


Best Books 2020

This eclectic selection of titles focuses primarily on books of interests for adult readers published in 2020. The list is compiled from patron and West Linn staff recommendations, as well as recommendations from over a dozen critics' best book of the year lists, including the *New York Times*, *Book Riot*, and *Kirkus Reviews*. *Goodreads* ratings also assisted in compiling the list, in addition to helping select critic recommendations.

Please ask staff or review our online catalog for a books availability and current location.

The sections are organized by the author's last name.

Pictures with a  icon have been identified as spectacular audiobooks.

Top Checkouts 2020

-  ***Educated*** by Tara Westover
- American Dirt*** by Jeanine Cummins
- Talking to Strangers*** by Malcolm Gladwell
- Camino Winds*** by John Grisham
- The Giver of Stars*** by Jojo Moyes
- Dear Edward*** by Ann Napolitano
- Becoming*** by Michelle Obama
- Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens
- The Dutch House*** by Ann Patchett
- Olive, Again*** by Elizabeth Strout
- Educated*** by Tara Westover

GET THEM ON



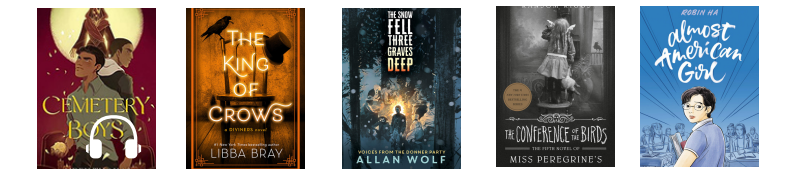
Children

PICTURE BOOKS

- The One and Only Bob*** by Katherine Applegate
- I Am Every Good Thing*** by Derrick Barnes
- Swashby and the Sea*** by Beth Ferry
- Antiracist Baby Picture Book*** by Ibram X. Kendi and Ashley Lukashevsky
- Lift*** by Minh Lê
- We Are Water Protectors*** by Carole Lindstrom
- Dewdrop*** by Katie O'Neill
- The Paper Kingdom*** by Helena Ku Rhee
- I Talk Like a River*** by Jordan Scott
- Outside In*** by Deborah Underwood
- Malala's Magic Pencil*** by Malala Yousafzai



Young Adult



FICTION

- Clap When You Land*** by Elizabeth Acevedo
- The King of Crows*** by Libba Bray
- To All the Boys I've Loved Before (2014)*** by Jenny Han
- The Conference of the Birds (Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children Series)*** by Ransom Riggs
- Cemetery Boys*** by Aiden Thomas
- The Snow Fell Three Graves Deep*** by Allan Wolf

Fantasy

-  ***The Queen of Nothing (The Last Hours Series)*** by Cassandra Clare
- The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (The Hunger Games Series)*** by Suzanne Collins
- Midnight Sun (Twilight Series)*** by Stephenie Meyer

GRAPHIC NOVELS

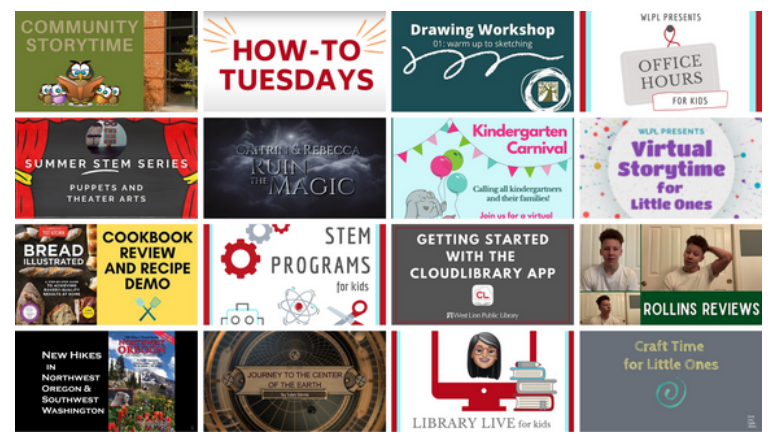
- Flamer*** by Mike Curato
- Almost American Girl: An Illustrated Memoir*** by Robin Ha
- Fangirl, Vol. 1: The Manga*** by Sam Maggs
- Heartstopper: Volume Three*** by Alice Oseman

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bit.ly/wlpl-youtube-playlists

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BEST BOOKS 2020 & FAVORITE DISCOVERIES



PEOPLE'S CHOICE

FICTION



Hello, Summer by Mary Kay Andrews
Anxious People by Fredrik Backman
Left To Die (To Die Series) (2008) by Lisa Jackson
Deacon King Kong by James McBride
Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid

Fantasy



Empire of Gold by S.A. Chakraborty
Crescent City by Sarah J. Maas
The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V. E. Schwab
The Empress of Salt and Fortune by Nghi Vo

Historical



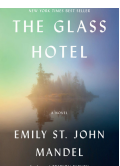
The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
The Library of Legends by Janie Chang
The Jane Austen Society by Natalie Jenner
The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd
Inheritors by Asako Serizawa

Horror



Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia
The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires by Grady Hendrix
The Only Good Indian by Stephen Graham Jones
If It Bleeds by Stephen King

Mystery & Thrillers



Cuyahoga by Pete Beatty
The Guest List by Lucy Foley
The Glass Hotel by Emily St. John Mandel
Home Before Dark by Riley Sager
The Sun Down Motel by Simone St. James

Romance



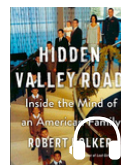
From Blood and Ash by Jennifer L. Armentrout
The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow
Beach Read by Emily Henry
In Five Years by Rebecca Serle

Sci-fi

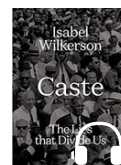


The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
Harrow the Ninth (The Locked Tomb, #2) by Tamsyn Muir
To Sleep in a Sea of Stars by Christopher Paolini
Network Effect by Martha Wells

NON-FICTION



Clanlands: Whisky, Warfare, and a Scottish Adventure Like No Other by Sam Heughan



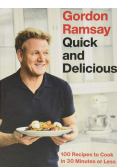
Wow, No Thank You. by Samantha Irby

How to Be An Antiracist (2019) by Ibram X. Kendi
Hidden Valley Road by Robert Kolker
Failure to Launch by Mark McConville
Die With Zero by Bill Perkins
Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds
The Socrates Express by Eric Weiner
Caste by Isabel Wilkerson

Cookbooks



Happy in a Hurry cookbook by Steve Doocy
Magnolia Table: A Collection of Recipes for Gathering, Volume 2 by Joanna Gaines



Modern Comfort Food: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook by Ina Garten

Gordon Ramsay Quick and Delicious: 100 Recipes to Cook in 30 Minutes or Less by Gordon Ramsay

Memoir & Biographies



Notes on a Silencing by Lacy Crawford

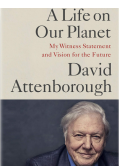
Untamed by Glennon Doyle
Nobody Will Tell You This But Me by Bess Kalb

A Promised Land by Barack Obama
The Answer Is...: Reflections on My Life by Alex Trebek

Science & Technology

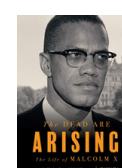
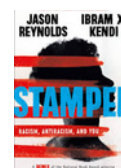


The Great Indoors: The Surprising Science of How Buildings Shape Our Behavior, Health, and Happiness by Emily Anthes



A Life on Our Planet by David Attenborough

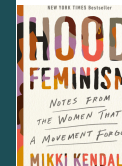
The Body (2019) by Bill Bryson
Why Fish Don't Exist by Lulu Miller
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (2010) by Rebecca Skloot



NON-FICTION



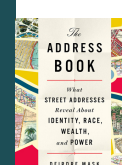
Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own by Eddie S. Glaude Jr.



Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning by Cathy Park Hong



Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot by Mikki Kendall



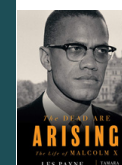
The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz by Erik Larson



Intimations: Six Essays by Zadie Smith



Vesper Flights by Helen Macdonald
The Address Book: What Street Addresses Reveal About Identity, Wealth, Race and Power by Deirdre Mask

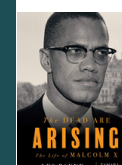


Just Us: An American Conversation by Claudia Rankine

Memoir & Biographies



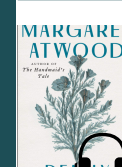
Meaning of Mariah Carey by Mariah Carey
The Dragons, the Giant, the Women by Wayétu Moore



The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X by Les and Tamara Payne

Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir by Natasha Trethewey
The Undocumented Americans by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

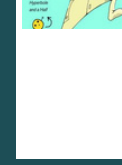
POETRY



Dearly: New Poems by Margaret Atwood
Violet Bent Backwards Over the Grass by Lana Del Rey



Break Your Glass Slippers (You Are Your Own Fairy Tale, #1) by Amanda Lovelace



Fangs by Sarah Andersen
Solutions and Other Problems by Allie Brosh



Stranger Planet (Strange Planet #2) by Nathan W. Pyle

The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Cartoonist by Adrian Tomine

FICTION



Homeland Elegies by Ayad Akhtar



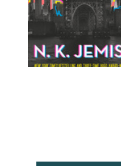
Afterlife by Julia Alvarez



The Death of Vivek Oji by Akwaeke Emezi



Actress by Anne Enright



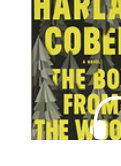
The Lying Life of Adults by Elena Ferrante



The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi



Luster by Raven Leilani



His Only Wife by Peace Adzo Medie



A Children's Bible by Lydia Millet



Utopia Avenue by David Mitchell



My Dark Vanessa by Kate Elizabeth Russell



Real Life by Brandon Taylor

Fantasy & Sci-Fi



Shorefall (The Founders Series) by Robert Bennet



Piranesi by Susanna Clarke



The City We Became by N.K. Jemisin



The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune

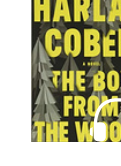
Historical



The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich



Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi



Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell



The Mirror & the Light (Thomas Cromwell, #3) by Hilary Mantel

Mystery & Thrillers



The Boy from the Woods by Harlan Coben



When No One is Watching by Alyssa Cole



The Searchers by Tana French



Long Bright River by Liz Moore



All the Devils Are Here (Chief Inspector Armand Gamache Series) by Louise Penny

Romance



Party of Two (The Wedding Date Series) by Jasmine Guillory



Boyfriend Material by Alexis Hall



Writers & Lovers by Lily King

Chasing Cassandra (The Ravenels Series) by Lisa Kleypas

If I Never Met You by Mhairi McFarlane

CRITIC'S CHOICE