

The Book Club of Grosse Ile-2019 Fiction

1. **Beautiful Music** by Michael Zadoorian, 340pp. Rich with Detroit details from the 1970s, the author's autobiographical character, Danny grows up in northwest Detroit, a sensitive kid, a "bully-magnet," who finds sanctuary in his music.
2. **Florida** by Lauren Groff, 288pp. Eleven electric short stories of foreboding and strangeness in the Sunshine State.
3. **The Friend** by Sigrid Nunez, 224pp. After her best friend and mentor's suicide, an unnamed middle-aged writing professor is bequeathed his well-behaved beast of a dog.
4. **The Perfect Couple** by Elin Hilderbrand, 464 pp. A wedding on Nantucket is canceled when the bride finds her maid of honor floating facedown in the Atlantic on the morning of the big day.
5. **There There** by Tommy Orange, 304 pp. Debut. A kaleidoscopic look at Native American life in Oakland, California, through the experiences and perspectives of 12 characters.
6. **Unsheltered** by Barbara Kingsolver, 480 pp. Alternating between two centuries, the author examines the personal and social shocks that ensue when people's assumptions about the world and their place in it are challenged.
7. **Virgil Wander** by Leif Enger, 352 pp. The author takes readers on a magical mystery tour of a fictional town on the shores of Lake Superior, near Duluth.
8. **Warlight** by Michael Ondaatje, 320pp. World War II is ending and teenage siblings learn that they will be left in London in the care of some "associates" while their parents travel in newly liberated Singapore. The lives of all concerned have hidden depths and secrets that play out in a sophisticated drama of wartime intrigue.
9. **Washington Black** by Esi Edugyan, 336 pp. High adventure with cliffhanger twists marks this runaway-slave narrative, which leaps,

sails, and soars from Caribbean cane fields to the Arctic and across an ocean.

10. **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens, 384pp. A wild child's dirt-poor upbringing in a Southern coastal wilderness fails to shield her from heartbreak or an accusation of murder.

The Book Club of Grosse Ile-2019 Non-Fiction

1. **Educated: A Memoir** by Tara Westover-334 pp. The youngest of seven children, Westover grows up in a household with no radio, TV or telephone. Born at home, she never attends school. But she really isn't home schooled; she educates herself. She escapes to BYU, graduates with honors and goes on to Cambridge and Harvard.
2. **The Feather Thief-Beauty, Obsession and the Natural History Heist of the Century** by Kirk Wallace Johnson-320 pp. A true crime tale that includes Darwin's rival, naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, the feather underground, a world of fanatical fly tiers and plume peddlers, cokeheads and big game hunters, ex-detectives and shady dentists.
3. **Fly Girls-How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History** by Keith O'Brien-368 pp. Drawing on abundant sources, including letters, published and unpublished memoirs, newspaper reports and archival material from more than a dozen museums and historical collections, the author has fashioned a brisk, spirited history of early aviation focused on 5 irrepressible women.
4. **Heartland-A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth** by Sarah Smarsh-304 pp. Journalist Smarsh explores socio-economic class and poverty through an account of her low-income, rural Kansas-based extended family.
5. **The Library Book** by Susan Orlean-336pp. An engaging, casual history of librarians and libraries and a famous one that burned down.

6. **The Monk of Mokha** by Dave Eggers-368 pp. A biography of a charming, industrious Muslim man who has more ambition than direction; a capsule history of coffee and its origins, growth, and development as a mass commodity and then as a niche product; the story of Blue Bottle, the elite coffee chain in San Francisco; an adventure story of civil war in a foreign country; and a most improbable and uplifting success story.
7. **Notes from a Public Typewriter** edited by Michael Gustafson and Oliver Uberti-160 pp. A collection of confessional, hilarious, heartbreaking notes written anonymously on a public typewriter at the Literati Bookstore in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
8. **Small Fry** by Lisa Brennen-Jobs-400 pp. Debut. An epic, sharp coming-of-age story from the daughter of Steve Jobs. The author benefits from her father's story, but her prose doesn't require his spotlight to shine.
9. **The Strange Case of Dr. Couney-How a Mysterious European Showman Saved Thousands of American Babies** by Dawn Raffel-304pp. Told mostly as a biography of Martin Couney (1870-1950), whose claim to being a physician could not be verified; he is considered a founder of American neonatology.
10. **Tango Lessons: A Memoir** by Meghan Flaherty-320 pp. Debut. The author took her first tango lesson while studying abroad in Argentina. She describes how a passion for tango dancing transformed her life and includes a well- researched history of the beloved dance.