

APL STAFF PICKS

FALL 2019/WINTER 2020

As thanks for your contribution, Anchorage Public Library staff have selected their favorite books for you to read this winter. So grab a hot drink and find a warm spot to cozy up with one of these great books. Enjoy!

DVDs and Music

English Vinglish, **Gauri Shinde (director)**

A heartwarming movie. Shashi grows so much and the dialog is on point. A great Bollywood movie for people who don't think they like Bollywood.

Stacia, Adult Services Coordinator
DVD

Eighth Grade, **Bo Burnham (director)**

Thirteen-year-old Kayla endures the tidal wave of contemporary suburban adolescence as she makes her way through the last week of middle school before she begins high school.

Laura, Collection Mgmt. Coordinator
DVD

Map of the Soul: Persona, **by BTS**

K-Pop has made it to America! Enjoy the newest album from Korean super group BTS.

Claire, Gerish Branch Manager
Freegal – music album

Wind River, **Taylor Sheridan (director)**

Compelling drama about an FBI agent who teams with a town's veteran game tracker to investigate a murder that occurred on a Native American reservation.

Laura, Collection Mgmt. Coordinator
DVD

School Age Fiction

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise, **by Dan Gemeinhart**

Coyote Sunrise has been living on a school bus with her father traveling the country trying to run away from the hard memories. Funny, sad, touching, about families, friends, & journeys.

Elizabeth, Youth Services Book, Audiobook

The Ordinary Princess, **by M.M. Kaye**

After 30 years, I keep coming back to this book. This is for anyone who ever thought fairy tale princesses needed a dose of reality.

Stacia, Adult Services Book

The Wild Robot, **by Peter Brown**

A robot washes up on an island full of wildlife and works to become accepted. Feels like a modern E. B. White book and it is a great choice for a school age child or family readaloud.

Elizabeth, Youth Services Book, eBook, eAudiobook

Fighter in Velvet Gloves, **by Annie Booshever with Roy Peratrovich Jr.**

The inspiring true story of Alaska's own civil rights hero Elizabeth Peratrovich. Intended for ages 12-18, but a wide range of ages will find this book approachable.

Clare, Strategy & Develop. Book, eBook



Fiction

Convenience Store Woman, by Sayaka Murata

A quirky, quick read.

Claire, Gerish Branch Manager

Book, hoopla

The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax, by Dorothy Gilman

What's better than a sixty year old following her dream of becoming a spy? Mrs. Pollifax proves that you aren't too old for adventures!

Stacia, Adult Services Coordinator

Book, eBook, Audiobook

Homegoing, by Yaa Gyasi

Two half sisters, born into two different tribal villages in 18th century Ghana. One is married off to an English colonial; the other is sold into slavery.

Laura, Collection Mgmt. Coordinator

Book, eBook, eAudiobook, Playaway

Age of Myth, by Michael J. Sullivan

A fantasy novel that is well-written and fun - the first book in the Legends of the First Empire series.

Luke, Library Assistant, Loussac

Book, Audiobook, Playaway

The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen 83 1/4 Years Old, by Hendrik Groen

This book reminded me of one of my favorite BBC series, "Waiting for God." If you like books about the rebellious elderly, you'll like this!

Stacia, Adult Services Coordinator

Book

The Color of Magic, by Terry Pratchett

The first novel in Terry Pratchett's Discworld series had me in absolute stitches and introduced me to a world full of humor and magic.

Meghan, Librarian, Gerrish (Girdwood)

Book, eBook, eAudiobook

A Tale for the Time Being, by Ruth Ozeki

I love asynchronous storytelling, and this book is a wonderful example of that style.

Keelin, Youth Services, Mountain View

Book, eBook, Audiobook, hoopla

The Red Umbrella, by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

It made me think differently about families, and specifically how families deal with separation and immigration. It's just a beautifully written book!

Shanna, Administration

YA Book, eBook, Audiobook, hoopla

Shanghai Girls, by Lisa See

A beautifully written novel about two sisters who escape war in China to become "paper wives" in Los Angeles in the 1930s, with insights into Angel Island and the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Clare, Strategy and Development

Book, eBook, eAudiobook

Non-Fiction

When Women Ruled the World: Six Queens of Egypt, by Kara Cooney

In this history of Ancient Egyptian Queens who were able to briefly hold power, the author draws parallels and finds lessons for our own time.

Elizabeth, Youth Services Coordinator

Book, eBook, eAudiobook, hoopla

Barracoon: the story of the last "black cargo," by Zora Neale Hurston

Zora says, "all these words from the seller, but not one word from the sold." Here in his own words is the story of one of the sold, told in powerful and personal interviews.

Linda, Youth Librarian, Loussac

Book, Large type, eBook, Audiobook

Dignity: Seeking Respect in Back Row America, by Chris Arnade

Former Wall Street broker Arnade traveled the country chronicling poverty in America through essays and photographs.

Mary Jo, Loussac & Teresa, Mountain View

Book

How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater U.S., by Daniel Immerwahr

This book is great for those with even a passing interest in history, current events, and/or international relations. Learn how the US expanded beyond the "logo map."

Sarah & Erika, Loussac

Book, eBook, Audiobook

Drag: combing through the big wigs of show business, by Frank DeCaro

Worth it just for the fabulous pictures! An informative and entertaining history of drag in America, a positive look at a fascinating art form.

Linda, Youth Librarian, Loussac

Book

Run fast. Cook fast Eat slow: quick-fix recipes for hangry athletes, by Shalane Flanagan & Elyse Kopecky

I love garbage food, but I have yet to come across a recipe from this book that isn't *amazing.* So many quick and healthy recipes!

Sarah, Alaska Librarian, Loussac

Book