

NONFICTION READERS ADVISORY

STEPHANIE SENDAULA

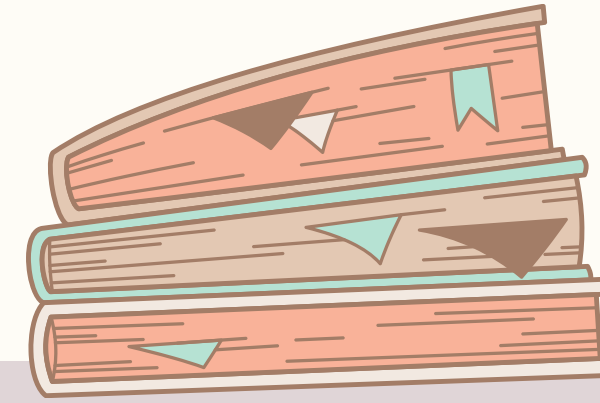


WHY NONFICTION?

- ✦ You like how it expands your understanding of the world
- ✦ You recognize it builds critical thinking and information-gathering skills
- ✦ You appreciate how it allows you to make real-world connections
- ✦ You respect how it allows you to build visual literacy
- ✦ You are in a state of re-evaluating and re-assessing what you believe in



Traditional Nonfiction



Browseable Nonfiction



Active Nonfiction

TYPES OF NONFICTION



Narrative Nonfiction



Expository Literature

POPULAR GENRES IN 2022

- Art & Photography
- Business & Finance
- Cooking & Food
- History
- Lifestyle & Wellness
- Memoirs & Biographies
- Politics & Current Events
- Science

NONFICTION APPEAL FACTORS

✓ Richly detailed

✓ Range of styles, from popular to academic

✓ Introductory overview of a given subject

✓ Compelling stories

✓ Extras: pictures, maps, charts, bibliographies, and indexes

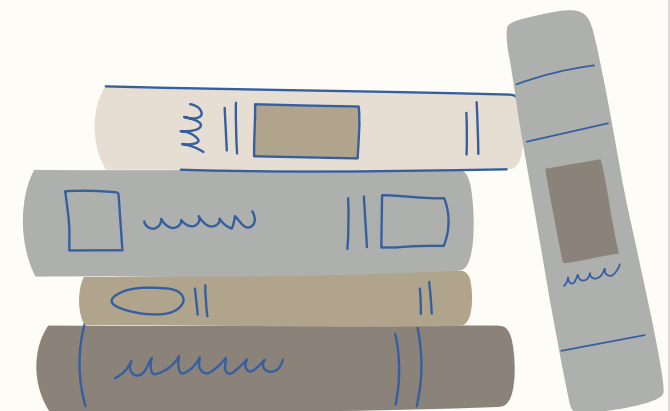
✓ Cinematic, often made into movies and TV shows



QUESTIONS TO ASK

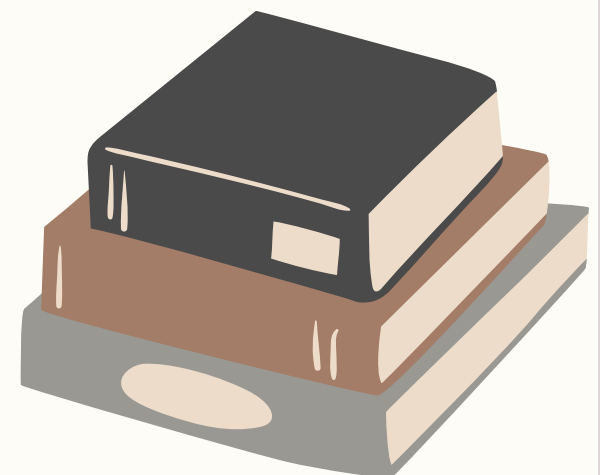
Reader's Advisory

- ❓ What are you in the mood for?
- ❓ Do you have a favorite TV show or podcast?
- ❓ Do you have a favorite author?
- ❓ Do you want a page-turner or a leisurely-paced read?



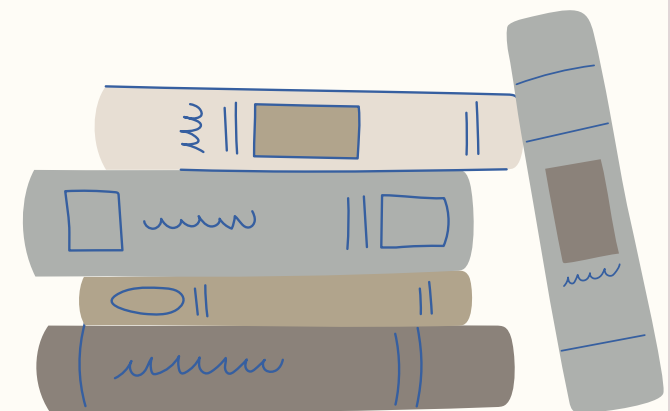
JUDGE THE COVER

- ✦ What's the subtitle, and what does it tell you?
- ✦ Who blurbed it? Fellow author, or academics?
- ✦ Has the author written nonfiction (or fiction) before?
- ✦ What's the table of contents like? How long is the book?
- ✦ Is the author on the front or the flap?



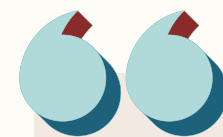
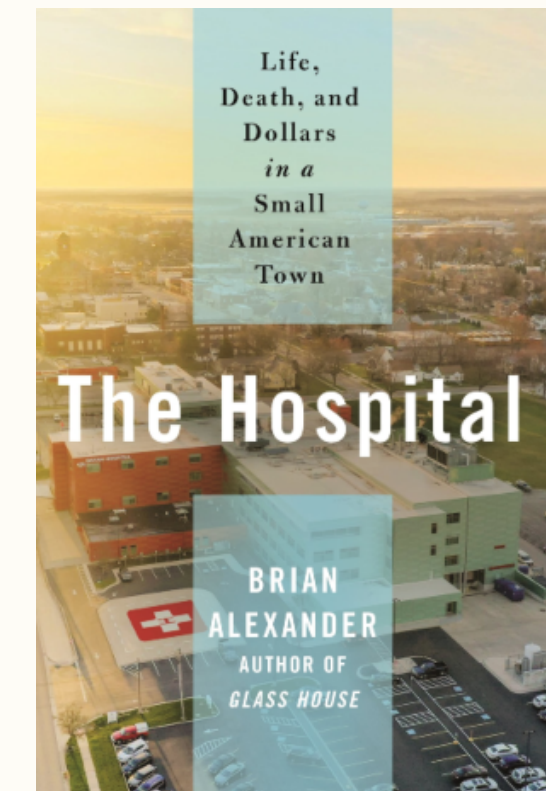
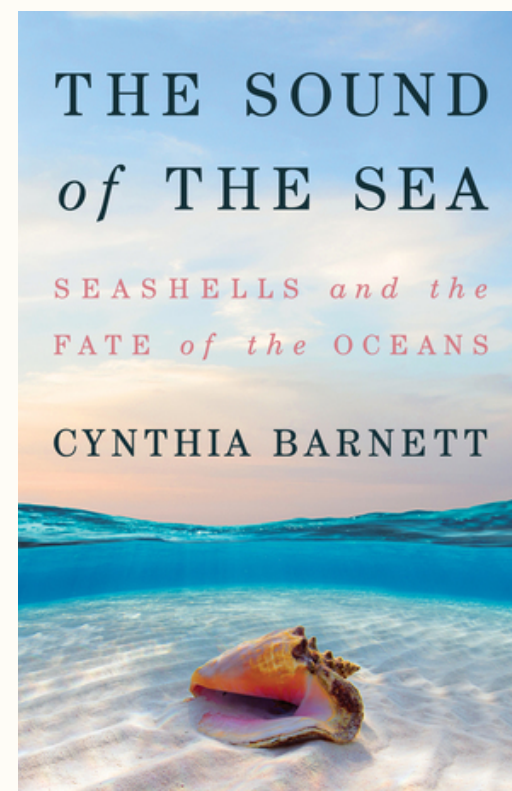
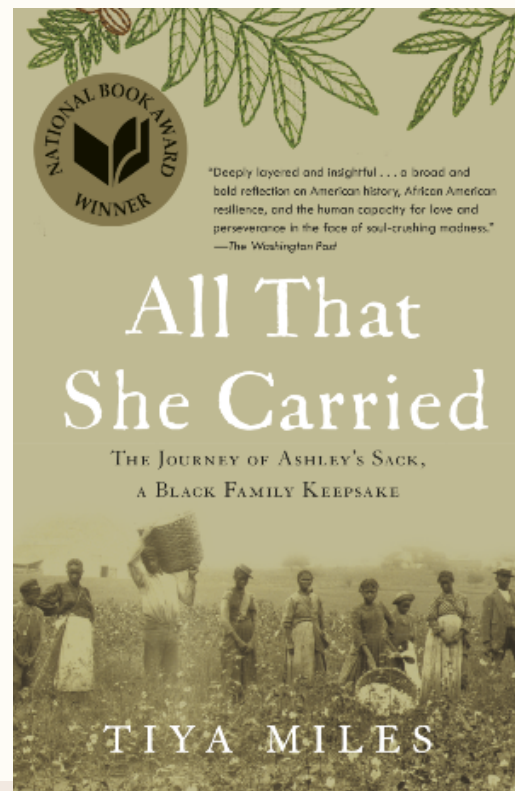
JUDGE THE DETAILS

- ✦ What is the writing style and arrangement of information?
- ✦ Are there any extras (maps, photos, charts), included?
- ✦ How long are the index and bibliography?
- ✦ Are there citations? Footnotes? Is there further reading?
- ✦ Who is the intended audience? Book clubs? Layperson? Specialist?

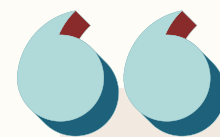


SUCCESSFUL NONFICTION RA

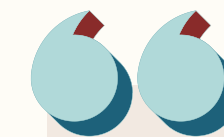
Based on judging the cover and the details



I like historical fiction, books by Ben Macintyre and Kate Moore



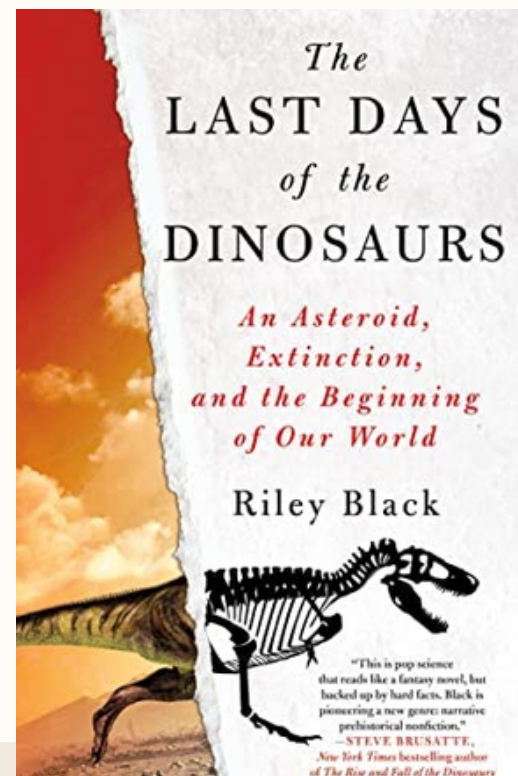
I like the outdoors, armchair travel, books by Elizabeth Kolbert



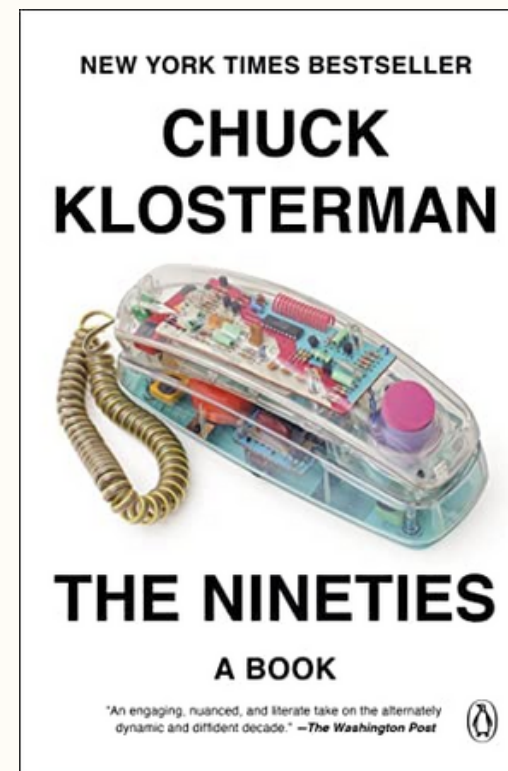
I like medical memoirs, human interest stories, getting lost in a book

SUCCESSFUL NONFICTION RA

Based on judging the cover and the details



I like readable science, books by Carl Zimmer and Jared Diamond



I like pop culture, humorous memoirs, cultural histories

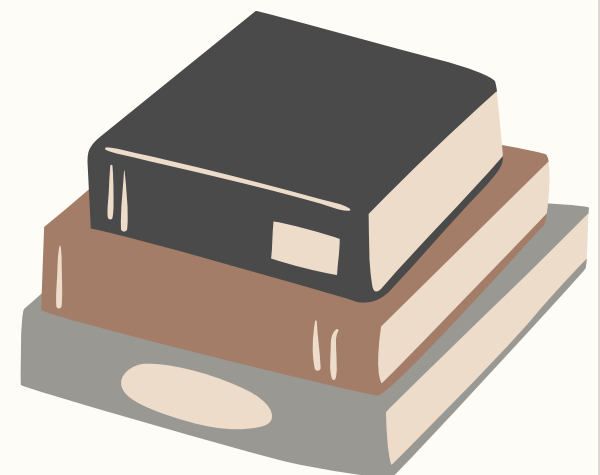


I like women's memoirs, self-help, books on or about motherhood

ACTION STEPS

Getting Started

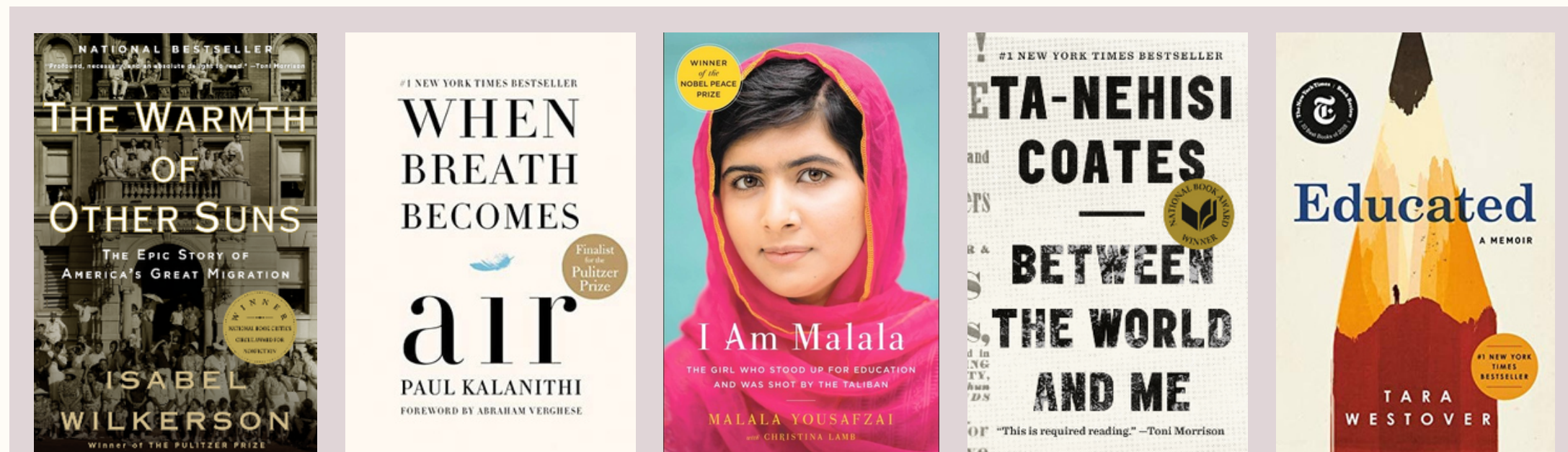
- ✔ Get to know your collections' strengths and weaknesses
- ✔ Create displays pairing fiction and nonfiction (e.g., thrillers, history)
- ✔ Suggest read-alike nonfiction when doing RA with a fiction reader
- ✔ Include nonfiction in booklists, blogs, and discussion groups



ACTION STEPS

Staying Ahead

- ➔ Be familiar with anniversaries of historical events
- ➔ Stay up-to-date on modern nonfiction classics
- ➔ When weeding, consider whether a book is definitive
- ➔ Have a collection of books by Sure Bet authors



SURE BET AUTHORS

A human interest story?

Candice Millard, Laura Hillenbrand

A memoir with recipes?

Ruth Reichl, Anthony Bourdain

A solid military history?

Rick Atkinson, Nathaniel Philbrick

A story of action and adventure?

Erik Larsen, Sebastian Junger

An engaging micro-history?

Mark Kurlansky, Susan Orlean

An accessible popular science?

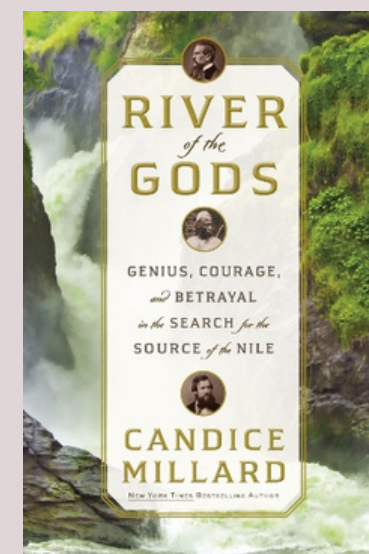
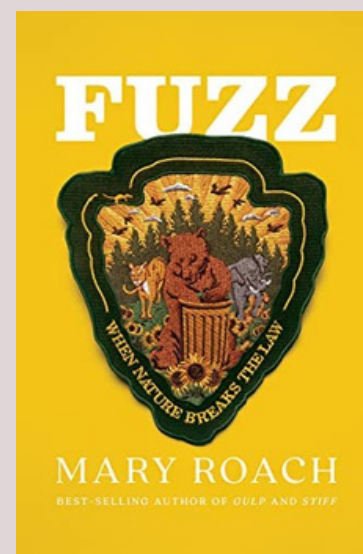
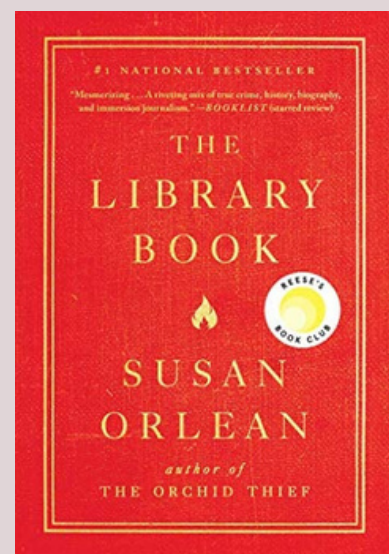
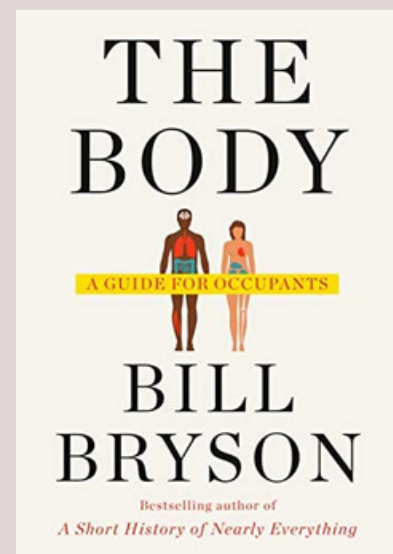
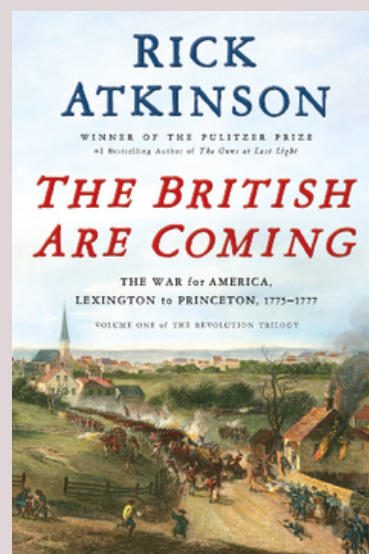
Mary Roach, David Quammen

An armchair travel experience?

Bill Bryson, Simon Winchester

A comprehensive biography?

Doris Kearns Goodwin, David McCullough



STAYING CURRENT WITH NONFIC

Beyond traditional review outlets

- ✓ Edelweiss
- ✓ NetGalley
- ✓ LJ's Book Pulse
- ✓ Shelf Awareness
- ✓ Publisher catalogs
- ✓ LitHub & Book Marks
- ✓ NPR Books
- ✓ The Atlantic
- ✓ Vulture Books
- ✓ Science Friday
- ✓ BuzzFeed Books
- ✓ Electric Literature

STAYING CURRENT WITH NONFIC

Nonfiction Awards

- ④ Pulitzer Prize
- ④ National Book Award
- ④ Man Booker Prize
- ④ Whiting Award
- ④ Audie Award
- ④ ALA RUSA Notables
- ④ National Book Critics Circle Award
- ④ Carnegie Medal for Excellence
- ④ PEN America Literary Awards
- ④ Lambda Literary Award
- ④ Stonewall Book Award
- ④ Bram Stoker Award

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023

- ➔ Memoirs and biographies remain popular
- ➔ Cookbooks and self-help have renewed interest in DEI
- ➔ BookTok matures and continues to gain prominence
- ➔ Pre-election year means increase in books focusing on politics, inequality, immigration, poverty, and police brutality

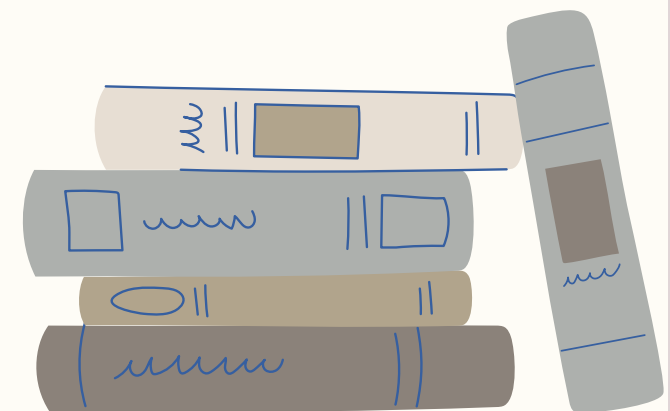


Source: Publisher's Weekly (PW)

KEEP IN MIND

Don't Panic!

- ✔ You *don't* need to be an expert in nonfiction
- ✔ You *do* need to know your collection
- ✔ You *don't* need to have read a book to help it find it's reader
- ✔ You *do* need to be curious



QUESTIONS?

SENDAULAS@GMAIL.COM

