

Camden Public Library Book Club 2026

January 6, 2026 **Open Read**

A welcome to the new year and an open book share. Come tell us about what you've been reading recently!

February 3, 2026 **The Frozen River** by Ariel Lawhon Fiction (Historical) (suggested by Maria)

A gripping historical mystery based on the real-life diary entries of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie.

Available as regular print (189 copies), large print (48 copies), audiobook (11 copies), playaway (1 copy), CloudLibrary e-book + e-audiobook

March 3, 2026 **The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating** by Elisabeth Tova Bailey Nonfiction (Memoir)

While an illness keeps her bedridden, Bailey watches a wild snail that has taken up residence on her nightstand. As a result, she discovers the solace and sense of wonder that this mysterious creature brings and comes to a greater understanding of her own confined place in the world.

Available as regular print (58 copies), large print (9 copies), CloudLibrary e-book + e-audiobook

April 7, 2026 **Playground** by Richard Powers Fiction (suggested by Linda)

The tiny atoll of French Polynesia has been chosen for humanity's next adventure: a plan to send floating, autonomous cities out onto the open sea, but first, the island's residents must vote to greenlight the project or turn the seastealers away.

Available as regular print (68 copies), large print (10 copies), CloudLibrary e-book

May 5, 2026 **The God of the Woods** by Liz Moore Fiction (suggested by Dianne)

Early morning, August 1975: a camp counselor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barbara Van Laar, has gone missing. Barbara isn't just any thirteen-year-old: she's the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region's residents. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared. Barbara's older brother similarly vanished fourteen years ago, never to be found. As a panicked search begins, a thrilling drama unfolds.

Available as regular print (146 copies), large print (22 copies), CloudLibrary e-book + e-audiobook

June 2, 2026 **The Savage, Noble Death of Babs Dionne** by Ron Currie Fiction (suggested by Pam)

In Waterville, Maine, crime matriarch Babs Dionne faces a drug kingpin's enforcer and her youngest daughter's mysterious death, unleashing her fierce determination to protect her family, her empire, and her town from the chaos threatening to consume them.

Available as regular print (68 copies), large print (11 copies), CloudLibrary e-book + e-audiobook

July 7, 2026 **History Matters** by David McCullough Nonfiction (Essays) (suggested by Carol)

In this posthumous collection of essays—many never published before—David McCullough affirms the value of history, how we can be guided by its lessons, and the enduring legacy of American ideals.

Available as regular print (41 copies), large print (9 copies), audiobook (2 copies), CloudLibrary e-book

August 4, 2026 **Atmosphere** by Taylor Jenkins Reid Fiction (Historical) (suggested by Linda)

A novel set against the backdrop of the 1980s Space Shuttle program about the extraordinary lengths we go to live and love beyond our limits.

Available as regular print (108 copies), large print (21 copies), audiobook (14 copies), CloudLibrary e-book

September 1, 2026 **This Is Happiness** by Niall Williams Fiction (suggested by Susan)

In the timeless Irish parish of Faha, 17-year-old Noel navigates love and growing up as sunshine replaces the ever-present rain. When mysterious Christy arrives seeking redemption, his secrets slowly surface, illuminating the village's quiet transformation as electricity—and change—finally approach.

Available as regular print (55 copies), CloudLibrary e-book + e-audiobook

October 6, 2026 **The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down** by Ann Fadiman Nonfiction (suggested by Wendy)

When three-month-old Lia Lee arrived at the county hospital emergency room in Merced, California, her parents and doctors both wanted the best for Lia, but their ideas about the causes of her illness and its treatment could hardly have been more different. Lia's parents adhered to the rituals and beliefs of their ancestors. While her doctor's preferred Western medicine. Thus, a chain of events was set in motion from which neither she nor her parents nor her doctors would ever recover.

Available as regular print (60 copies), mp3 CD (1 copy), CloudLibrary e-book for Sept/Oct only

November 3, 2026 **Wild Dark Shore** by Charlotte McConaghy Fiction (suggested by Christie)

Dominic Salt and his three children are caretakers of Shearwater, a tiny island not far from Antarctica. Home to the world's largest seed bank, Shearwater was once full of researchers, but with sea levels rising, the Salts are its final inhabitants until a woman mysteriously washes ashore. As they nurse the woman, Rowan, back to strength, it begins to feel like she might just be what they need. But Rowan isn't telling the whole truth about why she set out for Shearwater. And when she discovers sabotaged radios and a freshly dug grave, she realizes Dominic is keeping his own secrets. As the storms on Shearwater gather force, they all must decide if they can trust each other enough to protect the precious seeds in their care before it's too late--and if they can finally put the tragedies of the past behind them to create something new, together.

Available as regular print (84 copies), large print (22 copies), audiobook (2 copies), CloudLibrary e-book + e-audiobook

December 1, 2026 **Short Stories**

An end of year gathering. Come celebrate a year of book club and discuss selected short stories (TBD, will be made available to book club members). We'll also share our favorite reads of the year.