This list has been compiled for use by the general reader and by librarians who work with adults. The titles have been selected by the Notable Books Council, ALA Reference and Adult Services Division, for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers. Titles were selected from books published from November 1991 through October 1992 that demonstrate wide general appeal and literary merit.

**FICTION**

- Auster, Paul. *Leviathan*. Viking. In this suspenseful and complex novel, a writer ponders the death of a friend and fellow writer and pieces together the events that defined his life.

- Brown, Rosellen. *Before and After*. Farrar. A family's love and loyalty are sorely tested when the teenage son is accused of murdering his girlfriend.

- Butler, Robert Olen. *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*. Holt. These short stories evoke past trauma and express the contemporary vulnerability and joy of Vietnamese living in Louisiana.

- Duncan, David James. *The Brothers K*. Doubleday. This novel set in the 1960s depicts a family torn by its two religions—baseball and Christianity.

- Hoffman, Alice. *Turtle Moon*. Putnam. Danger and love await Lucy Rosen and her son, Keith, as they begin a new life in the magical world of Verity, Florida.

- Kenan, Randall. *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead and Other Stories*. HBJ. Inventive stories of the inhabitants of a place called Tims Creek, North Carolina, explore the emotional, sexual and racial limits of human character.


- McCarthy, Cormac. *All the Pretty Horses*. Knopf. This evocative and exuberant novel describes John Grady Cole's coming-of-age in Mexico during the 1940s.


- Morrison, Toni. *Jazz*. Knopf. Harlem in the 1920s, with its syncopation and excitement, provides the backdrop to this portrait of a marriage gone sour and the perverse behaviors love can engender.

- Naylor, Gloria. *Bailey's Cafe*. HBJ. Wry portraits of the habitues of a Harlem eatery combine the mythic and the mundane.

- Ondaatje, Michael. *The English Patient*. Knopf. Four wounded spirits come together in a deserted Italian villa during the final days of World War II. Three will begin a kind of healing.


- Smiley, Jane. *A Thousand Acres*. Knopf. In this contemporary tragedy the lives of members of an Iowa farm family unravel as a dark secret is revealed.

**POETRY**


**NONFICTION**


- MacLean, Norman. *Young Men & Fire*. Univ. of Chicago. A beautifully written record of the struggle to subdue the tragic 1949 Mann Gulch forest fire in Montana.


Monette, Paul. *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story*. HBJ. In this strikingly honest memoir, the author reveals the pain of growing up gay and not acknowledging it even to himself.


Selzer, Richard. *Down from Troy: A Doctor Comes of Age*. Morrow. With warm gratitude to his physician father and artist mother, this surgeon-turned-writer re-creates his youth during the Depression in Troy, New York.


Wills, Garry. *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America*. Simon & Schuster. This insightful analysis breathes new vigor and clarity into the rhetoric, context and ultimate meaning of the Gettysburg Address.