



Characteristics of Gentle Reads

1. **PACING** – Gentle pacing creates a leisurely story filled with affable characters and no unsettling surprises.
2. **STORY LINE** –emphasize relationships among characters, rather than suspense or controversial social issues. Genial humor often underlines these stories, and there is no explicit sex or violence.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – Characters are comfortable companions, who may also be the source of the humor that lightens the tone of these books.
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – Settings may be historical or contemporary and are usually in a small town, enclosed community, or rural area. Domestic pleasures often frame these novels.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – is the key in these unpretentious, upbeat, evocative stories that touch the heart. They are "old-fashioned" stories that reflect traditional, rather than modern, values.
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – Language may be colorful, homespun, or even sophisticated, but the style is generally not complex. These novels generally contain no profanity.

Emotion Genres

Gentle Reads Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

ADRENALINE:	Gilbert Morris	
FANTASY:	Richard Bach	
	George MacDonald	
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Richard Paul Evans	
	Robin Lee Hatcher	
HUMOR:	Clyde Edgerton	
	Paul Gallico	
	Garrison Keillor	
	Angela Thirkell	
	Adriana Trigiani	
INSPIRATIONAL:	Joseph Girzone	
	Philip Gulley	
	Jan Karon	
LITERARY:	Kaye Gibbons	
	Eudora Welty	
MYSTERY:	Alexander McCall Smith	
ROMANCE:	Debbie Macomber	
	Robin Pilcher	
	Nicholas Sparks	
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Barbara Michaels	
	Phyllis Whitney	
TRAVEL:	Peter Mayle	
WESTERNS:	Brock and Bodie Thoene (Saga of the Sierras)	
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Debbie Macomber	Sharon Owens
	Rosamunde Pilcher	Jeanne Ray
	Adriana Trigiani	



Emotion Genres

Authors BEYOND the Gentle Reads Genre

ADRENALINE:	Mary Higgins Clark	
	Hammond Innes	
	Nevil Shute	
BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR:	James Herriot	
	Homer Hickam	
	Haven Kimmel	
FANTASY:	Peter S. Beagle	
	T. H. White	
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Van Reid	
	Brock and Bodie Thoene	
HUMOR:	Dorothy Cannell	
LITERARY:	Wendell Berry	
	Penelope Lively	May Sarton
MYSTERY:	Nancy Atherton	
	M. C. Beaton (Hamish Macbeth series)	
	Rhys Bowen	
ROMANCE:	Katie Fforde	
	Barbara Metzger	
	Francis Ray	
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Victoria Holt	Barbara Michaels
	Mary Stewart	Phyllis Whitney
WESTERN:	Molly Gloss	
	Jeanne Williams	
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Sarah Addison Allen	Maeve Binchy
	Neta Jackson	Joan Medlicott

