

1. A book from a library display (New Book shelves do not count)	21. A book from the 2025 NPR Books We Love list*	41. A Wild Card - come see us at the desk to choose yours
2. A book from the non-fiction 600s (Technology)	22. A book published in 2016*	42. A Morris Award winner or finalist*
3. A book that was published in 2006*	23. A book with a green cover – the cover should be >50% green	43. A biography (autobiographies and memoirs do not count)
4. A book with a cover you like	24. A book from the Juvenile Fiction section at DCL	44. A book published in 2026
5. A book with the letter Q, R, or S in the title	25. A book of your choice	45. A book from the top shelf – any top shelf
6. A book with the word “Fast” or “Slow” in the title*	26. A book recommended by library staff*	46. A book recommended by a library kid - this is the ONLY category where books below J fiction level can be used*
7. A book by an author who is new to you	27. A book by an author you love	47. A book that is in a genre that you don’t normally read
8. A book with no people on the cover	28. A classic that you’ve never read*	48. A book with a male main character
9. A book set in a small town	29. A book with a title that starts with the last letter of the title of your previous read	49. A book with a female main character
10. A book that you read before bed	30. A book with an unreliable narrator*	50. A book with named chapters
11. A graphic novel or manga	31. A fiction book that is based on a true story*	51. A book that was published the decade you were born
12. A book you own but haven’t read	32. A trilogy (book one of three)	52. A book with a weather word in the title (e.g. rain, snow, wind)*
13. A book that ends in a cliffhanger or has an unresolved ending*	33. A trilogy (book two of three)	53. A book that takes place in the Midwest*
14. A book with a parent in it	34. A trilogy (book three of three)	54. A book that has a school in it*
15. A book with sprayed edges (a design on the edges of the pages when the book is closed)	35. A book by an author with a disability or that features a main character with a disability*	55. A book that has illustrations in it that is NOT a graphic novel*
16. A book from a 2025 best books of the year list	36. A book with a 4-star or higher rating on Goodreads	56. A book with a verb in the title
17. A book that has a language other than English in it	37. A book that you find faced out on a shelf (cover facing out)	57. A book with a key or keyhole on the cover*
18. A book with a main character who is a celebrity or influencer*	38. A dystopian or post-apocalyptic novel*	58. A book by an author whose middle initial is on the cover
19. A book that makes you feel scared or on edge	39. A book that takes place on a boat, train, or plane*	59. A book that is not part of a series
20. A book that features a strong friendship*	40. A book with a non-human antagonist*	60. A book that has a dust jacket

* = Recommendation book list available on Beanstack

Prizes and Prize Drawings

Complete **categories 1-20** and you'll earn a free book of your choice or a coupon for a free book from the Friends of DCL bookstore.

When you finish **categories 21-40**, you'll earn a spiral bound book annotation set and another free book of your choice or Friends of DCL bookstore coupon.

Fill **categories 41-60** to earn a DCL Book Nerd slingpack perfectly sized to carry a book with you wherever you go, a third free book or Friends of DCL bookstore coupon, and another automatic entry into the drawing for a \$50 Pioneer Bookshop gift card.

Do you have suggestions, questions, or comments about DCL Book Nerd?

Contact Mallory at msnow@grinnelliowa.gov



DRAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOOK NERD

Year-Long Reading Challenge

2026 DCL Book Nerd Category List and Tracker

Program Guidelines

Books must be read between January 1 and December 31, 2026.

All reading must be entered into Beanstack (on your own or with the help of library staff) by 11:59pm on December 31, 2026 for it to count toward prizes.

You need to be in 7th grade or older to participate.

Books must be Junior Fiction level or higher in any format. Toddler books, picture books, readers, easy fiction, junior fiction and non-fiction <100 pages, and periodicals do not count unless otherwise noted. Book eligibility will be determined by Drake Community Library's catalog and/or staff.

Limit of one category per book.

Categories do not need to be completed in order, but must be redeemed in the following category group order: 1-20 (prize available once categories 1-20 are completed), 21-40 (prize available once categories 1-40 are completed), and 41-60 (prize available once categories 1-60 are completed).