



# 2026 Reading List

## **Martyr!**

By Kaveh Akbar

The first novel from critically-acclaimed and award-winning poet Kaveh Akbar follows a young man born in Persia who was brought to the United States by his father when he was a baby. The young man, Cyrus, battles depression, insomnia, addiction, racism and struggles with the death of his mother and later, his father.

*Book Club Discussion: February 10*

## **Safe: A Memoir of Fatherhood, Foster Care, and the Risks We Take for Family**

By Mark Daley

Daley's memoir takes you on a rollercoaster ride through parenthood in America's broken foster care system. He and his husband face the honest, heartbreak, and sometimes hilarious challenges of becoming parents at the intersection of intergenerational trauma, inadequate social support and systemic issues of prejudice.

*Book Club Discussion: April 14*

## **Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation**

By Cokie Roberts

There are many stories of the founding fathers. This one looks at the many roles women played in the war: soldier, spy, nurse, and cook. Legendary NPR journalist Cokie Roberts brings us a comprehensive view of the women who fought the Revolution as valiantly as the men, often defending their very doorsteps.

*Book Club Discussion: June 19*

## **The Book Thief**

By Markus Zusak

This bestseller tells the tale of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich in Nazi Germany. She scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing. Then she encounters something she can't resist — books. With the help of her foster father, Liesel learns to read and begins sharing her stolen books with neighbors and the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

*Book Club Discussion: August 11*

## **Frankenstein**

By Mary Shelley

It's the most famous horror story in literature. Mary Shelley's tale of a mad scientist and his monster is still influential more than two centuries after it was first published. You know the story but may have never read the original novel that inspired countless adaptations.

*Book Club Discussion: October 13*

## **Black No More**

By George S. Schuyler

*Black No More* is a hilarious exploration of race and all its self-serving definitions. It tells the story of Max Disher, a dapper black rogue of an insurance man who, through a scientific transformation process, becomes a white man. He dreams up a scam that allows him to become the leader of a white supremacist group and marry the white woman who rejected him when he was black.

*Book Club Discussion: December 8*