

LIT PICKS

A curated selection of the Web's literary tidbits

"Lit Picks" is our DC Public Library insider's guide to the literary pieces we're reading, liking and sharing. We hope you enjoy our look at some of the best and most interesting items the Web has to offer on books, reading and life.

Bibliophiles Get Their Kicks



Despite last night's loss to Belgium, Team USA made us very proud at this year's World Cup. For those who were reading instead of following the games, you were not alone -- a recent survey concluded that "37% of people who aren't interested in the World Cup turn to books to escape." Book publisher *Penguin* has created a literary version of the sport for those who would like to drown their sorrows in good literature.

The [Penguin Cup](#) consists of 16 countries competing for literary supremacy. Each country's profile features a brief literary history, a star author, and a favorite book. Greece's team depicts ancient history, highlighting some of the world's greatest philosophers such as Homer, Aristotle and Plato. In contrast, the U.S. team constitutes a younger history with American authors such as Philip Roth, Mark Twain, J.D. Salinger, Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck and F. Scott Fitzgerald. From age-old to modern literature, each country boasts a strong team of authors whose works have enlightened readers across the globe.

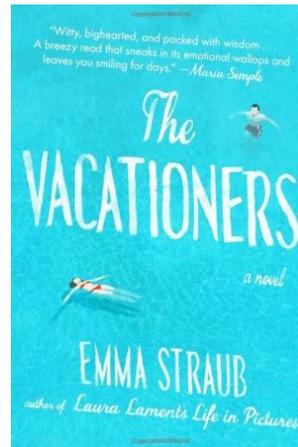
Find books by your favorite American author at your neighborhood DCPL location. If you'd prefer to learn more about the world's current obsession, [here's](#) a list of books about soccer available at the Library. *The Daily Beast* also created [a great list](#) of recommended books about futbol and its history, if you're eager to get ready to cheer on Team USA in 2018!

Battle of the Summer Reading Lists

Summer is synonymous with beaching, barbecuing, and (leisure) reading. We couldn't think of a better way to relax and recharge than basking on the beach with a great book.

Lists of suggested summer reads are on offer across the web - from fashion site [Refinery29](#) to social media news site [Mashable](#) to literary site [The Millions](#).

[Brightest Young Things](#) has compiled one of our favorite lists curated by a selection of talented D.C. artists and writers -- including one of our favorite Washingtonians, the lovely [Morgan Hungerford West](#) -- and [Kramerbooks](#) staff. This list encompasses a variety of genres. If you are looking to immerse yourself in a psychological thriller, try Tom Robb Smith's *The Farm*. Are you in need of some savvy business inspiration? Read fashion CEO Sophia Armuroso's rags to riches tale, *#GIRLBOSS*. If you find your own summer getaway going stale, pick up Emma Straub's *The Vacationers* and experience the Post family's juicy vacation instead.



Of course, our other favorite list hails from our own [DCPL staff](#), who curated a list of recommended reads. We look forward to re-living the era of 90's grunge via *Rolling Stone* writer Rob Sheffield's [Love is a Mix-Tape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time](#).

Picturing Literature's Descriptive Dishes



"On buffet tables, garnished with glistening hors-d'oeuvre, spiced baked hams crowded against salads of harlequin designs, and pastry pies and turkeys bewitched to a dark gold."

If F. Scott Fitzgerald's above description of a decadent spread at one of Jay Gatsby's parties doesn't have you salivating, wait until you see Dinah Fried's photographic representation of the meal.

Graphic designer and writer Dinah Fried places you in the overhead position of prominent literary characters as they prepare to chow down. [Fictitious Dishes: An Album of Literature's Most Memorable Meals](#) contains a collection of photographs depicting some of literature's most iconic meals. Fried cooked all of the meals, staged the photos with punctilious attention to detail, and paired the resulting photo with the literary quote. [Dinah chatted with NPR](#) to discuss the process and reveal some of her creative decisions. Scan her album for illustrations of Holden Caulfield's swiss cheese sandwich and Sal Paradise's apple pie.

If these images trigger your appetite, think about joining us for [Books & Bites](#) at the MLK Library. Every Wednesday between 11 am and 2 pm, you can find food trucks, books

and live music under the loggia.

Celebrating the Life & Career of Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou accomplished enough in her lifetime to occupy ten more lives. She was a teenage mother, talented dancer, world traveler, civil rights activist, internationally acclaimed author and poet, television and film trailblazer... and the list goes on. A profound and progressive thinker, her impact will continue to influence and inform future generations.



Eight years ago, Maya Angelou wrote a note to her 17-year-old self, featuring the advice "Be courageous, but not foolhardy." The note reveals Angelou's decision to move out of her mother's house shortly after giving birth to her son. This courageous act allowed her to set her own path and lead a bold life. Click [here](#) to read the full note.

Swing by your neighborhood library to revisit her classic, [I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#).

Prison Picks



A jail sentence, while far from desired, would at least present the opportunity to catch up on some reading. The characters in the TV show *Orange is the New Black* definitely agree. *Vulture* has compiled a [list](#) of all of the books that have been featured in season 2 of the Netflix original show. The featured titles function as props, arming the viewer with insight into each of these characters.

The protagonist, Piper, passes the time in solitary confinement by tackling Tolstoy's lengthy and dense [Anna Karenina](#). The story's central love triangle also speaks to Piper's own romantic complications. DC Public Library's close friend, [Hanna Rosin](#), receives a mention when one of the few male characters is found reading her book, [The End of Men](#), to relate to the female prisoners that surround him.

As demonstrated in the show, having access to books and information in jail is extremely meaningful for those incarcerated. The DC Public Library has partnered with the D.C. Department of Corrections to [bring a library to the D.C. Jail](#). We look forward to providing those inmates with library services soon.

Quick Picks

- **How much do you love your public library?** Pew Research has released a [library user quiz](#) to test your level of engagement with public libraries -- ranging from "Library Lovers" to "Off the Grid."
- **Literature & Lyrics:** [Literary Jukebox](#) is a fun site that pairs quotes from beloved books with a thematically related song.
- **Deserted Libraries of the Mauritania Desert:** Once upon a medieval time, the now West African ghost town of Chinguetti served as a scholarly hub for education. Despite flash flooding and severe drought over the years, [some libraries still remain](#).
- **Literary Voices of the Past:** [Listen](#) to rare recordings of big name authors such as Ernest Hemingway, Walt Whitman, Sylvia Plath, F. Scott Fitzgerald and more.

Upcoming Library Events

Please join us at the DC Public Library for any of these wonderful upcoming events, and check out the [calendar](#) for even more fantastic programming at your local library:

- **Books & Bites:** Join us for lunch at the MLK Library for food trucks, books and live music.
 - [Every Wednesday, 6/18-8/27, 11 am - 2 pm](#)
- **Capital Fringe @DCPL:** Throughout June and July, Capital Fringe will present a series of live acoustic concerts in MLK Library's Great Hall. They are also conducting workshops for independent theater.
 - Click [here](#) to find live performances and trainings
- **Author Talk with Chris Colfer:** The Golden Globe-winning actor and bestselling children's author will visit us at MLK for a quick chat and book signing.
 - [Monday, 7/14, 6:30 pm](#)
- **4 Nationals Players at 4 Libraries:** Four Washington Nats players will visit four neighborhood libraries as part of their effort to support Summer Reading.
 - [Saturday, 7/19, time TBD](#)
- **District of Change: Making Schools Better in D.C.:** Join us for our second *District of Change* event, curated by Hanna Rosin and David Plotz, where we will talk to principals from around the city and learn about their challenges and successes working in public education.
 - [Wednesday, 9/10, 7 pm](#)

The DC Public Library Foundation thanks you for your support! Now is a very exciting time to invest in the future of the DC Public Library. If you haven't already, please give this year! Visit dclibrary.org/giving to learn more about the Literati and the Ex Libris Society giving memberships, and donate today!