

SUMMER READING LIST

This is not a reading challenge.

There are no points for finishing, no gold star for literary stamina, no need to march dutifully from first page to last.

This is simply a gathering of books chosen by our friends at Borzoi Books, whose shelves and recommendations have long been a source of inspiration for us, and which we think make particularly good company for summer.

Some are best read outside. Some are better with tea. Some might make you want to walk, write, notice birds, think about the land, or stare into the middle distance for a while.

Choose one because you like the title. Choose another because it happens to be nearest.

That is a perfectly good system.

HYLL

SUMMER READING LIST



AUTHOR

Melissa Harrison

CATEGORY

Fiction

GENRE

Literary fiction, rural fiction,
nature writing adjacent

MOOD

Reflective, atmospheric,
observant

SUBJECT

Rural England, community,
landscape, change, ecology

A rich portrait of contemporary rural England, set in a fictional village over the course of six months. Melissa Harrison gives voice to a community of walkers, gardeners, landowners, doctors and solitary figures, all connected to the landscape around them.

It is a book for anyone who comes to Hyll to notice the land more closely, to look out at fields and feel there is always more happening than first appears.

SUMMER READING LIST



AUTHOR

Becky Brown

CATEGORY

Fiction

GENRE

Short stories, literary fiction

MOOD

Wry, intimate, wise

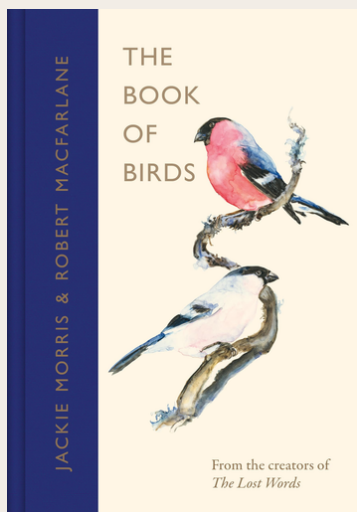
SUBJECT

Love, grief, age, art, memory,
human behaviour

Compiled by Becky Brown, this sunlit collection brings together stories of boats, beaches, garden naps, chance encounters and summer days that do not always unfold as expected.

A very Hyll sort of book because it can be read in fragments, left beside a chair and returned to later. Ideal for warm afternoons, wandering attention and the pleasure of reading without any need to finish.

SUMMER READING LIST



AUTHOR

Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris

CATEGORY

Non fiction

GENRE

Nature writing, illustrated field guide, poetry adjacent

MOOD

Beautiful, attentive

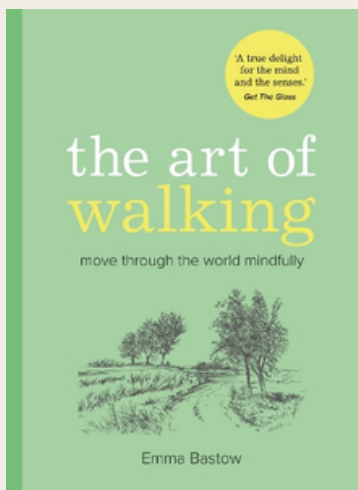
SUBJECT

British birdlife, wonder, loss, conservation

A beautiful celebration of birdlife, bringing together Robert Macfarlane's lyrical writing and Jackie Morris's artwork. Part love letter, part call to notice what is being lost, it invites readers to look and listen more carefully.

Best read slowly, with regular pauses to glance up at the sky, hear something moving in the hedge, and remember that the world is full of small lives carrying on around us.

SUMMER READING LIST



AUTHOR

Emma Bastow

CATEGORY

Non fiction

GENRE

Walking, mindfulness, wellbeing

MOOD

Calm, practical, grounding

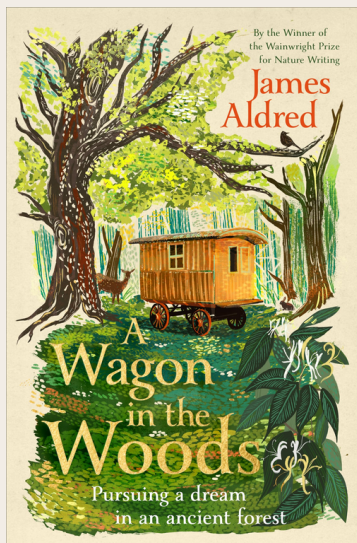
SUBJECT

Walking slowly, paying attention, mindful movement

A mindful guide to walking as something more than movement. Emma Bastow encourages us to slow down, pay attention to our steps and rediscover walking as a way to feel calmer, clearer and more present.

It suits Hyll for obvious reasons: paths, lanes, fields, gardens and the simple pleasure of putting one foot in front of the other without needing a grand destination.

SUMMER READING LIST



AUTHOR

James Aldred

CATEGORY

Non fiction

GENRE

Memoir, nature writing, place writing

MOOD

Nostalgic, restorative, rooted

SUBJECT

The New Forest, childhood memory, craft, wildlife, restoration

A memoir of restoration, memory and return, following James Aldred as he restores an old wagon and reconnects with the New Forest. Along the way, he writes about craft, wildlife, family and the enduring pull of a beloved landscape.

It belongs at Hyll because it understands something we believe too: that places stay with us, and sometimes the old things are the ones most worth tending.