These Precious Days: Essays  
By Ann Patchett

This deeply personal essay collection explores some of life's biggest questions through Patchett's personal experiences. At the heart of the collection is an unexpected friendship that leads her in new directions and brings her clarity and purpose in the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ISBN: 978-0063092785  
Book Club Discussion: February 21th

How High We Go in the Dark  
By Sequoia Nagamatsu

This 2023 All Iowa Reads Selection begins in the year 2030, when the warming planet and melting permafrost release an arctic plague that transforms life on Earth for generations. The novel is science fiction, but it gives you an opportunity to explore what it means to be human facing an uncertain future.

ISBN: 978-0063072640  
Book Club Discussion: April 18th

The Underground Railroad  
By Colson Whitehead

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, the Underground Railroad is not metaphorical — it's a train that runs with the purpose of bringing enslaved people to freedom. Follow the trials of Cora and Caesar as they attempt to make a harrowing journey north. The railroad is fictional, but the novel gives you a real and deep understanding of the terrible costs of slavery.

ISBN: 978-0385542364  
Book Club Discussion: June 20th

Braiding Sweetgrass  
By Robin Wall Kimmerer

On the surface, this is a book about botany. But, really, it's a book about people and our place in the world. Wall Kimmerer poetically discusses the relationships among people, plants and land through the lenses of history, science and traditional Indigenous practices.

ISBN: 978-1571313560  
Book Club Discussion: August 22nd

Klara and the Sun  
By Kazuo Ishiguro

In a future where children are smarter and humans are lonelier, Klara is an AF — artificial friend. Klara is adopted by an ill teenager, Josie, and goes to live with her and her mother. Klara uses her sharp observational skills to understand the world — and the humans — around her. With innocent intelligence, she develops a kind of faith in the face of grief that centers questions of love and belief in humanity.

ISBN: 978-0593318171  
Book Club Discussion: October 17th

Fun Home  
By Alison Bechdel

This graphic memoir from Alison Bechdel (as in “Bechdel test”) is a complex, compassionate and unflinching examination of growing up queer and contending with the complicated legacy of a parent. She depicts the hardest moments in her life and explores themes of sexuality, grief, family and gender roles. The literary allusions and intricate illustrations make her story come alive with heartbreaking detail.

ISBN: 978-0544709041  
Book Club Discussion: December 19th

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