

American Tales



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

September

The Great Depression and WWII (1929-1945)

Fiction

- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne
- *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah
- *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei

Non-Fiction

- *The woman behind the New Deal: the life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and his moral conscience* by Kristin Downey
- *The man who walked backward: an American dreamer's search for meaning in the Great Depression* by Ben Montgomery
- *A train in winter: an extraordinary story of women, friendship, and resistance in occupied France* by Caroline Moorehead
- *Hard times: an oral history of the great depression* by Studs Terkel
- *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman

Cape Cod

- *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake
- *The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club: a novel* by Martha Hall Kelly