

**Warren County Public Library District
2018 Illinois' Bicentennial Reading List Contest**



January: Black Hawk, *Life of Black Hawk* (1833). Famous in its own time, it was the first Native American autobiography. A Remarkable self-portrait of a complex individual.

February: Benjamin P. Thomas, *Abraham Lincoln: A Biography* (1952). Widely acclaimed, it is still one of the great Lincoln biographies. Thomas was raised in Springfield.

March: Edna Ferber, *So Big* (1924). Winner of the 1925 Pulitzer Prize, this novel, set near Chicago in the 1890s and early 20th century, depicts a widow who supports herself and her son.

April: Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House* (1910). A superb autobiography, in which the famous social activist recounts her early years and the social work at Hull House.

May: Carl Sandburg, *Harvest Poems* (1958). Selected poems by the famous poet and Lincoln biographer, from such volumes as *Chicago Poems*, *Corn Huskers* and *The People, Yes*.

June: Richard Wright, *Native Son* (1940). An acclaimed, powerful novel, about a black youth in Chicago, who is brutalized and deprived by powerful forces, and condemned to die.

July: Gwendolyn Brooks, *Selected Poems* (2006). A volume of compelling poems, often about the black experience, by the celebrated, Pulitzer Prize-winning Chicago poet.

August: Paul M. Angle, *Bloody Williamson: A Chapter in American Lawlessness* (1952). A vivid account of the multi-faceted violence in Williamson County during the 1920s.

September: Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* (1900). The first novel by a great American author, this was a shocking book: a struggling girl sells herself to live in Chicago, but she survives it all.

October: Ray Bradbury, *Dandelion Wine* (1957). A compelling novel, of linked vignettes, on the life of a small-town boy, set in 1928. He learns about death, temporality, and relating to the past.

November: Saul Bellow, *The Adventures of Augie March* (1953). A lively picaresque novel about a Jewish youth from the Chicago slums who adapts to the city and seeks fulfillment in the world.

December: Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street* (1984). A celebrated short novel, with chapters like prose poems, about a young woman in a Chicago Latino neighborhood.

Read and review your choice of Illinois' Bicentennial Reading List! Your Adult Services Librarian will choose the winning review at the end of 2018. Winner will receive a \$50 gift card, and their review will be published in Monmouth's *Review Atlas* and on the library's website! Please read official rules for more information.