

November 2024

From the Librarian

Kia ora koutou,

As the year winds down, the library is starting to warm up! The natural light that pours into the space makes it perfect place to read.

Our website is currently being upgraded. You can search our catalogue with ease. Everything on the ground floor is listed there. I'm happy to help anyone who needs assistance with using this feature. Additionally, we will soon have a *Gallery* showcasing photos from past events.

- Holly Fletcher

What's Happening

Poetry Reading

Friday 13th December
5.30pm

In support of the *Stitching Solidarity*: Artists for Palestine, (For more information on this project – check out their Instagram) we will be hosting a poetry reading to run alongside this collective Kaupapa.

Poets Hera Lindsay Bird, Lynley Edmeades, Pam Morrison and Rushi Vyas will be reading.

More details tbc- keep the date locked!



Book Review

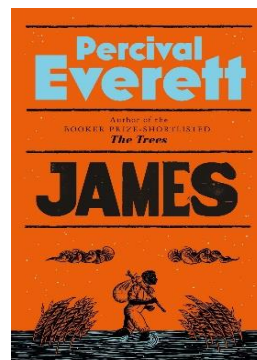
Percival Everett
James

Shortlisted for the 2024 Booker Prize and widely anticipated to win. *James* is a retelling of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of Jim (James), an enslaved man. For decades, Jim has been regarded as one of the most prominent Black characters in the American literary canon.

Everett subverts and reclaims this famous story with intelligence and care. The reader is guided through a narrative filled with bravery and adventure. Everett is a master of language, a skill he uses to reiterate the power language has in shaping

perspective. This is achieved through the lens of racism, a subject Everett explores with sensitivity, wit and intellectual force.

Jim discovers that he is to be sold in New Orleans, which would separate him from his wife and daughter. Taking his fate into his own hands, Jim makes the equally terrifying decision to run. Meanwhile, Huck flees his home to escape his abusive father, leading both characters on an adventure that, at its core places Jim as the hero.



This book was incredibly refreshing - at times both humorous and horrifying. It has made me an immediate fan of Percival Everett's writing, so much so that I went and bought myself a copy of his book *The Trees*, which was also shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2022.