

Read It Like You Mean It - An Indianapolis Book Club

Potential Upcoming Book List

Greetings! This list is the actively maintained list of books that people have mentioned or sent to me as suggestions for the book club. There are some genre (pulp romances need not apply), content (generally stay away from hot button issues, this is a book club not a politics club) and page length restrictions (800-900 pages is the max, and then only done over the December break)

I will include everything that I deem eligible here. I bring things for a vote during a meeting that have a sponsor who is still generally active in the group and if the book would be a good placement for that month. In general if a person suggests a book they will have to wait a few months before their next book is selected - two books might be sequential if they have complimentary themes (e.g. Fen, Bog and Swamp for one month and Silent Spring the next as both environmental non-fictions) - an easier-shorter book will follow or precede a difficult-longer book.

Members will be able to view but not edit this page, if you would like to add your name as a sponsor for a book that you see here, add a comment and I'll update the page.

Happy reading!
Peter Russel

Invisible Monsters by Chuck Palahniuk

Sponsored by Brian Kitta - added 27Sep2023

Brian suggested this for our October book, it looks like a reinvention story after a horrific accident causes a woman's identity (beauty) to be polar reversed. The whole terrible best friend and cheating boyfriend dynamic sounds exactly like My Year of Rest that we just read, so this might be better for next October when the genre is fresher.

300 pages, no awards that I can see, not in IndyPL in print.

N.b. we would be doing the original publication, not the Remix that Chuck published in 2012 as a directors cut to the original.

Glory by Noviolet Bulawayo - suggested by Tanya - added 28Aug2024

Interesting concept, think Animal Farm animals but with the 2017 coup in Zimbabwe that ousted the dictator Mugabe.

400 pages, award winning author. Zimbabwe author.

Victoria by Knut Hamsun - suggested by Witten - added 18Nov2024

112 pages - a love story. No other info on it in Goodreads - swedish author, published in 2007.

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates - suggested by Peter Russel - added 19Jan2025

152 pages - very short. An excellent memoir/letter to his son (that we are being given the privilege of reading, I feel), Ta-Nehisi Coates is trying to convey to his adolescent child what he, Ta-Nehisi, has learned about being Black in America. Excellent writing - some very well made points - has the power of Memoir behind it, similar to Solito with the illegal immigrant experience. Well in stock at IndyPL.

The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom suggested by Steven N. added 29Jan2025

Standard length - no awards that I can find. White Irish orphan sent to work in the kitchen house of a plantation - eventually moves into the big house and is torn between the passing privilege of her skin and her loyalty to her former slave compatriots. In IndyPL

The Heaven and Earth Grocery store by James McBride - suggested by Michael - added 29Jan2025

Standard length - in IndyPL - the unearthing of a skeleton in a mixed black/Jewish Pennsylvania community raises a bunch of questions.

Erasure by Percival Everett - added 29Jan2025 - suggested by Michael. Super neat concept, very funny - I've seen the movie and it's great. 280 pages. Not really in IndyPL.

Braiding Sweetgrass - added 26Mar2025 - Suggested by Kristen - by Robin Wall Kimmerer - very neat concept. A native American scientist and active member of the

Potawatomi nation who is trying to communicate her people's understanding of nature - using a scientific framework. 390 pages. Well in stock in IndyPL.

A Midwife's Tale - added 26Mar2025 - Suggested by Kristen - by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich -

The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812 - the author has a ton of academic experience, Harvard professor, MacArthur fellowship. As the subtitle says, this seems to be a straight presentation of the subjects life. Severe shortage at IndyPL - good luck finding it. 379 pages.