



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**

# July

Reading List

## The Gilded Age (1877-1917)

### Gilded Age Fiction

- [\*The Alienist\* by Caleb Carr](#)
- [\*The Lions of Fifth Avenue\* by Fiona Davis](#)
- [\*A well-behaved woman: a novel of the Vanderbilts\* by Therese Fowler](#)
- [\*The Last Days of Night\* by Graham Moore](#)
- [\*The Gilded Age\* by Mark Twain](#)
- [\*The Age of Innocence\* by Edith Wharton](#)

### Gilded Age Non-Fiction

- [\*Empty mansions: the mysterious life of Huguette Clark and the spending of a great American fortune\* by Bill Dedman](#)
- [\*The Devil in the White City\* by Erik Larson](#)
- [\*A Night To Remember: The Final Hours of the Titanic\* by Walter Lord](#)
- [\*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey\* by Candice Millard](#)
- [\*The woman's hour: the great fight to win the vote\* by Elaine Weiss](#)

### Gilded Age Cape Cod

- [\*Where the herring run\* by Dorothy Leone](#)
- [\*The Cape Cod murder of 1899 : Edwin Ray Snow's punishment & redemption\* by Theresa M. Barbo](#)
- [\*Marconi : the man who networked the world\* by Marc Raboy](#)