**Pioneer Pages**

*My Antonia*—Willa Cather

Through Jim Burden's endearing, smitten voice, we visit the immigrant life in the Nebraska heartland, with all its insistent bonds. Guiding the way are some of literature's most beguiling characters: the Russian brothers plagued by memories of a fateful sleigh ride, Antonia's desperately homesick father and self-indulgent mother, and the coy Lena Lingard. Holding the pastoral society's heart, of course, is the bewitching, free-spirited Antonia. **E-BOOK**

*Gap Creek*—Robert Morgan

Young Julie Harmon works "hard as a man," they say, so hard that at times she's not sure she can stop. People depend on her to slaughter the hogs and nurse the dying. People are weak, and there is so much to do. At just seventeen she marries and moves down into the valley of Gap Creek, where perhaps life will be better. **FIC MOR**

*The Hunger*—Alma Katsu

Tamsen Donner must be a witch. That is the only way to explain the series of misfortunes that have plagued the wagon train known as the Donner Party. Depleted rations, bitter quarrels, and the mysterious death of a little boy have driven the pioneers to the brink of madness. They cannot escape the feeling that someone—or something—is stalking them. The 90 men, women, and children of the Donner Party are at the brink of one of the deadliest and most disastrous western adventures in American history. **FIC CAR**

*The True History of the Kelly Gang*—Peter Carey

The legendary Ned Kelly speaks for himself, scribbling his narrative on errant scraps of paper in semiliterate but magically descriptive prose as he flees from the police. To his pursuers, Kelly is nothing but a monstrous criminal, a thief and a murderer. To his own people, the lowly class of ordinary Australians, the bushranger is a hero, defying the authority of the English to direct their lives. **FIC CAR**

*All Together In Once Place*—Jane Kirkpatrick

Their lives would be tempered by adversity, expanded by faith, polished by perseverance. Based on an actual 1852 Oregon Trail incident, *All Together In One Place*, Book One in the Kinship and Courage series, speaks to the strength in every woman and celebrates the promise of hope that unfailingly blooms amidst tragedy and challenge. **CLA COO**

*Daughter of Fortune*—Isabel Allende

Orphaned at birth, Eliza Sommers is raised in the British colony of Valparaíso, Chile, by the well-intentioned Victorian spinster Miss Rose and her more rigid brother Jeremy. Just as she meets and falls in love with the wildly inappropriate Joaquín Andieta, a lowly clerk who works for Jeremy, gold is discovered in the hills of northern California. By 1849, Chileans of every stripe have fallen prey to feverish dreams of wealth. Joaquín takes off for San Francisco to seek his fortune, and Eliza, pregnant with his child, decides to follow him. **FIC ALL**

*The Snow Child*—Eowyn Ivey

Alaska, 1920: a brutal place to homestead, for recent arrivals Jack and Mabel. Childless, they are drifting apart. In a moment of levity during the season’s first snowfall, they build a child out of snow. The next morning the snow child is gone, but they glimpse a young, blonde-haired girl running through the trees. As Jack and Mabel struggle to understand this child, they come to love her as their own daughter. What they eventually learn about Faina will transform all of them. **FIC ALL**

*The Calling of Emily Evans*—Janette Oke

Emily Evans has a hard time getting herself to class on time, so hard that at times she's not sure she can stop. Through the trees. As Jack and Mabel struggle to understand this child, they come to love her as their own daughter. What they eventually learn about Faina will transform all of them. **FIC ALL**

*BLOOD MERIDIAN*—Cormac McCarthy

*BLOOD MERIDIAN* is an epic novel of the violence and depravity that attended America’s westward expansion, brilliantly subverting the conventions of the Western novel and the mythology of the Wild West. Based on historical events that took place on the Texas-Mexico border in the 1850s, it traces the fortunes of the Kid, a fourteen-year-old Tennessean who stumbles into a nightmarish world where Indians are being murdered and the market for their scalps is thriving. **FIC ALL**

*The Leatherstocking Tales*—James Fenimore Cooper

The five novels in *The Leatherstocking Tales* (collected in two Library of America volumes), Cooper’s great saga of the American wilderness, form a pageant of the American frontier. Cooper’s hero, Natty Bumppo, is forced ever farther into the heart of the continent by the advance of civilization that he inadvertently serves as advance scout, missionary, and critic. **FIC ALL**