

# APL STAFF PICKS

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

*As thanks for your contribution, Anchorage Public Library staff have selected their favorite books for you to read this summer, whether you're on a beach, in the mountains, or right in your own back yard. Enjoy!*

## Young Adult Fiction

**The Cheerleaders,**  
by Kara Thomas

A gripping and dark story about the murders and suicides of a bunch of high school cheerleaders.

Claire, Manager, Gerrish Library  
Book

**The Wild Lands,**  
by Paul Greci

A new and exciting book follows a teen and his sister as they attempt to walk out of Alaska after the collapse of society. By an Alaskan author, great wilderness survival book!

Elizabeth, YS Coordinator, Loussac  
Book

**When I was the Greatest,**  
by Jason Reynolds

Jason Reynolds has a gift: reading his books makes you see and hear his characters and setting. You're THERE with them.

Lisa, Library Assistant, Loussac  
Book, eAudiobook

**On a Sunbeam,**  
by Tillie Walden

Riveting, engrossing, and beautifully illustrated, this graphic novel is a slow-burn, character-driven narrative that sucks you into its space fantasy world.

Kelsey, YS Librarian, Loussac  
Book

## Picture Book

**Dreamers,**  
by Yuyi Morales

A beautiful story of an immigrant mother and son, and how they find their way in the USA with the help of the library.

Claire, Manager, Gerrish

## School Age Fiction

**P.S. I Miss You,**  
by Jen Petro-Roy

Evie is secretly writing letters to her sister who her strict parents sent away for getting pregnant. She is questioning her faith, her parents, and her own new-formed crush on a girl.

Elizabeth, Youth Services  
Book, eBook, eAudiobook

## New STEM Kits

STEM kits provide hands-on interaction and creative learning for youth ages 6 to 12. Kits are available for pick-up at the Loussac Youth Services desk or by placing a hold at any APL library. **Examples:**

**Alaska Birds & Animals:** Contains Binoculars, field guides to birds and animals, and an observation journal.

**Coding 1:** Contains a Robot mouse you program to solve a maze with card prompts, and coding picture books.



Photo by Kristy Kravchenko on Unsplash



# Fiction

## **Machine Learning, by Hugh Howey**

Absolutely brilliant bite-sized science fiction that will rock you back on your heels.

[Lisa, Library Assistant, Loussac](#)  
[Book](#), [eBook](#)

## **Artemis, by Andy Weir**

It's a heist book IN SPACE! Great female protagonist and enough science to keep it real.

[Misty Rose, Community Relations](#)  
[Book](#), [eBook](#), [eAudiobook](#)

## **Restless, by William Boyd**

It is a very intriguing story about a woman who was a spy in WWII. It is now the 70s and she fears someone is after her from her spy days. The movie has all excellent British actors.

[Carolyn, Library Assistant, Loussac](#)  
[Book](#), [eBook](#), [eAudiobook](#), [DVD](#)

## **Fluke: Or, I Know Why the Winged Whale Sings, by Christopher Moore**

A bizarre, ridiculous, appealing, funny story about marine biology and alternate realities.

[Lisa, Library Assistant, Loussac](#)  
[Book](#), [eBook](#), [eAudiobook](#), [Book on CD](#)

## **The Friend, by Sigrid Nunez**

When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with the unwanted dog he has left behind.

[Laura, Collection Management](#)  
[Book](#), [eBook](#), [Large Print Book](#)

## **How Long Till Black Future Month, by NK Jemisin**

Gloriously inventive Sci Fi. Jemisin sharply examines modern society, infusing magic into the mundane, and drawing deft parallels in the fantasy realms of her imagination.

[Rachel, Collection Management](#)  
[Book](#), [eBook](#), [eAudiobook](#)

## **Under a Pole Star, by Stef Penney**

A compelling story about a woman explorer during the golden age of Arctic exploration.

[Laura, Collection Management](#)  
[Book](#), [Book on CD](#)

## **A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles**

An intriguing story about a nobleman forced to live in, and not leave, a hotel in 1920s Russia. I got a fascinating picture of the history of that time.

[Kathryn, Shelver, Loussac](#)  
[Book](#), [eBook](#), [eAudiobook](#), [Book on CD](#)

## **The Riders of Ordebec, by Fred Vargas**

Vargas' Adamsberg series has a wonderful set of characters and locales. Besides being superb mystery stories, they also dive into historical events that are very well researched.

[Martina, Librarian Assistant, Gerrish](#)  
[Book](#), [Audiobook](#)

# Non-Fiction

## **Paddling North, by Audrey Sutherland**

A compelling story about a solo adventure by canoe in Alaska's Inside Passage. The author encourages us all to go solo, go light and to go now.

[Liz, Library Assistant, Loussac](#)  
[Book](#)

## **The Year of Less, by Cait Flanders**

More memoir than how-to, the author chronicles the year that she challenged herself not to shop in an effort to break her consumerism habit and found how what really matters.

[Sarah, Librarian, Loussac](#)  
[Book](#), [eBook](#), [eAudiobook](#)

## **Silence: In the Age of Noise, by Erling Kagge**

A thoughtful and considered approach to why silence is important, even necessary.

[Lisa, Library Assistant, Loussac](#)  
[Book](#)

## **The Library Book, by Susan Orlean**

Fascinating history of the Los Angeles Library, intertwined with a true mystery regarding arson at the library.

[Margo, Library Clerk, Loussac](#)  
[Book](#), [eBook](#), [eAudiobook](#), [Book on CD](#)

## **The View from a Monastery, by Benet Tvedten**

Not a comprehensive 360 degree view, but rather glimpses into the window of the kitchen, the laundry room, etc. at just the right moments.

[Lisa, Library Assistant, Loussac](#)  
[Book](#)

## **In the Land of Invisible Women: A Female Doctor's Journey in the Saudi Kingdom, by Qanta Ahmed**

A British citizen of Pakistani origin, Dr. Ahmed chronicles her experience in Saudi Arabia. Raised as a Muslim, she learns about herself, religion and another country.

[Teresa, Assoc Librarian, Mountain View](#)  
[Book](#)