

Great Summer Reads at the Library
Kris Wiley for The News-Review

The Summer Reading Program gets me out of my comfort zone, which I love because I travel the world, meet amazing people and experience new things without leaving Roseburg.

I stretched myself right away by tackling a book with at least 500 pages. In fact, “The Covenant of Water” by Abraham Verghese comes in at a whopping 724 pages, and it will be one of my favorite reads of the year.

“The Covenant of Water” is an epic, multigenerational story set in South India featuring larger-than-life characters.

My favorite is Big Ammachi, who is 12 years old when the narrative begins in 1900. She is sent to marry a 40-year-old man she has not met, one whose family suffers from an affliction to water that has tragic consequences generation after generation. Big Ammachi holds her family together and shares her wisdom with those who follow, especially Mariamma, who becomes a doctor determined to solve the mystery of The Condition.

After that monumental read, I picked up one of the shortest books I could find, “Boulder,” written by Catalan author Eva Baltasar and translated by Julia Sanches.

This novella, shortlisted for the 2023 International Booker Prize, fits the “book set on an island” category because most of it occurs in Iceland. We meet our unnamed narrator when she works as a cook on a freighter off the coast of Chile. She develops a relationship with Samsa, who gives her the nickname “Boulder” because “I’m like those large, solitary rocks in southern Patagonia, pieces of world left over after creation, isolated and exposed to every element.”

The couple moves to Iceland, where Samsa climbs the corporate ladder and Boulder starts a food truck. Boulder thinks all is well until Samsa decides she wants to have a child.

Boulder is not enthusiastic about this development; however, she goes along with it because she loves Samsa. But motherhood changes them both, and that transformation leads to a dramatic conclusion.

Looking for more inspiration? Stop in and ask what we’re reading, email me at kwiley@cityofroseburg.org or check out the booklists on our library catalog at roseburg.bibliionix.com.

Summer Reading Program for Adults Week 4 Bonus

All adults are invited to participate in this week's summer reading bonus for a chance to win a \$10 Crumbl Cookies gift card.

This week participants are invited to share the names of two of your favorite authors.

To participate, visit the library's website, and click on "Summer Reading Program." Click on the link labeled "Week 4 Bonus," and complete the survey. Alternately, paper copies of the survey are available at the library's front desk, or email me with your responses.

One winner will be drawn randomly from all fully completed submissions.

This Week's Library Events

Monday, June 26-Saturday, July 1 – 9 a.m.-6 p.m., StoryWalk® at Fir Grove Park

Tuesday, June 27 – 10 a.m., Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Tuesday, June 27 – 1-2 p.m., Children's program: Musician and storyteller Joe Ross

Wednesday, June 28 – 10:30 a.m., Storytime with Aurora at Stewart Park Pavilion

Thursday, June 29 – 1-2:30 p.m., Teen program: Virtual reality and video games

Thursday, June 29 – 6:30 p.m., Silent Book Group at Stewart Park Butterfly Garden
(inclement weather location: Roseburg Public Library)

Friday, June 30, 10:30-11:30 a.m. – Children's program: Talk About Trees with Paula Yablonski at Stewart Park Pavilion