



## Suggested Reading for Adults

### ***A Girl is a Body of Water by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi***

This story is rich in the folklore of Uganda and an arresting exploration of what it means to be a modern girl in a world that seems determined to silence women. Makumbi's unforgettable novel is a sweeping testament to the true and lasting connections between history, tradition, family, friends, and the promise of a different future.

### ***American Gods by Neil Gaiman***

Upon his release from prison, a widower accepts a job as a bodyguard and joins the battle between the gods of yore and the neoteric gods of present-day America.

### ***Bel Canto by Ann Patchett***

When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxanne Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa--a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan. The story unfolds much as an opera's does, and transformation is a theme. It has also been adapted into an opera.

### ***Black Water Sister by Zen Cho***

A reluctant medium discovers the ties that bind can unleash a dangerous power in this compelling Malaysian-set contemporary fantasy.

### ***Fox 8 : a Story by George Saunders***

Fox 8 has always been the daydreamer in his pack. He learns to speak "Yuman" by hiding in the bushes outside a house and listening to children's bedtime stories. When the building of a new shopping mall cuts off the pack's food supply, Fox 8 begins a harrowing quest to save the pack.

### ***Freshwater by Akwaeke Emezi***

An extraordinary debut novel, *Freshwater* explores the surreal experience of having a fractured self. *Freshwater* explores the metaphysics of identity and mental health, plunging the reader into the mystery of being and self. *Freshwater* dazzles with ferocious energy and serpentine grace, heralding the arrival of a fierce new literary voice.

### ***Gods of Jade and Shadow by Silvia Moreno-Garcia***

The Mayan God of Death sends a young woman on a harrowing, life-changing journey in this dark fairy tale inspired by Mexican folklore.

### ***Hag-seed : The Tempest Retold by Margaret Atwood***

Felix is at the top of his game as artistic director of the Makeshiweg Theatre Festival. His productions have amazed and confounded. Now he's staging a *Tempest* like no other: not only will it boost his reputation, it will heal emotional wounds. Or that was the plan. Instead, after an act of unforeseen treachery, Felix is living in exile in a backwoods hovel, haunted by memories of his beloved lost daughter, Miranda. And brewing revenge. After 12 years revenge finally arrives in the shape of a theatre course at a nearby prison. Here Felix and his inmate actors will put on his *Tempest* and snare the traitors who destroyed him. It's magic! But will it remake Felix as his enemies fall?

### ***Love in Color: Mythical Tales From Around the World, Retold by Bolu Babalola***

Bolu Babalola retells the most beautiful love stories from history and mythology with incredible new detail and vivacity. Focusing on the magical folktales of West Africa, Babalola also reimagines Greek myths, ancient legends from the Middle East, and stories from long-erased places. With an eye towards decolonizing tropes inherent in our favorite tales of love, Babalola has created captivating stories that traverse across perspectives, continents, and genres.

***Mythos : the Greek Myths Reimagined by Stephen Fry***

Rediscover the thrills, grandeur, and unabashed fun of the Greek myths--stylishly retold by Stephen Fry. From Persephone's pomegranate seeds to Prometheus's fire, from devious divine schemes to immortal love affairs, Fry draws out the humor and pathos in each story and reveals its relevance for our own time.

***Norse Mythology by Neil Gaiman***

Presents a rendering of the major Norse pantheon that traces the genesis of the legendary nine worlds and the exploits of its characters, illuminating the characters and natures of iconic figures Odin, Thor, and Loki. Look for the comic book adaptation of the same title as well.

***Spinning Silver by Naomi Novik***

Channeling the heart of the Rumpelstiltskin fairy tale, Novik deftly interweaves six distinct narrative voices--each learning valuable lessons about sacrifice, power and love--into a rich, multilayered fantasy that readers will want to return to again and again.

***The Archive of Alternate Endings***

Lindsey Drager Tracking the evolution of Hansel and Gretel at seventy-five-year intervals that correspond with earth's visits by Halley's Comet, The Archive of Alternate Endings explores how stories are disseminated and shared, edited and censored, voiced and left untold.

***The Cassandra : a novel by Sharma Shields***

The Cassandra follows a woman who goes to work in a top secret research facility during WWII, only to be tormented by visions of what the mission will mean for humankind.

***The Golem and The Jinni by Helene Wecker***

Chava, a golem brought to life by a disgraced rabbi, and Ahmad, a jinni made of fire, form an unlikely friendship on the streets of New York until a fateful choice changes everything.

***The Hero with a Thousand Faces by Joseph Campbell***

Since its release in 1949, The Hero with a Thousand Faces has influenced millions of readers by combining the insights of modern psychology with Joseph Campbell's revolutionary understanding of comparative mythology.

***The Night Tiger by Yangsze Choo***

A vivacious dance-hall girl in 1930s colonial Malaysia is drawn into unexpected danger by the discovery of a severed finger that is being sought by a young houseboy in order to protect his late master's soul.

***The Phoenix: an Unnatural Biography of a Mythical Beast by Joe Nigg***

This entertaining and informative look at the life and transformation of the phoenix will be the authoritative source for anyone fascinated by folklore and mythology, re-igniting our curiosity about one of myth's greatest beasts.

***The Porpoise by Mark Haddon***

A fantastical novel which reworks Shakespeare's 'Pericles' into a parable for today.

***Wake, Siren: Ovid Resung by Nina MacLaughlin***

In fierce, textured voices, the women of Ovid's Metamorphoses claim their stories and challenge the power of myth. Drawing on the rhythms of epic poetry and alt rock, of everyday speech and folk song, of fireside whisperings and therapy sessions, Nina MacLaughlin, recovers what is lost when the stories of women are told and translated by men.

