

# Book Blurbs

Winter break is the perfect time to put on comfy clothing, snuggle up in your favorite chair, and crack open a new book. The scent of the book and the feeling of the paper on your fingers is enough to make anyone feel inspired enough to approach their day head first.



## Nonfiction

*A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* by Isabella L. Bird

A book composed of letters from Bird to her sister about her travel across the Rocky Mountains. She traveled in 1873 on horseback - no roads and automobiles during that time. It's a very heroic story, and I enjoyed immersing myself in a woman's world in the 1800s. But, it was rather slow at times.



## Fantasy

*Denton Little's Death Date* by Lance Rubin

A hilarious and realistic-fantasy novel about high school and a little about the meaning of life. It leans a bit more sci-fi but still an excellent book with a great ending. I enjoyed laughing a lot while reading this book since the humor is well made for teenagers.



## Thriller/horror

*Fear Street Super Thriller: Nightmares* by R.L. Stine

If you ever read goosebumps as a kid, it'll be nice to revisit R.L. Stine. Both stories take place in high school and have strong murder themes and has heavy themes of friendship. It was scary enough that I made a few nightmares and had a hard time sleeping after reading it.



## Nonfiction

*The Glass Universe* by Dava Sobel

This is a biography about the Harvard College Observatory and how the women they employed to interpret male observations wound up making huge discoveries for the world of astronomy. I loved reading about how women can make a difference in the world, but got bored occasionally during the exodus - the build up of the plot.



## Mystery

*Murder in the Secret Garden* by Ellery Adams

A fairly sophisticated novel that has a great mystery. It's also a quick read with imagery that will have you immersed in the novel's universe. The story was really interesting, and it felt like I really got to know each character. Sometimes it was a little slow.



## Mystery

*A Shot in the Bark* by C.A. Newsome

If you like dogs, this is the book for you. It's an excellent mystery with surprising plot twists that will keep you turning the page as fast as you can. I was amazed at how many surprises were hidden in this book, and I couldn't put the book down until I finished it.



## Thriller/Horror

*Dreamcatcher* by Stephen King

This is a fairly scary novel that focuses more on how people react to stressful situations than the thriller itself, and it has heavy themes of friendship. It's a very long book, but that made plenty of room for character development and a plot that left me shocked at the end.



## Science Fiction:

*The Testing* by Joelle Charbonneau

This trilogy has a lot in common with *The Hunger Games*. Set in a dystopian future, a series of testing has to occur to show if citizens are worthy. The fantasy elements in the novel were really interesting, and all of the characters felt really real.



## Fantasy

*Strange the Dreamer* by Laini Taylor

A fantastical journey based on myths and gods. It shows a lot about the importance of friendship and knowledge. I love the inclusive feeling from this novel and how descriptive it is because it brought me into the fantasy world. Occasionally the plot was a little confusing.



## Science fiction

*Recursion* by Blake Crouch

This book has a lot of neuroscience and modern-day values. It offers insight into what memory is and how much truth in our lives relies on memory. The book was based around the author's extensive scientific research, and I was shocked by the overall plot. It was very well thought out.

