



When you have an avid reader on your holiday gift list, you can't go wrong with a great book. The library is the perfect place to turn to for advice on titles that will top readers' wishlists. Our book-selecting experts, Karen and Kelley, have selected books for a variety of reading levels. Of course, this is just a small sampling of all of the amazing books out there. So, if you don't find a great choice in this guide, we welcome the opportunity to chat with you about our favorite topic, books!

**EARLY READERS** 

**"B is for Baby" by Atinuke**  
 The creators of "Baby Goes to Market" finds Baby stowing away on big brother's bicycle during a visit to Baba's bungalow in a neighboring village, in a vibrantly illustrated alphabet story set in West Africa.

**"The King of Kindergarten" by Derrick Barnes**  
 A confident little boy takes pride in his first day of kindergarten, encouraging new students with a reassuring message about this exciting milestone.



**"The Princess in Black and the Bathtime Battle" by Shannon Hale and Dean Hale**  
 Something smells like trouble! Can five princess heroes and one Goat Avenger pool their talents to vanquish a monstrous stink?

*Recommended by CHRIS, WHITE RIVER BRANCH*

**"Penny and Her Sled" by Kevin Henkes**  
 The mouse heroine of the Geisel Honor-winning "Penny and Her Marble" discovers creative ways to enjoy her beautiful new sled when there is no snow.

**"A Big Bed for Little Snow" by Grace Lin**  
 When winter comes, Mommy makes a soft bed for Little Snow to sleep on, but each night he cannot resist jumping on the bed, causing tiny feathers to fly.

**"Good Night Little Blue Truck" by Alice Schertle**  
 Little Blue Truck and his friends support each other while trying to go to sleep during a scary thunderstorm.

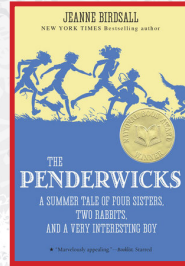




**“The Penderwicks” by Jeanne Birdsall**

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through 12, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

*Recommended by KALEN, FRANKLIN BRANCH*



**“A Tale of Magic” by Chris Colfer**

A tale set in the universe of the Land of Stories finds 14-year-old Brystal pursuing creative ways of obtaining books in an oppressive Southern Kingdom where women are forbidden to read.

**“Allies” by Alan Gatz**

Racing toward the French coast along with his brothers-in-arms, a terrified World War II soldier from America participates in the top-secret D-Day operation, while a young French spy works to sabotage German occupiers and a paratrooper orchestrates a daring midnight raid.

**“Lalani of the Distant Sea” by Erin Entrada Kelly**

Twelve-year-old Lalani Sarita takes on the impossible task of traveling to the legendary Mount Isa, towering on an island to the north. Generations of men and boys have died on the same quest--how can a timid young girl in a tiny boat survive the epic tests of the archipelago?

**“Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky” by Kwame Mbalia**

Haunted by the bus accident that ended his best friend’s life, seventh grader Tristan Strong dreads a visit to his grandparents’ Alabama farm before a bizarre living doll snatches away his friend’s notebook and draws him into a world of burning seas, iron monsters and exhausted black folk heroes.

**“Legacy” by Shannon Messenger**

Illusions shatter – and Sophie and her friends face impossible choices – in this astonishing eighth book in the best-selling “Keeper of the Lost Cities” series.

**“Minecraft: The End” by Catherynne M. Valente**

The brand-new official Minecraft novel is an epic battle for survival! When humans enter the End, a pair of endermen must decide which side they’re really on.



**“This Was Our Pact” by Ryan Andrews**

When their community celebrates the annual Autumn Equinox Festival by lighting paper lanterns and floating them in the river, Ben and the school misfit, Nathaniel, embark on a bicycle trip to discover what happens to the lanterns.

**“The New Kid” by Jerry Craft**

After his parents send him to a prestigious private school known for its academics, Jordan Banks finds himself torn between two worlds.

**“Just Jaime” by Terri Libenson**

A longtime best friendship is put to the test at the end of seventh grade when two members of a popular clique become divided over their priorities about dressing fashionably and pursuing older interests.

**“The Midwinter Witch” by Molly Ostertag**

Aster always looks forward to the Midwinter Festival, a reunion of the entire Vanissen family that includes competitions in witchery and shap – shifting and this year, he’s especially excited to compete in the annual Jolrun tournament – as a witch.

**“Pumpkinheads” by Rainbow Rowell**

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

**“Lumberjanes: Beware the Kitten Holy” by Noelle Stevenson, Shannon Watters and Grace Ellis**

Friendship to the max! At Miss Quinzella Thistkwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet’s camp for hardcore lady-types, things are not what they seem. Three-eyed foxes. Secret caves. Anagrams. Luckily, Jo, April, Mal, Molly and Ripley are five rad, butt-kicking best pals determined to have an awesome summer together - and they’re not gonna let a magical quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way!



*Recommended by ANNEMARIE, TRAFALGAR BRANCH*



### “Stargazing” by Jen Wang

Chinese-American student Christine is devastated when her artistic best friend, Moon, falls dangerously ill amid revelations that she has been having visions about celestial beings telling her she does not really belong on Earth.

## YA & TEEN



### “Children of Virtue and Vengeance” by Tomi Adeyemi

In a sequel to “Children of Blood and Bone,” Zolie fights to secure Amari’s right to the throne, protect new maji and prevent civil war in the magically restored land of Orisha, where an equally powerful monarchy and the military have united to seize control.

### “The Queen of Nothing” by Holly Black

As the exiled Queen of Faerie, Jude must travel back to Elfhome to help her twin sister, Taryn, and uncover how to break a dark curse threatening the whole Faerie world; final book in the Folk of the Air Trilogy.

### “The Princess and the Fangirl: a Geekerella Fairy Tale” by Ashley Poston

A modern makeover of “The Prince and the Pauper” traces the efforts of a fangirl who wants to save her look-alike television character from being killed off of her favorite TV franchise, and an actress who desperately wants to leave the spotlight, as they switch places in order to catch a bad guy who leaks the script of a much-anticipated sequel.

### “The Fountains of Silence” by Ruta Sepetys

Drawn back to his mother’s homeland by the utopian promises of the Franco regime in 1957 Madrid, the photographer son of an oil tycoon bonds with a girl who raises his awareness about the lingering shadows of the Spanish Civil War.

### “The Toll” by Neal Shusterman

In the highly anticipated finale to the New York Times best-selling trilogy, dictators, prophets and tensions rise. In a world that’s conquered death, will humanity finally be torn asunder by the immortal beings it created?

Recommended by ERIN C., CLARK PLEASANT BRANCH



### “Call Down the Hawk” by Maggie Stiefvater

While dreamers Ronan Lynch and Jordan Hennessy work to control their powers and stop destructive dreaming, government agent Carmen Farooq-Lane is hunting dreamers to prevent the prophesized apocalypse.

## ADULT NONFICTION

### “The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777” by Rick Atkinson

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the Liberation Trilogy presents the first volume in a new series on the American Revolution that draws on perspectives from both sides to chronicle the first 21 months of America’s violent war for independence.

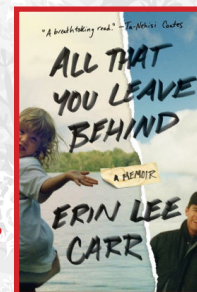
### “The Body: A Guide for Occupants” by Bill Bryson

The award-winning author of “A Short History of Nearly Everything” presents an engaging head-to-toe tour of the human body that shares anecdotal insights into its functions, ability to heal and vulnerability to disease.

### “All That You Leave Behind” by Erin Lee Carr

A documentary filmmaker and daughter of the late, great New York Times’ columnist David Carr celebrates and wrestles with her father’s legacy in a raw, redemptive memoir.

Recommended by ERIN K., LIBRARY SERVICES CENTER



### “Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee” by Casey Cep

Documents the remarkable story of 1970s Alabama serial killer Willie Maxwell and the true crime book on the Deep South’s racial politics and justice system that consumed Harper Lee in the years after “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

### “Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?: Big Questions From Tiny Mortals About Death” by Caitlin Doughty

The creator of the “Ask a Mortician” web series and best-selling author provides comprehensive, science based answers to common questions about death, dead bodies and decomposition.



### **“Southern Lady Code: Essays” by Helen Ellis**

The best-selling author of “American Housewife” presents a riotous collection of essays on the art of living as a “Southern Lady” that explores subjects ranging from marriage and manners to women’s health and entertaining.

### **“Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don’t Know” by Malcolm Gladwell**

“Talking to Strangers” is a classically Gladwellian intellectual adventure, a challenging and controversial excursion through history, psychology and scandals taken straight from the news. Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don’t know. And because we don’t know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world.

### **“The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West” by David McCullough**

Best-selling author David McCullough chronicles the lesser-known settling of the Northwest Territory by dauntless pioneers whose community ideals shaped a fledgling America.

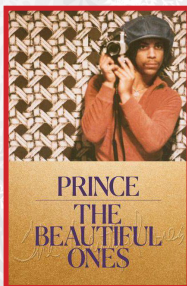
### **“Songs of America: Patriotism, Protest, and the Music That Made a Nation” by Jon Meacham & Tim McGraw**

A Pulitzer Prize-winning author and a Grammy-winning music artist celebrate America and the music that inspired people and illuminated eras, from the Revolutionary War to the present.

### **“The Beautiful Ones” by Prince**

Prince started writing “The Beautiful Ones” just a few months before his untimely passing in 2016. His co-author has explored Prince’s archives in order to complete the book, and although it doesn’t feel finished, it’s still a must-read for anyone interested in one of the most original musicians who ever lived. The book is funny, touching and has lots of great photographs.

*Recommended by DAVIN, CLARK PLEASANT BRANCH*



## **ADULT FICTION**

### **“To Be Taught, If Fortunate” by Becky Chambers**

While on a mission to ecologically survey four habitable worlds, Ariadne O’Neill and a team of explorers, shifting through space and time, discover that the culture back on Earth has been transformed and must make a difficult decision.

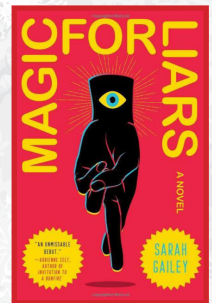
### **“The Long Call” by Ann Cleeves**

When a man with a significant tattoo is found murdered in North Devon, Detective Matthew Venn is forced to return to the strict evangelical community of his childhood to uncover deadly secrets.

### **“Magic for Liars” by Sarah Gailey**

Sharp, mainstream fantasy meets compelling thrills of investigative noir when Detective Ivy Gamble embarks on a search for a killer at a California private academy for mages where her estranged, magically gifted twin, Tabitha, hides in plain sight.

*Recommended by ELYSSA, TRAFALGAR BRANCH*



### **“The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls” by Anissa Gray**

When their formidably strong-willed eldest sister is arrested, abruptly transitioning their family from respectability to disgrace, two younger sisters confront complicated dynamics in their family and identities to uncover what really happened.

### **“The Stranger Diaries” by Elly Griffiths**

A high-school English teacher chronicles her suspicions about the murder of a colleague before discovering a sinister message in her own diary.

### **“Before She Was Found” by Heather Gudenkauf**

The Edgar Award-nominated author of “The Weight of Silence” presents a high suspense thriller involving three young girlfriends, a dark obsession and a chilling crime that shakes up a quiet Iowa community.



### **“Ellie and the Harpmaker” by Hazel Prior**

On the anniversary of her beloved father’s death, Ellie Jacobs takes a walk in the woods on the English moors and comes across the barn of Dan Hollis, who carves beautiful Celtic harps.

### **“The Farm” by Joanne Ramos**

Ensnared within a Hudson Valley retreat where expectant birth mothers are given luxurious accommodations and lucrative rewards to produce perfect babies, a Filipino immigrant is forced to choose between a life-changing payment and the outside world.

### **“Normal People” by Sally Rooney**

The unconventional secret childhood bond between a popular boy and a lonely, intensely private girl is tested by character reversals in their first year at a Dublin college that render one introspective and the other social, but self-destructive.

### **“Light From Other Stars” by Erika Swyler**

Decades after her grieving father, a laid off NASA scientist, triggers chaotic changes in his pursuit of life-extending technology, an astronaut confronts dangerous family secrets to stop a world-threatening crisis.

### **“Wanderers” by Chuck Wendig**

When her little sister is afflicted by a bizarre sleepwalking disorder that begins to affect people all across the country, Shana is embroiled in an apocalyptic epidemic involving a decadent rock star, a religious radio host and a disgraced scientist.



### **“The Wedding Party” by Jasmine Guillory**

Maddie and Theo have two things in common: Alexa is their best friend, and they hate each other. After an “oops, we made a mistake” night together, neither one can stop thinking about the other. With Alexa’s wedding rapidly approaching, Maddie and Theo both share bridal party responsibilities that require more interaction than they’re comfortable with.

### **“Life and Other Inconveniences” by Kristan Higgins**

A blue-blood grandmother and her black sheep granddaughter discover they are truly two sides of the same coin.

### **“Never Have I Ever” by Joshilyn Jackson**

When her loved ones are put in danger by a blackmailer who threatens to expose dangerous secrets, a devoted family woman struggles to keep the upper hand in an escalating war of betrayal.

### **“The Unlikely Adventures of the Shergill Sisters” by Balli Kaur Jaswal**

Making an obligatory pilgrimage to the Golden Temple in Amritsar to carry out their mother’s final rites, three estranged British-Punjabi sisters make unexpected discoveries about why their mother was forced to leave India.

### **“The Swallows” by Lisa Lutz**

When a creative writing assignment leads to unsettling allegations about her school’s indifference to sexual assault, a new teacher organizes a group of marginalized girls in an escalating gender war.

### **“Middlegame” by Seanan McGuire**

In an alternate reality world under the shadow of a magical government bent on transmuting the fabric of reality, two alchemical twins, one skilled with language and the other with math, become catalysts in their creator’s grab for power.

### **“The Wolf Wants In” by Laura McHugh**

A woman confronts a dark secret about her brother’s death while a teen becomes increasingly desperate to escape their opioid ravaged community.





### “The Chain” by Adrian McKinty

A parent receives a panicked phone call from a stranger who reveals that both of their children have been kidnapped by someone who demands that they abduct another child to prevent the murders of their own.

### “Red, White & Royal Blue” by Casey McQuiston

A big hearted romantic comedy in which the First Son falls in love with the Prince of Wales after an incident of international proportions forces them to pretend to be best friends.

### “The Nanny” by Gilly Macmillan

Leaving her home after the mysterious disappearance of her beloved nanny, an embittered woman is forced to return decades later when the discovery of human remains forces her to question everything she thought she knew. In this compulsively readable tale of secrets, lies and deception, Gilly Macmillan explores the darkest impulses and desires of the human heart.



*Recommended by LINDA, WHITE RIVER BRANCH*

### “The Satapur Moonstone” by Sujata Massey

India’s only female lawyer in 1922 helps the royal ladies of Satapur by getting involved in the power plays and ancient vendettas of the palace.

### “Come and Get Me” by August Norman

When award-winning journalist Caitlin Bergman is invited back to Indiana University to receive an honorary degree, she finds an opportunity for a well-earned victory lap; and a chance to face the trauma that almost destroyed her as an undergrad. But her lap becomes an all-out race when a student begs her to probe an unsolved campus disappearance: Angela Chapman went out one Friday night and never came back.



*Recommended by KELLY, FRANKLIN BRANCH*

