

Adult Summer Reading Challenge - 2020 Suggested Reading for Adults

Biography

Educated by Tara Westover (2018)

Traces the author's experiences as a child born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, describing her participation in her family's paranoid stockpiling activities and her resolve to educate herself well enough to earn an acceptance into a prestigious university and the unfamiliar world beyond. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Home Work: A Memoir of My Hollywood Years by Julie Andrews (2019)

In a follow-up to the critically acclaimed *Home*, the beloved performing artist reflects on her Hollywood career and the creations of three of her most iconic films, *Mary Poppins*, *The Sound of Music* and *Victor/Victoria*. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive by Stephanie Land (2019)

An economic hardship journalist describes the years she worked in low-pay domestic work under wealthy employers, contrasting the privileges of the upper-middle class to the realities of the overworked laborers supporting them. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway (1964)

Published three years after his death, this is part road trip, part love letter to Paris, part study of his friendship with characters such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, and wholly wonderful. It is a mystery how he remembered a moment of it, though, since he drinks so much alcohol, all the time. Try keeping up with him and you'll be dead drunk by page four. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Tycoons: How Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Jay Gould, and J.P. Morgan Invented the American Super Economy by Charles R. Morris (2005)

During the 40 years following the end of the Civil War, American per capita production and consumption grew rapidly, the population soared and the U.S. economy surged past Great Britain's—a radical transformation that Morris chronicles through the lives of four protagonists: steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, oil king John D. Rockefeller, stock market and railroad wizard Jay Gould and financier J.P. Morgan. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Books made into Movies

Children of Men by PD James (1992)

The human race has become infertile, and the last generation to be born is now adult. Civilization itself is crumbling as suicide and despair become commonplace. Oxford historian Theodore Faron, apathetic toward a future without a future, spends most of his time reminiscing. Then he is approached by Julian, a bright, attractive woman who wants him to help get her an audience with his cousin, the powerful Warden of England. She and her band of unlikely revolutionaries may just awaken his desire to live . . . and they may also hold the key to survival for the human race. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt (2013)

Theo Decker, a 13-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Bewildered by his strange new home on Park Avenue, disturbed by schoolmates who don't know how to talk to him, and tormented above all by a longing for his mother, he clings to the one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into a wealthy and insular art community. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper (1826)

It is 1757 and the Seven Years' War, waged between the British and French colonies, has torn across western New York. Colonel Munro, who holds charge of the British Fort William Henry, believes he is sending his daughters away from danger with a Native American escort named Magua. But when Magua abducts the girls, Natty Bumppo, also known as Hawkeye, and his Mohican companions, Uncas and Chingachook, witness the cowardly act and set out to rescue the two Munro sisters. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook. Available in Hoopla, eBook & Audiobook.*

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (1868)

The March sisters are as different as four girls could be. Meg is enchanting and proper, Jo is a tomboy ready to take on the world, Beth is shy and generous, and Amy is the beautiful, spoiled youngest. But they are all bound to each other and their mother, Marmee, by fierce loyalty and unconditional love. With their father away fighting in the Civil War, they must rely on each other as they navigate the ups and downs of growing up, getting along, finding and losing love, and forging their own identities. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook. Available in Hoopla, eBook & Audiobook.*

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman (2014)

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon; the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him the bitter neighbor from hell. But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Books Published in 2020

American Sherlock: Murder, Forensics, and the Birth of American CSI by Kate Winkler Dawson (2020) - Nonfiction

Berkeley, California, 1933. In a lab filled with curiosities--beakers, microscopes, Bunsen burners, and hundreds upon hundreds of books--sat an investigator who would go on to crack at least two thousand cases in his forty-year career. Known as the "American Sherlock Holmes," Edward Oscar Heinrich was one of America's greatest--and first--forensic scientists, with an uncanny knack for finding clues, establishing evidence, and deducing answers with a skill that seemed almost supernatural. Dawson's book takes an in-depth look at Heinrich's career and what drove him to pioneer the science that would become the backbone of criminal investigations in the decades that followed. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano (2020) - Fiction

One summer morning, twelve-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Halfway across the country, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor. Edward's story captures the attention of the nation, but he struggles to find a place in a world without his family. He continues to feel that a part of himself has been left in the sky, forever tied to the plane and all of his fellow passengers. But then he makes an unexpected discovery—one that will lead him to the answers of some of life's most profound questions: When you've lost everything, how do you find the strength to put one foot in front of the other? How do you learn to feel safe again? How do you find meaning in your life? *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Glass hotel by Emily St. John Mandel (2020) - Fiction

Vincent is a bartender at the Hotel Caiette, a five-star lodging on the northernmost tip of Vancouver Island. On the night she meets Jonathan Alkaitis, a hooded figure scrawls a message on the lobby's glass wall: "Why don't you swallow broken glass." High above Manhattan, a greater crime is committed: Alkaitis is running an international Ponzi scheme, moving imaginary sums of money through clients' accounts. When the financial empire collapses, it obliterates countless fortunes and devastates lives. Vincent, who had been posing as Jonathan's wife, walks away into the night. Years later, a victim of the fraud is hired to investigate a strange occurrence: a woman has seemingly vanished from the deck of a container ship between ports of call. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

In the Waves: My Quest to Solve the Mystery of a Civil War Submarine by Rachel Lance (2020) - Nonfiction

In February of 1864, the Confederate Army launched the world's first successful submarine attack on a Union ship. The submarine, the HL Hunley, then disappeared without a trace. When the Hunley was discovered, it created more questions than answers. There was no indication of what caused the sub to fail, and its crew were still seated at their stations, seemingly frozen in time. Rachel Lance is a biomedical engineer and blast-injury specialist specializing in military diving projects; *In the Waves* chronicles her three-year obsession with precisely what happened to the Hunley and its crew. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende (2020) - Fiction

In the late 1930s, civil war grips Spain. When General Franco and his Fascists succeed in overthrowing the government, hundreds of thousands are forced to flee in a treacherous journey over the mountains to the French border. Among them is Roser, a pregnant young widow, who finds her life intertwined with that of Victor Dalmau, an army doctor and the brother of her deceased love. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage neither of them desires. Together with two thousand other refugees, they embark on the SS Winnipeg, a ship chartered by the poet Pablo Neruda, to Chile. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Books & Short Stories set in New York

Ironweed by William Kennedy (1983) - Fiction

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, Francis Phelan, ex-ballplayer, part-time gravedigger, and full-time bum with the gift of gab, has hit bottom. Years earlier he'd left Albany after he dropped his infant son accidentally, and the boy died. Now, in 1938, Francis is back in town, roaming the old familiar streets with his hobo pal, Helen, trying to make peace with the ghosts of the past and present. *Available in Overdrive, eBook*

The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America by Russell Shorto (2004) - Nonfiction

In the late 1960s, an archivist in the New York State Library made an astounding discovery: 12,000 pages of centuries-old correspondence, court cases, legal contracts, and reports from a forgotten society: the Dutch colony centered on Manhattan, which predated the thirteen "original" American colonies. For the past thirty years scholar Charles Gehring has been translating this trove, which was recently declared a national treasure. Now, Russell Shorto has made use of this vital material to construct a sweeping narrative of Manhattan's founding that gives a startling, fresh perspective on how America began. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Nobody's Fool by Richard Russo (1993) - Fiction

Richard Russo's slyly funny and moving novel follows the unexpected operation of grace in a deadbeat town in upstate New York—and in the life of one of its unluckiest citizens, Sully, who has been doing the wrong thing triumphantly for fifty years. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving (1819) - Fiction

In the years before the American Revolution, in a village at the foot of New York's Catskill Mountains, lives a kindhearted Dutchman named Rip Van Winkle. One day, he falls asleep in the Mountains and wakes up 20 years later to a vastly changed world. Irving wrote this short story while living in Birmingham, England, as part of his collection, *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.* Irving's tale is among the earliest examples of American fiction. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook. Available in Hoopla, eBook & Audiobook.*

William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic by Alan Taylor (1995) - Nonfiction

William Cooper and James Fenimore Cooper, a father and son who embodied the contradictions that divided America in the early years of the Republic, are brought to life in this Pulitzer Prize-winning book. In William Cooper's Town, Alan Taylor dramatizes the clash between gentility and democracy that was one of the principal consequences of the American Revolution, a struggle that was waged both at the polls and on the pages of our national literature. Taylor shows how Americans resolved their revolution through the creation of new social reforms and new stories that evolved with the expansion of our frontier. *Available in Overdrive, eBook.*

Graphic Novels

Saga (Volume 1) by Brian K. Vaughn (2012)

Two soldiers from opposite sides of a galactic war, fall in love and risk everything when they decide to start a family. *Available in Hoopla, eBook.*

Pumpkinheads by Rainbow Rowell & Faith Erin Hicks (2019)

Working at a pumpkin patch every autumn, two seasonal best friends organize ultimate Halloween plans to celebrate their last working year together. *Available in Overdrive, eBook.*

Ms. Marvel (Volume 1) by G. Willow Wilson (2014)

Kamala Khan, a Pakistani American girl from Jersey City who lives a conservative Muslim lifestyle with her family, suddenly acquires superhuman powers and, despite the pressures of school and home, tries to use her abilities to help her community. *Available in Overdrive, eBook. Available in Hoopla, eBook.*

The Handmaid's Tale by Renee Nault/Margaret Atwood (2019)

Illustrated with high-contrast artwork, a graphic-novel adaptation of Margaret Atwood's modern classic depicts the terrifying realities of women consigned to childbirth roles in the occupied Republic of Gilead. *Available in Overdrive, eBook.*

Mister Miracle (#1-12) by Tom King (2019)

Scott Free is the greatest escape artist who ever lived. Using the stage alter ego of Mister Miracle, he has made quite a career for himself showing off his acrobatic escape techniques. *Available in Overdrive, eBook. Available in Hoopla, eBook*

Historical Fiction:

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes (2019)

Volunteering for Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library in small-town Kentucky, an English bride joins a group of independent women whose commitment to their job transforms the community and their relationships. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett (2019)

Ann Patchett, the New York Times bestselling author of Commonwealth and State of Wonder, returns with her most powerful novel to date: a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go." *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Daisy Jones and the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid (2019)

When singer Daisy Jones meets Billy Dunne of the band The Six, the two rising 70s rock-and-roll artists are catapulted into stardom when a producer puts them together, a decision that is complicated by a pregnancy and the seductions of fame. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah (2019)

When her volatile, former POW father impulsively moves the family to mid-1970s Alaska to live off the land, young Leni and her mother are forced to confront the dangers of their lack of preparedness in the wake of a dangerous winter season. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook. Available in Hoopla, Audiobook.*

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris (2019)

An international best-seller based on the true story of an Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor traces the experiences of a Jewish Slovakian who uses his position as a concentration-camp tattooist to secure food for his fellow prisoners. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook. Available in Hoopla, Audiobook.*

National Book Award Winners - <https://www.nationalbook.org/national-book-awards/years/>

Trust Exercise by Susan Choi (2019) - Fiction

Falling in love while attending a competitive 1980s performing arts high school, David and Sarah rise through the ranks before the realities of their family dynamics and economic statuses trigger a spiral that impacts their adult lives. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook. Available in Hoopla, Audiobook.*

Yellow House by Sarah M. Broom (2019) - Nonfiction

Describes the author's upbringing in a New Orleans East shotgun house as the unruly 13th child of a widowed mother, tracing a century of family history and the impact of class, race and Hurricane Katrina on her sense of identity. *Available in Overdrive, eBook. Available in Hoopla, eBook.*

The Friend by Sigrid Nunez (2018) - Fiction

Becoming the guardian of her late best friend's enormous Great Dane, a grieving woman is evicted from her no-pets apartment and forges a deep bond with the equally distraught animal in ways that initially disturb her friends. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke by Jeffery C. Stewart (2018) - Nonfiction

In *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke*, Jeffrey C. Stewart offers the definitive biography of the father of the Harlem Renaissance, based on the extant primary sources of his life and on interviews with those who knew him personally. He narrates the education of Locke, including his becoming the first African American Rhodes Scholar and earning a PhD in philosophy at Harvard University, and his long career as a professor at Howard University. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook. Available in Hoopla, Audionbook.*

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesymn Ward (2017) - Fiction

A story of how the past affects the present, and of deeply entrenched racism, *Sing Unburied Sing* describes the life of a biracial boy, his addicted, grieving black mother, and his incarcerated white father. A road trip to Dad's prison kick-starts the novel, which offers deeply affecting characters, a strong sense of place (rural Mississippi), and a touch of magical realism in appearances by the dead. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Future is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia by Masha Gesson (2017) - Nonfiction

The award-winning Russian-American journalist and author of the best-selling *The Man Without a Face* traces how within the space of a generation, Russia has succumbed to a more virulent and resistant strain of autocracy as demonstrated by the experiences of four prototype individuals born at the once-presumed dawn of Russian democracy. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead (2016) - Fiction

After Cora, a pre-Civil War Georgia slave, escapes with another slave, Caesar, they seek the help of the Underground Railroad as they flee from state to state and try to evade a slave catcher, Ridgeway, who is determined to return them to the South. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi (2016) - Nonfiction

A comprehensive history of anti-black racism focuses on the lives of five major players in American history, including Cotton Mather and Thomas Jefferson, and highlights the debates that took place between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and antiracists. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook. Available in Hoopla, Audiobook.*

Fortune Smiles: stories by Adam Johnson (2015) - Fiction

This short story collection by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Adam Johnson features only six items, but they're full-fledged doozies that demand careful reading. Despite differences in plot and setting (like Silicon Valley and North Korea), what they all have in common are realistic characters enduring tragic events and challenges. Taken together, they give the impression that these stories could very well be about real people (one, "Interesting Facts," has some similarities to Johnson's own life). *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates (2015) - Nonfiction

Told through the author's own evolving understanding of the subject over the course of his life comes a bold and personal investigation into America's racial history and its contemporary echoes. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

World Fantasy Award Winners - <http://www.worldfantasy.org/awards/winners/>

Witchmark by C.L. Polk (2019)

After going to war to escape his destiny, Miles Singer is unable to leave his past behind when he, after faking his own death, reinvents himself as a doctor at a cash-strapped veteran's hospital where he can no longer hide what he truly is. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Changeling by Victor LaValle (2018)

Resolving to commit to marriage and parenthood unlike the father who abandoned him, Apollo Kagwa, who suffers from bizarre dreams, is shocked when his wife commits an act of astounding violence before disappearing, compelling Apollo's odyssey through a world he barely understands. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

Jade City by Lee Fonda (2018)

In this action-packed series opener, Green Bone warriors use the magic-enhancing powers of jade to protect their island nation of Kekon and its capital, Janloon. But times are changing, as rival syndicates headed by the feuding Ayt and Kaul families go to extreme lengths to consolidate their power and gain control of the city. Detailed world-building and exciting martial-arts battles enhance this gritty crime drama, which takes place in an East Asia-inspired fantasy world. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Sudden Appearance of Hope by Claire North (2017)

A young woman recounts a strange decline in people noticing her existence, including her parents who forget to take her to school or set a place at the table. *Available in Overdrive, eBook & Audiobook.*

The Chimes by Anna Smaill (2016)

After a civil war divides London into poor and elite sections with a law against retaining memories, Simon, an orphan, joins a gang of scavengers, but his intense memories lead him to defy the law and engage in an epic struggle for justice and freedom. *Available in Overdrive, eBook.*

The Bone Clocks by David Mitchell (2015)

Beginning in 1984 and moving in linear fashion through the years before ending in the 2040s, this complex, layered novel interweaves several different narratives to tell the story of a secret war between those who would steal souls and those who try to stop them. But it's also the story of Holly Sykes, who belongs to neither of these groups but whose life is nevertheless bound up in them. An expansive, globe-trotting book that takes on themes of aging, youth, and death, **The Bone Clocks** also features characters who have appeared in author David Mitchell's other books and incorporates genres from absolute realism to heady fantasy. *Available in Overdrive, eBook.*



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