

Searching for Gentle Reads

Use appeal terms

NoveList's appeal terms are useful for **readers of all ages** to help capture the "feel" of a book. Use them to narrow down a search, especially genre searches.

Examples of appeal terms to try when looking for gentle reads: **Chaste, Feel-good, Funny, Heartwarming, Homespun, Inspirational, Quiet, Sweet, and Upbeat.**

Note: some terms only apply to specific audience levels.

TRY IT

Try combining a genre and appeal search!

On the **Advanced Search** page, enter a genre (try **Romance**) in the search box and select **GN Genre** from the drop-down.

Enter an appeal term (try **Heartwarming**) in the next search box and select **AP Appeal Factor** from the drop-down.

Click **Search**.

Avoid these terms

Watch for appeal terms listed in a title record that identify potentially objectionable content.

Subjects to avoid include: **Child abuse, Psychopaths, Serial murderers, Violence**, etc.

Appeals to avoid include: **Bawdy, Disturbing, Explicit, Gritty, Menacing, Steamy, Violent.**

Note: Presence or absence of a term does not guarantee a good fit.

See a full list of appeal terms in NoveList by searching **TI "Appeal Index"**.

Search for gentle reads

Gentle Reads is a genre term that NoveList applies to books at the **adult reading level** that are characterized by no sex, no violence, and little or no offensive language. These stories often occur in small towns, are upbeat, and may have an inspirational element.

While gentle reads and Christian fiction sometimes overlap, they are not synonymous. These genres can be searched separately. Or if you are looking for gentle reads that are Christian fiction, try **GX Gentle reads AND GN Christian**.

TRY IT

From the Basic Search bar, enter **GN Gentle Reads**. (GN is a [field code](#).)

Click **Search**.

Just looking for mysteries? Under **Refine Results** limit to the genre **Cozy mysteries**.

When to use:



Librarians and Educators: Want to recommend a book that doesn't have a lot of sex, violence, or bad language in it?

Readers: Are you looking for a romance book, but want to make sure it leaves out explicit content?

Caregivers: Does your young child love to read, but you'd like them to avoid books that are "too mature"?

Try the classics

Looking for more? Try the classics. Not all classics will work for all gentle readers, but they can be a good place to start. Remember to look at the subject headings and appeals terms first (and also read the reviews!).

From the Basic Search bar, search for **GN Classics**. Use the limiters on the left to narrow down to a favorite genre or subject.