

Smiths Falls Public Library Staff Picks

Last updated: 2022-05-27

Note: Formats listed may not reflect current availability.

Amanda's Picks

Title: Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention—and How to Think Deeply Again

Author: Johann Hari

Call Number: 153.733 Har

Genre: Psychology, Self Help, Science

Collection: Adult Nonfiction

Format: Book

In the United States, teenagers can focus on one task for only sixty-five seconds at a time, and office workers average only three minutes. Like so many of us, Johann Hari was finding that constantly switching from device to device and tab to tab was a diminishing and depressing way to live. He tried all sorts of self-help solutions—even abandoning his phone for three months—but nothing seemed to work. So Hari went on an epic journey across the world to interview the leading experts on human attention—and he discovered that everything we think we know about this crisis is wrong.

Title: Walking with Ghosts in Papua New Guinea: Crossing the Kokoda Trail in the Last Wild Place on Earth

Author: Rick Antonson

Call Number: N/A

Genre: Travel, History, Adventure

Collection: hoopla

Format: ebook, audiobook

Rick Antonson has traveled to parts of the world that are not simply exotic but sometimes damned near inaccessible. He has climbed to the summit of Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey, traveling beyond to Iraq and Iran and Armenia. He has undertaken an improbable overland journey to the ancient city of Timbuktu, an enlightening look into

efforts to preserve the city's priceless manuscripts. Now he has traversed the notorious Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea, a country some call "the last wild place on earth."

Title: Collective Illusions: Conformity, Complicity, and the Science of Why We Make Bad Decisions

Author: Todd Rose

Call Number: 303.32 Ros

Genre: Psychology, Science

Collection: Adult Nonfiction

Format: Book

Drawing on cutting-edge neuroscience, behavioral economic, and social psychology research, acclaimed author, former Harvard professor, and think tank founder Todd Rose reveals how so much of our thinking about each other is informed by false assumptions that drive bad decisions that make us dangerously mistrustful as a society and hopelessly unhappy as individuals.

Title: The Naked Don't Fear the Water: An Underground Journey with Afghan Refugees

Author: Matthieu Aikins

Call Number: 070.4333 Aik

Genre: War, Cultural, Memoir

Collection: Adult Nonfiction

Format: Book

In 2016, a young Afghan driver and translator named Omar makes the heart-wrenching choice to flee his war-torn country, saying goodbye to Laila, the love of his life, without knowing when they might be reunited again. He is one of millions of refugees who leave their homes that year. Matthieu Aikins, a journalist living in Kabul, decides to follow his friend. In order to do so, he must leave his own passport and identity behind to go underground on the refugee trail with Omar. Their odyssey across land and sea from Afghanistan to Europe brings them face to face with the people at heart of the migration crisis: smugglers, cops, activists, and the men, women and children fleeing war in search of a better life.

Title: Atlas of Dark Destinations: Explore the World of Dark Tourism

Author: Peter Hohenhaus

Call Number: 910.202 Hoh

Genre: Travel, Dark tourism, Guidebook

Collection: Adult Nonfiction

Format: Book

Reaching some of the darkest and most unsettling corners of the world, this is a compendium of travel destinations like no other. Author Peter Hohenhaus has visited and photographed all the places featured in the book, and brings his first-hand knowledge to the reader. Dark tourism has seen a surge in popularity in the last decade and this is the first book to bring together 300 destinations in a readable and fascinating guide. From nuclear bunkers and disaster sites to strange medical museums and eerie catacombs, this book has something for everyone who seeks a travel experience with true meaning.

Title: Mother of Invention: How Good Ideas Get Ignored in an Economy Built for Men

Author: Katrine Marçal

Call Number: 604.82 Mar

Genre: Feminism, History, Technology

Collection: Adult Nonfiction

Format: Book

Mother of Invention is a fascinating and eye-opening examination of business, technology, and innovation through a feminist lens. It all starts with a rolling suitcase. Though the wheel was invented some five thousand years ago, and the suitcase in the nineteenth century, it wasn't until the 1970s that someone successfully married the two. What was the hold up? For writer and journalist Katrine Marçal, the answer is both shocking and simple: because "real men" carried their bags, no matter how heavy.

Title: The Whisper on the Night Wind: The True History of a Wilderness Legend

Author: Adam Shoalts

Call Number: 917.182047 Sho

Genre: Travel (Newfoundland and Labrador), Folklore

Collection: Adult Nonfiction

Format: Book

Traverspine is not a place you will find on most maps. A century ago, it stood near the foothills of the remote Mealy Mountains in central Labrador. Today it is an abandoned ghost town, almost all trace of it swallowed up by dark spruce woods that cloak millions of acres. Adam Shoalts, decorated modern-day explorer and an expert on wilderness folklore, picks up the trail from a century ago and sets off into the Labrador wild to investigate the tale. It is a spine-tingling adventure, straight from a land steeped in legends and lore, where Vikings wandered a thousand years ago and wolves and bears still roam free.

Title: This Party's Dead: Grief, Joy and Spilled Rum at the World's Death

Author: Erica Buist

Call Number: 306.9 Bui

Genre: Death, Travel, Memoir

Collection: Adult Nonfiction

Format: Book

Journalist Erica Buist traveled to seven death festivals around the world (Nepal, Madagascar, Indonesia, Sicily, Japan, Mexico, and New Orleans) to understand how other cultures deal with death.

Title: Hostage

Author: Clare Mackintosh

Call Number: FIC Macki

Genre: Thriller, Mystery, Suspense

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook

Mina is trying to focus on her job as a flight attendant, not the problems of her five-year-old daughter back home, or the fissures in her marriage. But the plane has barely taken

off when Mina receives a chilling note from an anonymous passenger, someone intent on ensuring the plane never reaches its destination. Someone who needs Mina's assistance and who knows exactly how to make her comply. It's twenty hours to landing. A lot can happen in twenty hours...

Title: Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know

Author: Adam Grant

Call Number: 153.42 Gra

Genre: Psychology, Self Help, Business

Collection: Adult Nonfiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Think Again is a book about the benefit of doubt, and about how we can get better at embracing the unknown and the joy of being wrong. Evidence has shown that creative geniuses are not attached to one identity, but constantly willing to rethink their stances and that leaders who admit they don't know something and seek critical feedback lead more productive and innovative teams... In the end, learning to rethink may be the secret skill to give you the edge in a world changing faster than ever.

Title: Murdered Midas: A Millionaire, His Gold Mine, and a Strange Death on an Island Paradise

Author: Charlotte Gray

Call Number: N/A

Genre: True Crime, History

Collection: OverDrive

Format: ebook, audiobook

On an island paradise in 1943, Sir Harry Oakes, gold-mining tycoon, philanthropist and one of the richest men in the British Empire, is murdered. The news of his death surges across the English-speaking world, from London, the Imperial centre, to the remote Canadian mining town of Kirkland Lake in the Northern Ontario bush. The murder becomes celebrated as the crime of the century.

Ashley's Picks

Title: The Language of Thorns: Midnight Tales and Dangerous Magic

Author: Leigh Bardugo

Call Number: YA FIC Bardu

Genre: Fantasy, Short Stories, Fairy Tales

Collection: Young Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook

Love speaks in flowers. Truth requires thorns. Travel to a world of dark bargains struck by moonlight, of haunted towns and hungry woods, of talking beasts and gingerbread golems, where a young mermaid's voice can summon deadly storms and where a river might do a lovestruck boy's bidding but only for a terrible price. Inspired by myth, fairy tale, and folklore, #1 *New York Times*—bestselling author Leigh Bardugo has crafted a deliciously atmospheric collection of short stories filled with betrayals, revenge, sacrifice, and love.

Title: The Night Circus

Author: Erin Morgenstern

Call Number: FIC Morge

Genre: Fantasy, Romance, Historical Fiction

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called *Le Cirque des Rêves*, and it is only open at night. But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway—a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them, this is a game in which only one can be left standing, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will.

Title: Gilded (Gilded #1)

Author: Marissa Meyer

Call Number: YA FIC Meyer

Genre: Fantasy, Romance

Collection: Young Adult Fiction

Format: Book

Long ago cursed by the god of lies, a poor miller's daughter has developed a talent for spinning stories that are fantastical and spellbinding and entirely untrue. Or so everyone believes. When one of Serilda's outlandish tales draws the attention of the sinister Erlking and his undead hunters, she finds herself swept away into a grim world where ghouls and phantoms prowl the earth and hollow-eyed ravens track her every move. The king orders Serilda to complete the impossible task of spinning straw into gold, or be killed for telling falsehoods. In her desperation, Serilda unwittingly summons a mysterious boy to her aid. He agrees to help her... for a price.

Title: Cinder (The Lunar Chronicles #1)

Author: Marissa Meyer

Call Number: YA FIC Meyer

Genre: Fantasy, Science Fiction

Collection: Young Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl. Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.

Christine's Picks

Title: Life Without Children

Author: Roddy Doyle

Call Number: FIC Doyle

Genre: Short Stories, Irish Literary Fiction

Collection: Adult Fiction

Format: Book

Love and marriage. Children and family. Death and grief. Life touches everyone the same. But living under lockdown, it changes us alone. In these ten, beautifully moving short stories, Roddy Doyle paints a collective portrait of our strange times.

Title: Sea of Tranquility

Author: Emily St. John Mandel

Call Number: FIC Mande

Genre: Science Fiction, Canadian Literary Fiction, Historical Fiction

Collection: Adult Fiction

Format: Book

Edwin St. Andrew is eighteen years old when he crosses the Atlantic by steamship, exiled from polite society following an ill-conceived diatribe at a dinner party. He enters the forest, spellbound by the beauty of the Canadian wilderness, and suddenly hears the notes of a violin echoing in an airship terminal--an experience that shocks him to his core.

Title: All Together Now: A Newfoundlander's Light Tales for Heavy Times

Author: Alan Doyle

Call Number: 782.42164092 Doy

Genre: Cultural (Canada), Memoir, Humour

Collection: Adult Nonfiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

At this time of Covid, singer, songwriter and bestselling author Alan Doyle is feeling everyone's pain. Off the road and spending more days at home than he has since he was a child hawking cod tongues on the wharfs of Petty Harbour, he misses the crowds and companionship of performing across the country and beyond. But most of all he misses the cheery clamour of pubs in his hometown, where one yarn follows another so quickly you have to be as ready as an Olympian at the start line to get your tale in before someone is well into theirs already. We're all experiencing our own version of that deprivation, and Alan, one of Newfoundland's finest storytellers, wants to offer a little balm.

Title: Disorientation: Being Black in the World

Author: Ian Williams

Call Number: 305.896 Wil

Genre: Race, Cultural (Canada), Memoir

Collection: Adult Nonfiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

With that one eloquent word, *disorientation*, Ian Williams captures the impact of racial encounters on racialized people--the whiplash of race that occurs while minding one's own business. Sometimes the consequences are only irritating, but sometimes they are deadly. Spurred by the police killings and street protests of 2020, Williams realized he could offer a perspective distinct from the almost exclusively America-centric books on race topping the bestseller lists, because of one salient fact: he has lived in Trinidad (where he was never the only Black person in the room), in Canada (where he often was), and in the United States (where as a Black man from the Caribbean, he was a different kind of only).

Title: Inseparable: A Never-Before-Published Novel

Author: Simone de Beauvoir

Call Number: FIC Beauv

Genre: Feminism, Classics, Historical Fiction

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook

From the moment Sylvie and Andrée meet in their Parisian day school, they see in each other an accomplice with whom to confront the mysteries of girlhood. For the next ten years, the two are the closest of friends and confidantes as they explore life in a post-World War One France, and as Andrée becomes increasingly reckless and rebellious, edging closer to peril. Sylvie, insightful and observant, sees a France of clashing ideals and religious hypocrisy--and at an early age is determined to form her own opinions. Andrée, a tempestuous dreamer, is inclined to melodrama and romance. Despite their different natures they rely on each other to safeguard their secrets while entering adulthood in a world that did not pay much attention to the wills and desires of young women.

Title: Talking to Canadians: A Memoir

Author: Rick Mercer

Call Number: 792.7028092 Mer

Genre: Biography, Humor, Cultural (Canada)

Collection: Adult Nonfiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

What is Rick Mercer going to do now? That was the question on everyone's lips when the beloved comedian retired his hugely successful TV show after 15 seasons--and at the peak of its popularity. The answer came not long after, when he roared back in a new role as stand-up-comedian, playing to sold-out houses wherever he appeared. And then Covid-19 struck. And his legions of fans began asking again-- What is Rick Mercer going to do now? Well, for one thing, he's been writing a comic masterpiece. For the first time, this most private of public figures has turned the spotlight on himself, in a memoir that's as revealing as it is hilarious.

Title: And Miles To Go Before I Sleep

Author: Jocelyne Saucier

Call Number: FIC Sauci

Genre: Canadian Literary Fiction, Railroad trains

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook

Jocelyne Saucier is back with this unsettling story about a woman's disappearance. Gladys might look old and frail, but she is determined to finish her life on her own terms. And so, one September morning, she leaves Swastika, her home of the past fifty years, and hops on the Northlander train, eager to put thousands of miles of northern Quebec between her and the improbably named village, and leaving behind her perennially tormented daughter, Lisana. Our mysterious narrator, who is documenting these disappearing northern trains, is on a quest to uncover the truth of Gladys's voyage, tracking down fellow passengers and train employees to learn what happened to Gladys and her daughter, and why.

Title: The Undertaking of Billy Buffone

Author: David Giuliano

Call Number: N/A

Genre: Literary Fiction

Collection: OverDrive

Format: ebook

Catherine, a newly minted preacher, moves to Twenty-Six Mile House, an isolated community in northern Ontario and befriends the quirky undertaker Billy Buffone who has a disturbing secret he has carried for almost two decades. A story inspired by true events. Billy's best friend, now deceased, leads the reader through the traumatic events of today and those from the never-forgotten past.

Title: We Begin at the End

Author: Chris Whitaker

Call Number: FIC Whita

Genre: Literary Fiction, Mystery, Thriller

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Thirty years ago, a teenage Vincent King was sent to prison. But now, he's served his sentence and is returning to his hometown. The hometown where his childhood best friend, Walk, is now the chief of police. The town where his childhood sweetheart, Star Radley, still lives. The same Star Radley whose sister he killed. Duchess, Star's daughter, is a self-proclaimed outlaw. She needs to be. Who else is going to take care of her and her five-year-old brother? Star is still dazzling, still beautiful, but she hasn't shined as bright since Vincent was sent away. Too often it's Duchess and Walk who are the ones taking care of her. But when Duchess exacts her own vigilante revenge, she will set into motion a series of events that threatens not only her own family, but everyone she grows close to.

Title: Everyone in This Room Will Someday Be Dead

Author: Emily Austin

Call Number: FIC Austi

Genre: Canadian Literary Fiction, Humour, Mental Health, LGBT

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Gilda, a twenty-something, atheist, animal-loving lesbian, cannot stop ruminating about death. Responding to a flyer for free therapy at a local Catholic church, Gilda finds herself mistakenly hired to replace the recently deceased receptionist Grace. Gilda strikes up an email correspondence with Grace's old friend, but can't bring herself to break the bad news. Desperate, she begins impersonating Grace via email. But when the police discover suspicious circumstances surrounding Grace's death, Gilda may have to finally reveal the truth of her mortifying existence.

Title: A Town Called Solace

Author: Mary Lawson

Call Number: FIC Lawso

Genre: Canadian Literary Fiction

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Rebellious teenager Rose been missing for weeks with no word, and Rose's younger sister, the feisty and fierce Clara, keeps a daily vigil at the living-room window, hoping for her sibling's return. Enter thirtyish Liam Kane, newly divorced, newly unemployed, newly arrived in this small northern town, where he promptly moves into the house next door--watched suspiciously by astonished and dismayed Clara, whose elderly friend, Mrs. Orchard, owns that home. Around the time of Rose's disappearance, Mrs. Orchard was sent for a short stay in hospital, and Clara promised to keep an eye on the house and its remaining occupant, Mrs. Orchard's cat, Moses. As the novel unfolds, so does the mystery of what has transpired between Mrs Orchard and the newly arrived stranger.

Debra's Picks

Title: The Limit

Author: Kristen Landon

Call Number: J FIC Lando

Genre: Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia

Collection: Junior Fiction

Format: Book

In a world not too far removed from our own, kids are being taken away to special workhouses if their families exceed the monthly debt limit imposed by the government. Thirteen-year-old Matt briefly wonders if he might be next, but quickly dismisses the thought. After all, his parents are financially responsible, unlike the parents of those other kids. As long as his parents remain within their limit, the government will be satisfied and leave them alone. But all it takes is one fatal visit to the store to push Matt's family over their limit—and to change his reality forever.

Title: Out of My Heart (Out of My Mind #2)

Author: Sharon M. Draper

Call Number: J FIC Drape

Genre: Children's Fiction, Disability (Cerebral palsy), Realistic Fiction

Collection: Junior Fiction

Format: Book, ebook

Melody, the huge-hearted heroine of *Out of My Mind*, is a year older, and a year braver. And now with her Medi-talker, she feels nothing's out of her reach, not even summer camp. There *have* to be camps for differently-abled kids like her, and she's going to sleuth one out. A place where she can trek through a forest, fly on a zip line, and even ride on a horse! A place where maybe she really can finally make a real friend, make her own decisions, and even do things on her own—the dream! Sequel to “Out of My Mind.”

Title: Lunch Every Day

Author: Kathryn Otoshi

Call Number: JP Otosh

Genre: Children's picture book

Collection: Junior Picture Book

Format: Book

Every day Jimmy takes 'Skinny Kid's' lunch at school. No way will he be caught dead standing in that free lunch line. Even when he's called into the principal's office, Jimmy just shrugs. “Yeah. Whatever.” Until a surprising act of kindness stops him in his tracks. For a split second a door cracks open into Jimmy's heart. Who knows? Maybe he'll just kick that door right open. Based on a true story.

Title: Did I Say You Could Go

Author: Melanie Gideon

Call Number: FIC Gideo

Genre: Thriller, Mystery, Suspense

Collection: Adult Fiction

Format: Book

When Ruth, a wealthy divorcée, offers to host the Hillside Academy kindergarten meet-and-greet, she hopes this will be a fresh start for her and her introverted daughter,

Marley. Finally, they'll be accepted into a tribe. Instead, the parents are turned off by Ruth's ostentatious wealth and before kindergarten even begins, Ruth and Marley are outcasts. The last guest to arrive at the meet-and-greet is Gemma, a widow and a single mother to her daughter, Bee. Ruth sets her sights on the mother-daughter duo, and soon the two families are inseparable. For Gemma, who lives paycheck to paycheck, Ruth's largesse is seductive, but as the years go by, she can't shake the feeling that she's accruing an increasingly unpayable debt...

Title: Local Woman Missing

Author: Mary Kubica

Call Number: FIC Kubic

Genre: Thriller, Mystery, Suspense

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive, hoopla

Format: Book, ebook

People don't just disappear without a trace... Shelby Tebow is the first to go missing. Not long after, Meredith Dickey and her six-year-old daughter, Delilah, vanish just blocks away from where Shelby was last seen, striking fear into their once-peaceful community. Are these incidents connected? After an elusive search that yields more questions than answers, the case eventually goes cold. Now, eleven years later, Delilah shockingly returns. Everyone wants to know what happened to her, but no one is prepared for what they'll find...

Larina's Picks

Title: This Side of Murder (Verity Kent Mysteries #1)

Author: Anna Lee Huber

Call Number: FIC Huber

Genre: Mystery, Historical Fiction

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

England, 1919. Verity Kent's grief over the loss of her husband pierces anew when she

receives a cryptic letter, suggesting her beloved Sidney may have committed treason before his untimely death. Determined to dull her pain with revelry, Verity's first impulse is to dismiss the derogatory claim. But the mystery sender knows too much—including the fact that during the war, Verity worked for the Secret Service, something not even Sidney knew. Relying on little more than a coded letter, the help of a dashing stranger, and her own sharp instincts, Verity is forced down a path she never imagined—and comes face to face with the shattering possibility that her husband may not have been the man she thought he was.

Title: The Language of Thorns: Midnight Tales and Dangerous Magic

Author: Leigh Bardugo

Call Number: YA FIC Bardu

Genre: Fantasy, Fairy Tales, Short Stories

Collection: Young Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook

Travel to a world of dark bargains struck by moonlight, of haunted towns and hungry woods, of talking beasts and gingerbread golems, where a young mermaid's voice can summon deadly storms and where a river might do a lovestruck boy's bidding but only for a terrible price. Inspired by myth, fairy tale, and folklore, *#1 New York Times*—bestselling author Leigh Bardugo has crafted a deliciously atmospheric collection of short stories filled with betrayals, revenge, sacrifice, and love.

Title: Salt to the Sea

Author: Ruta Sepetys

Call Number: YA FIC Sepet

Genre: Historical Fiction, War (WWII)

Collection: Young Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

While the Titanic and Lusitania are both well-documented disasters, the single greatest tragedy in maritime history is the little-known January 30, 1945 sinking in the Baltic Sea by a Soviet submarine of the Wilhelm Gustloff, a German cruise liner that was supposed

to ferry wartime personnel and refugees to safety from the advancing Red Army. Sepetys (writer of 'Between Shades of Gray') crafts four fictionalized but historically accurate voices to convey the real-life tragedy. Joana, a Lithuanian with nursing experience; Florian, a Prussian soldier fleeing the Nazis with stolen treasure; and Emilia, a Polish girl close to the end of her pregnancy, converge on their escape journeys as Russian troops advance; each will eventually meet Albert, a Nazi peon with delusions of grandeur, assigned to the Gustloff decks.

Title: L'énigme du retour

Author: Dany Laferrière

Call Number: FRENCH FIC Lafer

Genre: Cultural (France), Cultural (Canada), Poetry

Collection: French Fiction

Format: Book

Un jeune homme de vingt-trois ans a quitté son pays de façon précipitée. Un homme épuisé y retourne, trente-trois ans plus tard. Le jeune homme est passé de l'étouffante chaleur de Port-au-Prince à l'interminable hiver de Montréal. Du Sud au Nord. De la jeunesse à l'âge mûr. Entre ces deux pôles se trouve coincé le temps pourri de l'exil.

Title: Le Petit Prince / The Little Prince

Author: Antoine de Saint- Exupéry

Call Number: J FRENCH FIC Saint (en français) / J FIC DeSai (English)

Genre: Classics, Children's Fiction, Fantasy

Collection: Junior French Fiction, Junior Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook

A pilot stranded in the desert awakes one morning to see, standing before him, the most extraordinary little fellow. "Please," asks the stranger, "draw me a sheep." And the pilot realizes that when life's events are too difficult to understand, there is no choice but to succumb to their mysteries. He pulls out pencil and paper... And thus begins this wise and enchanting fable that, in teaching the secret of what is really important in life, has changed forever the world for its readers.

Title: La Mystérieuse Bibliothécaire

Author: Dominique Demers

Call Number: J FRENCH FIC Demer

Genre: Children's Fiction

Collection: Junior French Fiction

Format: Book

Mlle Charlotte, la nouvelle bibliothécaire de Saint-Anatole, promène ses livres dans une brouette. Dans le vieux grenier transformé en bibliothèque, on s'amuse comme des fous. Mais un jour, Mlle Charlotte s'endort, aspirée par l'histoire qu'elle est en train de lire... Comment la délivrer de cet étrange sortilège?

Nika's Picks

Title: The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark

Author: Carl Sagan

Call Number: N/A

Genre: Science, Philosophy, History

Collection: OverDrive

Format: ebook

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and distinguished astronomer Carl Sagan argues that scientific thinking is critical not only to the pursuit of truth but to the very well-being of our democratic institutions. Casting a wide net through history and culture, Sagan examines and authoritatively debunks such celebrated fallacies of the past as witchcraft, faith healing, demons, and UFOs. And yet, disturbingly, in today's so-called information age, pseudoscience is burgeoning with stories of alien abduction, channeling past lives, and communal hallucinations commanding growing attention and respect. As Sagan demonstrates with lucid eloquence, the siren song of unreason is not just a cultural wrong turn but a dangerous plunge into darkness that threatens our most basic freedoms.

Title: Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal

Author: Mary Roach

Call Number: 612.3 Roa

Genre: Science, Humour, Health

Collection: Adult Nonfiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

The alimentary canal -- the much-maligned tube from mouth to rear -- is as taboo, in its way, as the cadavers in "Stiff," and as surreal as the universe of zero gravity explored in "Packing for Mars." In "Gulp" we meet the scientists who tackle the questions no one else thinks —or has the courage —to ask. How much can you eat before your stomach bursts? Why doesn't the stomach digest itself? Can wine tasters really tell a \$10 bottle from a \$100 bottle? Why is crunchy food so appealing? Can constipation kill you? Did it kill Elvis? We go on location to a pet food taste-test lab, a fecal transplant, and into a live stomach to observe the fate of a meal. Like all of Roach's books, Gulp is as much about human beings as it is about human bodies.

Sherry's Picks

Title: Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children #1)

Author: Ransom Riggs

Call Number: YA FIC Riggs

Genre: Fantasy, Mystery, Horror

Collection: Young Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow-impossible though it seems-they may still be alive.

Title: Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster

Author: Jon Krakauer

Call Number: 796.522092 Kra

Genre: Adventure, Travel, Memoir

Collection: Adult Nonfiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook

A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more--including Krakauer's--in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

Title: All Things Bright and Beautiful: The Warm and Joyful Memoirs of the World's Most Beloved Animal Doctor

Author: James Herriot

Call Number: 636.089092 Her

Genre: Animals, Memoir, Classics

Collection: Adult Nonfiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Millions of readers have delighted in the wonderful storytelling and everyday miracles of James Herriot in the over thirty years since his delightful animal stories were first introduced to the world. Now in a new edition for the first time in a decade, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* is the beloved sequel to Herriot's first collection, *All Creatures Great and Small*, and picks up as Herriot, now newly married, journeys among the remote hillside farms and valley towns of the Yorkshire Dales, caring for their inhabitants---both two- and four-legged.

Title: The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag (Flavia de Luce #2)

Author: Alan Bradley

Call Number: FIC Bradl

Genre: Mystery, Historical, Thriller

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Flavia thinks that her days of crime-solving in the bucolic English hamlet of Bishop's Lacey are over—and then Rupert Porson has an unfortunate rendezvous with electricity. The beloved puppeteer has had his own strings sizzled, but who'd do such a thing, and *why*? For Flavia, the questions are intriguing enough to make her put aside her chemistry experiments and schemes of vengeance against her insufferable big sisters. Astride Gladys, her trusty bicycle, Flavia sets out from the de Luces' crumbling family mansion in search of Bishop's Lacey's deadliest secrets.

Title: The Shadow of the Wind

Author: Carlos Ruiz Zafón

Call Number: FIC RuizZ

Genre: Historical Fiction, Mystery, Fantasy

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Barcelona, 1945: A city slowly heals from its war wounds, and Daniel, an antiquarian book dealer's son who mourns the loss of his mother, finds solace in a mysterious book entitled *The Shadow of the Wind*, by one Julian Carax. But when he sets out to find the author's other works, he makes a shocking discovery: someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book Carax has written. In fact, Daniel may have the last of Carax's books in existence. Soon Daniel's seemingly innocent quest opens a door into one of Barcelona's darkest secrets--an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love.

Title: The Horseman (The West Country Trilogy #1)

Author: Tim Pears

Call Number: N/A

Genre: Historical Fiction, War

Collection: Interlibrary Loan

Format: Book

Somerset, 1911. The forces of war are building across Europe, but this pocket of England, where the rhythms of lives are dictated by the seasons and the land, remains untouched. Albert Sercombe is a farmer on Lord Prideaux's estate and his eldest son, Sid, is underkeeper to the head gamekeeper. His son, Leo, a talented rider, grows up alongside the master's spirited daughter, Charlotte--a girl who shoots and rides, much to the surprise of the locals. In beautiful, pastoral writing, *The Horseman* tells the story of a family, a community, and the landscape they come from.

Staff Picks

Title: Blind Tiger

Author: Sandra Brown

Call Number: FIC Brown

Genre: Historical Fiction, Romance, Mystery

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Thatcher Hutton, a war-weary soldier on the way back to his cowboy life, jumps from a moving freight train to avoid trouble... and lands in more than he bargained for. On the day he arrives in Foley, Texas, a local woman goes missing. Thatcher, the only stranger in town, is suspected of her abduction, and worse. Standing between him and exoneration are a corrupt mayor, a crooked sheriff, a notorious cathouse madam, a sly bootlegger, feuding moonshiners... and a young widow whose soft features conceal an iron will.

Title: Clean Air

Author: Sarah Blake

Call Number: FIC Blake

Genre: Science Fiction, Dystopia, Mystery

Collection: Adult Fiction

Format: Book

The climate apocalypse has come and gone, and in the end it wasn't the temperature climbing or the waters rising. It was the trees. The world became overgrown, creating enough pollen to render the air unbreathable. In the decade since the event known as the Turning, humanity has rebuilt, and Izabel has gotten used to the airtight domes that now contain her life. She raises her young daughter, Cami, and attempts to make peace with her mother's death. She tries hard to be satisfied with this safe, prosperous new world, but instead she just feels stuck.

Title: Jameela Green Ruins Everything

Author: Zarqa Nawaz

Call Number: FIC Nawaz

Genre: Contemporary, Cultural (Canada)

Collection: Adult Fiction

Format: Book

Jameela Green only has one wish. To see her memoir on the *New York Times* bestseller list. When her dream doesn't come true, she seeks spiritual guidance at her local mosque. New imam and recent immigrant Ibrahim Sultan is appalled by Jameela's shallowness, but agrees to assist her on one condition: that she perform a good deed. Jameela reluctantly accepts his terms, kicking off a chain of absurd and unfortunate events.

Title: Legacy

Author: Nora Roberts

Call Number: FIC Rober

Genre: Romance, Thriller, Suspense

Collection: Adult Fiction, OverDrive

Format: Book, ebook, audiobook

Adrian Rizzo was seven when she met her father for the first time. That was the day he nearly killed her—before her mother, Lina, stepped in. Soon after, Adrian was dropped off at her grandparents' house in Maryland, where she spent a long summer drinking

lemonade, playing with dogs, making a new best friend—and developing the stirrings of a crush on her friend’s ten-year-old brother. Lina, meanwhile, traveled the country promoting her fitness brand and turning it into a billion-dollar business.