

Book Club Packet List

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Author	Title and Description	Copies Available
Aldrich, Bess Streeter	<p><i>A Lantern in Her Hand</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2009)</p> <p>The classic story of Abbie and Will Deal—pioneers who left everything behind for a new life on America’s frontier. Abbie Mackenzie dreamed of becoming a fine lady like her aristocratic grandmother, devoting herself to music and art. But at eighteen Abbie found a different dream, turning away from the promise of a comfortable life as a doctor’s wife to marry handsome, quiet Will Deal. Together, they eagerly accepted the challenge of homesteading in Nebraska territory, where the prairies stretched as far as the eye could see, and only the strongest survived for long.</p>	8 copies
Backman, Fredrik	<p><i>A Man Called Ove</i></p> <p>Meet Ove. He’s a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbor from hell.”</p> <p>But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn’t walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove’s mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents’ association to their very foundations.</p>	10 copies
Brown, Daniel	<p><i>Boys in the Boat</i></p> <p>For readers of <i>Unbroken</i>, out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant.</p>	10 copies
Brown, Rita Keeley	<p><i>Good Luck, Mrs. Brown</i></p> <p><i>Good Luck, Mrs. Brown</i> tells of a seldom understood or discussed side of mental illness – the impact it has on the family of the person who is ill. It is</p>	12 copies

	<p>a unique personal account of seven people of varying ages living through the same crisis situation. This book, although written by the mother, includes writings by the children as adults reflecting on their experience of their childhood. These reflections give great insight into what life was like for them described in their own words.</p>	
Brown, Rita Keeley	<p><i>Pawn of Fate</i></p> <p><i>Fate takes a young boy on an amazing journey. A different kind of Great Wall was constructed around a young Chinese boy. The story unfolds like a chess game played between two unswerving opponents. One side has only one pawn with which to play, while the other controls the board with many playing pieces. The outcome of this titanic struggle will have great impact on many lives both past and present.</i></p>	8 copies
Buck, Rinker	<p><i>The Oregon Trail</i></p> <p>A major bestseller that has been hailed as a “quintessential American story” (<i>Christian Science Monitor</i>), Rinker Buck’s <i>The Oregon Trail</i> is an epic account of traveling the 2,000-mile length of the Oregon Trail the old-fashioned way—in a covered wagon with a team of mules—that has captivated readers, critics, and booksellers from coast to coast. Simultaneously a majestic journey across the West, a significant work of history, and a moving personal saga, Buck’s chronicle is a “laugh-out-loud masterpiece” (<i>Willamette Week</i>) that “so ensnares the emotions it becomes a tear-jerker at its close” (<i>Star Tribune</i>, Minneapolis) and “will leave you daydreaming and hungry to see this land” (<i>The Boston Globe</i>).</p>	10 copies
Carol, Joy	<p><i>The Fabric of Friendship</i></p> <p>Exploring the emotional hurdles that women face in their relationships, <i>The Fabric of Friendship</i> reveals a simple truth: friendship is never simple. Weaving her own experiences together with real-life stories of other women, Joy Carol will remind readers of the amazing gifts friendship holds and inspire them to reclaim the power of their relationships.</p>	9 copies
Cather, Willa	<p><i>My Antonia</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2005)</p> <p>The novel tells the stories of an orphaned boy from Virginia, Jim Burden, and the elder daughter in a family of Bohemian immigrants, Antonia Shimerda, who are each brought as children to be pioneers in Nebraska towards the end of the 19th century. Both the pioneers who first break the prairie sod for farming, as well as of the harsh but fertile land itself, feature in this American novel. The first year in the very new place leaves strong impressions in both children, affecting them lifelong. This novel is considered Cather's first masterpiece.</p>	8 copies

Cather, Willa	<p><i>O Pioneers!</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2013)</p> <p>First published in 1913, “O Pioneers!” is the first novel in Willa Cather’s “Great Plains” trilogy. Followed by “The Song of the Lark” in 1915 and “My Ántonia” in 1918, “O Pioneers!” introduces us to the Bergsons, a family of Swedish-American immigrants who live in the fictional farm town of Hanover, Nebraska at the beginning of the 20th century. The story centers on the life of Alexandra Bergson, who inherits the family farm with her mother and three brothers when her father dies. Many years of crop failures force the Bergson’s neighbors to give up and sell their farms, something that Alexandra’s brothers Oscar and Lou wish to do but which Alexandra and her mother are unwilling to do. Instead Alexandra convinces the family to mortgage their homestead in order to buy up the surrounding acreage. Amidst the backdrop of managing the farm there develops two romantic relationships in the novel, one between Alexandra and her childhood friend Carl Linstrum, who returns after many years away, and another between Alexandra’s youngest brother, Emil, and the unhappily married Marie Shabata. “O Pioneers!” is a classic portrayal of the struggles of immigrants in the great plains of America, a story of success in the face of hardship, and the growth of a young woman along the way.</p>	8 copies
Chessman, Harriet	<p><i>Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper</i></p> <p>The life of Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt is skillfully fictionalized in this powerful novel about art and passion, narrated by the artist’s sister, Lydia.</p>	8 copies
Coburn, Broughton	<p><i>Aama in America</i></p> <p>Vishnu Maya, called Aama (Mother) by everyone in her tiny Nepalese village, was living high in the Himalayas when she befriended American Peace Corps worker Broughton Coburn in 1974. In 1988, Aama came to visit him—on a trip prescribed by village priests as a way for the eighty-four-year-old, four-foot-eight woman to earn merit by making a difficult journey late in life.</p>	10 copies
Connelly, Michael	<p><i>Closers</i></p> <p>He walked away from the job three years ago. But Harry Bosch cannot resist the call to join the elite Open/Unsolved Unit. His mission: solve murders whose investigations were flawed, stalled, or abandoned to L.A.’s tides of crime. With some people openly rooting for his failure, Harry catches the case of a teenager dragged off to her death on Oat Mountain, and traces the DNA on the murder weapon to a small-time criminal. But something bigger and darker beckons, and Harry must battle to fit all the pieces together.</p>	8 copies

<p>Copeland, Misty</p>	<p><i>Life in Motion</i></p> <p>Determination meets dance in this <i>New York Times</i> bestselling memoir by the history-making ballerina Misty Copeland, recounting the story of her journey to become the first African-American principal ballerina at the prestigious American Ballet Theatre. When she first placed her hands on the barre at an after-school community center, no one expected the undersized, underprivileged, and anxious thirteen-year-old to become one of America's most groundbreaking dancers . A true prodigy, she was attempting in months roles that take most dancers years to master. But when Misty became caught between the control and comfort she found in the world of ballet and the harsh realities of her own life, she had to choose to embrace both her identity and her dreams, and find the courage to be one of a kind.</p>	<p>10 copies</p>
<p>Dallas, Sandra</p>	<p><i>Tallgrass</i></p> <p>During Word War II, a family fnds life turned upside down when the government opens a Japanese internment camp in their small Colorado town. After a young girl is murdered, all eyes (and suspicions) turn to the newcomers, the interlopers, the strangers.</p> <p>This is her town as Rennie Stroud has never seen it before. She has just turned thirteen and, until this time, life has pretty much been what her father told her it should be: predictable and fair. But now the winds of change are coming and, with them, a shift in her perspective. And Rennie will discover secrets that can destroy even the most sacred things.</p> <p>Part thriller, part historical novel, <i>Tallgrass</i> is a riveting exploration of the darkest---and best---parts of the human heart.</p>	<p>10 copies</p>
<p>Diffenbaugh, Vanessa</p>	<p><i>The Language of Flowers</i></p> <p>The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, asters for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating mistrust and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen and emancipated from the system with nowhere to go, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But an unexpected encounter with a mysterious stranger has her questioning what's been missing in her life. And when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.</p>	<p>7 copies</p>
<p>Foreman, Ruth</p>	<p><i>Free to Drink the Wind</i></p> <p>When Misty sees the beautiful Arabian through her mother's high-powered binoculars, she knows she's found a horse like no other. Then the owner of the ranch where she spotted the horse comes up missing, and she and her brother Ben discover strange army vehicles prowling about the prairie hills. When 800-pound calves disappear, and the sheriff won't investigate,</p>	<p>10 copies</p>

	<p>the ranchers decide to take things into their own hands, and Misty and her brothers spend a weekend like they've never known before. They learn that the love of Arabian horses can drive people to behave in ways irrational and endearing -- and that evil exists in the most unexpected places. This tale, set in the vast Sandhills of Nebraska, is a real-life mystery with adventure, romance, and a hero of one of the highest and oldest orders -- the Arabian horse.</p>	
<p>Genoways, Ted</p>	<p><i>This Blessed Earth</i></p> <p>The family farm lies at the heart of our national identity, and yet its future is in peril. Rick Hammond grew up on a farm, and for forty years he has raised cattle and crops on his wife's fifth-generation homestead in Nebraska, in hopes of passing it on to their four children. But as the handoff nears, their family farm—and their entire way of life—are under siege on many fronts, from shifting trade policies, to encroaching pipelines, to climate change. Following the Hammonds from harvest to harvest, Ted Genoways explores the rapidly changing world of small, traditional farming operations. He creates a vivid, nuanced portrait of a radical new landscape and one family's fight to preserve their legacy and the life they love.</p>	<p>10 copies</p>
<p>Gilman, Dorothy</p>	<p><i>The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax</i></p> <p>Mrs. Virgil (Emily) Pollifax of New Brunswick, New Jersey, was a widow with grown, married children. She was tired of attending her Garden Club meetings. She wanted to do something good for her country. So, naturally, she became a CIA agent.</p> <p>She takes on a "job" in Mexico City. The assignment doesn't sound dangerous at first, but then, as often happens, something goes wrong. Now our dear Mrs. Pollifax finds herself embroiled in quite a hot Cold War—and her country's enemies find themselves entangled with one unbelievably feisty lady.</p>	<p>8 copies</p>
<p>Green, Jane</p>	<p><i>Another Piece of My Heart</i></p> <p>Andi has spent much of her adult life looking for the perfect man, and at thirty-seven, she's finally found him. Ethan—divorced with two daughters, Emily and Sophia—is a devoted father and even better husband. Always hoping one day she would be a mother, Andi embraces the girls like they were her own. But in Emily's eyes, Andi is an obstacle to her father's love, and Emily will do whatever it takes to break her down. When the dynamics between the two escalate, they threaten everything Andi believes about love, family, and motherhood—leaving both women standing at a crossroad in their lives ... and in their hearts.</p>	<p>24 copies</p>

Greene, Bob	<p><i>Once upon a Town</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2014)</p> <p>In search of "the best America there ever was," bestselling author and award-winning journalist Bob Greene finds it in a small Nebraska town few people pass through today—a town where Greene discovers the echoes of the most touching love story imaginable: a love story between a country and its sons. During World War II, American soldiers from every city and walk of life rolled through North Platte, Nebraska, on troop trains en route to their ultimate destinations in Europe and the Pacific. The tiny town, wanting to offer the servicemen warmth and support, transformed its modest railroad depot into the North Platte Canteen.</p>	8 copies
Hannah, Kristin	<p><i>Home Front</i></p> <p>Like many couples, Michael and Jolene Zarkades have to face the pressures of everyday life---children, careers, bills, chores---even as their twelve-year marriage is falling apart. Then an unexpected deployment sends Jolene deep into harm's way and leaves defense attorney Michael at home, unaccustomed to being a single parent to their two girls. As a mother, it agonizes Jolene to leave her family, but as a soldier she has always understood the true meaning of duty. In her letters home, she paints a rose-colored version of her life on the front lines, shielding her family from the truth. But war will change Jolene in ways that none of them could have foreseen. When tragedy strikes, Michael must face his darkest fear and fight a battle of his own---for everything that matters to his family.</p>	19 copies
Horan, Nancy	<p><i>Loving Frank</i></p> <p><i>I have been standing on the side of life, watching it float by. I want to swim in the river. I want to feel the current.</i></p> <p>So writes Mamah Borthwick Cheney in her diary as she struggles to justify her clandestine love affair with Frank Lloyd Wright. Four years earlier, in 1903, Mamah and her husband, Edwin, had commissioned the renowned architect to design a new home for them. During the construction of the house, a powerful attraction developed between Mamah and Frank, and in time the lovers, each married with children, embarked on a course that would shock Chicago society and forever change their lives. In this ambitious debut novel, fact and fiction blend together brilliantly. While scholars have largely relegated Mamah to a footnote in the life of America's greatest architect, author Nancy Horan gives full weight to their dramatic love story and illuminates Cheney's profound influence on Wright.</p>	9 copies
Kloefkorn, William	<p><i>Restoring the Burnt Child</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2008)</p> <p>Negotiating the no man's land between ages nine and thirteen, this memoir of a small-town boy's life in 1940s Kansas continues the story William Kloefkorn began in his much-loved volume <i>This Death by Drowning</i>. With characteristic humor and in prose as lyrical as his best</p>	7 copies

	<p>poetry, Kloefkorn describes the unsentimental education he received at the hands of the denizens of Urie's Barber Shop and the Rexall Drugstore and at the knees of the true characters who made up his family. From the "firefly" stunt that nearly burns down his home to the distant firestorms of World War II, fire holds an endless range of subtle and surprising lessons for the boy, whose impressions Kloefkorn conveys with the immediacy, naiveté, and poignancy of youth—and reconsiders with the wisdom and distance of age.</p>	
Kooser, Ted	<p><i>Local Wonders -- Seasons in the Bohemian Alps</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2011)</p> <p>Ted Kooser describes with exquisite detail and humor the place he calls home in the rolling hills of southeastern Nebraska—an area known as the Bohemian Alps. Nothing is too big or too small for his attention. Memories of his grandmother's cooking are juxtaposed with reflections about the old-fashioned outhouse on his property. When casting his eye on social progress, Kooser reminds us that the closing of local schools, thoughtless county weed control, and irresponsible housing development destroy more than just the view.</p>	8 copies
Miller, Sue	<p><i>The Senator's Wife</i></p> <p>Meri is newly married, pregnant, and standing on the cusp of her life as a wife and mother, recognizing with some terror the gap between reality and expectation. Delia—wife of the two-term liberal senator Tom Naughton—is Meri's new neighbor in the adjacent New England town house. Tom's chronic infidelity has been an open secret in Washington circles, but despite the complexity of their relationship, the bond between them remains strong. Soon Delia and Meri find themselves leading strangely parallel lives, as they both reckon with the contours and mysteries of marriage: one refined and abraded by years of complicated intimacy, the other barely begun. With precision and a rich vitality, Sue Miller—beloved and bestselling author of <i>While I Was Gone</i>—brings us a highly charged, superlative novel about marriage and forgiveness.</p>	7 copies
Moriarty, Liane	<p><i>The Husband's Secret</i></p> <p>Imagine your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret—something with the potential to destroy not only the life you built together, but the lives of others as well. And then imagine that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive...</p> <p>Cecilia Fitzpatrick has achieved it all—she's an incredibly successful businesswoman, a pillar of her small community, and a devoted wife and mother. But that letter is about to change everything—and not just for her. There are other women who barely know Cecilia—or each other—but they, too, are about to feel the earth-shattering repercussions of her husband's secret.</p>	10 copies

Morris, Wright	<p><i>The Home Place</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2010)</p> <p>This account in first-person narrative and photographs of the one-day visit of Clyde Muncy to "the home place" at Lone Tree, Nebraska, has been called "as near to a new fiction form as you could get." Both prose and pictures are homely: worn linoleum, an old man's shoes, well-used kitchen utensils, and weathered siding. Muncy's journey of discovery takes the measure of the man he has become and of what he has left behind.</p>	8 copies
Murakami, Haruki	<p><i>The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle</i></p> <p>In a Tokyo suburb, a young man named Toru Okada searches for his wife's missing cat—and then for his wife as well—in a netherworld beneath the city's placid surface. As these searches intersect, he encounters a bizarre group of allies and antagonists. Gripping, prophetic, and suffused with comedy and menace, this is an astonishingly imaginative detective story, an account of a disintegrating marriage, and an excavation of the buried secrets from Japan's forgotten campaign in Manchuria during World War II.</p>	6 copies
Orlean, Susan	<p><i>The Library Book</i></p> <p>On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. The fire was disastrous: it reached two thousand degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who?</p> <p>Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the fire, award-winning <i>New Yorker</i> reporter and <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author Susan Orlean delivers a "delightful...reflection on the past, present, and future of libraries in America" (<i>New York</i> magazine) that manages to tell the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before.</p>	10 copies
Poore, Nancy Whitmore	<p><i>Deadly Confidante</i></p> <p>The <i>Deadly Confidante</i> chronicles the chilling case of Robin Lee Row, a woman accused of setting her house on fire and causing the death of her husband and two young children. It also tells the agonizing story of Joan McHugh, Robin's friend, who wrestled with issues of trust, loyalty and the value of friendship in the face of incriminating evidence. The <i>Deadly Confidante</i> is the culmination of years of tireless research; the author skillfully compiled reports, court records, police interviews and in-depth research in retelling the story. Was Robin Lee Row a compassionate mother or was she a cold and calculating killer? A provocative, must read true-crime story with an unforgettable outcome.</p>	8 copies

Reilly, Gary	<p><i>Asphalt Warrior</i></p> <p>Introducing Denverite Brendan Murphy or Murph as he's known to the rest of the world. He lives alone in his crow's nest apartment, fries a hamburger for every meal, does his dish, then channel surfs for reruns of Gilligans Island. He is a radical minimalist. He strives to earn no more money as a driver for Rocky Mountain Taxi Company than his needs require. He is determined to stay out of the lives of those he transports. He struggles with one issue and is spectacularly bad with the other. The Asphalt Warrior is the first of eleven adventures. Come prowl the mean streets of Denver with Murph and ponder the meaning of the world and all sorts of deep questions, such as: Why would anyone want to DO anything?</p>	10 copies
Reilly, Gary	<p><i>Heart of Darkness Club</i></p> <p>In the "The Heart of Darkness Club," Murph encounters a mysterious nihilist who may or may not be leaving him cryptic handwritten notes on five-dollar bills.</p>	10 copies
Reilly, Gary	<p><i>Ticket to Hollywood</i></p> <p>In Ticket to Hollywood, a young woman on the way to a showing of "The Great Gatsby" leaves her purse behind in the cab driven by Brendan Murphy, a.k.a. Murph, The Asphalt Warrior. The girl goes missing. Murph finds himself confronted by police and loses his job. He becomes entangled with filmmakers and makes his way to Los Angeles in search of the lost woman and in desperate need to restore his reputation and regain normalcy, which in Murph's case means doing as little as possible.</p>	10 copies
Rothenberger, Steven	<p><i>Scottsbluff in '62</i></p> <p>"Scottsbluff in '62" demonstrates how rock 'n' roll music helped to shape the popular culture of the 1960s, a volatile yet revolutionary period in U.S. History. The author portrays the 1960s as a magical time when simple rock 'n' roll melodies helped a nation endure a war and accept the rapid sociological and political changes that characterized this decade. The book begins in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, the cruisin' capital of western Nebraska and the prototype or starting point for memoirs and stories about local bands. The '60s music scene is quickly expanded to reflect rock 'n' roll on a regional and a national basis. All chapters are interspersed with historical information that reminds the reader of the unpredictable nature of these times.</p>	10 copies
Russell, Mary Doria	<p><i>A Thread of Grace</i></p> <p>It is September 8, 1943, and fourteen-year-old Claudette Blum and her father are among the thousands of Jewish refugees scrambling over the Alps toward Italy, where they hope to find safety now that the Italians have broken from Germany and made a separate peace with the Allies. The Blums will soon discover that Italy is anything but peaceful, as it quickly</p>	8 copies

	<p>becomes an open battleground for the Nazis, the Allies, Resistance fighters, Jews in hiding, and ordinary Italian civilians trying to survive. Tracing the lives of a handful of fascinating characters—a charismatic Italian Resistance leader, a priest, an Italian rabbi's family, a disillusioned German doctor—Mary Doria Russell tells the little-known story of the vast underground effort by Italian citizens who saved the lives of 43,000 Jews during the final phase of World War II. <i>A Thread of Grace</i> puts a human face on history.</p>	
Sandoz, Mari	<p><i>Crazy Horse</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2007)</p> <p><i>Crazy Horse</i>, the military leader of the Oglala Sioux whose personal power and social nonconformity set him off as "strange," fought in many famous battles, including the one at the Little Bighorn. He held out boldly against the government's efforts to confine the Sioux on reservations. Finally, in the spring of 1877 he surrendered, one of the last important chiefs to do so, only to meet a violent death. Mari Sandoz, the noted author of <i>Cheyenne Autumn</i> and <i>Old Jules</i>, has captured the spirit of Crazy Horse with a strength and nobility befitting his heroism.</p>	8 copies
Sandoz, Mari	<p><i>Old Jules</i></p> <p>First published in 1935, <i>Old Jules</i> is unquestionably Mari Sandoz's masterpiece. This portrait of her pioneer father grew out of "the silent hours of listening behind the stove or the wood box, when it was assumed, of course, that I was asleep in bed. So it was that I heard the accounts of the hunts," Sandoz recalls. "Of the fights with the cattlemen and the sheepmen of the tragic scarcity of women, when a man had to 'marry anything that got off the train,' of the droughts, the storms, the wind and isolation. But the most impressive stories were those told me by Old Jules himself."</p>	8 copies
Schmidt, Monique Maria	<p><i>Last Moon Dancing</i></p> <p>Amidst the pulse of voodoo drums, the gift of a dinner rat, chants of machete-wielding students, and choking heat inside a mosquito net, Monique Maria Schmidt gives us this searingly honest account of two years of real life as a young Peace Corps Volunteer. She lives alone, the only white teacher, struggling to find her place in a French-speaking West African village. Students test her. Gendarmes leer. Big Mama gives advice. Daily life is redefined in the search for scarce food, in shutting out the beatings of neighborhood children, in devising routines to stay sane. Schmidt draws on the resourcefulness of her rural childhood in the ongoing struggle with cultural isolation and illness. She seeks comfort in a romanticized relationship with the wrong man, and most stunningly, finds tender and raucous humor in a bewildering world.</p>	8 copies

Schroff, Laura	<p><i>An Invisible Thread</i></p> <p>She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back. And she continued to go back, again and again. They met up nearly every week for years and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades.</p>	10 copies
Schutte, Karen	<p><i>Seed of the Volga</i></p> <p>The second book of a trilogy, SEED OF THE VOLGA encompasses the lives of the author's great-grandparents. Beginning in Germany, 1861 the Steiner family is traced from an unwed and pregnant princess in the Black Forest, to the banks of Russia's Volga River. The reader is gripped by the dire dilemma of the Princess Theraisa Von Steiner as she mourns the death of her intended husband and is frantic to hide her pregnancy. Based on the true story of the author's family, SEED OF THE VOLGA captures the chilling tale of her ancestor's immigration out of war-torn Germany.</p>	8 copies
Schutte, Karen	<p><i>The Ticket</i></p> <p>Destined to a life of servitude, Karl Kessel, a turn-of-the-century German immigrant from a Danube Swabian settlement in Surtschin, Yugoslavia receives an unexpected gift of The Ticket, to America. Grasping his dream he leaves behind his young wife, Katja and two small sons. Karl boards the KronPrinz Wilhelm and sails for a country he knows nothing about, only that it promises the opportunity he covets. When he arrives in America, he becomes consumed and obsessed with the unwavering desire to be the owner of a farm-to be his own man. Over a year later, when Katja steps off a train with their sons in the wilds of sparsely settled Wyoming, she questions, "Is this where I am to spend my life?!" Katja soon discovers that it is not only the geography of her situation which will make her life difficult, as she gives everything her husband demands of her, but it is never enough.</p>	8 copies
See, Lisa	<p><i>Peony in Love</i></p> <p>In seventeenth-century China, in an elaborate villa on the shores of Hangzhou's West Lake, Peony lives a sheltered life. One night, during a theatrical performance in her family's garden, Peony catches sight of an elegant, handsome man and is immediately overcome with emotion. So begins Peony's unforgettable journey of love and destiny, desire and sorrow, the living world and the afterworld. Eventually expelled from all she's known, Peony is thrust into a realm where hungry ghosts wander the earth, written words have the power to hurt and kill, and dreams are as vivid as waking life. Lisa See's novel, based on actual historical events, evokes vividly another time and place—where three generations of women become enmeshed in a dramatic story, uncover past secrets and tragedies, and learn that love can transcend death.</p>	8 copies

See, Lisa	<p><i>Shanghai Girls</i></p> <p>In 1937, Shanghai is the Paris of Asia, a city of great wealth and glamour, the home of millionaires and beggars, gangsters and gamblers, patriots and revolutionaries, artists and warlords. Thanks to the financial security and material comforts provided by their father's prosperous rickshaw business, twenty-one-year-old Pearl Chin and her younger sister, May, are having the time of their lives. Though both sisters wave off authority and tradition, they couldn't be more different: Pearl is a Dragon sign, strong and stubborn, while May is a true Sheep, adorable and placid. Both are beautiful, modern, and carefree . . . until the day their father tells them that he has gambled away their wealth and that in order to repay his debts he must sell the girls as wives to suitors who have traveled from California to find Chinese brides.</p>	8 copies
See, Lisa	<p><i>Snow Flower and the Secret Fan</i></p> <p>In nineteenth-century China, in a remote Hunan county, a girl named Lily, at the tender age of seven, is paired with a <i>laotong</i>, an "old same," in an emotional match that will last a lifetime. The <i>laotong</i>, Snow Flower, introduces herself by sending Lily a silk fan on which she has written a poem in <i>nu shu</i>, a unique language that Chinese women created in order to communicate in secret, away from the influence of men. As the years pass, Lily and Snow Flower send messages on the fan and compose stories on handkerchiefs, reaching out of isolation to share their hopes, dreams, and accomplishments. Together they endure the agony of footbinding and reflect upon their arranged marriages, their loneliness, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood. The two find solace in their friendship, developing a bond that keeps their spirits alive. But when a misunderstanding arises, their relationship suddenly threatens to tear apart.</p>	8 copies
Shaffer, Mary	<p><i>The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society</i></p> <p>"I wonder how the book got to Guernsey? Perhaps there is some sort of secret homing instinct in books that brings them to their perfect readers." January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb. . . .</p>	8 copies
Shoemaker, Karen	<p><i>The Meaning of Names</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2016)</p> <p>Stuart, Nebraska is a long way from the battlefields of Western Europe, but it is not immune to the horrors of the first Great War for Peace. Like all communities, it has lost sons and daughters to the fighting, with many more giving themselves over to the hatred only war can engender. Set in 1918 in the farm country at the heart of America, <i>The Meaning of Names</i> is the story of an ordinary woman trying to raise a family during</p>	10 copies

	<p>extraordinary times. Estranged from her parents because she married against their will, confronted with violence and prejudice against her people, and caught up in the midst of the worst plague the world has ever seen, Gerda Vogel, an American of German descent, must find the strength to keep her family safe from the effects of a war that threatens to consume the whole world.</p>	
Stein, Garth	<p><i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i></p> <p>A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope--a captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it.</p>	10 copies
St. John, Warren	<p><i>Outcasts United</i></p> <p>Luma Mufleh, a young Jordanian woman educated in the United States and working as a coach for private youth soccer teams in Atlanta, was out for a drive one day and ended up in Clarkston, Georgia, where she was amazed and delighted to see young boys, black and brown and white, some barefoot, playing soccer on every flat surface they could find. Luma decided to quit her job, move to Clarkston, and start a soccer team that would soon defy the odds. Despite challenges to locate a practice field, minimal funding for uniforms and equipment, and zero fans on the sidelines, the Fugees practiced hard and demonstrated a team spirit that drew admiration from referees and competitors alike.</p> <p><i>Outcasts United</i> explores how the community changed with the influx of refugees and how the dedication of Lumah Mufleh and the entire Fugees soccer team inspired an entire community.</p>	8 copies
Starita, Joe	<p><i>I Am a Man</i> (One Book, One Nebraska Selection 2012)</p> <p>In 1877, Chief Standing Bear's Ponca Indian tribe was forcibly removed from their Nebraska homeland and marched to what was then known as Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), in what became the tribe's own Trail of Tears. "<i>I Am a Man</i>" chronicles what happened when Standing Bear set off on a six-hundred-mile walk to return the body of his only son to their traditional burial ground. Along the way, it examines the complex relationship between the United States government and the small, peaceful tribe and the legal consequences of land swaps and broken treaties, while never losing sight of the heartbreaking journey the Ponca endured. It is a story of survival---of a people left for dead who arose from the ashes of injustice, disease, neglect, starvation, humiliation, and termination. On another level, it is a story of life and death, despair and fortitude, freedom and patriotism. A story of Christian kindness and bureaucratic evil. And it is a story of hope---of a people still among us today, painstakingly preserving a cultural identity that had sustained them for centuries before their encounter with Lewis and Clark in the fall of 1804.</p>	8 copies

Stewart, Rory	<p><i>The Places in Between</i></p> <p>In January 2002 Rory Stewart walked across Afghanistan-surviving by his wits, his knowledge of Persian dialects and Muslim customs, and the kindness of strangers. By day he passed through mountains covered in nine feet of snow, hamlets burned and emptied by the Taliban, and communities thriving amid the remains of medieval civilizations. By night he slept on villagers' floors, shared their meals, and listened to their stories of the recent and ancient past. Along the way Stewart met heroes and rogues, tribal elders and teenage soldiers, Taliban commanders and foreign-aid workers. He was also adopted by an unexpected companion-a retired fighting mastiff he named Babur in honor of Afghanistan's first Mughal emperor, in whose footsteps the pair was following.</p>	8 copies
Stratton, Donald	<p><i>All the Gallant Men</i></p> <p>At 8:06 a.m. on December 7, 1941, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton was consumed by an inferno. A million pounds of explosives had detonated beneath his battle station aboard the USS <i>Arizona</i>, barely fifteen minutes into Japan's surprise attack on American forces at Pearl Harbor. Near death and burned across two thirds of his body, Don, a nineteen-year-old Nebraskan who had been steeled by the Great Depression and Dust Bowl, summoned the will to haul himself hand over hand across a rope tethered to a neighboring vessel. Forty-five feet below, the harbor's flaming, oil-slick water boiled with enemy bullets; all around him the world tore itself apart. In this extraordinary never-before-told eyewitness account of the Pearl Harbor attack—the only memoir ever written by a survivor of the USS <i>Arizona</i>—ninety-four-year-old veteran Donald Stratton finally shares his unforgettable personal tale of bravery and survival on December 7, 1941, his harrowing recovery, and his inspiring determination to return to the fight.</p>	10 copies
Swarthout, Glendon	<p><i>The Homesman</i></p> <p><i>The Homesman</i> is a devastating story of early pioneers in 1850s American West. It celebrates the ones we hear nothing of: the brave women whose hearts and minds were broken by a life of bitter hardship. A "homesman" must be found to escort a handful of them back East to a sanitarium. When none of the county's men steps up, the job falls to Mary Bee Cuddy—ex-teacher, spinster, indomitable and resourceful. Brave as she is, Mary Bee knows she cannot succeed alone. The only companion she can find is the low-life claim jumper George Briggs. Thus begins a trek east, against the tide of colonization, against hardship, Indian attacks, ice storms, and loneliness—a timeless classic told in a series of tough, fast-paced adventures.</p>	10 copies

<p>Trigiani, Adriana</p>	<p><i>Don't Sing at the Table</i></p> <p>Adriana Trigiani shares a treasure trove of insight and guidance from her two grandmothers: time-tested, common sense advice on the most important aspects of a woman's life, from childhood to the golden years. Seamlessly blending anecdote with life lesson, <i>Don't Sing at the Table</i> tells the two vibrant women's real-life stories—how they fell in love, nurtured their marriages, balanced raising children with being savvy businesswomen, and reinvented themselves with each new decade. For readers of <i>Big Stone Gap</i>, <i>Very Valentine</i>, <i>Lucia, Lucia</i>, and <i>Rococo</i>, this loving memoir is the Trigiani family recipe for chicken soup for the soul.</p>	<p>7 copies</p>
<p>Walls, Jeannette</p>	<p><i>The Glass Castle</i></p> <p><i>The Glass Castle</i> is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.</p>	<p>8 copies</p>
<p>Young, William P.</p>	<p><i>The Shack</i></p> <p>Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever.</p>	<p>7 copies</p>