

1. A book from a library display (New Book shelves do not count)
2. A book from the non-fiction 600s (Technology)
3. A book that was published in 2006\*
4. A book with a cover you like
5. A book with the letter Q, R, or S in the title
6. A book with the word “Fast” or “Slow” in the title\*
7. A book by an author who is new to you
8. A book with no people on the cover
9. A book set in a small town
10. A book that you read before bed
11. A graphic novel or manga
12. A book you own but haven’t read
13. A book that ends in a cliffhanger or has an unresolved ending\*
14. A book with a parent in it
15. A book with sprayed edges (a design on the edges of the pages when the book is closed)
16. A book from a 2025 best books of the year list
17. A book that has a language other than English in it
18. A book with a main character who is a celebrity or influencer\*
19. A book that makes you feel scared or on edge
20. A book that features a strong friendship\*

\* = Recommendation book list available on Beanstack

21. A book from the 2025 NPR Books We Love list\*
22. A book published in 2016\*
23. A book with a green cover – the cover should be >50% green
24. A book from the Juvenile Fiction section at DCL
25. A book of your choice
26. A book recommended by library staff\*
27. A book by an author you love
28. A classic that you’ve never read\*
29. A book with a title that starts with the last letter of the title of your previous read
30. A book with an unreliable narrator\*
31. A fiction book that is based on a true story\*
32. A trilogy (book one of three)
33. A trilogy (book two of three)
34. A trilogy (book three of three)
35. A book by an author with a disability or that features a main character with a disability\*
36. A book with a 4-star or higher rating on Goodreads
37. A book that you find faced out on a shelf (cover facing out)
38. A dystopian or post-apocalyptic novel\*
39. A book that takes place on a boat, train, or plane\*
40. A book with a non-human antagonist\*

41. A Wild Card - come see us at the desk to choose yours
42. A Morris Award winner or finalist\*
43. A biography (autobiographies and memoirs do not count)
44. A book published in 2026
45. A book from the top shelf – any top shelf
46. A book recommended by a library kid - this is the ONLY category where books below J fiction level can be used\*
47. A book that is in a genre that you don’t normally read
48. A book with a male main character
49. A book with a female main character
50. A book with named chapters
51. A book that was published the decade you were born
52. A book with a weather word in the title (e.g. rain, snow, wind)\*
53. A book that takes place in the Midwest\*
54. A book that has a school in it\*
55. A book that has illustrations in it that is NOT a graphic novel\*
56. A book with a verb in the title
57. A book with a key or keyhole on the cover\*
58. A book by an author whose middle initial is on the cover
59. A book that is not part of a series
60. A book that has a dust jacket

## Prizes and Prize Drawings

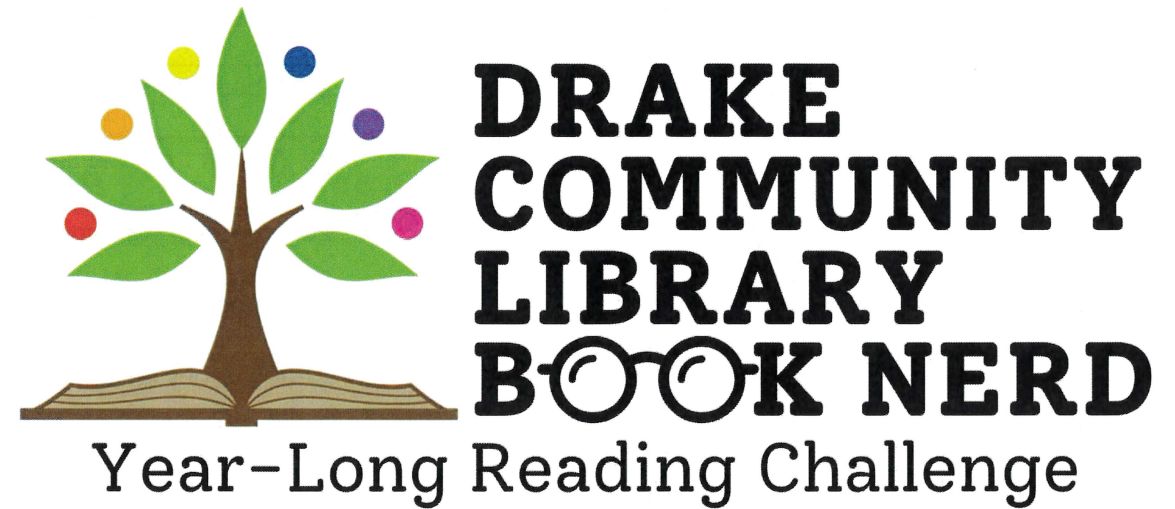
Complete **categories 1-20** and you'll earn a free book of your choice or a coupon for a free book from the Friends of DCL bookstore.

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](mailto:msnow@grinnelliowa.gov)



**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).