



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

June

The Civil War & Reconstruction (1848-1877)

Fiction

- [*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane](#)
- [*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier](#)
- [*Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell](#)
- [*Beloved* by Toni Morrison](#)
- [*The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara](#)
- [*The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead](#)

Non-Fiction

- [*Stony the road: Reconstruction, white supremacy, and the rise of Jim Crow* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.](#)
- [*Team of rivals: the political genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin](#)
- [*Differ we must: how Lincoln succeeded in a divided America* by Steve Inskeep](#)
- [*The Demon Unrest* by Erik Larson](#)
- [*All that she carried: the journey of Ashley's sack, a black family keepsake* by Tiya Miles](#)

Cape Cod

- [*Cape Cod and the Civil War: the raised right arm* by Stauffer Miller](#)
- [*Slavery and abolitionism on Cape Cod: a Massachusetts incongruity* by Michael Pregot](#)