence, death. Limitation: Its social argument matters as much as the time-travel device. Project Gutenberg 35. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/35

B10 The War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells

An invasion unsettles daily life in southern England. Labels: science fiction, tense, brisk. Notes: war, violence, death. Limitation: Mass death and destruction make this a poor comfort read. Project Gutenberg 36. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/36

B11 The Invisible Man by H. G. Wells

A hidden face at an inn conceals a dangerous scientific experiment. Labels: science fiction, tense, brisk. Notes: violence, death. Limitation: The scientist becomes threatening rather than a cheerful inventor. Project Gutenberg 5230. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5230

B12 The Island of Doctor Moreau by H. G. Wells

A shipwreck survivor discovers disturbing experiments on an island. Labels: science fiction, tense, steady. Notes: animal harm, violence, death. Limitation: Animal cruelty is central, so this may need a firm content exclusion. Project Gutenberg 159. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/159

B13 Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Jim Hawkins joins a voyage whose crew includes dangerous pirates. Labels: adventure, curious, brisk. Notes: violence, death. Limitation: An adventurous tone does not remove the killings and threats. Project Gutenberg 120. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/120

B14 Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson

David Balfour faces betrayal and a difficult journey through Scotland. Labels: adventure, tense, brisk. Notes: violence, death. Limitation: Scots speech and historical politics can slow a first reading. Project Gutenberg 421. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/421

B15 Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne

Phileas Fogg and Passepartout attempt a timed journey around the world. Labels: adventure, curious, brisk. Notes: racism, violence. Limitation: This English translation includes colonial stereotypes. Project Gutenberg 103. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/103

B16 The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas and Auguste Maquet

Edmond Dantès returns from imprisonment with a plan for revenge. Labels: adventure, tense, steady. Notes: imprisonment, violence, death, suicide. Limitation: Its many characters and long revenge plot call for a large time commitment. Project Gutenberg 1184. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1184

B17 Dracula by Bram Stoker

Letters and journals follow a group trying to stop Count Dracula. Labels: gothic, tense, steady. Notes: violence, death, child peril. Limitation: Blood, illness and threats to children are part of the horror. Project Gutenberg 345. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/345

B18 Frankenstein by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

A creator and his abandoned creature tell rival accounts of responsibility. Labels: gothic, reflective, slow. Notes: violence, death, child peril. Limitation: The framed narration and grief differ from many screen versions. Project Gutenberg 84. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/84

B19 The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

A portrait carries the cost of a young man's changing life. Labels: gothic, reflective, steady. Notes: violence, death, drug use, suicide. Limitation: Moral decay and cruelty matter more than action scenes. Project Gutenberg 174. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/174

B20 Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

A lawyer follows the link between his friend and a violent stranger. Labels: gothic, tense, brisk. Notes: violence, death, suicide. Limitation: Its famous premise may already have spoiled the central mystery. Project Gutenberg 43. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/43

B21 Middlemarch by George Eliot

Linked marriages and ambitions shape life in an English town. Labels: literary, reflective, slow. Notes: illness, death. Limitation: A large cast and long social study make this a slow reading project. Project Gutenberg 145. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/145

B22 Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

An orphan grows into a governess and insists on choosing her own life. Labels: literary, reflective, steady. Notes: child abuse, death, mental distress, racism. Limitation: Its treatment of mental illness and race deserves scrutiny. Project Gutenberg 1260. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1260

B23 Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Pip's hopes of becoming a gentleman reshape his ties to home. Labels: literary, reflective, steady. Notes: child abuse, violence, death. Limitation: Coincidence and social shame drive a long, winding plot. Project Gutenberg 1400. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1400

B24 The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Hester Prynne faces public judgment while other people hide their guilt. Labels: literary, reflective, slow. Notes: public shaming, death. Limitation: Dense prose and religious punishment can make this a demanding choice. Project Gutenberg 25344. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/25344