

DIBS

(Discussions In Boxes)

A selection of challenging and entertaining discussion books plus a binder full of reviews and information about the authors is available for a checkout period of 6 weeks.



Alexie, Sherman. **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** Inspired by his own experiences growing up on an Indian reservation, Alexie chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one plucky boy trying to rise above the life everyone expects him to live. YA FIC ALEX (also PLAYAWAY)

Ali, Monica. **Brick Lane** After an arranged marriage to a man twenty years older, Nazneen is taken to London, leaving her home and heart in the Bangladeshi village where she was born. FIC ALI (also DVD DRAMA BRICK)

Ambrose, Stephen. **Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West** This is nonfiction but it reads like fiction. There was only one death on this 1804-06 expedition and that man is buried in Iowa. 917.8042 AM (also CASBOOK)

Bank, Melissa. **The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing** Jane Rosenthal sets out on a personal and spirited expedition through the perilous terrain of sex, love, and relationships, and the treacherous waters of the workplace. FIC BANK (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

Bloom, Stephen. **Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America** In 1987, a group of ultra-Orthodox Jews opened a kosher slaughterhouse just outside Postville, Iowa (pop. 1,465), both reviving and dividing the town. IOWA 977.733 BL

Brown, Carrie. **The Rope Walk** (All Iowa Reads 2009) On her 10th birthday Alice meets two visitors to her quiet Vermont town: Theo, the African American grandson of her father's best friend, and Kenneth, an artist who has come home to convalesce. FIC BROW (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

NEW Cameron, Claire. **The Bear** While camping with her family on a remote island, 5-year-old Anna wakes in the night to the sound of screaming. A wild black bear is attacking her parents. FIC CAME

Capote, Truman. **In Cold Blood** In this "nonfiction novel" Capote reconstructs the apparently motiveless 1959 murder of the Clutter Family in rural Kansas, followed by the capture, trial, and execution of the killers. 364.1523 CA (also CDBOOK, DVD MYSTERY IN; see also DVD DRAMA CAPOTE, DVD DRAMA INFAMOUS)

Chapman, Fern Schumer. **Motherland** Twelve-year-old Edith Westerfeld escaped the Nazis, but most of her family perished in the death camps. Fifty-four years later, she returned to Stockstadt with her grown daughter Fern to reconnect and reconcile with her past. (pub. info.) BIOG CHAPMAN

Chevalier, Tracy. **Girl With a Pearl Earring** Set in Holland in the 1660s in the painter Vermeer's Delft household, a 16-year-old hired servant girl becomes increasingly involved with her employer. FIC CHEV (also LARGE PRINT, PLAYAWAY, DVD DRAMA GIRL)

Crutcher, Chris. **Deadline** Grade 9 Up—After being diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia, 18-year-old Ben Wolf elects to forgo treatment and keep his illness secret from his family and friends in an attempt to have a "normal" senior year at his small Idaho high school. (School Library Journal) YA FIC CRUT

Danticat, Edwidge. **The Dew Breaker** The violent past of the "dew breaker" (a torturer of Haitian dissidents under Duvalier) is revealed, chapter by chapter, by those who knew him. FIC DANT (also CDBOOK)

Dai Sijie. **Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress** Two hapless boys are exiled to a remote mountain village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution. There they meet the daughter of the local tailor and discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation. (pub. info.) FIC DAI (also CDBOOK, DVD FOREIGN BALZAC)

Dean, Debra. **The Madonnas of Leningrad** In this sublime debut novel, set amid the horrors of the siege of Leningrad in World War II, a gifted writer explores the power of memory to save . . . and betray.

Diamant, Anita. **The Red Tent** The little known Biblical story of Dinah, daughter of the patriarch Jacob and his wife Leah, is told from the perspective of its women. FIC DIAM (also LARGE PRINT)

Doctorow, E.L. **The March** In 1864, Union general William Tecumseh Sherman marched his sixty thousand troops through Georgia to the sea and then up into the Carolinas. FIC DOCT (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

Enger, Leif. **Peace Like a River** A father and his two young children go on a journey into the Badlands in the heart of winter in the 1960s. They are searching for the oldest son, who escaped from jail in Minnesota. (“All Iowa Reads”) FIC ENGE (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

Erdrich, Louise. **The Master Butchers Singing Club** Erdrich tells the story of a WWI sniper and master butcher with a “talent for stillness” and for singing. After marrying Eva, he emigrates to America, settling in Argus, North Dakota. (“All Iowa Reads”) FIC ERDR (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

Fowler, Karen Joy. **The Jane Austen Book Club** A novel about how we engage with a novel FIC FOWL (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK, DVD ROMANCE JANE)

Fredriksson, Marianne. **Hanna’s Daughters: A Novel of Three Generations** Holding vigil at her mother’s bedside, Anna tries to piece together the fragments of her past through tattered letters, diaries, and old photographs. FIC FRED

Fuller, Alexandra. **Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight** An unflinching memoir of a child growing up during the 1970s Rhodesian Civil War. (Women’s Connection International Author 2009) BIOG FULLER (also LARGE PRINT)

Gaines, Ernest. **A Lesson Before Dying** Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a crime. He is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. A teacher from the plantation school is compelled to impart his learning and pride to Jefferson before he dies. (“Oprah Book”) FIC GAIN (also DVD DRAMA LESSON)

Gilbert, Elizabeth. **Eat Pray Love: One Woman’s Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia** Gilbert grafts the structure of romantic fiction upon the inquiries of reporting in this sprawling yet methodical travelogue of soul-searching and self-discovery. (Publishers Weekly) 910.4 GI (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK, BLU-RAY DRAMA EAT, DVD)

NEW—Greene, Graham. **The Quiet American** “I never knew a man who had better motives for all the trouble he caused.” Greene’s narrator Fowler remarks of Alden Pyle, the eponymous “Quiet American” of what is perhaps the most controversial novel of his career. FIC GREE

Gregory, Philippa. **The Other Boleyn Girl** When Mary Boleyn comes to court as an innocent girl of fourteen, she catches the eye of Henry VIII. FIC GREG (also DVD DRAMA OTHER)

Gudenkauf, Heather. **The Weight of Silence** What happens in a 24-hour period when two difference families wake up in the morning and find their young daughters missing. FIC GUDE (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

Hosseini, Khaled. **The Kite Runner** A story of fierce cruelty and fierce, yet redeeming, love. Both transform the life of Amir who comes of age during the last peaceful days of the Afghan monarchy, just before his country’s revolution and its invasion by Russian forces. (NY Times Bk. Review) FIC HOSS (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK, DVD DRAMA KITE; note excellent discussion guides in 813.6 HE, ST)

Hurston, Zora Neale. **Their Eyes Were Watching God** This novel follows the fortunes of Janie Crawford, a woman living in the black town of Eaton, Florida. FIC HURS (also DVD DRAMA THEIR; note discussion guide in CDBOOK 813 ST)

Kallos, Stephanie. **Sing Them Home** (All Iowa Reads 2011) The 3 Jones siblings have lived in the shadow of unresolved grief since their mother’s mysterious disappearance when they were children. Three decades later, upon their father’s sudden death, they are summoned to their hometown of Emlyn Springs, Nebraska, and forced to revisit the tragedy at the center of their lives. FIC KALL (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

Kidder, Tracy. **Strength in What Remains** (All Iowa Reads 2012) Deo arrives in the United States from Burundi in search of a new life. Having survived a civil war and genocide, he lands at JFK airport with two hundred dollars, no English, and no contacts. 305.896 KI (also CDBOOK)

Kingsolver, Barbara. **The Poisonwood Bible** This story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. (“Oprah Book”) FIC KING (also LARGE PRINT, PLAYAWAY; note discussion guide 813.6 HE)

Kinsella, Sophie. **Can You Keep a Secret?** When her plane en route from Glasgow to London experiences horrible turbulence, Emma Corrigan is convinced she is going to die. She babbles all of her most intimate thoughts and secrets to the handsome American man sitting next to her. The plane lands safely. (*Booklist*) FIC KINS

NEW--Kline, Christina Baker. **Orphan Train** Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, Orphan Train is a powerful tale of upheaval and resilience, second chances, and unexpected cross-generational friendship. FIC KLIN (also LARGE PRINT)

Krauss, Nicole. **The History of Love** Fourteen-year-old Alma Singer is trying to find a cure for her mother’s loneliness by finding the author of an old book her mother is lovingly translating. (pub.info.) FIC KRAU (also CDBOOK, downloadable audiobook)

Kyle, Aryn. **The God of Animals** When her older sister runs away to marry a rodeo cowboy, 12-year-old Alice Winston is left to bear the brunt of her family’s troubles on a run-down horse ranch in Colorado. FIC KYLE (also LARGE PRINT, CASBOOK, CDBOOK, downloadable audiobook)

Lahiri, Jhumpa. **Interpreter of Maladies** Winner of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. In stories that travel from India to America and back again, Lahiri speaks with universal eloquence to everyone who has ever felt like a foreigner. FIC LAHI (also LARGE PRINT)

Landvik, Lorna. **Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons** This stalwart group of friends depicts a special slice of American life. FIC LAND (also LARGE PRINT)

Lee, Harper. **To Kill a Mockingbird** The classic novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it. FIC LEE (also LARGE PRINT, CASBOOK, CDBOOK, DVD DRAMA TO; note discussion guides at YA 813.54 TO, YA 809 SO, CDBOOK 813 ST)

Leopold, Aldo. **A Sand County Almanac** A true conservation classic—Leopold is a Midwestern human treasure. 508.7 LE Also eAudiobook)—purchased with a Building Common Ground grant from the American Library Assn. and the Fetzer Institute

Loewen, James. **Lies My Teacher Told Me** Thought provoking, nonpartisan, and often shocking, Loewen unveils the real America in this iconoclastic classic beloved by high school teachers, history buffs, and enlightened citizens across the country. 973 LO

Lowry, Lois. **The Giver** Jonas’s world is perfect and when he turns 12, he is singled out to receive special training from The Giver, who holds the memories of the true pain and pleasure of life. (pub.info.) NEWBERY JFIC LOWR MEDAL WINNER 1994 (also YA FIC, PLAYAWAY JFIC, CDBOOK JFIC)

Maguire, Gregory. **Wicked** When Dorothy triumphed over the Wicked Witch of the West in L. Frank Baum’s classic tale, we heard only her side of the story. But what about the witch’s side of the story? FIC MAGU (also CDBOOK, PLAYAWAY)

Mahfouz, Naguib. **Palace Walk** This is the first part of Nobel Prize winner Mahfouz’s Cairo Trilogy. His descriptions of the streets, alleys, houses, palaces, and mosques of Cairo in the 1920s are reminiscent of Charles Dickens’ descriptions of 19th century London. This is a really unusual look into the historic customs and culture of a relatively unfamiliar society. FIC MAHF

Maltman, Thomas. **Little Wolves** (2014 All Iowa Reads) Set on the Minnesota prairie in the late 1980s during a drought season that pushing family farms to the brink, Little Wolves features the intertwining story of a father searching for answers, after his son commits a heinous murder, and a pastor’s wife who has returned to the town for mysterious reasons of her own. (Pub. Info.) FIC MALT

Martel, Yann. **Life of Pi** When Pi is 16, his family and their zoo animals emigrate from India to North America. The ship sinks and Pi finds himself in a lifeboat with a 450-pound Bengal tiger. FIC MART (also CDBOOK, note discussion guide 813.6 HE)

Mason, Daniel. **The Piano Tuner** In 1886 a shy, middle-aged piano tuner receives an unusual commission from the British War Office: to travel to the remote jungles of Burma to repair a rare piano belonging to an eccentric army officer. (pub. info.) FIC MASO

NEW--Matar, Hisham. **In the Country of Men** Qaddafi's Libya, 1979. Nine-year-old Suleiman one day sees his father across the square of a busy marketplace. Wasn't he supposed to be away on business yet again? Why did he lie? A stunning depiction of a child confronted with the private fallout of a public nightmare. (pub. info.) FIC MATA

McBride, James. **The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother**
The author's mother was a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland, and raised in the South. She fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a Baptist church, and put twelve children through college. BIOG MCBRIDE (also LARGE PRINT, CASBOOK, PLAYAWAY)

McCracken, Elizabeth. **Niagara Falls All Over Again** Mose Sharp is the only boy among six sisters in a close-knit Jewish family in Valley Junction, Iowa. Instead of taking over the family business, he heads for the vaudeville circuit and teams up with Rocky Carter. ("All Iowa Reads") FIC MCCR

Mones, Nicole. **The Last Chinese Chef** Mones takes readers inside the hidden world of elite cuisine in modern China through the story of an American food writer in Beijing. FIC MONE

NEW--Moore, Gary W. **Playing with the Enemy: A Baseball Prodigy, a World at War, and a Field of Broken Dreams** When Gene Moore's baseball career was interrupted by Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy to play baseball on the Navy team. In 1944, he was sent back to the States for a special top secret mission: the guarding of German sailors captured from U-505. 940.5481 MO, BIOG MOORE

Munro, Alice. **Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage**
In the nine stories that make up this collection, Munro achieves new heights, conjuring up characters as thorny and contradictory as people we know ourselves. (pub. info) FIC MUNR

Nafisi, Azar. **Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books** For two years in Tehran, a bold and inspired teacher secretly gathered seven of her most committed female students to read forbidden Western classics. 820.9 NA

Nye, Naomi Shihab. **Habibi** Liyana's father suddenly moves the family from St. Louis to his Palestinian homeland. She is homesick until she meets Omer, but her friendship with him is silently forbidden because he is Jewish. ("QCA Reads") YA FIC NYE (also CDBOOK) ; **Never in a Hurry: Essays on People and Places** These essays are autobiographical and lyrical—they'll make the reader laugh, cry, reflect, and think about life from another point of view. (School Library Journal) 814.54 NY

NEW--Oliveira, Robin. **My Name Is Mary Sutter** (2015 All Iowa Reads) Mary Sutter is a brilliant young midwife who dreams of becoming a surgeon. Determined to overcome the prejudices against women in medicine—and eager to run away from recent heartbreak—Mary travels to Washington, D.C., to help tend the legions of Civil War wounded. FIC OLIV (also LARGE PRINT)

O'Nan, Stewart. **Last Night at the Lobster** At the edge of a run-down New England mall, the Red Lobster hasn't been making its numbers and headquarters has pulled the plug. But manager Manny DeLeon still needs to navigate a tricky last shift. FIC ONAN

NEW—Petterson, Per. **Out Stealing Horses** The story of Trond Sander, a 67-year-old man who have moved from the city to a remote, riverside cabin, only to have all the turbulence, grief, and overwhelming beauty of his youth come back to him one night while he's out on a walk.

Plath, Sylvia. **The Bell Jar** This is a chronicle of the crack-up of Esther Greenwood: brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under—maybe for the last time. A haunting American classic. (pub. info.) FIC PLAT (study guide YA 809 IN)

Price, John T. **Man Killed by Pheasant: And Other Kinships** (Scott County Reads Together) Grounded in place, in the great grasslands of the Midwest, Price's personal essays create a memoir that knows no boundaries. IOWA BIOG PRICE (also BIOG PRICE)

Rhodes, David. **Driftless** (All Iowa Reads) Words, Wisconsin, an anonymous town of only a few hundred people. But under its sleepy surface, life rages. FIC RHOD (also CDBOOK)

Robinson, Marilynne. **Gilead** (All Iowa Reads) In 1956, toward the end of Rev. John Ames's life, he begins a letter to his young son, an account of himself and his forebears. FIC ROBI (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

NEW—Lila (All Iowa Reads) Lila, homeless and alone, steps inside a small-town Iowa church and ignites a romance and a debate that will reshape her life. FIC ROBI (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

NEW--Rumi (Jalal al-Din Rumi, Maulana (1207-1273) **The Essential Rumi:** Translations by Coleman Barks 891.5511 JA

Skloot, Rebecca. **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** Henrietta Lacks was a poor Southern tobacco farmer, yet her cells--taken without her knowledge--became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. 616.0277 SK (also CDBOOK)

Spiegelman, Art. **The Complete Maus** At one and the same time a novel, a documentary, a memoir, and a comic book (Graphic Novel genre) 940.5318 SP (also SOFTWARE)

Strout, Elizabeth. **Olive Kitteridge** At times stern, at other times patient, at times perceptive, at other times in sad denial, Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplors the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine, and in the world at large. (Pulitzer Prize) FIC STRO (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

This I Believe: *The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman ("One Book One Bettendorf") 170.44 TH (also CDBOOK)

Thompson, Jean. **The Year We Left Home** (All Iowa Reads 2013) Chronicles the happiness pursuits of the Eriksens from their 1970s coming-of-age to the near-present day, in a story told from revolving viewpoints.

NEW—Ties That Bind: *Stories of Love & Gratitude from the First Ten Years of StoryCorps* edited by Dave Isay with Lizzie Jacobs (also LARGE PRINT)

Trevor, William. **The Story of Lucy Gault** The Gault family leads a life of privilege in early 1920s Ireland, but the threat of violence leads them to England. Nine-year-old Lucy runs away, hoping to convince her parents to stay in Ireland. FIC TREV (also eAudiobook)

Tyler, Anne. **Digging to America** The very American Donaldsons and the Iranian American Yazdans meet by chance at the Baltimore airport both picking up an adopted infant daughter from Korea. ("All Iowa Reads") FIC TYLE (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

Walls, Jeannette. **The Glass Castle** When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them how to live fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity. (pub. info.) BIOG WALLS (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

Welty, Eudora. **The Ponder Heart** Uncle Daniel Ponder, whose fortune is exceeded only by his desire to give it away, is the talk of Clay County and a constant source of vexation for his niece. This DIBS includes the Masterpiece Theatre videocassette version of the book. ("QCA Reads") FIC WELT

Winchester, Simon. **The Professor and the Madman: *A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary*** BIOG MURRAY (also LARGE PRINT, CDBOOK)

Woodrell, Daniel. **Winter's Bone** Ree Dolly's father has skipped bail on charges that he ran a crystal meth lab, and the Dolly family will lose their house if he doesn't show up for his next court date. Sixteen-year-old Ree is determined to find him. FIC WOOD (also DVD, BLU-RAY DRAMA WINTERS)

Xinran. **Sky Burial: *An Epic Love Story of Tibet*** FIC XINR

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