



A 2026 Reading Challenge
From the Eldredge Public Library

In honor of America's 250th birthday, we'll be looking back at some of the defining moments in our nation's story.

From the sophisticated societies of Pre-Columbian America to the struggles of the Revolution, from the heartbreaks of the Civil War to the excesses of the Gilded Age, from the cracking of the atom to our journey to the stars—**American Tales** invites us to revisit eras we know well and explore those we've never investigated.

Each month offers a chance to dive into fiction and nonfiction from, about, or set in twelve distinct periods of American history. Pick up a map and reading suggestions at the Library or click the links on the reading list here.

Stop by each month to tell us what you read and have your map stamped, as you make your way across the country!



ELDREDGE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

MAY

Reading List

The Early Republic (1800-1848)

Early Republic Fiction

- [*James by Percival Everett*](#)
- [*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne](#)
- [*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving](#)
- [*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain](#)
- [*Let Us Descend* by Jesmyn Ward](#)

Early Republic Non-Fiction

- [*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass](#)
- [*The Hemingses of Monticello* by Annette Gordon-Reed](#)
- [*A Wilderness So Immense: The Louisiana Purchase and the destiny of America* by Jon Kukla](#)
- [*American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* by John Meacham](#)
- [*The Agitators: Three friends who fought for abolition and women's rights* by Dorothy Wickenden](#)

Early Republic Cape Cod

- [*Sail Away Ladies: Stories of Cape Cod women in the age of sail* by Jim Coogan](#)
- [*"The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket"* in *The Complete Tales of Edgar Allan Poe*](#)
- [*Cape Cod* by Henry David Thoreau](#)