



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-6215

Global Reading Challenge: Iceland

DB95714 Independent People by Halldor Laxness (historical fiction)

Bjartur of Summerhouses has put down the first payment for his own land after working for eighteen years as a shepherd. He dreams of living a quiet life, beholden to no one. But his daughter longs for her own freedom. Unrated. 1946. Winner of the 1955 Nobel Prize in Literature

DB30147 Four Old Icelandic Sagas And Other Tales (Norse family saga)

Nine Old Norse family sagas and stories are presented in English translation. They reveal the blood feuds, humor, and pathos of long-ago Icelandic life. The saga of Clever Ref -- The story of Thorstein of the East Fjords -- The saga of Valla Ljot -- The story of Thorvard Crow-Nose -- The story of Shuttle-Halli -- The story of Gold Asa-Thord -- The saga of the oath-bound men -- The story of Gisl Illugason -- The saga of Bjorn, champion of Hitardale.

DB99798 The Draining Lake; Inspector Erlendur 04 by Arnaldur Indriðason (mystery)
Following an earthquake, the water level of an Icelandic lake suddenly falls, revealing a skeleton. Inspector Erlendur's investigation takes him back to the Cold War era, when bright, left-wing students in Iceland were sent to study in the "heavenly state" of Communist East Germany. Unrated. 2008.

DBC24689 Butterflies In November by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir (contemporary fiction)

A blackly comic, charming, and uplifting tale of friends and lovers, motherhood, and self-discovery. After being dumped and then winning the lottery, a woman in her thirties, along with her best friend's four-year-old deaf-mute son, takes a transformative road trip through Iceland, encountering eccentrics and finding herself. Unrated. 2004.

DB95282 Wild Horses Of The Summer Sun: A Memoir Of Iceland by Tory Bilski

Memoir of traveling to Iceland every summer from 2004 to 2015 in order to ride horses. Discusses bonding with her fellow travelers, living in a rural part of Iceland, and working with the horses. Shares the ways the trips changed over twelve years. 2019.

DB109348 *Snowblind*; Dark Iceland Series 01 by Ragnar Jonasson (police thriller)
Siglufjörður: an idyllically quiet fishing village in Northern Iceland where no one locks their doors—accessible only via a small mountain tunnel. Ari Thór Arason: a rookie policeman on his first posting, far from his girlfriend in Reykjavík—with a past that he's unable to leave behind. When a young woman is found lying half-naked in the snow, bleeding and unconscious, and a highly esteemed, elderly writer falls to his death in the local theater, Ari is dragged straight into the heart of a community where he can trust no one and secrets and lies are a way of life. Past plays tag with the present and the claustrophobic tension mounts as Ari is thrust ever deeper into his own darkness—blinded by snow and with a killer on the loose. Taut and terrifying, *Snowblind* is a startling debut from an extraordinary new talent. 2010.

DB92682 *CoDex 1962: A Trilogy*; *Leo Löwe Trilogy #1-3* by Sjón (magical realism)
The complete Leo Loewe Trilogy, which includes a love story, a murder mystery, and a science fiction story. In *Thine Eyes Did See My Substance*, a Jewish fugitive has an affair with a German maid. Also includes Iceland's *Thousand Years* and *I'm a Sleeping Door*. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2016.

DB37155 *Surtsey: The Newest Place On Earth* by Kathryn Lasky (ecology)
In November 1963 a brand-new island was created by the eruption of a volcano in the Atlantic Ocean near the Westman Islands, south of Iceland. The volcano and the birth of Surtsey were witnessed by the crew of an Icelandic fishing vessel. The author tells the remarkable story of Surtsey from its formation and naming through its colonization and the establishment of plant and animal life. For grades 4-7 and older readers.

DB106922 *How Iceland Changed The World: The Big History Of A Small Island*
by Egill Bjarnason (history)

A tour of Iceland's history, exploring the island nation's pivotal role in events as diverse as the French Revolution, the Moon Landing, and the foundation of Israel. The author begins with the Viking discovery of the island over a millennium ago. Unrated. 2021.

DB16528 *Iceland Summer: Adventures Of A Bird Painter* by George Miksch Sutton
The day-to-day experiences of three enthusiastic ornithologists who drove and hiked over a large part of Iceland, with boat trips to some of the smaller islands nearby. The author, well known for his faithful bird paintings, has a keen eye for the variations in plumage of such unfamiliar species as ptarmigan, puffin, shearwater, and skau, and describes vividly what he saw. 1974.