



Staff Picks Booklist and Reviews:

Here are the top 50 circulated books from the staff picks table!

*Top 50 is for books off the staff picks table only. Numbers are based on how many times the copy of the book on the staff picks table was checked out. We do have multiple copies of many books that would've added to these numbers but this list is based only on the copies that were placed on the staff picks table. Many books were checked out numerous times before being put on the staff picks table. For more information, including plot, and to request a copy, visit our catalog <https://ursus.maine.edu/>.

Rating Scale: Fill in the Stars

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ One of My New favorites!!!
- ★ ★ ★ ★ Love it But Not In Love With It!
- ★ ★ ★ MEH: Uninspiring; Unexceptional.
- ★ ★ Should've Given Up (OR) Gave Up!
- ★ I've Read better Cereal Boxes, Don't Bother!

1. [*Pink Chimneys*](#) by Ardeana Hamlin Knowles 250 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Fantastic historical fiction set in Maine by a Maine author, intriguing characters, I wanted to write fan fiction after reading!
2. [*Girl on the Train*](#) by Paula Hawkins 242 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ A frightening journey through the eyes of a drunk. Prepare to be gaslighted.
3. [*A Summer to Remember*](#) by Mary Balogh 165 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Excellent story and wonderful characters
4. [*All the Light we Cannot See*](#) by Anthony Doerr 161 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Haunting, beautiful prose I didn't want it to end but couldn't stop reading.
5. [*Agatha Raisin and the Vicious Vet*](#) by M.C. Beaton 153 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ 2nd in the series but even better than the 1st! A quick fun read, and no, you don't have to read the 1st to enjoy the 2nd but... after reading you'll want to read all 31 in the series!
6. [*Bitten*](#) by Kelley Armstrong 146 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ A new and unusual werewolf story
7. [*The Glass Castle: A Memoir*](#) by Jeanette Walls 143 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ This book came highly recommended and I'm so glad to have read it. What a life! Maybe the best memoir I've read.
8. [*The Surgeon*](#) by Tess Gerritsen 139 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Creepy and disturbing but excellent start to her series.
9. [*Fast Women*](#) by Jennifer Cruise 139 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Humorous romance.
10. [*The Devil in the White City*](#) by Erik Larson 138 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Non-fiction that brings to life Chicago, the World's Fair of 1893, and serial killer H. H. Holmes who built a hotel to murder fair goers in. Very eerie and knowing it's non-fiction makes it eerier!
11. [*Sharp Objects*](#) by Gillian Flynn 132 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Superb! Better than Gone Girl!

12. [Anansi Boys](#) by Neil Gaiman 132 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Continuing the American Gods series with Anansi, an Akan folktale character who often takes the shape of a spider and is sometimes considered to be a God of all knowledge of stories. Taking the role of trickster, he is also one of the most important characters of West African, African American and Caribbean folklore. Gaiman bases this fascinating story around this God and has created a story about family that's also a mythical coming of age detective story!
13. [Garden Spells](#) by Sarah Addison Allen 131 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Family, the uniqueness of each member. Restoration and healing from the past. A great story.
14. [Shakespeare's Christmas](#) by Charlaine Harris 121 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 3 Stars/ Turned off at first but then enjoyed.
15. [The Winter King](#) by Bernard Cornwell 120 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Thrilling series on King Arthur. Outstanding historical fiction.
16. [Murder on Marble Row](#) by Victoria Thompson 117 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Love this series!
17. [The Poacher's Son](#) by Paul Doiron 114 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Get hooked on a series! Great read by a Maine author set in Maine!
18. [The Thirteenth Tale](#) by Diane Setterfield 113 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Excellent, finished this in 2 days, the mark of a good book!
19. [Dark Places](#) by Gillian Flynn 113 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Creepy and compelling (Better than Gone Girl)
20. [Winter Garden](#) by Kristin Hannah 111 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Emotional and hard to put down.
21. [Breakfast at Tiffany's](#) by Truman Capote 108 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ All time favorite. Quick read. Read it 3 times!
22. [Gone Girl](#) by Gillian Flynn 98 checkouts
 Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ A thriller layered with brilliant characters. Excellent!

23. [*Agnes and the Hitman*](#) by Jennifer Cruise and Bob Mayer 98 checkouts
Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Entertaining and action-packed with fun characters
24. [*The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*](#) by Alexander McCall Smith 98 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Wonderful characters and stories from glorious Africa.
25. [*The Uncommon Reader*](#) by Alan Bennett 97 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ An Amusing exploration of an addiction to reading.
26. [*Empire Falls*](#) by Richard Russo 97 checkouts
Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Assigned reading that I ended up falling in love with. Ever wonder what it's like for those who stay in their hometown? This story based in Maine is about that.
27. [*Bet Me*](#) by Jennifer Cruise 96 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ A romantic comedy that is sure to satisfy!
28. [*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*](#) by Barbara Kingsolver 95 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ This bestselling author has penned a brilliant non-fiction book about the food industry and eating local. It's a part memoir, depicting a year in the author's life that will motivate you to follow suit. I want to try the recipes!
29. [*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*](#) by Rebecca Skloot 92 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ An enthralling and heart breaking story.
30. [*Strong for Potatoes*](#) by Cynthia Thayer 92 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Wonderfully evocative story set in a Maine indigenous community
31. [*The Tightwad gazette: Promoting Thrift as a Viable Alternative Lifestyle*](#)
by Amy Dacyszyn 92 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Book has some great ideas
32. [*Insane City*](#) by Dave Barry 90 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ A madcap comedy that will appeal to many, especially fans of the movie the Hangover!
33. [*Carrie*](#) by Stephen King 89 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ written while teaching at Hampden Academy, Stephen Kings 1st book will leave you haunted. Terrifying moral of the story is... don't be a bully!

34. [The Invitation](#) by Oriah Mountain Dreamer 87 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Love the poem the story is based on, ...*I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, "Yes"!* A guide to life.
35. [The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry](#) by Gabrielle Zevin 86 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Fanciful and sweet. A tale to be savored with a smile.
36. [Me Before You](#) by Jojo Moyes 85 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ An interesting exploration of euthanasia. (great movie too)
37. [The Search](#) by Nora Roberts 81 checkouts
Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Perfect mixture of romance and suspense.
38. [Sleepyhead](#) by Mark Billingham 81 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ genuinely disturbing and creepy.
39. [The Little Stranger](#) by Sarah Waters 80 checkouts
Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Atmospheric and creepy
40. [Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?](#) By Philip K Dick 80 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Iconic Sci-Fi at its most thought-provoking
41. [Under the Eagle](#) by Simon Scarrow 78 checkouts
Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Exciting story set in the Roman military.
42. [Adrift: Seventy-Six Days Lost at Sea](#) by Steven Callahan 78 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ This book is very intense. You won't want to put it down.
43. [The Ocean at the End of the Lane](#) by Neil Gaiman 77 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Genius writing with a wonderful story
44. [Mr. Churchill's Secretary](#) by Susan Ella MacNeil 77 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ First in an engaging series. Fast paced historical fiction.
45. [Murder on Waverly Place](#) by Victoria Thompson 77 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ An awesome addition to the gaslight mysteries!
46. [A Short History of Nearly Everything](#) by Bill Bryson 77 checkouts
Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ A summation of life, the universe, and everything. By a non-scientist.

47. [*Winter Street*](#) by Elin Hildebrand 76 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Loved this family! Loved this whole trilogy (and the 4th book that came out after). Glad she continued the story.
48. [*A Street Cat Named Bob*](#) by James Bowen 74 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ The true story of Bob, a wonderfully unique cat and the recovering drug addict that he saves.
49. [*The Five People You Meet in Heaven*](#) by Mitch Albom 74 checkouts
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ A story about life, death, and so much more. Everyone leaves an impact, including you, you may not even realize so be kind always!
50. [*A Shadow in Summer*](#) by Daniel Abraham 71 checkouts
Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Great series, unusual and surprising.

Honorable Mentions:

These are books that did not make the top 50 but our staff members really like and think you might too! Listed here in alphabetical order.

1. [*Art of Racing in the Rain*](#) by Garth Stein
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Loved that it's told from the dog's point of view. Crying may occur.
2. [*Beartown*](#) by Fredrik Bachman
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ The best book I've read this year!
3. [*The Boat Rocker*](#) by Ha Jin
Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Well written characters that have depth. Scary relevant.
4. [*Cities of Rust*](#) by Ariel Bonin
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Read this entire post-apocalyptic trilogy in a week. Easily became attached to the characters and became invested in their survival.
5. [*Craig and Fred: A Marine, a Stray Dog, and How They rescued Each Other*](#)
by Craig Grossi
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Incredible story about a man and his dog, persistence, war, and coming home. Maine author.
6. [*Euphoria*](#) by Lily King
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ You won't be able to put this down! Eye opening!

7. [*Five Days at Memorial*](#) by Sheri Fink
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Excellent but very disturbing!
8. [*A Game of Thrones*](#) by George R R Martin
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ So much better than the TV series: character-driven
Fantasy at its very best
9. [*The Great Alone*](#) by Kristin Hannah
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Captivating story about uprooting your life and finding a
new one. Full of family drama set in an interesting location that the author brings
to life.
10. [*The Great Gatsby*](#) by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ I want a Gatsby! I could read this a million times and fall in
love each time.
11. [*The Handmaid's Tale*](#) by Margaret Atwood
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Awesome book. A must read dystopian novel that leaves
you thinking long after it's over.
12. [*Haunted Islands in the Gulf of Maine*](#) by Marcus LiBrizzi
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Lots of fun history. Would like to visit each Island - except
for Sable of course.
13. [*Heart and Brain*](#) by Nick Seluk
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ A witty and relatable graphic novel about life and the
feelings we have. Delightful
14. [*The Kiss Quotient*](#) by Helen Hoang
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Sexy, Fun, and Inclusive!
15. [*Leopard at the Door*](#) by Jennifer McVeigh
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ A moving historical fiction.
Set in Kenya in the 1950's and beautifully describes the location as well as the
events that took place around that time.
16. [*Lock In*](#) by John Scalzi
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Scalzi does it again- exciting and imaginative, this book is a
winner.
17. [*March Book One*](#) by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, & Nate Powell
One of the best graphic novels I've ever read. Incredible story and art.

18. [*Meaty*](#) by Samantha Irby
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Laugh out loud hysterical. I kept getting weird looks while reading this in public.
19. [*Orphan Train*](#) by Christina Baker Kline
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Compelling, well-researched historical fiction. Stayed up all night because I couldn't put it down! A must read!
20. [*Perdido Street Station*](#) by China Mieville
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Ingenious sci-fi set in a world that sounds bizarre but feels Familiar.
21. [*Scraps, Peels, and Stems*](#) by Jill Lightner
Staff Rating: 4 Stars/ Good recipes, great resource, enjoyable reading.
22. [*This Will only Hurt a Little*](#) by Busy Philipps
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ The best celebrity memoir I've read this year (2019).
23. [*The Underground Railroad*](#) by Colson Whitehead
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ A powerful and moving story with incredible characters.
24. [*Weathering Shame*](#) by Kevin Mannix and Linda Rota
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Great read by Maine authors about a subject not often talked about.
25. [*Wicked Good*](#) by Amy Lewis Faircloth and Joanne Lewis
Staff Rating: 5 Stars/ Heartwarming and emotional. This story touches on many subjects including divorce, adoption, single motherhood, aspergers, and witchcraft. Based largely in Bangor.

