

**1. Astrophysics for People in a Hurry\* by Neil deGrasse Tyson 2017**

In this accessible book, Tyson offers a concise exploration of the universe's fundamental concepts. He distills complex astrophysical ideas into bite-sized chapters, perfect for busy readers. He covers a range of topics, from the Big Bang and dark matter to black holes and the search for extraterrestrial life. With wit and clarity, Tyson provides a quick but enlightening journey through the cosmos, making astrophysics engaging and digestible for everyone. (223 pages)

**2. All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque 1928**

Paul Bäumer enlisted with his classmates in the German army of World War I. Youthful, enthusiastic, they became soldiers. But despite what they have learned, they break into pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches. And as horrible war plods on year after year, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principles of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other --- if only he can come out of the war alive. (291 pages)

**3. Breath: the new science of a lost art by James Nestor 2020**

We all take more than 25,000 breaths each day, usually without giving much thought to the process. Journalist James Nestor travels the world to figure out what breathing is. Drawing on thousands of years of medical texts and recent cutting-edge studies in pulmonology, psychology, biochemistry, and human physiology, Breath turns the conventional wisdom of what we thought we knew about our most basic biological function on its head. You will never breathe the same again. (280 pages)

**4. Dead Wake\* by Erik Larson 2015**

It's a gripping non-fiction account of the sinking of the RMS Lusitania during World War I. The book meticulously chronicles the events leading up to the tragedy, including the political landscape, the ship's passengers, and the actions of U-boat commander Walther Schwieger. Larson masterfully weaves together personal narratives and historical context, offering a vivid portrayal of the disaster's profound impact on history. The sinking played a pivotal role in America's entry into the war, making this a crucial and compelling read. (430 pages)

**5. Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt 2005**

Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? Why do drug dealers still live with their moms? How much do parents really matter? What kind of impact did Roe v. Wade have on violent crime? Freakonomics will literally redefine the way we view the modern world. (268 pages)

**6. Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann 2017**

In the 1920s, the Osage Indians of Oklahoma became the world's wealthiest per capita due to oil beneath their land. They lived lavishly, but a series of mysterious murders shattered their prosperity. David Grann's "Killers of the Flower Moon " uncovers this harrowing true crime saga. Through a relentless investigation, Grann exposes a web of secrets and a system that enabled the killers' impunity. The book is a riveting narrative, also serving as a powerful indictment of the prejudice against Native Americans. It's an emotionally devastating account of a forgotten tragedy. (359 pages)

**7. Music & Silence\* by Rose Tremain 1999**

This is a historical novel set in 17th century Denmark. It weaves together the lives of multiple characters in the court of King Christian IV. Peter Claire, an English lutenist, becomes entangled in the intricate politics and passions of the royal court. The novel beautifully explores themes of love, betrayal, and the transcendent power of music. Tremain's exquisite prose and vivid characters create a

mesmerizing tale of artistry and intrigue in a tumultuous era. (485 pages) **wls: 10 copies & audio:hoopla**

**8. The Future of Humanity by Michio Kaku 2018**

Renowned physicist Michio Kaku envisions a captivating odyssey through the cosmos. From colonizing Mars to harnessing the power of a Type II civilization, Kaku explores our destiny as a spacefaring species. He unveils the technologies that could make interstellar travel a reality and contemplates encounters with extraterrestrial civilizations. With scientific rigor and boundless imagination, Kaku presents a compelling vision of humanity's potential among the stars, offering a roadmap to a future where we become true citizens of the universe. (368 pages)

**9. The Disappearing Spoon by Sam Kean 2010**

The periodic table is a crowning scientific achievement, but it's also a treasure trove of adventure, betrayal, and obsession. These fascinating tales follow every element on the table as they play out their parts in human history, finance, mythology, conflict, the arts, medicine, and in the lives of the (frequently) mad scientists who discovered them. "The Disappearing Spoon" masterfully fuses science with the classic lore of invention, investigation, discovery, and alchemy, from the big bang through the end of time.

**10. Wasteland\* by Oliver Franklin-Wallis 2023**

An award-winning investigative journalist takes a deep dive into the global waste crisis. With this mesmerizing, thought-provoking, and occasionally terrifying investigation, Oliver Franklin-Wallis tells a new story of humanity based on what we leave behind, and along the way, he shares a blueprint for building a healthier, more sustainable world—before we're all buried in trash. (400 pages) **wls: 12 copies & audio: libby-1**

**11. The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post\* by Allison Pataki 2022**

Marjorie Merriweather Post's remarkable life unfolds in "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post." Hailing from Battle Creek, Michigan, she embodied self-reliance, gratitude for success, and relentless work ethic. As an American aristocrat, she hosted presidents and transcended societal norms. From rescuing the Tsar's treasures in Moscow to defying Nazis in London, Marjorie's adventures knew no bounds. From cereal box assembly to leading General Foods, she became America's wealthiest woman before 30. Her story, filled with opulence and adversity, is a testament to her indomitable spirit. Allison Pataki masterfully paints this epic tale of empowerment and legacy. (400 pages)

**12. Your Inner Fish\* by Neil Shubin 2008**

In "Your Inner Fish," Neil Shubin unveils the fascinating connections between human anatomy and ancient species. Through fossils and DNA, he reveals how our hands echo fish fins, our heads mirror jawless fish, and our genome shares traits with worms and bacteria. Shubin's work revolutionizes our understanding of evolution. (229 pages)