



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
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LIBRARY

October

The Cold War and Civil Rights Movement (1945-1991)

Cold War/Civil Rights Fiction

- [*The Hunt for Red October* by Tom Clancy](#)
- [*The Quiet American* by Graham Green](#)
- [*To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee](#)
- [*Watchmen* by Alan Moore](#)
- [*Lovecraft Country* by Matt Ruff](#)
- [*The Calamity Club* by Kathryn Stockett](#)

Cold War and Civil Rights Nonfiction

- [*Black AF history: the un-whitewashed story of America* by Michael Harriot](#)
- [*The spy and the traitor: the greatest espionage story of the Cold War* by Ben Macintyre](#)
- [*The small and the mighty: twelve unsung Americans who changed the course of history, from the founding to the civil rights movement* by Sharon McMahon](#)
- [*The end of the Cold War 1985-1991* by Robert Service](#)
- [*Mercury rising: John Glenn, John Kennedy, and the new battleground of the Cold War* by Jeff Shesol](#)
- [*Hidden figures: the American dream and the untold story of the Black women mathematicians who helped win the space race* by Margot Lee Shetterly](#)

The Cold War and The Civil Rights Movement on Cape Cod

- [*African Americans of Martha's Vineyard: from enslavement to presidential visit* by Tom Dresser](#)
- [*Summer of '69* by Hellen Hilderbrand](#)