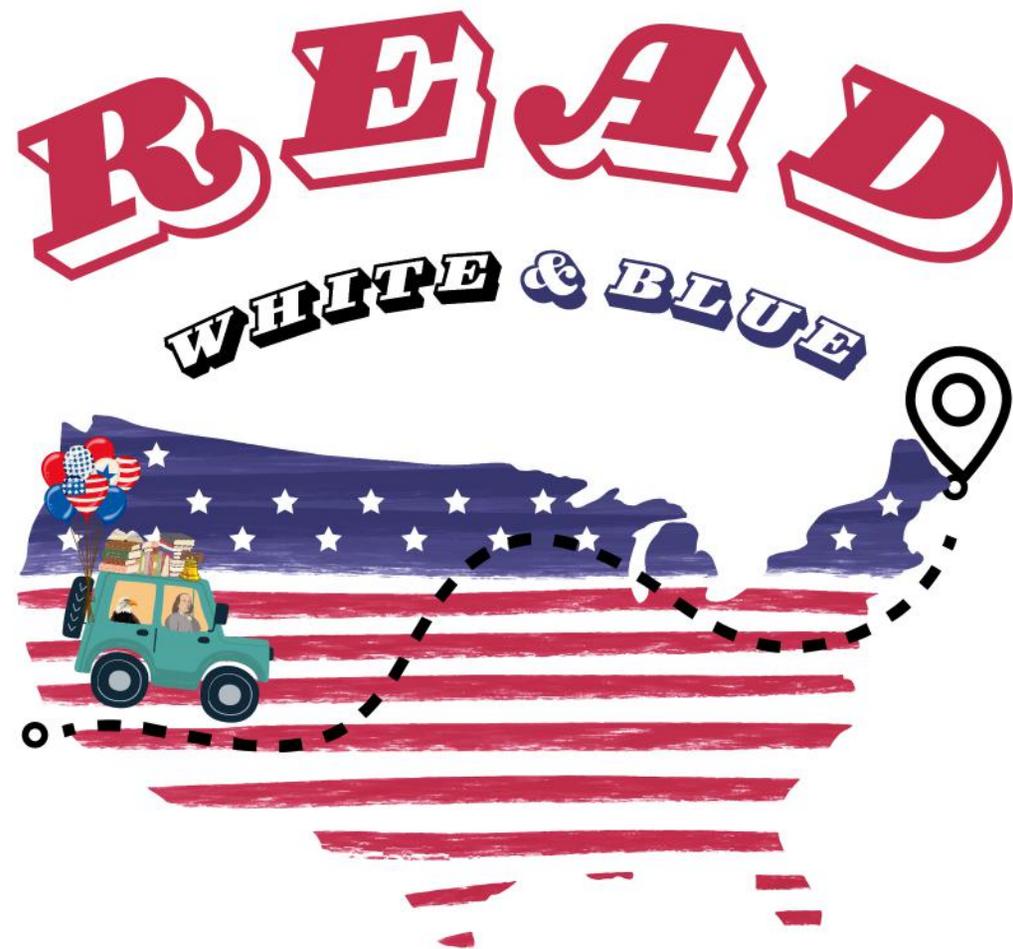


2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Founding of the United States of America! This self-paced reading challenge features books that will take you on a road trip through all 50 states, five inhabited American territories, and the District of Columbia. Read at your own pace and in any order. All book titles are available to borrow from Matthews Public Library or other Lebanon County libraries; please check the online card catalog or with a librarian regarding a specific title's current availability.



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Celebrate the U.S.A.'s big birthday  
with a literary road trip!

# \_\_\_\_\_



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Rate each title after you read it: 1 star = hated it; 2 stars = didn't like it; 3 stars = meh; it was ok; 4 stars = liked it; 5 stars = LOVED it.

**STATE**

**BOOK**

- Alabama *March: Book One* by John Lewis & Andrew Aydin ★★★★★
- Alaska *Black Woods, Blue Sky* by Eowyn Ivey ★★★★★
- Arizona *Epitaph* by Mary Doria Russell ★★★★★
- Arkansas *Don't Know Tough* by Eli Cranor ★★★★★
- California *The Other Americans* by Laila Lalami ★★★★★
- Colorado *Friends Helping Friends* by Patrick Hoffman ★★★★★
- Connecticut *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong ★★★★★
- Delaware *The Same Bright Stars* by Ethan Joella ★★★★★
- Florida *If I Survive You* by Jonathan Escoffery ★★★★★
- Georgia *Lula Deans Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller ★★★★★
- Hawaii *Hula* by Jasmin Iolani Hakes ★★★★★
- Idaho *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson ★★★★★
- Illinois *Aurora* by David Koepp ★★★★★
- Indiana *Lost Man's Lane* by Scott Carson ★★★★★
- Iowa *Some Luck* by Jane Smiley ★★★★★
- Kansas *The Wolf Wants In* by Laura McHugh ★★★★★
- Kentucky *Starling House* by Alix E. Harrow ★★★★★
- Louisiana *The American Daughters* by Maurice Carlos Ruffin ★★★★★
- Maine *The Moorings of Mackerel Sky* by MZ ★★★★★
- Maryland *Behind You Is the Sea* by Susan Mauddi Darraj ★★★★★
- Massachusetts *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian ★★★★★
- Michigan *Babysitter* by Joyce Carol Oates ★★★★★
- Minnesota *Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club* by J. Ryan Stradal ★★★★★
- Mississippi *The Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham ★★★★★
- Missouri *Sisterland* by Curtis Sittenfeld ★★★★★
- Montana *North of Nowhere* by Allison Brennan ★★★★★
- Nebraska *The Bones of Paradise* by Jonis Agee ★★★★★
- Nevada *Killing Me* by Michelle Gagnon ★★★★★

**STATE**

**BOOK**

- New Hampshire *Unlikely Animals* by Annie Hartnett ★★★★★
- New Jersey *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume ★★★★★
- New Mexico *The Road to Roswell* by Connie Willis ★★★★★
- New York *The Matchmaker's Gift* by Lynda Cohen Loigman ★★★★★
- North Carolina *Happy Land* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez ★★★★★
- North Dakota *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich ★★★★★
- Ohio *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery ★★★★★
- Oklahoma *All the Ugly and Wonderful Things* by Bryn Greenwood ★★★★★
- Oregon *The Librarianist* by Patrick deWitt ★★★★★
- Pennsylvania *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride ★★★★★
- Rhode Island *Ocean State* by Stewart O'Nan ★★★★★
- South Carolina *Carolina Moonset* by Matt Goldman ★★★★★
- South Dakota *61 Hours* by Lee Child ★★★★★
- Tennessee *Memphis* by Tara M. Stringfellow ★★★★★
- Texas *The Witches of El Paso* by Luis Jaramillo ★★★★★
- Utah *Picnic in the Ruins* by Todd Robert Petersen ★★★★★
- Vermont *I Am Not Who You Think I Am* by Eric Rickstad ★★★★★
- Virginia *Happiness Falls* by Angie Kim ★★★★★
- Washington *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter ★★★★★
- West Virginia *The Bog Wife* by Kay Chronister ★★★★★
- Wisconsin *The Family Chao* by Lan Samantha Chang ★★★★★
- Wyoming *The Trackers* by Charles Frazier ★★★★★
- Washington, D.C. *The Senator's Wife* by Liv Constantine ★★★★★
- Puerto Rico *The Storytellers' Death* by Ann Dávila Cardinal ★★★★★
- U.S. Virgin Islands *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman ★★★★★
- American Samoa, Guam, & Northern Mariana Islands } *The Not-Quite States of America: Dispatches from the Territories and Other Far-Flung Outposts of the USA.* by Doug Mack ★★★★★