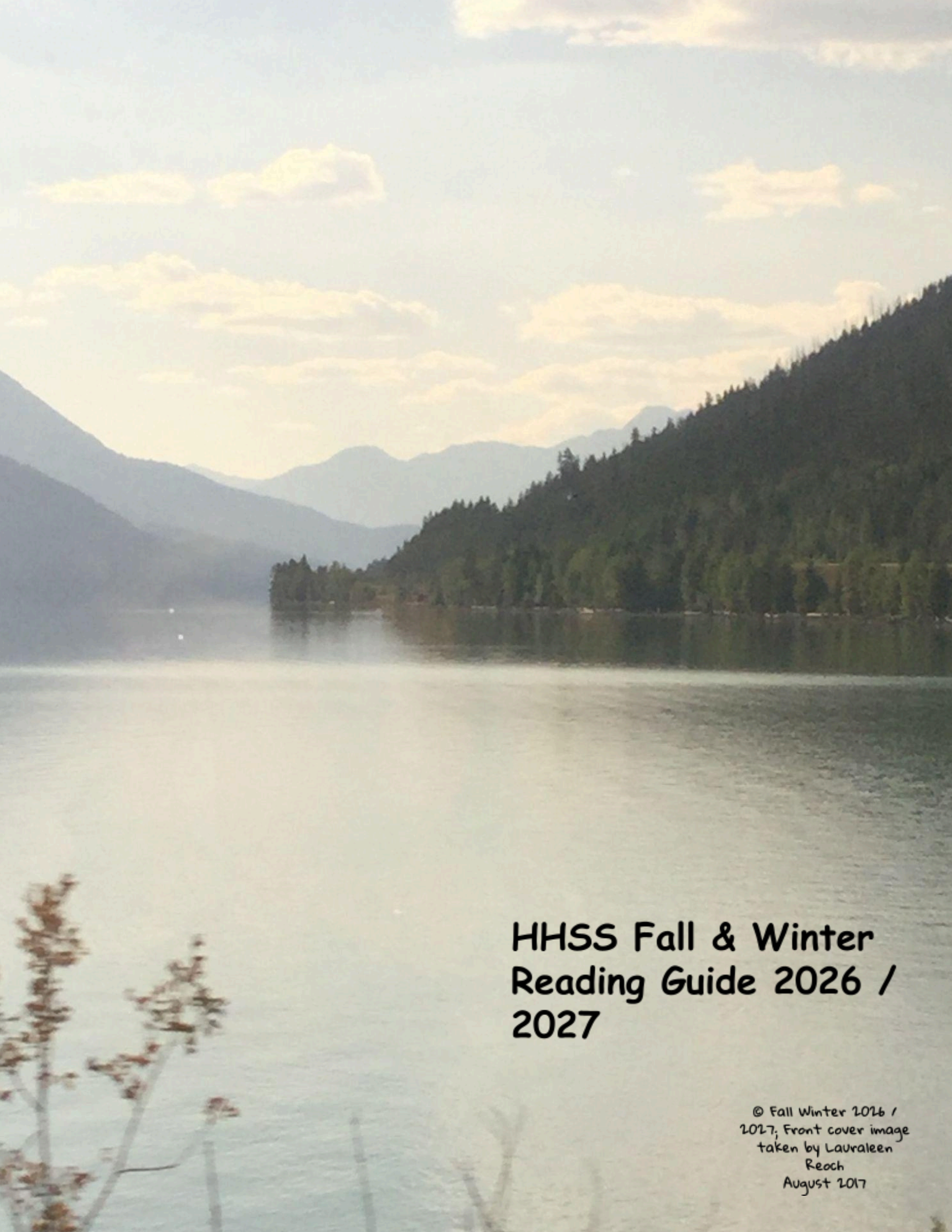


# HHSS Fall & Winter Reading Guide 2026 / 2027

© Fall Winter 2026 / 2027, Front cover image taken by Lauraleen Reoch August 2017

# welcome, readers!

welcome to our tenth reading guide for HHSS. It is my hope that this edition will offer some titles that will engage, as well as challenge your thinking, you on your reading journey.

Throughout this guide you will find books that have been - or will be - published in 2026. It would be worthwhile to see what titles are coming out that you could find interesting.

There are titles mentioned in this guide that you will be able to access through the library at HHSS while others you may need to make a visit to your closest Kitchener Public Library branch.

Your reading life should bring you joy, happiness and an eagerness to share your love of reading. There are so many amazing books which have been published in recent years that it is truly a daunting task to make reading choices. Hopefully, this fall and winter reading guide will offer you ideas to further your reading enjoyment.

As a teacher-librarian it is always enjoyable to see what books are being requested in person, as well as trends that are occurring on platforms such as #BookTok and #Bookstagram.

# Reading Philosophy

Reading is a very personal activity. In many cases the timing of reading is everything. A plethora of good books exist and are being published regularly. Hopefully selections throughout this guide will offer you encouragement in your reading life.

The best advice to you - the reader - is to know what you need as a reader. Stay with your own tastes with a selection or two outside of your comfort zone to determine what you need right now. You are encouraged to "play" with genres that you would not normally gravitate to. Not sure about what you prefer as a reader? Track what you read noting the genre of the books you have been reading as you go.

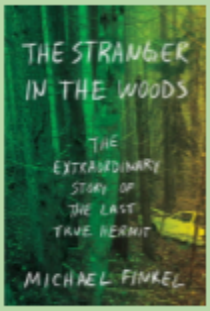
As the spring and summer months progress, tag the HHSS library on social media (Instagram @hhsslibrary; X @HHSS_Library) to share your selections.

# Exploring The wild

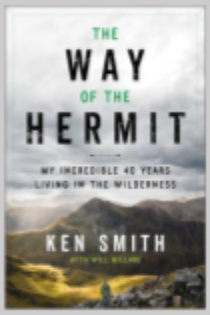
Watch Me Disappear by Janelle Brown
Spiegel & Grau - July 11, 2017; 368 pages
Themes: Family life; Thriller; Women




The Stranger in the Woods by Michael Finkel
Vintage - January 30, 2018; 224 pages
Themes: Nature (Ecosystems); Biography




The Way of the Hermit by Ken Smith
Hanover Square Press - May 28, 2024
Themes: Biography; Survival; Adventure




Where the Falcon Flies by Adam Shoalts
Penguin Canada - April 29, 2025
Themes: Biography; Adventure; Environment



# Releases of 2026

Liberty Street by Heather Marshall
Doubleday Canada - February 24, 2026
Themes: History; Friendship; Women




Into the Blue by Emma Brodie
Ballantine Books - April 7, 2026
Themes: Literary fiction; Women; Romance




The Shippers by Katherine Center
St Martin's Press - May 19, 2026
Themes: Fiction; Rom Com; Women




The Night We Met by Abby Jimenez
Forever - March 24, 2026
Themes: Rom Com; Fiction; Women

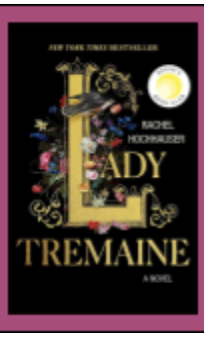


# Debut Books of 2026

Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke
Knopf Canada - April 7, 2026
Themes: Fiction; Dark humour; Thriller




Lady Tremaine by Rachel Hochhauser
St Martin's Press - March 3, 2026
Themes: Fiction; Historical; Fairy tales; Mythology




Names Have Been Changed by Yu-Mei Balasingamchow
Penguin Publishing Group - June 23, 2026
Themes: Fiction; Asian American; Pacific Islander; Crime




The Infamous Gilberts by Angela Tomaski
Scribner - January 20, 2026
Themes: Fiction; Gothic; Family life

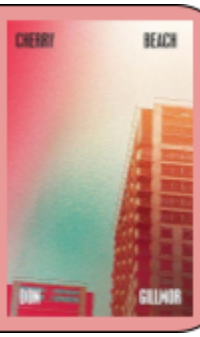


# Canadian Authored Books

The Last Mandarin by Louise Penny and Melissa Fung
St Martin's Press - May 12, 2026
Themes: Fiction; Thrillers - Political & Suspense




Cherry Beach by Don Gillmore
Biblioasis - April 14, 2026; 272 pages
Themes: Fiction; Mystery; Detective; City life




Son of Nobody by Yann Martel
Knopf Canada - March 31, 2026; 352 pages
Themes: Literary fiction; Fairy tales; Mythology




The Cure for Drowning by Loghan Paylor
Random House Inc - January 30, 2026; 400 pages
Themes: Fiction; World War 2; Holocaust; Magical realism



# Staff Reads

A Rip Through Time by Kelley Armstrong
St Martin's - January 31, 2023
Available formats: Print; eBook; Audio




Bonded By Thorns by Elizabeth Helen
Bloom Books - November 4, 2025
Available formats: Print; eBook; Audio




Rings of Fire by Melissa De La Cruz
Entangled Red Tower Books - January 6, 2026
Available formats: Print; eBook; Audio




Ready Player Two by Ernest Cline
Ballantine Books - November 9, 2021
Available formats: Print; eBook; Audio



# A Guide to Becoming a Reader

1. Start small

2. Track what you are reading

3. Ask for book recommendations

4. Talk about the book(s) you are reading

5. Give audiobooks a try

6. Read consistently

7. Carry a book with you

8. Join a book club (it could be in person or online)

9. Surround yourself with readers

10. Surround yourself with books

# Reading BINGO

| B | I | N | G | O |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A standalone book | 400 (or more) pages | New to you author | A book published this year | A book you judged by the cover |
| One word title | Number in the title | Popular #booktok book | 1st book in your TBR | Finish a book in a day |
| Rom com | Book recommended by a friend | Free  space | Book outside of your comfort genre | Book with a colour in the title |
| Book that became a movie / show | Book with a strong female character | Book with a red cover | A re - read | Read a whole series |
| Book by an author with the same name as you | Contains worded chapters | Read in a ‘ber month (October, November, December) | 2026 debut author | Cloaks and daggers (spy thriller) |

# Useful Book Related Links

Take a look at the links provided below for some ideas as to what you may consider reading next!!

**HHSS Library:** Take a moment to visit the HHSS library website at hrh.wrdsb.ca/library to see new additions to our collection. If HHSS doesn't have a book you are looking for we can make a request from other secondary schools in the WRDSB.

**Goodreads:** This is a great resource for finding your next read. Check out goodreads.com

**Public Libraries:** Visiting your local branch of a library is another fantastic spot for book browsing. Check out the following public library websites for even more bookish enjoyment:

- Cambridge Public Library (cambridgepl.ca)
- Guelph Public Library (guelphpl.ca)
- Hamilton Public Library (hpl.ca)
- Kitchener Public Library (kpl.org)
- Waterloo Public Library (wpl.ca)
- Toronto Public Library (tpl.ca)

**Modern Mrs Darcy:** This is truly a delightful site for many things book related. Visit modernmrsdarcy.com for a variety of book type ideas and suggestions.

**Book Browse:** This site offers suggestions of newly released books, book club options and so much more. Visit bookbrowse.com for a variety of book related themes and suggestions.

**Fable:** This app fits the bill for avid readers and movie lovers. It offers insight into genres that you gravitate to, allows you to set a goal for how many books you wish to read in a year and so much more. Check out fable.co/ for more information.

**Story Graph:** This website is another option for tracking what you read in a year. Take a look at thestorygraph.com/ to see if this is an option for you.

# Classic Gothic Novels

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson
Various publishers - January 5, 1886
Themes: Classic fiction; Horror; Psychological



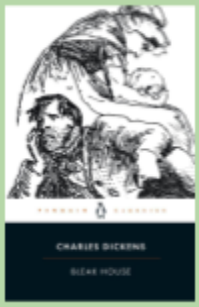

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier
Various publishers - August 5, 1938
Themes: Classic fiction



The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
Various publishers - July 1890
Themes: Literary fiction; Classic; Psychological



Bleak House by Charles Dickens
Various publishers - March 1852 to September 1853
Themes: Literary fiction; Classic



# Medical Drama Books

Enormous Wings by Laurie Frankel
Henry Holt and Co - May 5, 2026; 291 pages
Themes: Fiction; Family life; Humour




Mischling by Affinity Konar
Random House Canada - September 6, 2016; 352 pages
Themes: Fiction; History; World War 2; Holocaust




Blood Orange Night by Melissa Bond
Gallery Books - August 1, 2023; 304 pages
Themes: Biography; Substance abuse




The Queen of Hearts by Kimmery Martin
Berkley - February 5, 2019; 368 pages
Themes: Women; Fiction; Friendship



# Books Set in Canada

| Province | Title | Author |
|---|---|---|
| British Columbia | Greenwood | Michael Christie |
| Alberta | Divinity and the Python | Bonnie Randall |
| Saskatchewan | Who Has Seen the Wind | W O Mitchell |
| Manitoba | The Break | Katherena Vermette |
| Ontario | The Stone Carvers | Jane Urquhart |
| Quebec | Still Life | Louise Penny |
| New Brunswick | The Shipping News | Annie Proulx |
| Nova Scotia | The Bishop's Man | Linden MacIntyre |
| Prince Edward Island | Anne of Green Gables | L M Montgomery |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | The Wake | Linden MacIntyre |
| Yukon | The Call of the Wild | Jack London |
| Northwest Territories | Late Nights on Air | Elizabeth Hay |
| Nunavut | Split Tooth | Tanya Tagaq |

# Books Set Abroad

| Country | Title | Author |
|---|---|---|
| Austria | The Third Man | Graham Green |
| Australia | Tomorrow, When the War Began | John Marsden |
| Barbados | The Island of Forgetting | Jasmine Sealy |
| Belgium | Villette | Charlotte Brontë |
| China | Shanghai Girls | Lisa See |
| Cuba | Next Year in Havana | Chanel Cleeton |
| Denmark | Hamlet | William Shakespeare |
| Egypt | Death on the Nile | Agatha Christie |
| Estonia | The Lace Weaver | Lauren Chater |
| Finland | The Witch Hunter | Max Seeck |
| France | All the Light we Cannot See | Anthony Doerr |
| Germany | The Book Thief | Markus Zusak |
| Great Britain | Pride and Prejudice | Jane Austen |
| Greece | Circe | Madeline Miller |
| India | The Henna Artist | Alka Joshi |
| Iran | Moon at Nine | Deborah Ellis |
| Iraq | When the Apricots Bloom | Gina Wilkinson |
| Italy | One Italian Summer | Rebecca Serle |
| Japan | Memoirs of a Geisha | Arthur Golden |

| Country | Title | Author |
|---|---|---|
| Mexico | Mexican Gothic | Silvia Moreno-Garcia |
| Mongolia | Genghis: Birth of an Empire | Conn Iggulden |
| Netherlands | The Diary of a Young Girl | Anne Frank |
| New Zealand | Strange Sally Diamond | Liz Nugent |
| Northern Ireland | The Ghosts of Belfast | Stuart Neville |
| Pakistan | Home Fire | Kamila Shamsie |
| Portugal | The High Mountains of Portugal | Yann Martel |
| Republic of Ireland | In the Woods | Tana French |
| Russia | War and Peace | Leo Tolstoy |
| Rwanda | Shake Hands with the Devil | Roméo Dallaire |
| Scotland | A Rip Through Time | Kelley Armstrong |
| Spain | The Shadow of the Wind | Carlos Ruiz Zafón |
| Sweden | A Man Called Ove | Fredrik Backman |
| Switzerland | The Swiss Summer | Stella Gibbons |
| Turkey | The Bastard of Istanbul | Joseph Kanon |
| Ukraine | The Diamond Eye | Kate Quinn |
| Wales | Here Be Dragons | Sharon Kay Penman |

# My To Be Read List

A healthy To Be Read list will assist you in never being left looking for the next book to read. You are encouraged to not only include the title and author, but also why you have chosen the title.

| Book Title | Author | Why |
|---|---|---|
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# Literary Festivals to Look For

Check out the list of festivals below with the possibility that you could attend one (or multiple) of these events in the upcoming year. Many authors will attend these festivals with their most recent releases - maybe you would enjoy curating your own collection of autographed books!!

## Eden Mills Writers Festival (edenmillswritersfestival.ca)

This wonderful festival is taking place in Eden Mills just outside of Guelph. Keep an eye on their website for more details pertaining to the September 18 to 20, 2026 festival. The format is very informal and multiple authors will be providing insight into their writing process, reading from their most recent publication and so much more.

## GritLit (gritlit.ca)

GritLit is a four day event held in downtown Hamilton. Participants can attend writing master classes, author readings and so much more.

## Toronto International Festival of Authors (festivalofauthors.ca)

This multi day event is held in the Harbourfront area of Toronto with various events taking place in September and usually early June. Many author events take place with the opportunity to obtain an autographed copy of the author's most recent work.

## Toronto Comic Arts Festival (torontocomics.com)

If manga, comics and / or graphic novels are of interest to you, check out this festival taking place June 6 and 7, 2026. This years event is to be held at the Mattamy Athletic Centre. A plethora of vendors will be available if you are looking to expand your personal library.

## Burlington Literary Festival (bpl.on.ca/BurlLitFest)

BurlLITFest is a month-long event with various workshops available to participants along with author talks. Take a look at their site for updates for announcements for this year's lineup.

# Useful Links For You

There are a number of useful links for the library at Huron Heights Secondary School. These can be useful for doing research, finding that next fantastic read and so much more!!

Catalogue for the WRDSB

HHSS Library website

HHSS Library X Account



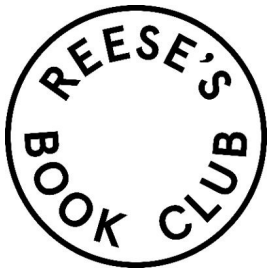

HHSS Library Insta

# Reading Journal

| Title & Author | Thoughts & Summary |
| --- | --- |
| | |
| **Details** | |
| Genre | |
| Recommended by | |
| Pages | |
| Start Date | |
| End Date | |
| My Rating | |

# Celebrity Book Club Selections

Take an opportunity to find out what books various celebrities are choosing for their book clubs from the list below!!




| Month | Title | Author |
|---|---|---|
| January | The First Time I Saw Him | Laura Dave |
| February | In Her Defence | Philippa Malicka |
| March | Lady Tremaine | Rachel Hochhauser |
| April | All That Life Can Afford | Emily Everett |
| May | Great Big Beautiful Life | Emily Henry |
| June | A Pair of Aces | Marie Benedict |
| July | The Heir Apparent | Rebecca Armitage |
| August | The Wild Beneath | Kelly Anderson |
| September | Big Little Truths | Liane Moriarty |
| October | Stophie, Standing There | Meg Mason |
| November | The Great Wherever | Shannon Sanders |
| December | | |




| Month | Title | Author |
|---|---|---|
| January | Skylark | Paula McLain |
| February | The Exes | Leodora Darlington |
| March | The Secret Lives of Murderers' Wives | Elizabeth Arnott |
| April | Yesteryear | Caro Claire Burke |
| May | Homebound | Portia Elan |
| June | Dolly All the Time | Annabel Monaghan |
| July | The Compound | Aisling Rawle |
| August | Take What You Can | Naima Coster |
| September | Under Story | Chloe Benjamin |
| October | Bad Words | Rioghnach Robinson |
| November | Whale Harbor | Mary Beth Keane |
| December | | |

| Month | Title | Author |
|---|---|---|
| January | Homeschooled: A Memoir | Stefan Merrill Block |
| February | one and only | Maurene Goo |
| March | wait for Me | Amy Jo Burns |
| April | Upward Bound | woody Brown |
| May | Caller Unknown | Gillian McAllister |
| June | The Children | Melissa Albert |
| July | The Shampoo Effect | Jenny Jackson |
| August | Sunlight Finds You | Laura Moriarty |
| September | The witches of Cambridge | Alice Hoffman |
| october | Partita | Barbara Kingsolver |
| November | Sweet Pea | Kit de wall |
| December | | |




| Month | Title | Author |
|---|---|---|
| January | Night People: How To Be a DJ in 90s New York City | Mark Ronson |
| February | The Son of a Man | Jean-Baptiste Del Amo |
| March | Bad Feminist | Roxane Gay |
| April | Jerusalem | Jez Butterworth |
| May | So Late In The Day | Claire Keegan |
| June | Having Spent Life Seeking | Kae Tempest |
| July | Free: Coming of Age at the End of History | Lea Ypi |
| August | Lost Lambs | Madeline Cash |
| September | Martyr! | Kaveh Akbar |
| October | Klara and the Sun | Kazuo Ishiguro |
| November | White Teeth | Zadie Smith |
| December | | |




| Month | Title | Author |
|---|---|---|
| January | Small Town Girls | Jayne Anne Phillips |
| February | Kin | Tayari Jones |
| March | Kin | Tayari Jones |
| April | Go Gentle | Maria Semple |
| May | John of John | Douglas Stuart |
| June | Little Wonder | Sophie Chen Keller |
| July | Little Wonder | Sophie Chen |
| August | The River Is Waiting | Wally Lamb |
| September | No selection for this month | |
| October | Hungered | Amanda Rizkalla |
| November | | |
| December | | |

# HHSS Book Club Selections

Take an opportunity to find out what books our very own HHSS book club will be reading for the 2026 / 2027 school year. Two options are available to choose from but you only need to read one (unless you are feeling extra adventurous).

| Month | Title | Author |
|---|---|---|
| Sept 24/26 | The Blackbird Girls<br>My Real Name Is Hanna | Anne Blankman<br>Tara L Masih |
| Oct 29/26 | Great Big Beautiful Life<br>Book Lovers | Emily Henry<br>Emily Henry |
| Nov 26/26 | The Gilded Blade<br>A Good Girls Guide to Murder | Jennifer Lynn Barnes<br>Holly Jackson |
| Dec 17/26 | Lore<br>I, Medusa | Alexandra Bracken<br>Ayana Gray |
| Feb 25/27 | The Weight of Blood<br>Underground to Canada | Tiffany D Jackson<br>Barbara Smucker |
| March 25/27 | A book highlighted in a previous reading guide of HHSS (check them out HERE) | |
| April 29/27 | Seven Fallen Feathers<br>From the Ashes | Tanya Talaga<br>Jesse Thistle |
| May 27/27 | The Migrant Rain Falls in Reverse<br>You Know What You Did | Vinh Nguyen<br>K T Nguyen |
| June 17/27 | A book of your choosing | |