The Cider House Rules  
By John Irving

Set in rural Maine pre- and post-WWII, *The Cider House Rules* tells the story of Dr. Wilbur Larch — saint and obstetrician, ether addict and abortionist, founder and director of the orphanage in the town of St. Cloud’s. It is also the story of Dr. Larch’s favorite orphan, Homer Wells.

*ISBN: 978-0679603351*  
*Book Club Discussion: February 15th*

Thomas and Beulah  
By Rita Dove

This collection of connected, narrative poems tells the semi-fictionalized story of the author’s maternal grandparents — a Black family in the predominantly white Midwest — and the sometimes contradictory experiences and perspectives of men and women within a traditional American marriage.

*ISBN: 978-0887480218*  
*Book Club Discussion: April 12th*

A Thousand Acres  
By Jane Smiley

A successful Iowa farmer decides to divide his farm among his three daughters. When the youngest objects, she is cut out of his will. This sets off a chain of events that brings dark truths to light and explodes long-suppressed emotions.

*ISBN: 978-1400033836*  
*Book Club Discussion: June 14th*

We Heard It When We Were Young  
By Chuy Renteria

A first-generation Mexican American boy is torn between cultures: between immigrant parents trying to acclimate to Midwestern life and a town that could be supportive or disturbingly antagonistic. Renteria’s story looks past the public celebrations of diversity to dive into the private tensions of a community reflecting a changing American landscape.

*ISBN: 978-1609388058*  
*Book Club Discussion: October 11th*

Homegoing  
By Yaa Gyasi

Ghana, eighteenth century: two half sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned and sold into slavery. Stories of their children and descendants unfold throughout subsequent chapters.

*ISBN: 978-1101971062*  
*Book Club Discussion: December 20th*

The August book club pick will be a “banned book” chosen by our readers! Visit iowapublicradio.org/bookclub to vote. The winner will be announced on the first episode of *Talk of Iowa Book Club*, which airs February 15 at 10 a.m. The episode discussing the banned book airs August 16 at 10 a.m.

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