

# GFWC/IOWA ADVENTURES IN READING

2022-2024

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 Book Woman's Daughter by Kim Michele Richardson

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Age of Vice by Deepti Kapoor

Victory City by Salman Rushdie

Decent People by De'Shawn Charles Winslow

River Sing Me Home by Eleanor Shearer

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

The House in the Pines: A Novel by Ana Reyes

Without a Trace: A Novel by Danielle Steel

The Boys from Biloxi: A Legal Thriller by John Grisham

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

## **Romance**

Dating Dr. Dil: A Novel by Nisha Sharma

Love on the Brain by Ali Hazelwood

Book Lovers by Emily Henry

Reminders of Him by Colleen Hoover

Funny You Should Ask: A Novel by Elissa Sussman

Weather Girl by Rachel Lynn Solomon

Thank You for Listening by Julia Whelan

The Bodyguard by Katherine Center

The Dead Romantics by Ashley Poston

Wherever the Wind Takes Us by Kelly Harms

Hotel Nantucket by Elin Hilderbrand

To Get to the Other Side by Kelly Ohlert

## **Mystery/Thriller**

Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

The Maid by Nita Prose

The Homewreckers by Mary Kay Andrews

A Mother Would Know by Amber Garza

The Widow by Kaira Rouda

The Last Invitation by Darby Kane

No One Left to Come Looking for You by Sam Lipsyte  
All the Dangerous Things by Stacy Willingham  
City Under One Roof by Iris Yamashita  
Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone by Benjamin Stevenson  
She's Gone by David Bell  
Amok by Barry Eisler

## **Memoir/Biography**

The Storyteller by Dave Grohl  
Number One is Walking: My Life in the Movies and Other Diversions by Steve Martin  
The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man by Paul Newman, written with David Rosenthal  
Queen of Our Times: The Life of Queen Elizabeth II by Robert Hardman  
Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story by Bono  
Finding Me by Viola Davis  
Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner  
Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing by Matthew Perry  
Have I Told You This Already?: Things I Don't Want to Forget to Remember by Lauren Graham  
Too Much by Tom Allen  
A Private Spy: The Letters of John Le Carre by John Le Carre, David Cornwell, Tom Cornwell  
A Book of Days by Patti Smith

## **Pulitzer Prize Winners**

### Fiction

2021 The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich  
2020 The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead  
2019 The Overstory by Richard Powers  
2018 Less by Andrew Sean Greer  
2017 The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

### Nonfiction

2021 Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy by David Zucchino  
2020 The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America by Greg Grandin  
2019 Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America by Eliza Griswold  
2018 Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America by James Forman Jr.  
2017 Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

*"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home." — Anna Quindlen*

## All Iowa Reads

- 2023 How High We Go in the Dark: A Novel by Sequoia Nagamatsu  
2022 The Butterfly Effect by Rachel Mans McKenny  
2021 Little Faith by Nickolas Butler  
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.

### Authors from Iowa, or with Iowa Connections

Heather Gudenkauf	Donald Harstad	Allen Eskens
Mary Kay Shanley	Mike Draper	Larry Stone
Carol Bodensteiner	Fern Kupfer	Jane Smiley
Joseph Geha	Kali VanBaale	Mary Swander
Jann Freed		

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.

*"Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world." --Jeanette Winterson*

## A Year-Long Challenge

*Do this and you will have more than enough books to report in December!*

January	Read a book you already own but haven't read
February	Read an old-fashioned cozy mystery – think Agatha Christie
March	Read an historical fiction novel set in a time period you've not read before
April	Read a book with an animal as a major part of the plot, or animal in the title
May	Read a coming-of-age or Young Adult novel
June	Read a schmaltzy romance
July	Read a novel set in a beach town
August	Read a classic
September	Read a novel by an author who goes by his/her initials
October	Read a book suggested by your mother, sister or daughter
November	Read a nonfiction book
December	Read a novel set in winter or with a Christmas theme

Some other ideas to break out of your routine:

Read a book with a color in the title

Read a book set in the decade or year you were born

Read books set in each of the continents

Read books written in each of the decades you've been alive

Read a new release from every month of the year

Read books from the years each of your family members were born

Read a book that inspired your favorite movie

Re-read a book assigned in high school and you didn't like – you might change your mind!

*"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books." — Roald Dahl*

## Popular Authors

James Patterson	Ruth Ware	Colleen Hoover
Elin Hilderbrand	Louise Penny	Lisa Scottoline
Nora Roberts	J.D. Robb	C.J. Box
Jodi Picoult	Liane Moriarty	Nicholas Sparks
Heather Gudenkauf	Danielle Steel	Stuart Woods
Debbie Macomber	Sandra Brown	Kristin Hannah
John Grisham	Stephen King	

*"Every night, I have to read a book, so that my mind will stop thinking about things that I stress about." — Britney Spears*

## 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  
Oprah Winfrey

Emma Watson  
Bill Gates

Sarah Jessica Parker

Local independent bookstores such as Prairie Lights in Iowa City, and Beaverdale Books in Des Moines 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  
Barnes & Noble  
Reading Group Guides  
Washington Post  
Reading Group Choices

New York Public Library  
Literary Hub  
New York Times  
Cosmopolitan  
Washington Post

Book Girls Guide  
Good Housekeeping  
Book Riot  
NPR  
Esquire

*“Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.” — Anne Herbert*

## Reporting Deadlines

Reporting period is December 1 – November 30 each year

December 1 <sup>st</sup> of each year:	Club members report to Club Reading Chairwoman
January 1 <sup>st</sup> of each year:	Club Reading Chair sends report to District Reading Chair
February 1 <sup>st</sup> 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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