



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...

- Bliss Montage* by Ling Ma *
- Dune* by Frank Herbert
- Out There* by Kate Folk *
- The Three-Body Problem* by Liu Cixin
- The Tusks of Extinction* by Ray Nayler
—Christina

- After Annie* by Anna Quindlen
- Cold Crematorium: Reporting from the Land of Auschwitz* by Jozsef Debreczeni

- Crook Manifesto* by Colson Whitehead
- Learned by Heart* by Emma Donoghue
- The Good Father* by Noah Hawley
—Deb

- The Dark Tower series* by Stephen King
- Messy Roots* by Laura Gao
- Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell
- Kitchen* by Banana Yoshimoto*
- Aristotle & Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
—Jordan

***Wrong Place, Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister**
“How do you stop a murder when it has already happened? This book is a page turner, a time-traveling mystery-suspense novel. Jen witnesses her 18 year old son murder a stranger outside their home as she awaits for him to return home before his curfew. The nightmare of an evening progresses as their son is taken away by authorities. When Jen awakes the next morning, she discovers that it is the day before the murder and that it has not happened yet. As the story progresses, the mystery deepens and Jen continues to travel backwards in time each night she falls asleep! My favorite read this year!”

***A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson**
“Set in the fictional town of Fairview, Connecticut, this YA murder mystery begins when Pip, a high school senior, chooses to investigate how police and media respond to missing person cases as her senior capstone project. This is a ruse since her motives are really to investigate the five year old disappearance and presumed murder of popular Fairview high school student Andie Bell. Pip personally knew the accused killer, Sal Singh, and is convinced that he was not responsible for murder. There is danger, twists and turns! Highly recommend!”

—Stephanie

Circulation is obsessed with...

Here's a list of some of my favorite authors and one of my favorite books/series by them. I could recommend almost everything they've written, they're that good!

- MaddAddam Trilogy* by Margaret Atwood
- The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories* by Angela Carter
- Waking the Moon* by Elisabeth Hand*
- The Museum of Extraordinary Things* by Alice Hoffman*
- Silver Metal Lover* by Tanith Lee*
- Wicked* by Gregory Maguire
—Angela
- Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts
- The Spectacular* by Fiona Davis
- Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose
- Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune* by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe
- North Woods* by Daniel Mason

—Barbara

- A Line in the Sand* by Kevin Powers
- The Dance Tree* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
- The Great Divide* by Cristina Henríquez
- North Woods* by Daniel Mason
- The North Line* by Matt Riordan

—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

BLACKSTONE RECOMMENDS!

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

Done and Dusted by Lyla Sage*

“Yeehaw! It’s a brother’s-best-friend western romance - need I say more?”

Romancing Mister Bridgerton by Julia Quinn

“The fourth book of the Bridgerton series and inspo for the newest season on Netflix, Colin and Penelope remain one of my favorite friends-to-lovers love stories. (P.S. - the book is always better!)”

A Winter in New York by Josie Silver

“A heartachingly sweet winter romance that will have you totally craving some vanilla gelato.”

—Kayla

—The Belles by Dhonielle J. Clayton

—Dave Brandstetter Mysteries by Joseph Hansen*

—More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera*

—We Are the Ants by Shaun David Hutchinson

—Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

—Marcus

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”.“

—Moira

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

Youth Services suggests...

—Enough by Cassidy Hutchinson

—Oath and Honor by Liz Cheney

—The Housemaid’s Secret by Freida McFadden

—Someday by Alison McGhee*

—The Fastest Girl on Earth: Meet Kitty O’Neil, Daredevil Driver! by Dean Robbins

—Carol

Adult Picks:

—Monstrilio by Gerardo Sámano Córdoba*

—A Haunting in Hialeah Gardens by Raul Palma*

—Big Swiss by Jen Beagin*

Teen Pick:

Bright Red Fruit by Safia Elhillo

“This gorgeous novel in verse follows Samira, an aspiring poet, as she navigates relationships, rumors, and self-discovery.”

Kids Pick:

The Eyes and the Impossible by Dave Eggers

“This hilarious and heartwarming adventure story centers on a wild dog as he observes the daily happenings at the urban park he calls home.”

—Emily

—Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

—The Measure by Nikki Erlick

—The Celebrants by Steven Rowley

—Looking for Jane By Heather Marshall

—The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

—Under the Whispering Door by TJ Klune

—Laura



An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir

This high fantasy world is based on Ancient Rome, so you already know it’s going to be gritty, violent, and intense! The brutal world makes the characters' tender, sweet, and compassionate nature (and of course romance!) all the more compelling to read. It had me running to get the next book in the series!

Parachute Kids by Betty C. Tang*

This is a middle grade graphic novel, but I recommend it to everyone. It is a beautiful story of children from Taiwan who have to learn to live in America without their parents. Each child has their own personality, experiences, and coping mechanisms, all of which are so human and believable.

Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs as retold by Mo Willems

This book had me laughing out loud! And then rereading it and laughing harder because of all the details I missed that make it even funnier. Mo Willems is the picture book master so I recommend basically all of his books, but if you want some extra giggles, this is it!

—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...

Wellness by Nathan Hill

“This is a story of a couple in the middle of their lives – the time when things are not so fresh or exciting, when you’re tired and there’s so much to do. It follows them as they try to upgrade to a new home and refresh their love lives, and rediscover new things about each other along the way. Touching and lovely, it’s worth taking the time to savor it.”

North Woods by Daniel Mason

“A plot of land in Massachusetts in the woods has a house built on it by a new couple who ran away from a colonial village. From there, we follow over the years as the house gets new owners, new additions, and new stories told about it. This is a sweeping saga of one tiny space in the world, told from many different points of view, and it gives you a new appreciation for the history of your own space. Beautiful and haunting (at times, literally), this is a gorgeously written book about what all the ways it means to be ‘home.’”

—Katy



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