

GFWC/IOWA ADVENTURES IN READING

2020-2022

The following lists are a starting point for your reading; some titles may fit more than one category. There are numerous sources for additional suggestions. Also included are lists of prolific popular authors, writers with Iowa ties, All Iowa Reads selections, and other resources for your reading adventure.

Fiction

The Friendship List by Susan Mallery
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
Happy and You Know It by Laura Hankin
Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine by Gail Honeyman
The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson
The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
Deacon King Kong by James McBride
A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende
It's Not All Downhill from Here by Terry McMillan

Romance

28 Summers by Elin Hilderbrand
When We Believed in Mermaids by Barbara O'Neal
The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan
The Lost and Found Bookshop by Susan Wiggs
You Should See Me in a Crown by Leah Johnson
it started with a secret by Jill Mansell
Bet Me by Jennifer Crusie
Kiss an Angel by Susan Elizabeth Phillips
The Bookish Life of Nina Hill by Abbi Waxman
Summer Rental by Mary Kay Andrews

Mystery/Thriller

Camino Winds and Camino Island by John Grisham
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
The Woman in the Moonlight by Patricia Morrisroe
When No One is Watching by Alyssa Cole
The Best of Friends by Lucinda Berry
Behind Closed Doors by B. A. Paris
True to Me by Kay Bratt
The Secrets of Strangers by Charity Norman
The House Guest by Mark Edwards
Above the Bay of Angels by Rhys Bowen

Memoir/Biography

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

Me: Elton John Official Autobiography by Elton John

The Answer is...: Reflections on My Life by Alex Trebek

Your Blue is Not My Blue: A Missing Person Memoir by Aspen Matis

Between the Stops: The View of My Life from the Top of the Number 12 Bus by Sandi Toksvig

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Talking as Fast as I Can: From Gilmore Girls to Gilmore Girls by Lauren Graham

Leave Only Footprints: My Acadia-to-Zion Journey Through Every National Park by Conor Knighton

Lady Clementine by Marie Benedict

Authors from Iowa, or with Iowa Connections

Heather Gudenkauf

Donald Harstad

Carol Bodensteiner

Fern Kupfer

Joseph Geha

Kali VanBaale

Mary Swander

Jane Smiley

Mike Draper

Larry Stone

Mary Kay Shanley

Jann Freed

Allen Eskens

This is just a partial list; more can be found at the Iowa Center for the Book. The Iowa Writers Workshop at The University of Iowa has hosted many authors of national and international reputation.

Popular Authors

James Patterson

Ruth Ware

Elin Hilderbrand

Louise Penny

Nora Roberts

J.D. Robb

Jodi Picoult

Liane Moriarity

Heather Gudenkauf

Danielle Steel

Debbie Macomber

Sandra Brown

John Grisham

Stephen King

Kristin Hannah

Stuart Woods

Nicholas Sparks

C.J. Box

Lisa Scottoline

“Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and go through into another world.”

-Jeanette Winterson

All Iowa Reads

- 2020 The Mothers by Brit Bennett
- 2019 This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of An American Family by Ted Genoways
- 2018 The Boys in the Bunkhouse by Dan Barry
- 2017 Bottomland by Michelle Hoover
- 2016 Lila by Marilynne Robinson
- 2014 Little Wolves by Thomas Maltman
- 2013 The Year We Left Home by Jean Thompson
- 2012 Strength in What Remains by Tracy Kidder
- 2011 Sing Them Home by Stephanie Kallos
- 2010 Driftless by David Rhodes
- 2009 The Rope Walk by Carrie Brown
- 2008 Digging to America by Anne Tyler
- 2007 Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio by Jeffrey Kluger
- 2006 Gilead by Marilynne Robinson
- 2005 The Master Butchers Singing Club by Louise Erdrich
- 2004 Niagara Falls All Over Again by Elizabeth McCracken
- 2003 Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

The purpose of All Iowa Reads is to foster a sense of unity through reading. We encourage Iowans statewide to come together in their communities to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. Libraries, book clubs, schools and other local organizations are encouraged to sponsor discussions of the title.

More information on the All Iowa Reads process, and additional book suggestions for teens and young readers can be found at the Iowa Center for the Book.

“Books are the perfect entertainment: no commercials, no batteries, hours of enjoyment for each dollar spent. What I wonder is why everybody doesn’t carry a book around for those inevitable dead spots in life.” -Stephen King

“I don’t believe in the kind of magic in my books. But I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.” -J.K. Rowling

Additional Resources

There are great resources available to find addition titles. Your local library is the best place to start.

Book clubs encourage reading selections that you might not choose for yourself, and will expose you to new genres and ideas – expand your horizons! There are celebrity book clubs and reading lists from the following:

Reese Witherspoon	Emma Watson
Bill Gates	Oprah Winfrey
Sarah Jessica Parker	

Local independent bookstores such as Prairie Lights in Iowa City, Beaverville Books in Des Moines, Plot Twist Books in Ankeny are good resources. Support local and find new friends and reading treasures.

Your favorite periodicals may publish reading lists; book stores will provide lists, and online reading groups will have great ideas. Here are a few websites that will give you more suggestions:

Good Reads	New York Public Library
Barnes & Noble	Literary Hub
Reading Group Guides	New York Times
Good Housekeeping	Book Riot
Reading Group Choices	Washington Post
NPR	Cosmopolitan
Esquire	Washington Post

Reporting Deadlines

December 1 st of each year:	Club members file reports to Club Reading Chairwoman
January 1 st of each year:	Club Reading Chair sends report to District Reading Chair
February 1 st of each year:	District Reading Chair sends the District report to the GFWC/Iowa Adventures in Reading Chair

Please let me know if you have questions, need additional information, or have suggestions.

Happy Reading!

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