# Soddy-Daisy Community Library 2025 Summer Reading Recommendations

# Adult

The Soddy-Daisy Community Library is proud to present our 2025 Classic Summer Reading Recommendations.

Some of these selections are recent, while others have been around for some time. We encourage you to step out of your normal reading genres and try something new. Look these books up online for more thorough descriptions - you may just find your next favorite book!

These books were chosen by a panel of librarians, educators and book industry professionals, and represent a diverse cross-section of interests so there is something appealing here for every reader.

Happy Reading!

# **Realistic Fiction**

### **Summers at the Saint**

by Mary Kay Andrews
At a once-glamorous Georgia
beach hotel, a determined
widow must fight to save her
late husband's legacy, fend off
family betrayal, uncover buried
secrets, and maybe even find
love again—all in one
unforgettable summer at the
Saint.

### **Long Time Gone**

When medical fellow Sloan
Hastings submits her DNA for
research, she discovers she's
actually "Baby Charlotte,"
missing for decades after her
wealthy family vanished—
sending her on a suspensefilled search through a small
town's darkest secrets, where
someone will do anything to
keep the truth buried.

#### The Measure

by Nikki Erlick
When mysterious boxes appear
on doorsteps around the world
revealing how many years each
person has left to live, eight

strangers must grapple with love, fate, and the power of choice in a world forever changed by one extraordinary truth.

# The Sign for Home

by Blair Fell
When DeafBlind and tightly
controlled Arlo Dilly reconnects
with a world he'd long been
shut out from, he embarks on a
daring journey—alongside an
unlikely crew of allies—to
uncover the truth about his
past, reclaim his independence,
and find the girl he thought
he'd lost forever.

# The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus

by Emma Knight
As Pen begins her first term at
the University of Edinburgh, a
visit to a famous writer's estate
unravels a long-held family
secret, sparking a journey of
self-discovery, first love, and
the many unexpected ways
women find their place in the
world.

### **Beach Vibes**

by Susan Mallery

Beth's beachside life is full of sunshine and new love—until a devastating discovery about her brother forces her to choose between protecting family or telling the truth, even if it means losing everything she holds dear.

# The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart

by Holly Ringland
After a childhood tragedy
uproots her from her seaside
home to a flower farm run by
her secretive grandmother,
Alice grows up seeking
answers—only to face
heartbreak, betrayal, and a
dangerous love in the
Australian desert, where she
must finally find the courage to
claim her own story.

## The Story of My Life

by Lucy Score
When a blocked romance
novelist escapes to a crumbling
house in a quirky small town,
she finds unexpected
inspiration in a grumpy
contractor, local chaos, and a
fake date that just might turn
into the real-life love story she
never saw coming.

# **Historical Fiction**

## **Strangers in Time**

by David Baldacci
In war-torn London, a
streetwise boy, a displaced girl,
and a grieving bookseller form
an unlikely family amid the
rubble—but as bombs fall and
secrets surface, they must rely
on each other to survive the
dangers both outside and
within.

### **The First Ladies**

by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray This powerful story follows the extraordinary friendship between civil rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt—two trailblazing women who, through trust, courage, and a shared vision for justice, helped shape the course of American history.

### The Fabled Earth

by Kimberly Brock
In this atmospheric tale set
across two timelines, a
mysterious tragedy at a 1932
Gilded Age gathering on
Georgia's Cumberland Island

resurfaces decades later, as three women—an artist, a folklorist, and an innkeeper unravel secrets buried by time, myth, and the stormtossed landscape that binds them.

#### Isola

by Allegra Goodman
Inspired by a true story, *Isola*follows a young woman cast
from wealth into exile on a
frozen island, where betrayal,
survival, and unexpected faith
shape her into a fierce heroine
of resilience and defiance.

## **American Daughters**

by Piper Huguley
Set at the turn of the
twentieth century, American
Daughters tells the powerful
story of Portia Washington
and Alice Roosevelt—two
women from vastly different
worlds who, bound by legacy
and defying expectation,
forged a lifelong friendship
that challenged the limits of
race, politics, and
womanhood in a rapidly
changing America.

# Last Twilight in Paris by Pam Jenoff

In 1953 London, a housewife's chance discovery of a necklace sparks a journey back to Nazioccupied Paris, where a Red Cross worker's haunting past, a forbidden romance, and a forgotten department storeturned-prison converge in a gripping mystery of love, betrayal, and buried wartime secrets.

### The Frozen River

by Ariel Lawhon
In 1789 Maine, midwife
Martha Ballard must uncover
the truth behind a man's
death in the ice—one tied to a
rape case she documented—
risking her reputation, her
community, and those she
loves as her diary becomes
central to a growing scandal.

### The Widow of Escondido

by Emme Rocher
After leaving a troubled
marriage, Lorea builds a
secret new life—but years
later, her niece uncovers
hidden journals and missing
documents that reveal a longlost love and the truth behind
a lingering family mystery.

# **Classics**

#### The Handmaid's Tale

by Margaret Atwood
In a chilling future where fertility
is rare and freedom is
outlawed, a woman known only
as Offred navigates a brutal
theocracy that sees her body
as property—and survival as
rebellion.

### Fahrenheit 451

by Ray Bradbury
In a future where books are
burned and thought is
dangerous, fireman Guy
Montag begins to question his
role in a repressive society after
a chance encounter awakens
him to the power of ideas.

### Night

by Elie Wiesel
In this haunting memoir of
survival, Elie Wiesel recounts
his teenage years in the Nazi
death camps, bearing witness
to unimaginable horror while
grappling with faith, memory,
and the enduring question of
humanity.

# **Mystery/Thriller**

# The Plot is Murder

by V.M. Burns
As Samantha prepares to open
her mystery bookstore, a real
murder in her backyard forces
her—and her spirited
grandmother—to solve the
case before she becomes the
killer's next target.

V.M. "Valerie" Burns will be joining us for the SDCL Turn the Page Book Club on Thurs, July 10 at 6:30 pm

## The Oligarch's Daughter

by Joseph Finder
When a former Wall Street star
with a million-dollar bounty on
his head is forced to flee into
the New Hampshire wilderness,
he must outwit deadly Russian
operatives and uncover a
decades-old conspiracy that
could cost him his life—and
expose secrets at the highest
levels of power.

### The God of the Woods

by Liz Moore

When a teenage girl vanishes from her family's summer camp

echoing her brother's
disappearance years before—
a small town is forced to
confront buried secrets,
tangled loyalties, and the dark
legacy of the powerful Van
Laar family.

# **Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers**

by Jesse Q. Sutanto
When a dead body appears in
her tea shop, sharp-witted
and nosy Vera Wong takes
the investigation into her own
hands—armed with a
purloined flash drive, a pot of
Wulong, and the instincts of a
very determined Chinese
mother.

### All the Colors of the Dark

by Chris Whitaker
In a restless 1975 America, a
one-eyed boy named Patch
becomes an unexpected hero
when he saves a missing girl
—only to uncover dark
secrets in his town that blur
the line between redemption
and heartbreak.

# Fantasy / SciFi /

# **Horror**

### Gothictown

by Emily Carpenter
When a struggling chef moves
her family to a charming Southern
town offering a fresh start, she
soon discovers that Juliana's
warm welcome hides chilling
secrets—and escaping may cost
more than she ever imagined.

## A Discovery of Witches

by Deborah Harkness
When scholar and reluctant witch
Diana Bishop discovers a
bewitched manuscript in Oxford's
Bodleian Library, she's thrust into
a hidden world of magic and
danger—alongside a mysterious
vampire who may hold the key to
her destiny.

#### The Dream Hotel

by Laila Lalami
When a government agency
detains Sara based on a dreampredicted crime she hasn't
committed, she finds herself
trapped in a surveillance facility
for women—where freedom is
elusive, rules are ever-changing,
and the true threat may be the
system itself.

#### Moonbound

by Robin Sloan
Eleven thousand years in the
future, a young adventurer
and a sentient Al with
knowledge of all human
history team up to face
dragons, ancient secrets, and
the fate of the world in a
sweeping, imaginative epic of
myth and technology.

### **Ink Blood Sister Scribe**

by Emma Torzs
When two estranged halfsisters reunite to protect their
family's library of dangerous
magical books, they uncover
long-buried secrets and a
deadly legacy that threatens
to destroy everything they
thought they knew—about
magic, power, and each other.

## The Lost Bookshop

by Evie Woods
When three lonely strangers
stumble upon a mysterious,
vanishing bookshop in Dublin,
they're drawn into a magical
journey that reveals the
power of stories—not just on
the page, but in their own
extraordinary lives.

# **Non-Fiction**

# Outlive: The Science and Art of Longevity

by Peter Attia
Dr. Peter Attia offers a sciencebased, personalized guide to
living longer and better by
shifting from reactive medicine
to proactive strategies that
optimize nutrition, exercise,
sleep, and emotional wellbeing.

### The Book of Hope

by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams

This inspiring and deeply personal conversation explores how to remain hopeful in the face of global challenges, drawing on a lifetime of advocacy, scientific discovery, and the enduring belief in human resilience, nature's recovery, and the power of future generations.

### **Five Presidents**

by Clint Hill
A former Secret Service agent
shares a rare, behind-thescenes account of five
presidencies, offering an
insider's view of America's
most turbulent decades—from
assassinations and war to

scandal and resignation through the eyes of someone who lived it all firsthand.

### **Salt Fat Acid Heat**

by Samin Nosrat
This vibrant, approachable
guide unlocks the secrets of
great cooking by teaching
how to master four essential
elements—salt, fat, acid, and
heat—empowering home
cooks to create delicious,
balanced meals with
confidence and creativity.

### The Secret Lives of Color

by Kassia St. Clair
This captivating exploration
reveals the hidden histories of
seventy-five colors,
uncovering how shades and
hues have shaped art,
fashion, politics, and power
throughout human history.

### **Nature's Best Hope**

by Douglas W. Tallamy
This empowering guide offers
a practical, grassroots
solution to the environmental
crisis by showing how
everyday homeowners can
transform their yards into vital
habitats that protect wildlife
and restore ecological
balance—one native plant at
a time.

Get ready for the
SDCL Classic
Summer of Reading!
When you read this summer, you can
earn this Classic T-Shirt!



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