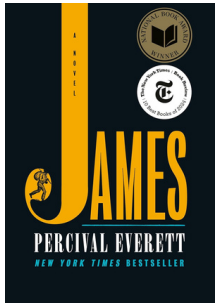


2025 Summer Reading List

ACLU
New Mexico

Do what's right, even when it isn't easy

History teaches us that resistance thrives in difficult times. This summer, as we face a second Trump administration determined to strip away our hard-won rights, we're leaning into courage. These books reflect the boldness, vision, and grit it takes to keep going when everything feels uphill.



James

by Percival Everett

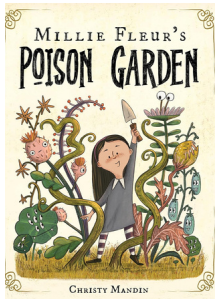
In a re-imagining of Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, this story is told from the perspective of Huck's friend, Jim, who is an escaped slave. *James* radically reclaims Jim's agency, intelligence, and experience as a Black character in classic American literature. **(Fiction)**



Sunrise on the Reaping

by Suzanne Collins

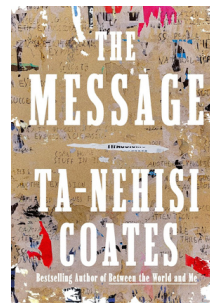
As the 50th Hunger Games begin, a young Haymitch Abernathy is ripped from District 12 and the girl he loves. Thrust into the Capitol alongside unlikely allies, Haymitch quickly realizes the odds are rigged against him. But he's not going down without a fight—one that could echo far beyond the arena. **(YA Dystopian)**



Millie Fleur's Poison Garden

by Christy Mandin

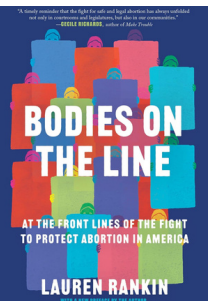
Garden Glen is neat, tidy—and totally boring—until Millie Fleur and her wildly weird garden arrive. *Millie Fleur's Poison Garden* is a quirky, heartwarming tale about embracing what makes you wonderfully weird. **(Children's)**



The Message

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

In three powerful essays, Coates journeys through Senegal, South Carolina, and the West Bank, confronting the political messaging & mythology that distort our reality and challenging the narratives that divide us. *The Message* is a searing exploration of identity, narratives, and truth. **(Nonfiction)**



Bodies on the Line

by Lauren Rankin

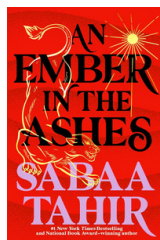
Bodies on the Line tells the untold story of clinic escorts—volunteers who protect abortion access by guiding patients through crowds of hostility with courage and care. As Roe falls and threats grow, Lauren Rankin weaves history, interviews, and personal experience into a powerful call to action. This is a vital, urgent reminder that protecting abortion is about human dignity—and everyday people are on the front lines. **(Nonfiction)**



PICK YOURS UP AT BOOKWORKS

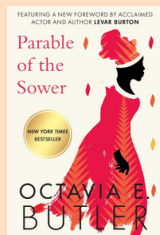
Pick up any of these titles at Bookworks in Albuquerque or online at Bookshop.org. When you buy through Bookworks, a portion of sales will support our ongoing work for justice—so your reading fuels the fight.

2025 Summer Reading List



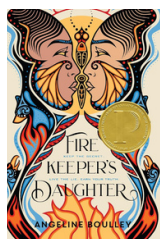
An Ember in the Ashes *by Sabaa Tahir*

In a fantasy empire inspired by ancient Rome, Laia's brother is arrested, forcing her to spy for rebels in exchange for his rescue. She meets Elias, a top military student who secretly longs for freedom—together, their choices could shake the empire to its core. **(YA Fantasy)**



The Parable of the Sower *by Octavia E. Butler*

Set in a post-apocalyptic world in the year 2024, a displaced fifteen-year-old named Lauren Olamina is burdened by empathic powers that makes others' pain her own. As she navigates a world ravaged by climate change, wealth inequality, and corporate greed, Lauren's fight for survival sparks the rise of a new faith and a bold vision for humanity's future. **(Science Fiction)**



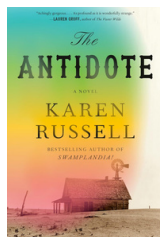
Fire Keeper's Daughter *by Angeline Boulley*

Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has always lived between worlds—never fully accepted in her hometown or on the Ojibwe reservation. When a murder pulls her into an FBI investigation, she must go undercover, using her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to uncover the truth—even if it means risking everything for her community. **(YA Thriller)**



The Buffalo Hunter Hunter *by Stephen Graham Jones*

When a 1912 diary is found hidden in a wall, it reveals a chilling legacy of violence; rooted in the massacre of 217 Blackfeet left dead in the snow. Told through the haunting confessions of a man named Good Stab, this is a brutal and unforgettable tale of Indigenous revenge from horror master Stephen Graham Jones. **(Horror)**



The Antidote *by Karen Russell*

A catastrophic dust storm ravages the crumbling town of Uz, Nebraska; a place already collapsing by drought, depression, and violence. Echoing urgent warnings for our current climate emergency, Russell challenges readers to reckon with what was and imagine what could still be. **(Historical Fiction)**



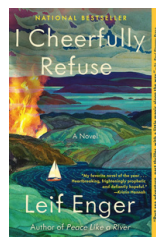
One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This *by Omar El Akkad*

In his nonfiction debut, Omar El Akkad delivers a searing, personal reckoning with broken promises of freedom and justice for all pushed by the West. It is an immigrant's breakup letter to empire; a raw, urgent chronicle of disillusionment and a call for something better in an age of unrelenting violence. **(Memoir)**



The Kingmaker *by Kennedy Ryan*

Oil heir Maxim meets Lennix at a protest against the pipeline his father is pushing. Even if they're supposed to despise each other, Maxim is willing to risk it all to keep her in his life. **(Romance)**



I Cheerfully Refuse *by Leif Enger*

In a not-so-distant future, a grieving musician sets sail on Lake Superior, searching for his lost wife and refuge from a collapsing world. An odyssey equal parts adventure and hope. **(Fiction)**