Vote for your favorite of the Top Three Finalists for the 2022 One Book–One Lincoln community reading program:

- "Sparks Like Stars" by Nadia Hashimi
- "Hell of a Book" by Jason Mott
- "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles

One Book – One Lincoln Summer Program Guide

Light of a Starry Sky
Mon. June 27 | 5–6 PM
Walt Branch Library | 6701 S. 14th St.

Sparks Like Stars by Nadia Hashimi tells the story of a young woman’s childhood, ended suddenly by a coup. This young woman uses poetry about the stars to make sense of her life. Join Bob Kacvinsky from the Prairie Astronomy Club to learn more about the constellations that consoled our main character.

Writing About Family: Can I? Should I? How?
Writing Workshop with Marjorie Saiser
Sat. July 09 | 2–3:30 PM
Eiseley Branch Library | 1530 Superior St.

In this writing session inspired by Sparks Like Stars by Nadia Hashimi, we will explore family stories and how they are used to create new pieces of writing and, in the process, perhaps gain new ways of looking at the past. Marjorie Saiser’s poems deal with relationships, the good and not so good. Her Master’s Degree in Creative Writing is from the University of Nebraska, where she received an Academy of American Poets Award. She sometimes likes to memorize her poems and those of others. Her books and a sample reading can be viewed at www.poetmarge.com. Of her work, Ted Kooser (U.S. Poet Laureate 2004–2006) has said: “No poet in this country is better at writing about love and, in a sense, all of her poems are about love.”
One Book – One Lincoln Community Book Discussion

Hell of a Book by Jason Mott
Thurs. July 21 | 6:30–7:30 PM
Anderson Branch Library | 3635 Touzalin Ave.

Join us in discussing Hell of a Book by Jason Mott. This One Book – One Lincoln finalist is a powerful tale of healing trauma with humor and hope.

One Book – One Lincoln Community Book Discussion

Sparks Like Stars by Nadia Hashimi
Thurs. August 04 | 6:30–7:30 PM
Gere Branch Library, 2400 S. 56th St.

Join us for a discussion of Sparks Like Stars by Nadia Hashimi. This redemptive tale follows an Afghan-American woman as she reclaims the truth about her family.

Memories of Childhood: Putting It On The Page
Writing Workshop with Michelle Pierce Lyles
Mon. August 8 | 6:00–7:30 PM
Larksong Writer’s Place | 1600 N. Cotner Blvd.

Join us at Larksong Writer’s Place for a generative writing session based on Hell of a Book by Jason Mott in which the author explores his relationship with his imagination, his traumatic past, his own book and the history of Blacks in America. Writing exercises guided by Nebraska Author, Michelle Pierce Lyles, will help each of us tell our own hell of a story. Michelle Pierce Lyles holds an MFA in Writing -Poetry from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her work has appeared in 13th Floor Magazine, Taxicab Literary Magazine, and Fine Lines. As a non-profit board member and teaching facilitator, she has conducted creative writing workshops for adults and urban youth. Currently residing in Omaha, NE, she credits her daughters for providing support on her journey as a writer.

One Book – One Lincoln Community Book Discussion

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
Weds. August 10 | 6:30–7:30 PM
Bennett Martin Public Library, 156 S. 14th St.

Join us for a discussion of The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles, a coming-of-age novel that tells the tale of two Nebraska brothers in the 1950’s in search of a new life.

What’s Hope Got to Do With It? Writing Our Way Home
Writing Workshop with Karen Gettert Shoemaker
Thurs. August 18 | 6–7:30 PM
Gere Branch Library, 2400 S. 56th St.

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles will be the jumping off point for this session of prompt-driven free-writes about the roads we all travel. Using the Hero’s (and Heroine’s) Journey as the model, we’ll write our way across the landscape of home and away. Karen Gettert Shoemaker writes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, book reviews, journal entries, and endless lists. Her recent work, a reflection on the role of ordinary people during a pandemic, was published in the New York Times in 2020. Her novel, The Meaning of Names, was selected for the One Book One Nebraska statewide reading program in 2016 and the Omaha Reads community reading program in 2014. She is the founder and director of Larksong Writers’ Place, a nonprofit organization offering independent writing workshops, manuscript consulting and community-building for aspiring writers.

Road Trip Restaurants: 1950’s Lincoln Favorites
With Presenter Jeff Korbelik
Mon. August 22 | 6–7 PM
Gere Branch Library, 2400 S. 56th St.

The Lincoln Highway hits right in the nostalgia of 1950’s Nebraska. Join Jeff Korbelik to learn about the 1950’s food favorites that our ragtag group would’ve seen and enjoyed on their trip of a lifetime.