

The Great Plains Spirit

Stretching from Texas north to the Dakotas, the vast Great Plains region has generated its share of myths and stereotypes, from the hardy pioneer farmer and the vanishing Indian to the Dust Bowl refugee. It has also produced some of our best American writers and inspired a rich and varied literary tradition.

The Bones of Plenty by Lois Hudson (1962)

Proud, independent Dakota wheat farmer George Armstrong Custer and his hard-working wife Rachel must battle both the land and their landlord during the depression years of 1933-34.

Great Plains by Ian Frazier (1989) **DB**

Taking us on a journey of 25,000 miles up, down, and across the myth-inspiring Great Plains, Frazier's adventures range from the site of Sitting Bull's cabin to Homecoming in Nicodemus, Kansas.

Book Discussion Leaders: Sara Tucker, Rosemary Kolich

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder (1932-1943/1971) **DB, BR**

The Ingalls family leaves the Big Woods of Wisconsin and settles in the Indian territory of Kansas, a land of prairie fires, wolves, adventure, and startling beauty.

Book Discussion Leaders: William Clyde Brown, Sara Tucker, Rosemary Kolich, Sandra Wiechert

O Pioneers! by Willa Cather (1913) **DB**

Alexandra Bergson's dying father leaves their struggling Nebraska homestead to her, not her brothers. With her iron will and intelligence, she overcomes family tragedy and tames wild land that she loves.

Book Discussion Leaders: William Clyde Brown, Rosemary Kolich, Sandra Wiechert, Marilyn Klaus

Touching the Fire: Buffalo Dancers, the Sky Bundle, and Other Tales by Roger Welsch (1992)

The fictional Nehawka Indians wage a battle for the return of their sacred Sky Bundle, a medicine pouch whose stories take us back in time to the first Nehawka village on the Plains.

Book Discussion Leaders: Gene Chávez, Sara Tucker, Sandra Wiechert

Series Discussion Leaders: Deborah Peterson, Valerie Brown-Kuchera, Anne Hawkins, Erin Poupirt, Linda Lewis, Randee Baty, Steven Foulke, Rachel Goossen, Sara Jane Richter, Margy Stewart, Kevin Rabas