

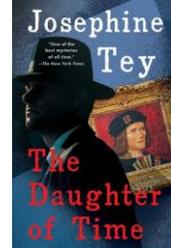
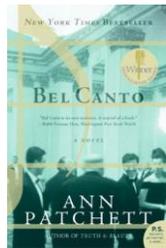
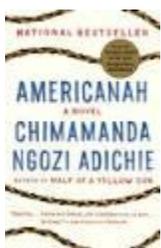


**LA CROSSE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## Book Kits

Need suggestions for your next book club? The La Crosse Public Library is here to help with our wide selection of book discussion kits! Each kit includes 8-12 copies of the book, discussion questions and author information. Kits circulate for six weeks and holds may be placed on the kits, but cannot be reserved in advance for a specific date. Questions? Contact our Circulation team: (608) 789-7167.

### Fiction titles available:



#### \*\*[Americanah](#) / Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

"Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion--for each other and for their homeland"--[c]Publisher's website.

#### \*\*[Bel Canto](#) / Ann Patchett (Psychological Fiction)

When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxanne Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan.

#### \*\*[Blue Heaven](#) / C.J. Box (Mystery)

Fleeing the killers whom they witnessed committing murder, twelve-year-old Annie and her younger brother William escape into the woods of northern Idaho, not knowing whom they can trust and pursued by the murderers and a group of dirty cops seeking to prevent the youngsters from revealing what they know.

#### \*\*[The Bone Vault](#) / Linda A. Fairstein (Mystery)

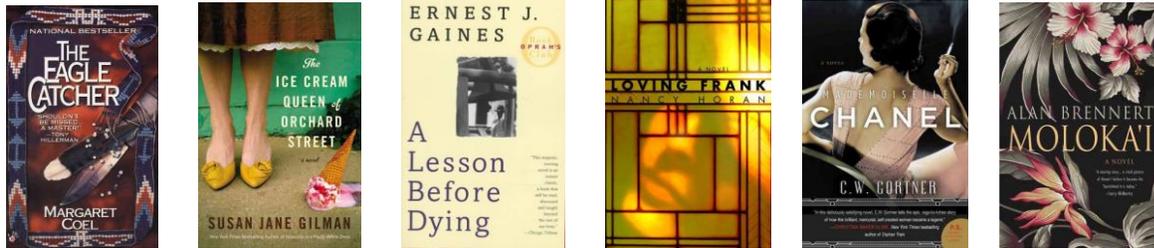
A glittering reception featuring a controversial joint project between the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Natural History is clouded by the discovery of the body of a young woman in an ancient Egyptian sarcophagus.

**\*\*[Circling the Sun](#)** / Paula McLain (Historical Fiction)

Raised by her father and the Kipsigis tribe in 1920s Kenya, Beryl Markham endures painful losses before entering a passionate love triangle and discovering her unconventional calling.

**[The Daughter of Time](#)** / Josephine Tey (Mystery)

While recuperating in the hospital, police detective Alan Grant tries to solve the mystery of Richard III and the murder of the princes in the Tower.



**[The Eagle Catcher](#)** / Margaret Coel (Mystery)

This first book in the series introduces Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden and Jesuit priest Father John O'Malley joining forces in a tale of misappropriation of Indian lands.

**[The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street](#)** / Susan Jane Gilman (Historical Fiction)

Russian immigrant Malka arrives in 1913 Manhattan, where she struggles to survive and learns trade secrets from an Italian ice peddler before setting off across America in an ice cream truck.

**\*\*[A Lesson Before Dying](#)** / Ernest Gaines (Historical Fiction)

A young illiterate African American man witnesses two black robbers kill a white store owner in Louisiana in the late 1940s, and he is the one convicted.

**\*\*[Loving Frank](#)** / Nancy Horan (Historical Fiction)

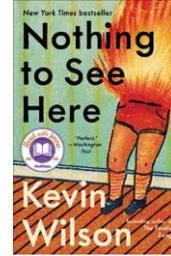
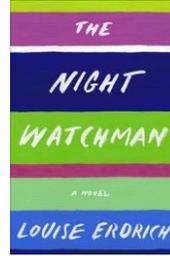
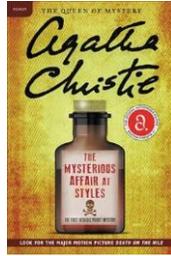
Fact and fiction blend in a historical novel that chronicles the relationship between seminal architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney, from their meeting, when they were each married to another, to the clandestine affair that shocked Chicago society.

**[Mademoiselle Chanel](#)** / C.W. Gortner (Historical Fiction)

A creative reimagining of the life of iconic fashion designer Coco Chanel traces the development of her exceptional sewing skills in an orphanage, her transformation into a couturier, and the private struggles behind her subsequent fame.

**[Molokai](#)** / Alan Brennert (Historical Fiction)

Seven-year-old Rachel is forcibly removed from her family's 1890s Honolulu home when she contracts leprosy and is placed in a settlement, where she loses a series of new friends before new medical discoveries enable her to reenter the world.



**\*\*[Montana 1948](#) / Larry Watson (Western / Domestic Fiction)**

This is a provocative story of a family's power struggles, small-town politics, ethics, justice and loyalty vs. the law in 1948 Montana.

**[The Mysterious Affair at Styles](#) / Agatha Christie (Mystery)**

When a wealthy, elderly woman is poisoned, Belgian detective Hercule Poirot seeks the murderer among a large group of friends and relatives. First book introducing Hercule Poirot.

**\*\*[The Nickel Boys: A Novel](#) / Colson Whitehead (Historical Fiction)**

The story of two African-American boys sentenced to an abusive reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.

**[The Night Watchman](#) / Louise Erdrich (Literary Fiction / Cultural Heritage)**

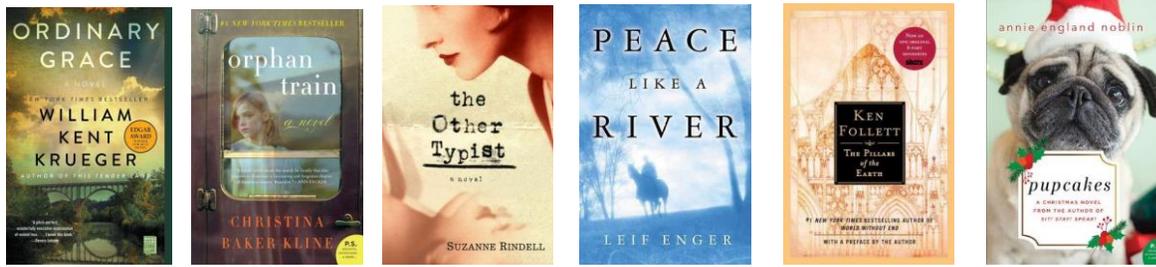
Sweeping novel set in the 1950s that powerfully weaves together the story of past and future generations of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, who carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota to Washington, D.C.

**[Nothing to See Here](#) / Kevin Wilson (Humorous Fiction)**

A most unusual story of female friendships, parental love, and spontaneous combustion.

**[On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous: A Novel](#) / Ocean Vuong (Literary Fiction)**

Written in the form of a letter from a Vietnamese American son to his illiterate mother, this story unearths their family's past and present while delving into a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity.



**\*\*[Ordinary Grace](#) / William Kent Krueger (Psychological / Domestic Fiction)**

Looking back at a tragic event that occurred during his thirteenth year, Frank Drum explores how a complicated web of secrets, adultery, and betrayal shattered his Methodist family and their small 1961 Minnesota community.

**\*\*[The Orphan Train](#) / Christina Kline (Historical Fiction)**

Close to aging out of the foster care system, Molly Ayer takes a position helping an elderly woman named Vivian and discovers that they are more alike than different as she helps Vivian solve a mystery from her past.

**[The Other Typist](#) / Suzanne Rindell (Historical Fiction)**

Working as a typist for the NYC Police Department in 1923, Rose Baker documents confessions of harrowing crimes and struggles with changing gender roles while clinging to her Victorian ideals and searching for nurturing companionship before becoming obsessed with a glamorous newcomer and her world of bobbed hair, smoking and speakeasies.

**\*\*[Peace Like a River](#) / Leif Enger (Psychological / Domestic Fiction)**

The quiet Midwestern life of the Land family is upended when Davy Land kills two teenage boys who have come to harm the family.

**\*\*[The Pillars of the Earth](#) / Ken Follett (Historical Fiction)**

Set in twelfth-century England, this epic of kings and peasants juxtaposes the building of a magnificent church with the violence and treachery that often characterized the Middle Ages.

**[Pupcakes: A Christmas Novel](#) / Annie England Noblin (Romance)**

Trying to stabilize her life after a divorce, Brydie accepts an offer to live rent-free while taking care of the landlord's pug and starting a bakery for dog treats.



**[A Reliable Wife](#)** / Robert Goolrick (Historical Fiction)

Ralph Truitt, a wealthy businessperson with a troubled past who lives in a remote nineteenth-century Wisconsin town, has advertised for a reliable wife; and his ad is answered by Catherine Land, a woman who makes every effort to hide her own dark secrets.

**\*\*[The Snow Child](#)** / Eowyn Ivey (Magical Realism)

1920s Alaska is a difficult place for Jack and Mabel. Drifting apart, the childless couple discover Faina, a young girl living alone in the wilderness. Soon, the couple come to love Faina as their own. But when they learn a surprising truth about the girl, their lives change in profound ways.

**[Such a Fun Age](#)** / Kiley Reid (Coming of Age / Literary Fiction)

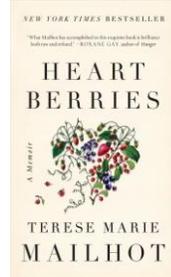
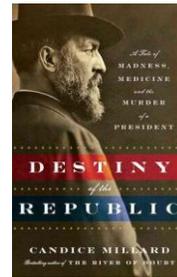
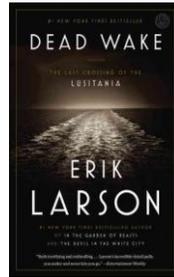
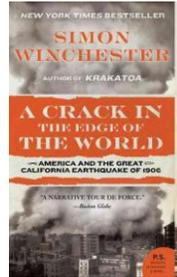
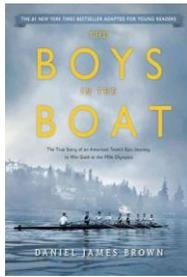
A page-turning story about race and privilege, set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.

**[The Summer Book](#)** / Tove Jansson (Domestic / Literary Fiction)

Meet Sophia, a six-year-old awakening to existence, and her grandmother, nearing the end of hers, as they spend the summer on a tiny unspoiled island in the Gulf of Finland.

**\*\*[The Underground Railroad: A Novel](#)** / Colson Whitehead (Historical Fiction)

A magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South.



## Non-Fiction titles:

\*\* [\*The Boys in the Boat\*](#) / Daniel Brown

Meet a group of working-class youths from the University of Washington rowing team, emerged from obscurity to defeat a field of elite international rivals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Sports fans who love a good "Cinderella story" will cheer this fast-paced, emotionally charged account of the players' and coaches struggles set against stark Depression-era realities.

[\*The Children's Blizzard\*](#) / David Laskin

Describes the deadly 1888 snowstorm in the Great Plains that killed more than five hundred people including numerous schoolchildren, describing how the storm devastated immigrant families and dramatically affected pioneer advancement.

[\*Crack in the Edge of the World\*](#) / Simon Winchester

*A Crack in the Edge of the World* is the definitive account of the San Francisco earthquake and a fascinating exploration of a legendary event that changed the way we look at the planet on which we live.

[\*Dead Wake\*](#) / Erik Larson

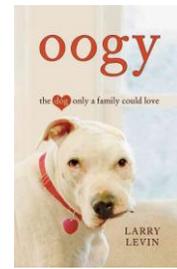
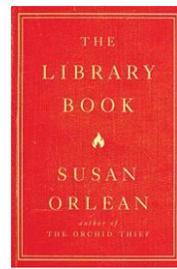
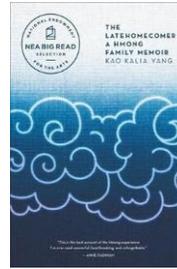
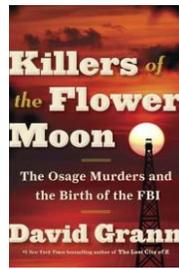
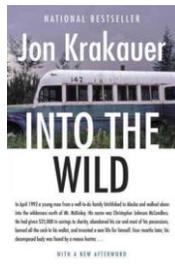
A chronicle of the sinking of the Lusitania discusses the factors that led to the tragedy and the contributions of such figures as Woodrow Wilson, bookseller Charles Lauriat, and architect Theodate Pope Riddle.

\*\* [\*Destiny of the Republic\*](#) / Candice Millard

A narrative account of James Garfield's political career offers insight into his background as a scholar and Civil War hero, his battles against the corrupt establishment, and Alexander Graham Bell's failed attempt to save him from an assassin's bullet.

[\*Heart Berries: a memoir\*](#) / Terese Marie Mailhot

Powerful, poetic memoir of a woman's coming of age on the Seabird Island Indian Reservation in the Pacific Northwest, capturing her troubled childhood, early and tumultuous motherhood, into her adult struggles with mental health and personal identity.



**\*\*[Hidden Figures](#) / Margot Lee Shetterly**

An account of the previously unheralded but pivotal contributions of NASA's African-American women mathematicians to America's space program; describes how they were segregated from their white counterparts by Jim Crow laws in spite of their groundbreaking successes.

**\*\*[Into the Wild](#) / Jon Krakauer**

In April 1992, a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter.

**\*\*[Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage murders and the birth of the FBI](#) / David Grann**

Presents a true account of the early twentieth-century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage and law-enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

**\*\*[The Latecomer](#) / Kao Kalia Yang**

Presents the journey from refugee camp to America and the hardships and joys of a family's struggle to adapt in a strange culture while holding onto traditions that are passed down from her beloved grandmother.

**\*\*[The Library Book](#) / Susan Orlean**

On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire broke out at the Los Angeles Public Library. Susan Orlean tells the story of the aftermath, the search for the cause, and the enduring love of libraries.

**\*\*[Oogy: the dog only a family could love](#) / Larry Levin**

Presents the heartwarming story of a puppy brought back from the brink of death, and the family he adopted.



**[Waking Up White](#)** / Debby Irving

For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan.

**\*\* [The Worst Hard Time](#)** / Timothy Egan

Presents an oral history of the dust storms that devastated the Great Plains during the Depression, following several families and their communities in their struggle to persevere despite the devastation.

\*\* Notable Book or Award Winner