



Read-alikes compiled by Sioux City Public Library Staff

[One Summer: America, 1927 by Bill Bryson](#)

Iowa native Bill Bryson transports readers on a journey back to one amazing season in American life. The summer of 1927 began with Charles Lindbergh crossing the Atlantic. Meanwhile, Babe Ruth was closing in on the home run record. In Chicago, gangster Al Capone was tightening his grip on bootlegging, and the first true “talking picture,” was filmed. All this and much more transpired in the year Americans attempted and accomplished big things—and when the twentieth century truly became the American century.

Bryson’s signature humor, wit, and attention to detail truly make history come alive.

Try these other Bill Bryson titles:

[The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir](#) Bill Bryson was born in the middle of the American century—1951—in the middle of the United States—Des Moines, Iowa—in the middle of the largest generation in American history—the baby boomers. Like many of his peers, Bryson grew up, fantasizing himself a superhero, “The Thunderbolt Kid.” Using this persona, he recreates his family life and his native city in the 1950s.

[A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail](#) (917.404 Bry) Stretching along the East Coast of the United States through some of the most arresting and celebrated landscapes in America is the Appalachian Trail. Facing savage weather, merciless insects, unreliable maps, and a fickle companion, Bryson gamely struggled through the wilderness to achieve a lifetime’s ambition – not to die outdoors.

[The Lost Continent: Travels in Small Town America](#) (917.3 Bry) An unsparing and hilarious account of Bill Bryson’s rediscovery of America, his search for the perfect small town, and the realization that he has become a foreigner in his own country.

[I’m a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America after 20 Years Away](#) (973.92 Bry) After living in Britain for two decades, Bill Bryson and his family moved back to the United States in 2003. Delivering the brilliant comic musings that are a Bryson hallmark, I’m a Stranger Here Myself recounts his sometimes disconcerting reunion with the land of his birth.

[At Home: A Short History of Private Life](#) (643.1 Bry) Taking us on a room-by-room tour through his own house, Bryson uses each room as a jumping off point into the vast history of the domestic artifacts we take for granted, and how whatever happens in the world eventually ends up in the paint, the pipes, the pillows, and every item of furniture in our homes.

[Shakespeare: the World as Stage](#) (822.33 Bry) William Shakespeare, the most celebrated poet in the English language, left behind nearly a million words of text, but his biography has long been a thicket of wild supposition arranged around scant facts. Bill Bryson sorts through this colorful muddle to reveal the man himself.

[The Mother Tongue: English and How it Got That Way](#) (420.9 Bry) With dazzling wit and astonishing insight, Bill Bryson brilliantly explores the remarkable history, eccentricities, resilience and sheer fun of the English language.



Books about monumental moments in history:

[The Swerve: How the World Became Modern](#) by [Stephen Greenblatt](#) (940.21 Gre) One manuscript, plucked from a thousand years of neglect, changed the course of human thought and made possible the world as we know it, Lucretius’s *On the Nature of Things*. It fueled the Renaissance, inspiring Botticelli, influencing the thoughts of Galileo, Freud, Darwin, and Einstein; and had a revolutionary impact on writers such as Montaigne, Shakespeare and even Thomas Jefferson.

[The Last of the President’s Men](#) by [Bob Woodward](#) (973.924 Woo) This is the untold story of Alexander Butterfield, the Nixon aide who disclosed the secret White House taping system that changed history and led to Nixon’s resignation.

[Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania](#) by [Erik Larson](#) (New Nonfiction 940.4514 Lar) On May 1, 1915, with WWI entering its tenth month, the *Lusitania*, the fastest liner then in service, set sail. As the ship made its way toward Liverpool, an array of forces both grand and achingly small—hubris, a chance fog, a closely guarded secret, and more—all converged to produce one of the great disasters of history.

[The Wright Brothers](#) by [David McCullough](#) (920 McC) On a winter day in 1903, in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, two unknown brothers, from Ohio, Wilbur and Orville Wright, changed history, flying the first heavier-than-air, powered machine carrying a pilot. The age of flight had begun. McCullough tells the dramatic story-behind-the-story about the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly.

Tales set in the Roaring Twenties:

[Live by Night](#) by [Dennis Lehane](#) (Fic Leh) An epic, unflinching tale of the making and unmaking of a gangster in the Prohibition Era of the Roaring Twenties.

[The Other Daughter](#) by [Lauren Willig](#) (New Fic Wil) Upon learning that she is an earl’s illegitimate daughter, 1920s governess Rachel Woodley teams up with an associate who helps her infiltrate key social circles in order to contact her father and undermine her privileged half-sister’s world.

[Dollface: A Novel of the Roaring Twenties](#) by [Renee Rosen](#) (Fic Ros) Touring the nightclubs of 1920s Chicago in the hopes of enjoying an exciting life, beautiful Vera captures the attentions of two high rollers who admit her into the risky underworld of jazz, gambling, bootleg bourbon, and organized crime.

Sioux City Public Library has many titles available in Large Print, Audiobooks on CD, or downloadable eAudiobooks and eBooks through Overdrive. Check the catalog at www.siouxcitylibrary.org or contact us at (712) 255-2933 x 221, to see if your preferred format is available.

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