



About K-State First & KSBN

K-State First is the University's first-year experience program, our way of helping students establish a great foundation for the rest of their college career. K-State Book Network (KSBN) is an all university reading program that selects a common book for the academic year and coordinates classroom and campus activities to correspond with the reading.

KSBN's purpose is to help guide the transition from highschool to college by giving students a common experience around book and guided academic and social activities that can be shared with professors, staff, administrators, and other students when they arrive on campus. It also sends the message that people in college read books, even ones that are not in their area of study.

The rest of the K-State community is also invited to read the book and participate in campus events.

Member Responsibilities

1. READ! It's important to read committee feedback, book samples, and/or whole books.
2. Attend and participate in meetings in person or virtually. you are welcome to send someone in your place if you are unable to attend.
 - a. Summer: We will communicate using K-State Online.
 - b. Fall: We will meet twice a month to narrow the list down to three, then solicit campus and community feedback to help guide us in the final decision.
3. Vote and share feedback on books.
4. Disseminate information about KSBN to your class, department, etc.
 - a. Provide updates to your leadership, make announcements at meetings, or forward information via listservs.
 - b. Share questions or concerns your department/unit/student group may have with a book under consideration to the committee or the chair.
5. Promote the book, use the book, go to book related events

Selection Criteria

The book selection committee created a list of things to consider based on the recommendations found in the book *Common Reading Programs: Going Beyond the Book*. While no one book will have all of these qualities, we ask people to consider:

- **Student Learning Outcomes:** Does the book address the outcomes?
- **Feasibility:** Is the book a reasonable length (<400 pages)? Will it be in paperback by May?
- **Relevance:** Are the characters and themes relevant to the K-State community and students, particularly as they transition from highschool to college?
- **Integration:** Could the book be used across disciplines and campus programs?
- **Programming:** Does the book allow for engaging programs that will help us explore the text? Examples: Movies on the Grass, lectures, partnerships with academic units, etc.
- **Readability:** Could students read this with relatively little guidance over the summer? Does it keep their attention until the end of the book? Does it appeal to a wide audience?
- **Author availability:** Is the author available to come to campus?

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

The long-term aim for KSBN is to provide opportunities for every first-year student to have multiple meaningful engagements around the common book inside and outside of class. Following these multiple meaningful engagements, students will be able to do each of the following.

Critical Thinking - Consider new ideas, values, and concepts introduced by the book and the discussion of it

Communication - Express their own understandings of the book in respectful dialogue with others. Listen with appreciation to the perspectives and interpretations of others

Community Building - Interact effectively with others in activities and discussions built around the book and the issues it raises

Application of Learning - Use what was learned from the book in other settings, both in the classroom and more broadly in the university community

Themes

Please focus your readings and selections on books that address this year's theme.

The American Dream - Books that introduce readers to inspirational stories, examples of American Dreams, and critiques of "American Dream" ideology.

Selection Timeline

Dates subject to change at Chair's discretion.

March - April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial meeting: Program purpose, member responsibility, book themes, timeline, how to find books, how to evaluating books • Nominate titles for committee review
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominate titles for committee review • Vote on which books will be reviewed as a committee in June • Chair will scan ~30 pages from approved books for a sample and distribute • Read and evaluate samples
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and evaluate samples • Second call for titles • Vote on which books will be reviewed as a committee in July
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and evaluate samples
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and evaluate samples • Narrow to 12 titles • Chair orders copies and places on reserve
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1st meeting) Discuss strength/weaknesses • (2nd meeting) Continue discussion
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3rd meeting) Discuss global or cultural awareness • Narrow to 6 • (4th meeting) Discuss challenges or barriers • Narrow to 3 • Solicit campus feedback on 3 titles
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit campus feedback on 3 titles • (5th meeting) Discuss talking points, partners, promotion • Narrow to 1
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get approval for the title from appropriate campus administration
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of Provost approval

Book Nomination Questions

Committee members and the public must answer these questions when nominating a book for review. This information and a sample of the first 30ish pages will be sent to the committee. The Chair reserves the right to challenge or discard a nomination if it does not qualify for the theme.

1. Nominator information
2. Title
3. Author
4. Book link (optional)
5. Which selection criteria does the book address (select all that apply)?
 - a. The book is under 400 pages
 - b. The book is in paperback
 - c. Students can read this with relatively little guidance over the summer
6. Why do you think this would be a good book for first year students at K-State?
7. Have you read this book?
8. How does the book address the theme of “The American Dream”?
9. What would you hope students take away from reading this book?

Sample Review Questions (Summer)

These questions are answered once committee members have read a sample.

1. Was it hard for you to get through the sample?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
2. Do you think the sample is a good book for first year students? Why?
3. Is there anything in the sample that would make the reader stop reading?
4. Do you think the book should move forward in the committee?

The votes will be tallied at the end of the summer and the top 12 titles will be reviewed by the committee.

Book Evaluation Questions (Fall)

These questions are discussed during the meetings and one or two of the questions will be asked in the voting survey.

Meeting 1 & 2

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of this book?

Meeting 3

- How does the book address global or cultural awareness?

Meeting 4

- What are the challenges or barriers that may keep you from using the book in your role on campus?

Meeting 5

- Who would be a good campus/community partner(s) if this book was chosen?
- What type of programming or activity would your unit produce to tie into the book?