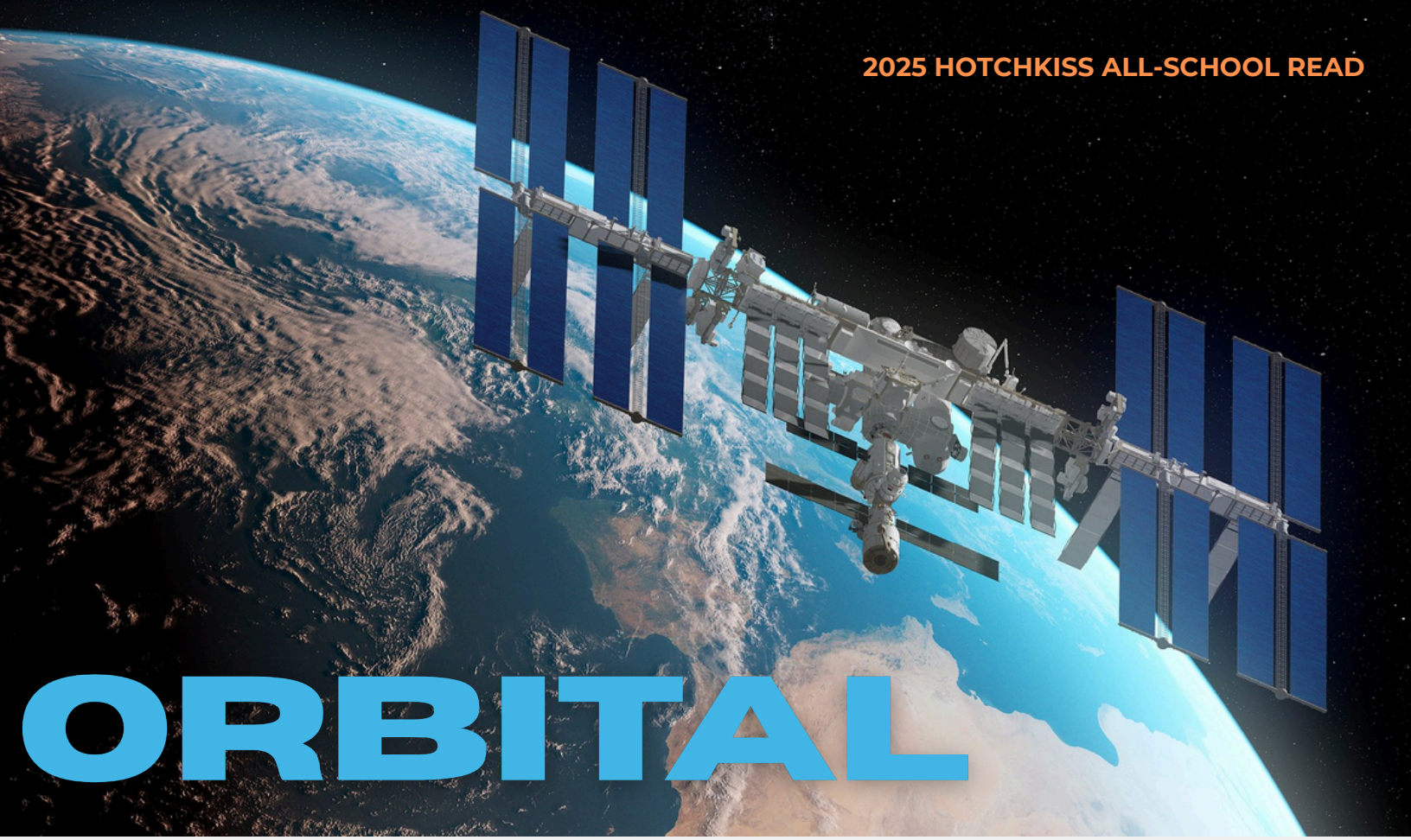
2025 HOTCHKISS ALL-SCHOOL READ



ORBITAL



BY
SAMANTHA HARVEY
2024
BOOKER PRIZE WINNER



Samantha Harvey, who grew up in Kent, England, and earned degrees in philosophy and creative writing, lives what she calls a "low-tech life." Yet she was inspired to write *ORBITAL,* a novel about 6 astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station, out of a sense of awe for the ingenuity and cooperation the ISS represents.

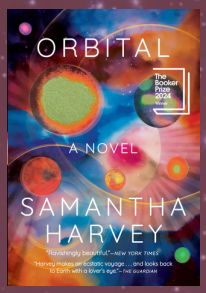
The ISS was launched in 1998 as a collaborative low earth orbit observation center between Europe, the United States, Russia, Canada, and Japan, and it has been continuously manned since 2000. For Harvey, it represents something "vigilant and devoted and democratic... a set of collaborative values on which it has delivered." When it is de-orbited in 2030, it will be replaced by what Harvey describes as more "commercially driven" privatized endeavors in space.

In *ORBITAL, Harvey* draws on the poetic tradition of the "literary pastoral," seeing the ISS as a "ship that for almost a quarter of a century has been watching us and our acreage of cosmos with a faithful, quiet attention, just as the shepherd in the traditional literary pastoral watches his flock." Read more at **Lit Hub!**

FURTHER EXPLORATION

Try clicking or right-clicking (two-finger) the images and bolded links below to open in a new tab

THE BOOKER



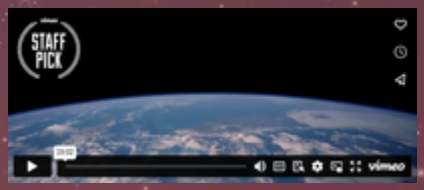
ORBITAL received the 2024 Booker Prize, awarded annually to a novel written in English. Click the book cover to learn about the selection process.

YEAR IN SPACE



Click to watch clips from the PBS documentary, *A YEAR IN SPACE,* which follows astronaut Scott Kelly on a 12-month mission to the ISS.

THE OVERVIEW



In 1987, Frank White wrote *THE OVERVIEW EFFECT,* putting into words the cognitive shift many astronauts feel after seeing Earth from space.. This video features White describing the phenomenon!

ADA LIMÓN



US Poet Laureate Ada Limón visited Hotchkiss in May 2025. Click to hear her read "In Praise of Mystery," a poem she wrote for NASA's unmanned Clipper mission to Jupiter.

MARGINALIAN



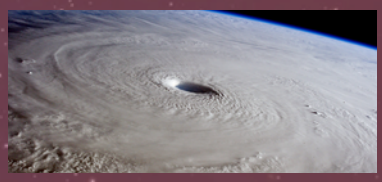
Discover more literary forays into space at *The Marginalian*, including the **Maya Angelou poem** that flew to space, an **astrophysicist reading Whitman**, and a **painted epic poem** about spacetime.

BOOK CLUB



Have a listen to the *New York Times'* February Book Club podcast about *ORBITAL!*

CLIMATE DATA



In *ORBITAL,* astronauts pay close attention to a typhoon as it amasses power and approaches the Philippines. Read more about how the ISS reports major **weather events** and observes **climate change** around the globe.

NASA LIVE



Use the bolded links to view the **ISS livestream** or read **NASA's blog**, including news of the SpaceX Dragon docking, which recently delivered new crew members to the ISS.

SPOT THE ISS



You can download NASA's mobile app, Spot the Station, to track the ISS in the night sky for yourself!