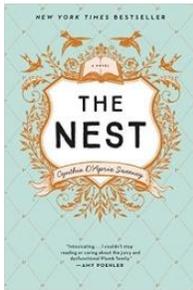


Summer Staff Picks

From the Bookshelf of...

Judy's picks!

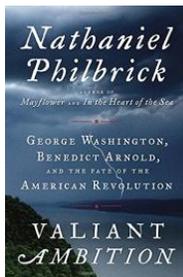


The Nest

by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney (fiction)

Four adult siblings respond to life and to each other based on their anxiously anticipated shared inheritance (the “nest” egg).

However, their real lives and the lives they want to project to others are often in conflict. Every family has its problems!

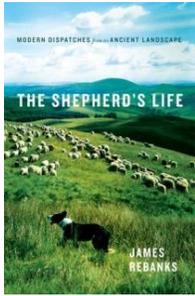


Valiant Ambition

by Nathaniel Philbrick (non-fiction)

The lives of two Americans, George Washington and Benedict Arnold, one famous, one infamous, intersect throughout the American Revolution and beyond. The personal story of two figures that we think we know comes alive with details that humanize both and evokes compassion. We gain a better understanding of their time, their political and financial predicaments, and their destinies.

Jill's pick!



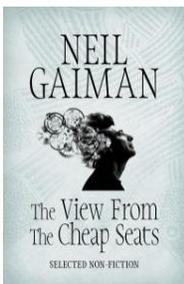
The Shepherd's Life

by James Rebanks (biography)

James Rebanks says you can go home again, continue the life your forefathers lived for 600 years, and then tweet about it.

This is a memoir, beautifully written, detailing shepherding in the South Lakeland District of Cumbria in England. In 2012 Rebanks, an unlikely Oxford graduate, found himself tweeting daily about his shepherding life. It then became clear that this was a necessary modernity to call attention to his 5,000 year old way of life. It also gave him an unexpected worldwide following. In connecting an old way of life with the technology of today, James developed another career as a UNESCO adviser bringing ecotourism to the lakeland district. Soon after, his article in *The Atlantic* got the attention of a literary agent who saw a book in the making.

Laura's pick!

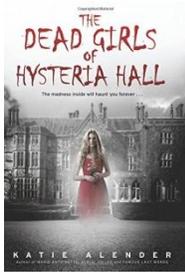


The View from the Cheap Seats: Selected Nonfiction

by Neil Gaiman (non-fiction)

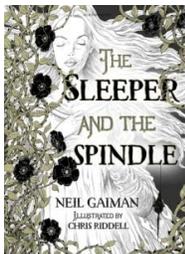
Neil Gaiman gives a warm and witty tour of the people (many of them luminaries of science fiction and comics), books, and films that shaped him into the writer he is today. This is essential for fans of Gaiman and a wonderful introduction for those unfamiliar with his work. Bonus: Gaiman's impassioned defense of libraries and reading is well worth the price of admission alone.

Emma's Picks!



Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall by Katie Alender (teen fiction)

This book is a creepy ghost story, but it's written from an interesting perspective. I haven't read many books like this so it was a fun read (if you're into ghost stories!). Delia and her family move to a house that was once the Piven Institute for the Care and Correction of Troubled Females, which is just a fancy name for an asylum. At this time, it was given the pleasant nickname of Hysteria Hall. Hysteria Hall locked troubled girls away, but most of these girls were not insane but strong willed, which is why Delia gets stuck in the house (I'll let you figure out how she gets trapped!). It is during her time at the house when she learns about the ghosts that roam around the grounds and that the house has dark secrets, ones that if she uncovers will not only set her free but save her family. This book had a lot of OMG moments for me! I was completely blindsided a couple of times, and the best part was that these moments weren't just at the end of the book! It definitely kept me on my toes!



The Sleeper and the Spindle by Neil Gaiman (teen graphic novel)

This graphic novel was my first experience with Neil Gaiman. I heard a lot of great things about him so I had some high expectations, and he did not disappoint. Gaiman took two fairy tales, *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty*, and crafted a dark tale that will hold your interest to the very end. It is

beautifully illustrated as well, making this graphic novel even creepier! Definitely a must read for Emily Carroll fans.

Marcia's pick!



The Last Painting of Sara de Vos

by Dominic Smith (fiction)

This historical novel engages the reader in its multi-faceted story from beginning to end. Sara de Vos is a 17th-century Dutch artist whose painting of a girl at dusk watching people skate has been on the walls of 20th-century lawyer Marty de Groot's Manhattan apartment until one day he realizes that it has been stolen and a forged copy put in its place. This beautifully crafted novel brings the reader through three centuries and several locations as de Groot tries to recover a painting that is so meaningful to him and, in a larger sense, represents the beauty, mystery, and timelessness of great works of art.