

**ARRT Nonfiction Genre Study**  
**Let's Make Something**  
**June 3, 2021**

**Let's Make Something: Food, Arts, Crafts, Fashion, Decorating**

-This isn't a new genre: cooking, knitting and fashion books have been around for hundreds of years.

The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy by Hannah Glasse (1747)

Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management (1861)

Natura Exenterata (1655)

The First Book of Fashion (1523)

-These books are part of a "Lifestyle Genre": books about the ways and circumstances in which people live. They discuss habits, attitudes, tastes, moral standards, economic level, and social class. They also pertain to the manner in which people live, mostly defined by money and morals. They can also be about possessions and the decorations of one's home.

**Food and Cooking: 641.5**

-Can include essays, histories, bio/memoirs, reporting, narrative cookbooks, instructive cookbooks

-Characteristics: blending of types/categories (health, diet, art, history, memoir), design/photos/size matter, chef vs. food on the cover discussion

-Trends: diet cookbooks (plant-based/vegetarian, keto/paleo, gluten-free, etc), emphasis on comfort, convenience and diverse foods, media/celebrity tie-ins

**Crafts, Arts, Fashion, Decorating: 700s**

-Crafts: crafts by material, needlework (macrame, knitting, needlepoint, cross stitch, crocheting, embroidery, quilts, etc.)

-Arts: arts/art history, graphic arts, painting styles/artists by region/period, painting techniques/materials

-Fashion: sewing, mending, textile design, designers, history

-Decorating/interior design

-Characteristics: visuals/design is crucial, online/media components

-Trends: media/celebrity tie-ins, small space organizing/decorating, eco crafting/mending/reusing, craft dabbling, cross stitch with a message, amigurumis

**Resources**

-*Food Lit: A Reader's Guide to Epicurean Nonfiction*/Melissa Stoeger

-*The Readers' Advisory Guide to Nonfiction*/Neal Wyatt

-Awards: James Beard Award, International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) Award

-Publishers, university presses, museum presses, bookstores

-Blogs/online communities, TV/media, allrecipes.com, epicurious.com, Craft Industry Alliance, Creativebug, Blueprint, Ravelry, Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube  
-Best of lists, ranking sites (amazon, goodreads), gally sites, bloggers, YouTubers, Smithsonian yearly top ten food books, NY Times, Abe Books 50 top food memoirs  
-Magazines: arts, crafts and food mags are still circulating and often have suggestions for book titles.

### **Trends**

Celebrities, Fashionistas  
TV shows/media  
YouTube  
Fashionistas  
Media savvy authors  
Cooking/crafting during the time of Covid-19

### **What's New?**

New research /perspective  
Microhistories  
Diverse authors  
Different perspectives  
Working Life Memoirs - "So, what do you do?" \*  
More stories from the "common" folk

### **What we read**

*The Secret Lives of Color* by Kassia St. Clair: history of popular colors throughout the ages, visually interesting, can read a segment and put it down, can skip around, recommend to crafters, artists, people who like trivia

*The Golden Thread* by Kassia St. Clair: history of various fabrics, metaphors and puns, elegant but accessible writing, short chapters, excellent audio, for fans of fiber crafts or even archeology

*Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner: food/grief memoir, Korean American, loss of a parent, cancer, cultural conflicts, food as comfort; suggest for fans of *Relish* by Lucy Knisley

*Bento Box in the Heartland* by Linda Furiya

*House Lessons* by Erica Bauermeister: renovating a life, some history of building houses/architecture, couple's story, audio not narrated by author

*The Food of Oaxaca* by Carla Altesor: cookbook and history and culture of the area, how culture and food are intertwined; goes beyond just recipes and into the connection to a place

*Knittlandia*: Clara Parkes: short chapters, each related to a different aspect of knitting (sheep farm, weavers, etc)

*The Magnolia Story* by Chip and Joanna Gaines: couple's story, many people read this because they are familiar with the couple

*The Home Edit Life* by Clea Shearer: home organization, beautiful but totally impractical for most people, aesthetic porn

*Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty* by Andrew Bolton: beautiful coffee table book, stories about McQueen, beautiful photographs, for readers who are very interested in fashion.

*Animal Friends of Pica Pau* by Yan Schenkel: instructive, crochet stuffed animals, found through Instagram, helpful pictures, short story with each design

*The Lost Art of Dress: The Women Who Once Made America Stylish* by Linda Przybyszewski: design and home economics, how fashion changed over the years, anecdotes, conversational, snarky, champions who are bringing sewing back, well researched, lots of resources, for fans of fashion and social histories of women

*Notes From a Young Black Chef*: Kwame Onwuachi: memoir, insight into how a kitchen runs, racial aspects of cooking, quick read, recipes, good audiobook

*Kitchen Garden Revival* by Nicole Johnsey Burke: explains kitchen gardens and history, how-to, beautiful photos and design, inspiring, accessible

*Consider the Fork* by Bee Wilson: history of cooking technology, series of microhistories, for fans of little known food history and evolution of cooking

*Fannie's Last Supper* by Christopher Kimball-author is former *Cook's Illustrated* editor, attempts to recreate an authentic meal from Fannie Farmer's 1896 Cookbook, using authentic tools and ingredients, history, detailed, entertaining

*97 Orchard* by Jane Ziegelman: history of five different immigrant families who lived in a tenement building through the stories of their food, excellent history/bio, excellent for book discussion

*Vanishing Fleece* by Clara Parkes: interesting, enjoyable, funny

*Yarnitecture* by Jillian Moreno: yarn spinning

*Worn Stories* by Emily Spivack: collection of short vignettes about favorite pieces of clothing, can read a piece, set it down and come back

*The Secret History of Home Economics* by Danielle Dreilinger (just released)

*Women in the Kitchen* by Anne Willan

*All Stirred Up: Suffrage Cookbooks, Food and the Battle for Women's Right to Vote* by Laura Kumin

*The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food* by Marcus Samuelsson

*The Kitchen Without Borders: Recipes and Stories from Refugee and Immigrant Chefs*

Instruction Series: *Teach Yourself Visually*

*Gravy* by the Southern Foodways Alliance: journal, original narratives about food/cooks/chefs

**Next Assignment: Pop Culture, Sports, Entertainment;** August 5, 2021

Read 2 books. Can be from suggested list, or choose your own:

I'm Judging You by Luvvie Ajayi

One Goal by Amy Bass

Red Card by Ken Bensinger

Friday Night Lights by H. G. Bissinger

All the Dreams We've Dreamed by Rus Bradburd

David Bowie Made Me Gay by Darryl Bullock

Under the Big Black Sun Punk by John Doe

Big Hair and Plastic Grass by Dan Epstein

The Back Roads to March by John Feinstein

A Marvelous Life by Danny Fingeroth

The Match by Mark Frost

Footnotes by Caseen Gaines

Music: A Subversive History by Ted Gioia

Soccer and the 21st Century by David Goldblatt

Meet Me in the Bathroom by Lizzy Goodman

Five Came Back by Mark Harris

Marvel Comics-A Brand, a Culture, a Community by Bobby Hundreds

Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? by Mindy Kaling

Moneyball by Michael Lewis

Born to Run by Christopher McDougall

Trouble Boys by Bob Mehr

I Like to Watch by Emily Nussbaum

Horror Stories by Liz Phair

Canyon Dreams by Michael Powell

Life by Keith Richards

Mobituaries by Mo Rocca

Ripped from the Headlines by Harold Schechter

Broadcast Hysteria by A. Brad Schwartz

Over the Top by Jonathan Van Ness