PRONGHORN READS
WYOMING HUMANITIES

January 2026 Reading List

Theme: Read a Book About a Winter or a Cold Theme

Let's ring in the New Year with a book that takes us to a cold and snowy place. What does winter mean to you? January is all about winter, nuclear, weather, or just plain chilly.

Book Title (A-Z)	**Author**	**Reader Reflection**
		Prompt: In a sentence or two, tell us what you think about the book and/or why you chose this title.
A Woman in the Polar Night	Christiane Ritter	This was an amazing autobiographical book about a woman that spends a winter in Svalbard. I chose it at our local bookstore, Legends. -*Bethany, Meeteetse*
His Dark Materials	Philip Pullman	This is a YA book, but I missed out on it as kid. It is still a captivating read for adults.-*Amanda, Laramie*
Mistletoe and Magic	Helen Sula	It seemed like a cozy winter read with some mystery and not just a holiday romance. It was a great self discovery book reminding us that sometimes we need to lose ourselves to find ourselves.-*Samantha, Gillette*

Onyx Storm	Rebecca Yarros	It is the third book in the Empyrean Book series by Rebecca Yarros. It has a very wintery vibe as the setting takes place at Basgiath War College in cold weather where young adult recruits/students harness their skills and knowledge to learn their signets and fight the evil in the lands/wards on their continent. Some of them are dragon riders, fliers, or scribes and they battle against the Venins to save their people. -*Rachel, Cheyenne*
Snow	Britanee Nicole	It was a book in a hockey series I had read in 2025. -*Serena, Moorcroft*
Snow Country	Yasunari Kawabata	I picked up this classic Japanese novel by nobel laureate Kawabata based on the title and loved the beautiful descriptions of mountain landscapes, life in a hot springs town, and the relationship between a Tokyo man and a rural geisha. -*Kristen, Cheyenne*
The Frozen River	Ariel Lawhon	This book came highly recommended by so very many people, and since we were in the midst of a few days of sub-zero temperatures, I decided it was fitting to finally delve into it. Set in 1789 in Maine, The Frozen River is based on the real-life diaries of Martha Ballard, a midwife who is thrust in the middle of a murder trial. Part history and part mystery, this is a reminder of the struggle women had in the 18th century and of their grit and resilience. I highly recommend! -*Patty, Powell*
The Left Hand of Darkness	Ursula K. LeGuin	This book is a classic of science fiction that I have wanted to read for a long time, and it just so happened that the world this story takes place in is called Winter, which fits the theme for this month very well. It sometimes read more like an anthropological report rather than a

The Life We Bury	Allen Eskens	I chose this book for a wintry read, because the cover clearly depicts a winter scene. This book sat on my to-be-read list for a long time, and I wish I would have picked it up sooner! It's a psychological thriller, and also a mystery. A college student interviews a convicted murderer for an English assignment and accidentally uncovers key elements in the 30+ year old case. Not everyone is excited about him poking around and his life, and the lives of those he loves, are then in danger in order to keep the newly discovered evidence buried. -*Caranna, Worland*
The People's Act of Love	James Meek	The White Army, the Red Army, a forgotten troop of Czech soldiers who just want to go home, shifting alliances, a sect of castrati, cannibalism, secrets, intrigue, moral dilemmas, betrayal, romance all in a Siberian village close to the Arctic circle. Doesn't get more winter than that. A compelling read and a good story with several complex, surprising examples of what the characters believe is an "act of love." - *RoseMarie, Laramie*
The Snow Child	Eowyn Ivey	Based loosely on the folktale of the snow maiden, this book tells of a childless couple that moves to Alaska in the early 1920s to make a fresh start. One night they make a girl out of snow in the yard with mittens and a scarf and the next morning everything is gone. The begin to see a young girl wearing the mittens and the scarf in the woods and eventually make contact and begin to think of her as their child. Is she real or a manifestation of their isolation? *Mary, Sheridan*

The White Darkness	David Grann	I love books in which people push themselves to the limit, whether it's conquering one of the tallest peaks on Earth, breaking a swimming distance record, or in this case, traversing across a continent as unrelenting as Antarctica. Henry Worsley was obsessed with Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton, and vowed to succeed where Shackleton failed. This book is a fascinating and riveting account of Worsley's attempt and shows just how punishing the climate and geography of our least-know continent is. *-Karin, Gillette*
The Wolves of Winter	Tyrell Johnson	"I chose The Wolves of Winter because it's a post- apocalyptic world, shaped by a deadly virus. The book's mix of survival, isolation and unexpected hope made it a gripping dystopian read that stuck with me long after I finished it."*-Cathy, Buffalo*
Tom's Crossing	Mark Z. Danielewski	An amazing adventure set in some fabricated mountains in Utah. Two kids form a bond with a couple of nameless horses that sets off a chain of events that go well beyond what the kids or anyone intended. Written like a Greek Tragedy set in the 1980s American West, this door stopper of a book (indeed, it is hefty), is chilling, thrilling, and a little spooky. *-Lucas, Laramie*

Wintering	Katherine May	A bit on the nose, maybe, but this title's been on my TBR long enough and merited the wait at the library! The author's memoir of one of her metaphorical winters unfolds over half a year and touches upon the natural processes that inform our mindsets and moods; alternately ruminative like hibernationnand invigorating like a polar plunge.- *Justin, Cheyenne*