

## MANCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY MYSTERY BOOK CLUB – 2025-2026

Use this to remember your impressions of what you read, and to see which of 12 books you liked best.

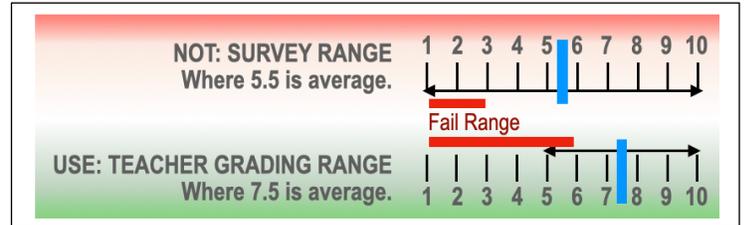
<p><i>Title And Author</i> →</p> <p>Adapt to your interests. Ex: I like thrillers – Hence #4 on my list. If you like “Cozies” better, maybe put “0” in #4 but double points for #3A &amp; #3B.</p>	The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocum	Keeper of Lost Causes by Jussi Adler-Olsen	The Paris Express by Emma Donoghue	The Woman in the Library by Sulari Gentill	All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker	Everyone's Killed Someone by B Stevenson	The Oligarch's Daughter by Joseph Finder	Nightshade by Michael Connelly	Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty	The Talented Mr. Ripley by Patricia Highsmith	The God of the Woods by Liz Moore	The Cutting Season by Attica Locke
MONTH →	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
<b>POINT OF VIEW</b> F- First person; N- Narrator; M- Multiperson (rare)												
<b>SETTING</b> C- Contemporary; H- Historical												
<b>SLEUTH</b> P- Prof: Cop/Fed/PI/DA; L- Lawyer A- Amateur; V- victim/relative O- Other												
1. Got my interest (A) in first few chapters ... (B) kept it through to the end... [5 pts each for A & B]												
2. Plot solution? It was surprising / unexpected												
3. Plot solution? (A) the ending was credible. (B) the loose ends added up. [5 pts each for A & B]												
4. Plot overall provided a good degree of suspense / tension.												
5. Good use of setting? (It was accurate/ specific enough to be fun; not overdone or distracting.)												
6. Dialogue was well done? (It was true to character, convincing, and/or entertaining)												
7. Character of sleuth(s) was/were likable, attractive, appealing, interesting, and/or admirable?												
8. Other characters seemed real and engaging (not cartoonish / stereotypical / undeveloped)?												
9. Writing style was mature; it flowed well, while reading?												
10. It makes me want to read another book by this author as soon as possible?												
11. <i>OPTIONAL</i> : Add or deduct up to 10 points for items not covered above. Attach reasons.												
<b>FINAL SCORE</b>												

Suggestion: use rating 1-10 with 10 being best possible; Note that Items 1 & 3 use 1-5 in both subsections instead. Adjust by Item 11 if desired. Final score is “out of 100.” 95= Solid A, 85=B, 75=C, 65=D, and 55 and below=F. For purposes of group averages, please note: (1) **do not give a “fail” lower than a “50,”** (2) **your “grade” will count toward the average only if you have read the book!**

## GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING BOOKS

These guidelines have evolved with the use of the form over the last 10+ years in the MBC. ***In no way is use of the form required!*** All of us have skipped the use of the form to one degree or another. However, since it is our practice to ask participants to give a "score" or "grade" to the books, you have a choice of "winging it" (keeping the teacher grading scale in mind) or using the form's questions to guide you.

- Final total score is "out of 100." So that we are all on the same page about this, note:
  - This is **NOT** like a survey rating of 1 - 10, where 5 is average, 10 is fantastic, and 1 is the worst.
  - This is more like a school grading system** where 7.5 points (or solid C) is average and 5.5 and 5 points (or F) are failing.
- All items have a total value of 10 points. (Keep in mind that items #1 and #3 are both divided into two items each worth 5 points.) Grade like a school grade; let this be your guide:



Items #1 & #3 using up to 5 pts	5	4.5	4	3.5		3	2.5			
All other items using up to 10 pts	10 – 9.5 – 9		8.5 – 8		7.5 – 7		6.5	6 – 5.5 – 5		
Per Cent Range	100%	100 ↔ 90	89 ↔ 80	79 ↔ 70	69 ↔ 63	62 ↔ 50				
		Great!	Good!	Just OK.	Not OK.	Bad!				
		UP		MID		DOWN				
		A+ A A-	B+ B B-	C+ C C-	D	F				
Examples translation of letter grades to numerical % ratings	97 95 92	87 85 82	77 75 72	67 65 63	62 60 58	99 94 90	89 84 81	79 74 71	69 65 64	56 55 50

- If you feel the 10 questions omitted something that is important to you, that you wish to include in your score, you can manually adjust your score by using optional Item #11. I rarely use this box. When I do, it will be in the range of adding or deducting 1 to 4 points. (That is, for example, a 3 or a -2.) Otherwise, put a zero in the box for Item #11 so that it will not impact the total.
- When you report your score for the group, so that we can compute an average score for the book, **do not give a "fail" lower than a "50."** Anything lower would unfairly impact the overall group average. "50" is the worst score to give. If your total comes lower, adjust it to 50.

***Your "grade" will count toward the group average only if you have read "essentially" the entire book.*** Just indicate that you didn't finish. It happens to all of us from time to time. After the meeting, when everyone's book score is shared for the benefit of those who could not attend, the following symbols will be used –

YOUR REPORT IS:	THE ACRONYM USED WILL BE:
I did not have time to read it.	DNR
or	
I did not have time to finish it.	DNF
or	
After a few chapters, I knew that the book would not be worth my time.	NWT