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.

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.

Book Club Discussion: April 19th

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.

Book Club Discussion: June 14th

The Hate U Give
By Angie Thomas
After witnessing her friend’s death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter’s life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened.

Book Club Discussion: July 12th

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
By Sherman Alexie
Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Book Club Discussion: August 16th

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.

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.

Book Club Discussion: December 20th

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