



Staff Picks



Looking for some book suggestions from the experts? Want to find a new book buddy? Or just get to know your local librarians better?

Here are a few of *our* favorite things!

Reference recommends...

Gideon the Ninth by Tamsyn Muir

“A great story with a funny main character and amazing world building. A mashup of sci-fi, mystery, and horror with queer themes.”

Red, White, and Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston

“A sweet and steamy LGBTQ romance. Awesome and diverse characters, snappy dialogue, and generally hilarious.”

To Be Taught, if Fortunate by Becky Chambers*

“A short, stand alone dip into the space opera genre by a great author. Awesome descriptions and world building.”

—Christina

Hello, Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

“A heartbreaking and powerful story of family and human connection.”

Small Mercies by Dennis Lehane

“A hard-hitting thriller, an Irish-American family, bigotry, racism and school busing set in 1974 South Boston.”

A Line in the Sand by Kevin Powers

“A murder mystery and police procedural mixed with elements of war and politics; well-developed characters and vivid descriptions.”

—Deb

Author Margaret Atwood

“Whatever she’s writing, the indomitable Atwood never disappoints. She’s an expert on the human condition and the lives of women. Yet no matter how grim the subject matter, she always manages to inject some of her famous wit.”

Author Sarah J. Maas

“Are some of her books *technically* for teens? Yes, but I urge you to forget about how old you are and just enjoy the wild ride! Everyone can appreciate a book that makes you stay up too late, jump up in excitement, and weep when it's all over (or is it?)! Fun and fantasy has no age limit; On my honor as a Librarian, you won't be disappointed.”

—Jenna

Flamer by Mike Curato

“With book bans on the rise, I recommend this highly challenged YA graphic novel. Flamer tells the story of Curato’s journey of self-discovery and acceptance while attending a summer camp before his freshman year of high school. This book was a 2023 Nutmeg award nominee and is perfect for young adults and adults alike!”

The Memory Librarian by Janelle Monáe

“Expanding on the world created in her Dirty Computer album, Janelle brings together 5 short stories following various characters trying to find freedom in an oppressive, futuristic society. Fans of Octavia Butler, sci-fi, dystopian fiction, and Janelle’s music will love this book!”

The Travelling Cat Chronicles by Hiro Arikawa

“Told from the perspective of a cat, this novel follows a sassy stray, Nana, and the man who finds him, Satoru, as they travel around Japan. Both funny and moving, I recommend this book to all cat lovers!”

—Jordan

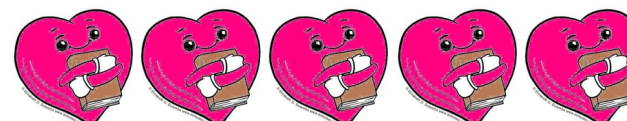
The Thursday Murder Club Series by Richard Osman

“Follow along with four residents of a quiet retirement village who begin as a secret club that investigates local cold case files until murder happens within their midst and their focus changes to become active investigators. The story is fun, charming, and a wonderful read!”

The Light in Hidden Places by Sharon Cameron

“This novel is based on the true story of Stefania Podgórska, a teenager working for a Jewish family in Poland during World War II as the Nazis violently invade and occupy the city. It’s a story of war, survival, determination and perseverance as Stefania and her sister help her former employer's family members and strangers hide from the Nazis. This book will stay with you for a long time.”

—Stephanie



Circulation is obsessed with...

Finally Seen by Kelly Yang

“All books are valuable in some way, and this middle-grade novel is no exception. This book follows Lina, who moves to the U.S. from Beijing and finds empowerment through books and her community.”

Chain-Gang All-Stars by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

“A thoughtful commentary on incarceration, the 13th amendment, and the entertainment industry. While there is graphic violence on page, there is also a love story. If you enjoyed BlackMirror or Gamer, this could be a solid fit for you.”

The Nice House on the Lake by James Tynion IV and Alvaro Martinez Bueno*

“Dark and thrilling, this graphic novel will have you questioning what you would do for those you love. Vibrant art that consistently contributes to the story.”

—Alondra

MaddAddam trilogy by Margaret Atwood

“I LOVE these novels that follow several characters through a dystopian landscape populated by genetically engineered beings that is ultimately about mankind’s endurance.”

The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune

“This novel has magic, humor, second chances and a cast of characters you can’t help fall in love with. It’s a story about realizing that it’s never too late to turn your life around and that you can find family in the unlikelyst of places.”

Lavender House by Lev A.C. Rosen

“A historical novel set in 1950’s San Francisco about a recently outed (and fired) police officer and the case he takes on that shows him a world where he doesn’t need to hide who he is. So excited that there is a sequel coming out this year!”

—Angela

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

“Fanciful, magical and engrossing.”

The Poppy Wife by Caroline Scott
“Historical fiction, moving, profound loss and love.”

After the Flood by Kassandra Montag*
“Apocalyptic, futuristic, despair & hope .”

Love and Ruin by Paula McLain
“Historical fiction. Great insight into Ernest Hemingway and his third wife, journalist Martha Gelhorn.”
—Barbara

This Other Eden by Paul Harding
“Historical novel set in 1912 on Maine's Malaga Island where a racially diverse fishing community of 47 inhabitants were forcibly evicted.”

Stolen by Ann-Helén Laestadius
“A coming-of-age story set in a Sami community.”

Haven by Emma Donoghue
“A historical novel of 7th Century Irish monks perilous journey to Skellig Michael, a rocky crag off the coast of Ireland; a true leap of faith.”

Bad Day Breaking by John Galligan
“The fourth Bad Axe County police procedural featuring Sheriff Heidi Kick.”
—Deirdre

The House is on Fire by Rachel Beanland
“Historical fiction based on the devastating theater fire in Richmond Virginia on Dec, 26, 1811 which killed 72 people.”

Homecoming by Kate Morton
“Great read! Loved this book! Set in South Australia. A mystery, a love story between mothers and daughters and a cold case to be solved.”

Fresh Water for Flowers by Valerie Perrin.
“Beautiful story of love and loss. Translated from French”

—Erin



Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver
“This definitive collection spanning more than five decades includes many of Mary Oliver's beautiful poems. These classic poems suspend time as we know it. Mary's work transports the reader away from the stress and chaos of the everyday world into a mindful state of being.”

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
“This semi-autobiographical novel depicts Esther Greenwood, a 19 year old undergraduate student, and her descent into mental illness while attending her summer internship in NYC. I appreciate how accessible this novel has always been. Relatable to teens and adults, the timeless writing of Plath is witty, poetic, and devastating.”
—Jared

Romancing Mister Bridgerton by Julia Quinn
“I enjoyed all the books in the Bridgerton series, but this one (and Colin in particular) is definitely my favorite. Set in Regency era London, the steamy friends-to-lovers romance is enhanced by the drama of the hunt for the identity of notorious gossip columnist Lady Whistledown. “

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
“The classic story of four sisters coming of age in America during the Civil War. I loved the heart-warming but realistic family dynamic, and reading about how each of the girls, with their very different personalities, make their way in a time with such strict ideas surrounding the role of women in society.”
—Kayla

Author David Grann
“A few years back I read his book, "The Lost City of Z". Currently, I'm reading "Killers of the Flower Moon : the Osage murders and the birth of the FBI." What I admire about his writing: the powerfulness of emotions.”

Author Giulia Scarpaleggia
“Any of her cookbooks! Her newest "Cucina Povera" is so delicious I could eat the pages.”

Author James Lee Burke
“Still remains one of my favorites - so eloquently details all the gray areas of life and his characters. Cannot wait for his new book, "Flags On The Bayou".“

—Maira

Youth Services suggests...

Plain Bad Heroines by Emily Danforth
“This funny, frightening, intriguing novel follows the filming of a horror movie about the haunted Brookhants School for Girls, and alternates between the present day film and the early 1900s happenings at the school.”

A Swim in a Pond in the Rain by George Saunders
“In this book, Saunders breaks down seven classic Russian short stories, using them to explore the writing process and what makes good fiction compelling.”

Confessions of the Fox by Jordy Rosenberg
“Set in 18th century London, this novel follows the adventures of thief Jack Sheppard. This novel is clever, original, and expands to become so much more than it seems.”

—Emily

What Happened to the Bennetts by Lisa Scottoline
“Jason Bennett is a suburban dad who owns a court-reporting business, but one night, his life takes a horrific turn. A horrific flash of violence changes his life forever.”

One Step Too Far by Lisa Gardner
“A thrilling new novel that sends missing persons expert Frankie Elkin into a national forest in Wyoming looking for a young man who disappeared without a trace. When the search team encounters immediate threats to their survival, Frankie realizes she’s up against something very dark—and she’s running out of time.”

—Mary

*=No physical copy at Blackstone, but is available through our Libby or Hoopla catalogs

Little Thieves by Margaret Owen
“This book is a masterpiece! It has worldbuilding, morally-gray main characters, and just the right amount of romance. The author transforms elements from the original fairytale to create the perfect high fantasy adventure.”

Book Lovers by Emily Henry
“This romance novel reverses the small-town romance trope to create a unique story with loveable and realistic characters. It checks all the boxes of a good romance while being witty and original.”

—Nicolette

Administration approves of... The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles

“Both novels are based on true stories. Fascinating, fast reads with a WWII history lesson built right in.”
—Kathy

Our Director digs... The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson
“Between 1915 and 1970, millions of Black Americans left the Jim Crow South to points north and west, seeking better lives and true freedom. This book follows three people in their journeys, from Mississippi to Chicago, from Florida to Harlem, and from Louisiana to California. This is a beautifully written account of how cities were transformed by what they brought with them: Southern food, faith, and culture, and drive, discipline, and hard work.”

Disappearing Earth by Julia Phillips
“This excellent story gives a twist on the standard mystery. A girl is abducted in a Russian town -- as the months go by, the story follows a few different characters as they go about their lives and are directly or indirectly affected by the disappearance. This is a fascinating glimpse into life in Russia, with the kidnapping always in the background... until suddenly, it isn't. A very satisfying read.”

—Katy

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