

**FULL INDEPENDENT READING LIST  
ARDSLEY HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
2009- 2010**

Your independent reading selections must be made from the list below, unless you receive approval directly from your teacher. Feel free to select other titles by the authors listed.

For the list below, the accompanying numbers indicate the relative complexity of language and maturity of content.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
Most accessible Most Challenging

**Classics (Choose either the listed title or any novel by the author).**

**Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women (3):** Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in mid-nineteenth-century New England.

**Austen, Jane. Emma (3):** Emma, whose favorite hobby is matchmaking, learns that the better judgment is not always her own—for fans of Heckerling's *Clueless*.

**Sense and Sensibility (3):** two sisters struggle with poverty and revealing their emotions to their loves

**Pride and Prejudice (3):** Elizabeth learns about love, the folly of humankind and the dangers of judging by first appearances—for fans of Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary*. **(NOTE: THIS IN AN AP12 CORE TEXT).**

**Bronte, Emily. Wuthering Heights (3):** In early nineteenth-century Yorkshire, the passionate attachment between a headstrong young girl and a founding boy brought up by her father causes tragedy for them and many others, even in the next generation.

**Buck, Pearl S. The Good Earth (2):** Wang Lung, a peasant in China in the 1920s, becomes a prosperous landowner with the help of his humble wife, O'Lan, with whom he shares a devotion to duty, land, and survival.

**Burroughs, William S. Naked Lunch (3):** A novel about narcotics addict Bill Lee, his travels in search of drugs, and his eventual descent into the nightmarish fantasy world of Interzone.

**Capote, Truman Breakfast at Tiffany's (2):** The book is the story of Miss Holiday Golightly from the narrator's perspective. She is a woman of mystery to everyone in her life, and the narrator can only learn about her life by watching her through a "window"; he can only see what is on her surface.

**In Cold Blood (3):** The reporter gets so far inside the subject, becomes so familiar, that he projects events and conversations as if he were really there. Two two-time losers living in a lonely house in western Kansas are out to make the heist of their life, but when things don't go as planned, the robbery turns ugly. From there, the book is a real-life look into murder, prison and the criminal mind.

**Crane, Stephen. The Red Badge of Courage (2):** Story of a young Union soldier under fire for the first time during the Civil War.

**Dickens, Charles. A Tale of Two Cities (3):** A young Englishman gives his life during the French Revolution to

save the husband of the woman he loves.

**Dinesen, Isek. Out of Africa (3):** The author describes her life and adventures on a coffee plantation in Kenya for seventeen years before returning to Denmark in 1931 to write.

**Doctorow, E.L. Ragtime (3):** The lives of three remarkable families become entwined with Henry Ford, Harry Houdini, J.P. Morgan, Theodore Dreiser, Sigmund Freud and Emiliano Zapata at the turn of the century.

**Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. Crime and Punishment (3):** Raskolnikov, a former Russian student, murders an old pawnbroker and her sister, but the guilt which enfolds him and with which he struggles result in a tragedy of tension and terror. **(NOTE: THIS IS AN AP 11 CORE TEXT).**

**Ellison, Ralph. Invisible Man (3):** In the course of his wanderings from a Southern college to New York's Harlem, an African-American man becomes involved in a series of adventures.

**Eugenides, Jeffrey. Middlesex (3):** A young person discovers that she is a hermaphrodite and must cope with the consequences.

**Faulkner, William. As I Lay Dying (3):** Describes a family's struggle to get their mother properly buried, while they encounter catastrophes of flood and fire, as well as the chaos of their own feelings.

**The Bear (3):** The story of a young man's development against a background of vanishing wilderness.

**Light in August (3):** Joe Christmas, who appears to be white but is part African-American, kills Joanna Burden, a spinster with whom he has had an affair. He is captured, castrated, and killed by outraged townspeople.

**Fitzgerald, F. Scott. Babylon Revisited (3):** An American expatriate stockbroker Charlie Wales, a recovering alcoholic, returns to his Paris home after Black Thursday to regain custody of his eleven-year-old daughter from his sister-in-law, who blames him for his wife's death.

**This Side of Paradise (3):** Set in the 1920's Amory Blaine, this novel traces the life of Amory Blaine from the end of prep school through Princeton to the start of an uncertain career in NYC.

**Forster, E.M. A Room with a View (3):** A young English woman is soon at war with the snobbery of her class and her own desires when she finds herself attracted to someone socially unsuitable.

**Gogol, Nikolai. Diary of a Madman and other stories (1):** Opening a door to a bizarre world of broad comedy, fantasy, and social commentary, the title story offers an unforgettable depiction of a lunatic civil servant and his struggles to be noticed by the woman he loves.

**Hardy, Thomas. Tess of the D'Urbervilles (3):** A young woman attempts to restore her family's fortunes, is seduced by a heartless aristocrat, and is punished by society's double standards when she gets a chance at real love.

**Heller, Joseph. Catch-22 (3):** A bombardier, based in Italy during World War II, repeatedly tries to avoid flying bombing missions while his colonel tries to get him killed by demanding that he fly more and more missions.

**Hemingway, Ernest. A Farewell to Arms (2):** An American ambulance officer serving on the Austro-Italian front deserts to join an English nurse after the retreat of Caporetto.

**Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God (3):** An African-American woman searches for a fulfilling relationship through two loveless marriages and finally finds it in an itinerant laborer and gambler.

**Joyce, James. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (3):** An autobiographical novel depicting the childhood, adolescence, and early manhood of Stephen Dedalus.

**Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. 100 Years of Solitude (3):** Story of the rise and fall, birth and death of a mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family.

**Love in the Time of Cholera (3):** A love story that ranges from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the early decades of our own, tracing the lives of three people and their entwined fates.

**Maugham, Somerset W. The Painted Veil (2):** in this suspenseful novel set in colonial China, a bored English wife sees her affair take a nasty turn.

**Up at the Villa (2):** People whose seemingly steady lives become completely and utterly altered. This text was made into a feature film in 2000.

**Mitchell, Margaret. Gone With the Wind (3):** After the Civil War sweeps away the genteel life to which she has been accustomed, Scarlett O'Hara sets about to salvage her plantation home.

**Morrison, Tony. Beloved (3):** Sethe, an escaped slave who now lives in post-Civil War Ohio works hard at "beating back the past." She struggles to keep Beloved, an intruder, from gaining possession of her present while throwing off the legacy of her past. **(NOTE: THIS IS AN AP12 CORE TEXT).**

**The Bluest Eye (3):** An African-American girl in Ohio, in the early 1940s, prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be beautiful.

**Sula (3):** Traces the lives of two African-American heroines from their growing up together in a small Ohio town, to their sharply divergent paths of womanhood, to their ultimate confrontation and reconciliation.

**Paton, Alan. Cry, the Beloved Country (3):** Accused of murdering a white man, a young black man in South Africa is helped by his minister father and by a white attorney, but racism prevents justice from being done.

**Potok, Chaim. The Chosen (2):** Recounts the story of Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders--one an orthodox Jew, the other the son of a Hasidic rabbi--and the course of their friendship as they grow up in Brooklyn.

**Rand, Ayn. The Fountainhead (3):** The story of a gifted young architect, his violent battle against conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with a beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him.

**Roth, Philip. American Pastoral (3):** Seymour "Swede" Levov, a hard working man who came of age in triumphant postwar America, must give up his dreams of a peaceful life when his daughter grows up to be a 1960s revolutionary terrorist.

**Human Stain (3):** Coleman Silk, a New England professor forced into retirement on false charges of racism, has a fifty-year-old secret.

**Smith, Betty.** **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** (1): Francie Nolan experiences the problems of growing up in a Brooklyn, New York slum in the early 1900's.

**Steinbeck, John.** **East of Eden** (2): Presents a centennial edition of the 1952 novel in which Cal and Aron, twin brothers in early twentieth-century California, act out a modern-day version of the Bible story of Cain and Abel.

**Of Mice and Men** (2): Sustained by the hope of someday owning a farm of their own, two migrant laborers arrive to work on a ranch in central California.

**The Pearl** (2): Terrible events follow the discovery of a magnificent pearl by a poor Mexican fisherman.

**Styron, William.** **Sophie's Choice** (3): Three friends, Stingo, a twenty-two-year-old writer; Sophie, a survivor of the Nazi camps; and Nathan, her mercurial lover, share magical, heart-warming times until doom overtakes them as Sophie's and Nathan's darkest secrets are revealed.

**Twain, Mark.** **Huckleberry Finn** (3): Huck and Jim experience adventures along the Mississippi River. Along the way, they experience excitement, danger and self-discovery, along with a host of nutty characters.

**Vonnegut, Kurt.** **Slaughterhouse Five** (3): A fourth-generation German-American is tortured by his memories of the firebombing of Dresden in 1944 which he witnessed while a prisoner of war.

**Wilde, Oscar.** **The Picture of Dorian Gray** (2): A youth of exceptional beauty gets his wish to remain untouched by the passage of time when it is arranged that his portrait will age in his place.

**Walker, Alice.** **The Color Purple** (2): Tells the story of two African-American sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the south, in the medium of their letters to each other.

**Woolf, Virginia.** **To the Lighthouse** (3): Examines the complicated relationships between members of the Ramsay family and their guests during stays at their summer home in Scotland between 1910 and 1920.

**Wouk, Herman.** **The Caine Mutiny : A novel of World War II** (3): This book is the account of a well-to-do man who serves on a minesweeper during World War II, describing the events on the Navy ship Caine and what ultimately led the first mate, Lieutenant Maryk, a man with little schooling or experience, to take command of the vessel from Captain Queeg and the subsequent court-martial of Maryk.

**The Winds of War : A Novel** (3): The lives of the members of the Henry family, headed by Naval Commander 'Pug' Henry, are irrevocably changed in the days heading up to the outbreak of World War II.

**Wright, Richard.** **Native Son** (2): A young African-American man, trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, kills a rich white girl in a moment of panic, and finds himself on a path to self-destruction.

### Contemporary Fiction

**Alexander, Robert.** **The Kitchen Boy** (2): The imagined tragic ending to the Russian royal family, the Romanovs' lives, as seen by a fictional servant.

**Allende, Isabel. Daughter of Fortune (3):** The heroine of this sprawling historical novel encounters the 1849 California Gold Rush.

**House of Spirits (3):** A portrait of the Trueba family—with its deep loves and hates—from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the violent days of the 1970s.

**Alvarez, Julia. How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents (1):** In this humorous novel, sisters from the Dominican Republic struggle to assimilate in 1960s New York City without completely losing their ethnic and cultural identity.

**In the Time of the Butterflies (1):** This novel gives a fictionalized account of four sisters in the Dominican Republic under the dictatorship of General Trujillo.

**Atwood, Margaret. Cat's Eye (3):** A middle-aged woman confronts a devastating rejection by friends.

**The Handmaid's Tale (2):** Set in the near future, America has become a puritanical theocracy and Offred tells her story as a Handmaid under the new social order

**Auster, Paul. New York Trilogy (3):** Three stories of mystery and depth.

**Baldacci, David. The Camel Club (2):** After witnessing a murder with ties to a prestigious businessman's club, Harry Stone steals a crucial piece of evidence from the crime scene and is pursued by a dangerous member of the club.

**The Collectors (2):** The Camel Club, a quartet of eccentrics dedicated to finding out what's really going on in America's government, becomes embroiled in an intriguing and dangerous mystery when the assassination of the U.S. Speaker of the House is linked to the death of the director of the Library of Congress's rare books room.

**Total Control (2):** Perception manager Dick Pender is asked by arms dealer Nicolas Creel to create a lie that will convince the world it is on the brink of war, and sets in motion a chain of events that will link three strangers and bring the world to the edge of destruction.

**Banks, Russell. The Sweet Hereafter (2):** Russell Banks tells a story that begins with a school bus accident. Using four different narrators, Banks creates a small-town morality play that addresses one of life's most agonizing questions: when the worst thing happens, whom do you blame?

**Bohjalian, Christopher. Midwives (2):** Cut off from the hospital and rescue squad by an ice storm, midwife Sibyl Danforth makes the decision to perform a cesarean section on a patient she believes has died of a stroke during labor, but when her assistant tells police the mother was alive during the surgery, Sibyl and the entire community are drawn into a gripping trial.

**Bloom, Amy. Away (2):** Away is story of young Lillian Leyb, a dangerous innocent, an accidental heroine. When her family is destroyed in a Russian pogrom, Lillian comes to America alone, determined to make her way in a new land.

**Brooks, Geraldine. The Year of Wonders (2):** A woman's experience in a plague-ridden English town in the dark days of the past.

**March (3):** A novel based on Alcott's classic novel *Little Women*, in which the author imagines what happens to the March girls' father as he ministers to soldiers during the Civil War.

**Byrne, Rhona. The Secret (2):** Supporters will hail this New Age self-help book, finding validation in its thesis that one's positive thoughts are powerful magnets that attract wealth, health, happiness. Detractors will be appalled by the argument that fleeting negative thoughts are powerful enough to create terminal illness, poverty and even widespread disasters.

**Chabon, Michael. The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay (3):** A Jewish escape artist flees Nazi-invaded Prague to work with his Brooklyn cousin on a comic book. Along the way, they meet with romance and opportunity.

**Chevalier, Tracy. Girl With a Pearl Earring (2):** A tale of a serving girl whose eye for color and composition attracts the attention of her employer, Johannes Vermeer, 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch master, and leads to a life-altering event.

**The Virgin Blue (3):** A young wife, newly relocated to rural France with her husband, meets an intriguing man as she researches her ancestry.

**Cisneros, Sandra. The House on Mango Street (1):** Esperanza's friends, family, and neighbors wander in and out of her stories; through them all Esperanza sees, learns, loves, and dreams of the house she will someday have, her own house, not on Mango Street.

**Coelho, Paulo. The Alchemist (2):** The charming tale of Santiago, a shepherd boy, who dreams of seeing the world, is compelling in its own right, but gains resonance through the many lessons Santiago learns during his adventures.

**Delinsky, Barbara. The Secret Between Us (2):** Deborah and her daughter, Grace, are driving home from a party when their car hits a man running in the dark. Grace was at the wheel, but Deborah sends is determined to shoulder the blame for the accident. Her decision then turns into a deception that takes on a life of its own and threatens the special bond between mother and daughter.

**DeMille, Nelson. The Lion's Game (2):** Sharply plotted story of a determined cop and his love interest or other titles by this author.

**Dorris, Michael. Yellow Raft on Blue Water (2):** The saga of three generations of Native-American women.

**Dunant, Sarah. The Birth of Venus (2):** The artistic daughter of wealthy family in Renaissance Florence anticipates an arranged marriage, but feels true passion for her family's commissioned artist-in-residence.

**Ebershoff, David. The Danish Girl (3):** Based on a true story of a trans-gender pioneer whose tender relationship survives great trials.

**Edwards, Kim. The Memory Keeper's Daughter (2):** In 1964, Dr. David Henry is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. When his daughter is born with Down's Syndrome, he makes a split-second decision that will alter all of their lives forever.

**Erdich, Lousie. The Crown of Columbus (2):** A couple's exploration takes them on an adventure as they seek the lost diaries of Christopher Columbus.

**Esquivel, Laura. Like Water for Chocolate (2):** Written in the style of magic realism, *LWFC* tells the story of a young girl's true love, who, when prevented from marrying the protagonist, marries her sister, instead, only to remain close to his love.

**Eugenides, Jeffery. Middlesex (3):** The troubles of a hermaphrodite whose condition, unknown to her for some time, is brought on by her Greek grandparents' genetic history and mysterious past.

**Evans, Nicholas. The Horse Whisperer (2):** A woman brings her wounded daughter and her horse to seek help from a man with an uncanny gift.

**Fergus, Jim. One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd (3):** Based on an actual US government project that was proposed, but never approved, in which women are sent to a Native American tribe as a gesture of governmental goodwill...with fascinating results.

**Fielding, Helen. Bridget Jones' Diary (2):** A racy tale of a single girl's adventures in contemporary London.

**Fitch, Janet. White Oleander (2):** A daughter is forced to live with the repercussions of her overbearing mother's passionate spirit.

**Foer, Jonathan Safran. Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (2):** A boy, the son of a 9/11 victim, searches for clues to his lost father's life; when his father dies in the World Trade Center collapse, Oskar shifts his boundless energy to a quest for answers. He finds a key hidden in his father's things that doesn't fit any lock in their New York City apartment; its container is labeled "Black."

**Everything is Illuminated (2):** Oskar Schell is not your average nine-year-old. A budding inventor, he spends his time imagining wonderful creations. He also collects random photographs for his scrapbook and sends letters to scientists.

**Fowler, Karen Joy. The Jane Austen Book Club (3):** A group of various women share their life stories over chats about Jane Austen and her characters

**Franzen, Jonathan. The Corrections (3):** This family saga is both hilarious and disturbing, as it veers in focus from siblings to parents.

**Frazier, Charles. Cold Mountain (2):** In this Civil War epic, two separated lovers meet a variety of deadly challenges during their odyssey apart.

**Frey, James. A Million Little Pieces (3):** A recovering drug user recounts the horrific details of his rehabilitation.

**Gardner, Jostein. Sophie's World: A Novel About History and Philosophy (3):** A young girl, Sophie, becomes embroiled in a discussion of philosophy with a faceless correspondent. At the same time, she must unravel a mystery involving another young girl, Hilde, by using everything she's learning. The truth is far more complicated than she could ever have imagined.

**Gaines, Ernest. A Lesson Before Dying (2):** A moving portrait of courage in the face of discrimination and death.

**Gibbons, Kaye. Charms for the Easy Life (2):** A war-time story of resilient American women.

**Ellen Foster (2):** The title character is an 11-year-old orphan who refers to herself as "old Ellen," an appellation that is disturbingly apt. Ellen is an old woman in a child's body; her frail, unhappy mother dies, her

abusive father alternately neglects her and makes advances on her, and she is shuttled from one uncaring relative's home to another before she finally takes matters into her own hands and finds herself a place to belong.

- Gold, Glen David. Carter Beats the Devil (2):** This novel has a mustachioed villain, chase scenes, a lion, miraculous escapes and even pirates. By turns suspenseful and moving, this is a historical novel with entertainment value.
- Goldberg, Myla. Bee Season (2):** A champion speller, a young girl, gains sudden attention from her fragmented family in this novel with some unexpected turns.
- Golden, Arthur. Memoirs of a Geisha (3):** A Japanese woman recalls her difficult, yet fascinating life story during the last years of the traditional geisha's social prominence.
- Gregory, Philippa. The Other Boleyn Girl (2):** A retelling of the story of Anne Boleyn and the toll her family's ambition takes.
- Gruen, Sara. Water for Elephants (2):** A down-on-his-luck orphan has to join the circus in order to survive.
- Guterson, David. Snow Falling on Cedars (3):** A World War II crime drama set in the Northwest, this novel serves as a memorable love story of a young couple separated by bigotry and paranoia.
- Hage, Rawi. De Niro's Game (2):** Childhood friends Bassam and George are forced to make drastic choices as they decide what their future holds in war-torn Beirut.
- Hambly, Barbara. The Emancipator's Wife (3):** Based on the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, who was committed to an asylum.
- Hamill, Pete. Snow in August (2):** The friendship of an Irish Catholic boy and a Czechoslovak rabbi in Brooklyn during the late 1940's.
- Harris, Mark. Bang the Drum Slowly (2):** Centers around a pair of ballplayers for the fictionally fabled New York Mammoths--the novel's narrator, pitcher Wiggen, and Bruce Pearson, his tag-along catcher and best friend.
- Hegi, Ursula. Stones from the River (3):** This unusual tale of a little person during the time of Nazi Germany is both beautiful and tragic, a memorable novel.
- Hillerman, Tony. The Wailing Wind (2):** A thriller in which a long-retired Native American police lieutenant must re-live an earlier search to find an elusive culprit.
- Hoffman, Alice. Turtle Moon (2):** In this suspenseful book, a divorced woman's son disappears under suspicious circumstances.
- Hornby, Nick. About a Boy (2):** A self-serving, narcissistic Londoner learns to care about someone other than himself, despite his best intentions.
- High Fidelity (2):** This funny novel is obsessed with music; Hornby's narrator is an early-thirty-something English guy who runs a London record store. He sells albums recorded the old-fashioned way--on vinyl--and is having a tough time making other transitions as well, specifically adulthood.

**Hosseini, Khaled. Kite Runner (3):** This moving tale covers two “brothers” of different classes, their traumatic separation and difficulties in Iran and America.

**A Thousand Splendid Suns (3):** A novel set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban, which tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite their nineteen-year age difference and initial rivalry as they suffer at the hand of a common enemy: their abusive husband.

**Ihimaera, Witi. The Whale Rider (1):** This sweet, but sad tale involves a family drama, morality and the law.

**Irving, John. A Prayer for Owen Meany (2):** Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with a strange voice who accidentally kills his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes--accurately--that he is an instrument of God, to be redeemed by martyrdom.

**The World According to Garp (3):** This coming-of-age novel, unique in style and content, tells the story of TS Garp and the many fascinating characters in his life.

**Jiles, Paulette. Enemy Women (3):** A frontier-woman meets with many adventures during her fight for survival during the Civil War.

**Jones, Edward P. The Known World (3):** An enlightening story of a former slave's struggle to establish economic security and safety for his family.

**Jones, Lloyd. Mister Pip (2):** On an island called Bougainville in the early 1990s, civil war rages. All the whites have fled except one: Mr. Watts, a New Zealander married to a local woman. He offers to replace the departed teacher and reopen the village school; on the second day of class, he begins to read *Great Expectations* aloud

**Kaysen, Suzanna. Girl, Interrupted (2):** This is a startling account of Kaysen's two-year stay at a Boston psychiatric hospital 25 years ago. Kaysen's lucidity in sorting out a maelstrom of contrary perceptions. Her observations about hospital life are deftly rendered.

**Kincaid, Jamaica. Annie John (1):** Annie John tells the tale of a family's disintegration. Told from the perspective of Annie, 10, when the novel starts and a young adult by its end, the story revolves around Annie's transformation from an adoring, obedient child to rebellious, hardheaded outcast within her own home. It's a classic mother-daughter love-hate tale where balance is somehow lost and animosity and divisiveness come to rule the day.

**Kingsolver, Barbara. Poisonwood Bible (3):** In the Belgian Congo in 1959, Nathan, a Baptist preacher, has come to spread the Word in a remote village reachable only by airplane. They arrive in the middle of political upheaval as the Congolese seek to wrest independence from Belgium.

**Animal Dreams (2):** A woman returns to her hometown in Arizona to confront her distant father and mixed heritage.

**Poisonwood Bible (3):** A zealous missionary takes his family to Africa where they grow in different ways.

**Khadra, Yasmina. The Attack (3):** Dr. Amin Jaafari is an Arab-Israeli surgeon at a hospital in Tel Aviv. As an

admired and respected member of his community, he has carved a space for himself and his wife, Sihem, at the crossroads of two troubled societies.

**Kosinski, Jerzy. The Painted Bird (3):** A harrowing story that follows the wanderings of a boy abandoned by his parents during World War II; it is a dark masterpiece that examines the proximity of terror and savagery to innocence and love.

**Lahiiri, Jhumpa. The Namesake (3):** A young man born of Indian parents in America struggles with issues of identity from his teens to his thirties.

**Unaccustomed Earth (3):** Eight stories that take us from Cambridge and Seattle to India and Thailand as they explore the secrets at the heart of family life.

**Lamb, Wally. She's Come Undone (3):** This book is about the possibly healing effects we can have as friends and the potentially destructive power we have as family. It is about the undeniable value of positive self-image and the brutal consequences of inappropriate guilt. It is about divorce, it is about AIDS, it is about obesity, and it is about rape and abortion. It is about hope, love, and a woman simply trying to survive.

**Lawson, Mary. Crow Lake (3):** Narrated in flashback mode, this is a story of four children living in northern Ontario who struggle to stay together after their parents die in an auto accident in Lawson's fascinating debut, a compelling and lovely study of sibling rivalry and family dynamics in which the land literally becomes a character.

**Lehane, Dennis. Mystic River (3):** The past comes back to haunt three men who shared a friendship as children when Sean Devine, now a policeman, is assigned to investigate the murder of Jimmy Marcus's teenager daughter, a crime the third member of their group, Dave Boyle, is suspected of committing.

**Lent, Jeffrey. In the Fall (3):** After a white Union soldier nearly dies in the war, he marries his savior, a black woman and former slave; they return to his Vermont home to meet with suspicion from the neighbors.

**Lott, Brett. Jewel (2):** The life of Jewel Hilburn, a mother living with her husband and children in the backwoods of Mississippi in 1943, undergoes a drastic change when her sixth child, Brenda Kay, is born without the gift of common sense.

**Ludington, Max. Tiger in a Trance (3):** As a young man tours with the Grateful Dead, he meets loss and the darker side of himself.

**Maguire, Gregory. Lost: a Novel (3):** A children's novelist flees her Boston-area home to pay a visit to her distant cousin who is nowhere to be found. As eerie symbols appear and inexplicable noises issue from the chimney space, events turn otherworldly.

**Markandaya, Kamala. Nectar in a Sieve (2):** The story of a young girl's family struggle with drought, poverty and the caste system of an Indian village.

**Martell, Yan. Life of Pi (2):** The lone survivor of a shipwrecked family and its zoo is trapped in the middle of an ocean with a tiger as his only company.

**Matar, Hisham. In the Country of Men (2):** This is the story of the impact of small revolutions, not on the men and women who participate in the upheavals, but on the children who barely understand the world in which they find themselves.

- Maupin, Armistad. Maybe the Moon (3):** A Californian little person struggles to find acting roles and love in this humorous and touching tale.
- McCarthy, Cormac. Road (3):** Traces the journey of a father and his son as they walk alone after a great fire has consumed the nation and left everything in ashes.
- MacDonald, Ann-Marie. Fall on Your Knees (3):** Traces the lives and experiences of four sisters telling of their bonds, secrets, and love for each other.
- McBride, James. The Color of Water (2):** A multi-racial man from Brooklyn explores his unusual mother's life and its impact on his own.
- McEwan, Ian. Saturday (2):** A London neurosurgeon goes through his normal Saturday activities, including a weekly squash game, but his unease grows as he makes his way through anti-war protesters clogging London's streets, until a minor car accident with the petulant Baxter begins a series of events that erupts into violence.
- McLaughlin, Emma. The Nanny Diaries (1):** An absolutely addictive peek into the utterly weird world of child rearing in the upper reaches of Manhattan's social strata. Based on the real-life experiences of two nannies!
- McMurtry, Larry. Lonesome Dove (2):** McMurtry's eloquent writing and vivid characterizations create a warmly humorous look at human relationships and the history of the American West.
- Miller, Sue. While I Was Gone (2):** A married woman revisits her college past and relives the time in which a roommate's life was taken brutally.
- Mistry, Rohinton. A Fine Balance (3):** The government of India in 1975 has just declared a State of Emergency, which, coupled with a housing shortage, compels four people to share an apartment. Their common need leads them to forge a lasting friendship that sees them through the bad times.
- Mitchard, Jacquelyn. The Deep End of the Ocean (3):** The sudden disappearance of her child sends a family into the most terrible turmoil.
- Mitchell, David. Black Swan Green (2):** Novel of a young boy on the cusp of adulthood follows a single year in the life of thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor as he grows up in what is for him the sleepiest village in Worcestershire, England, in 1982.
- Moggach, Deborah. Tulip Fever (2):** Characters' dreams and destinies are caught up in the Dutch market's craze for tulips in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- Monk Kidd, Sue. The Secret Life of Bees (2):** 4-year-old Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their Georgia peach farm, spends hours imagining a blissful infancy when she was loved and nurtured by her mother, Deborah, whom she barely remembers. These consoling fantasies are her heart's answer to the family story that as a child, in unclear circumstances, Lily accidentally shot and killed her mother.
- Moore, Christopher. A Dirty Job (3):** Charlie Asher is a pretty normal guy with a normal life, married to a bright and pretty woman who actually loves him for his normalcy. They're even about to have their first child. Charlie's doing okay—until people start dropping dead around him, and everywhere he goes a dark presence whispers to him from under the streets. Charlie Asher, it seems, has been recruited for a new position: as Death.

**Morris, Mary McGarry. The Lost Mother (3):** A mother abandons her family, leaving her children in distressing circumstances during the Great Depression.

**Mosley, Walter. Fortunate Son (2):** The lives of two stepbrothers, one from a life of privilege and the other in a life of hardship, explore the true meaning of fortune when they are reunited after years being apart.

**Napoli, Donna Jo. Zel (1):** This retelling of the story of Rapunzel is no simple fairy tale retold for the entertainment of children. Instead, it is a searing commentary on the evil that can result from human longings gone awry.

**Ozeki, Ruth. All Over Creation (2):** A woman must return to her land-bound family and readjust to a lifestyle that did not suit her in her youth. During her experiences, she meets environmentalists whose radicalism unexpectedly agrees with her family.

**Paluhniak, Chuck. Survivor (3):** The main character survives the demise of the cult to which he belongs.

**Fight Club (3):** A surreal tale of a confused protagonist who imagines an alter ego capable of taking on the world.

**Patchett, Ann. Bel Canto (3):** Joined by no common language except music, 58 international hostages, including a famous soprano, and their captors forge unexpected bonds.

**Picoult, Jodi. My Sister's Keeper (2):** Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Since birth, the 13-year-old has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow as part of her family's struggle to lengthen Kate's life.

**Nineteen Minutes (2):** The people of Sterling, New Hampshire, are forever changed after a shooting at the high school leaves ten people dead, and the judge presiding over the trial tries to remain unbiased, even though her daughter witnessed the events and was friends with the assailant.

**The Pact (2):** Teenage suicide is the provocative topic addressed here. Popular high-school swimming star Chris Harte and talented artist Em Gold bonded as infants; their parents have been next-door neighbors and best friends for 18 years. When they fall in love, everyone is ecstatic. Everyone, it turns out, except for Em, who finds that sex with Chris feels almost incestuous.

**Quindlen, Anna. Blessings (2):** An abandoned child who is subsequently recovered creates enormous change in several lives.

**Rees, Celia. The Soul Taker (1):** The words "I'd give anything" are not to be spoken lightly. Overweight, uncool Lewis finds this out the hard way when he inadvertently promises his soul to a toy maker who hires him as an assistant.

**Robbins, Tom. Jitterbug Perfume (3):** A saga must have a hero, and the hero of this one is a janitor with a missing bottle. The bottle is blue, very old, and embossed with the image of a goat-horned god. If the liquid in the bottle is actually the secret essence of the universe, it had better be discovered soon because it is leaking and there is only a drop of two left.

**Roth, Philip. The Plot Against America (3):** A novel that imagines what might have happened in America, particularly to one Jewish family in Newark, New Jersey, had Charles Lindbergh won the 1940 presidential election rather than Franklin Roosevelt and acted upon his anti-Semitic leanings.

**Russo, Richard. Empire Falls (3):** In this comic and compelling ensemble piece, forty-something Miles Roby, proprietor of the local greasy spoon and recently divorced father of a teenage daughter, leads a large cast of secondary characters, drawn from every social stratum of his depressed New England mill town.

**Schlink, Bernhard. The Reader (3):** A German teen boy is seduced by an older woman with a grave past.

**Sebold, Alice. The Lovely Bones (2):** When a young girl is murdered, she retains the ability to watch her family's plight and track her killer.

**Almost Moon (2):** For years Helen Knightly has given her life to others. When she finally crosses a terrible boundary, her life comes rushing in at her in a way she never could have imagined.

**Shaara, Michael. The Killer Angels (3):** The late Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (1974) concerns the battle of Gettysburg and is the basis for the 1993 film *Gettysburg*.

**Shreve, Ann The Pilot's Wife (2):** A woman discovers the hidden side of her husband's life.

**Silko, Leslie. Ceremony (3):** Tayo is a half-white Laguna Indian emotionally stricken by white warfare and almost destroyed by his experiences as a World War II prisoner of the Japanese. Unable to find a place among Native American veterans who are losing themselves in rage and drunkenness, Tayo discovers his connection to the land and to ancient rituals with the help of a medicine man, and comes to understand the need to create ceremonies, to grow and change, in order to survive.

**Singer, Katie. The Wholeness of a Broken Heart (2):** A baffled daughter cannot understand why her mother, once supportive and loving, turns cold and distant.

**Sittenfeld, Curtis. Prep (3):** A teenage girl from Indiana surprises herself by accepting a scholarship to an elite prep school and encounters some class-related issues there.

**Smith, Alexander McCall. The No 1 Ladies Detective Agency (1):** The charming series starring detective Precious Ramotswe in her African village is a true crowd-pleaser.

**Smith, Zadie. White Teeth (3):** A young Jamaican-Englishwoman deals with the travails of racism and zealotry in this disturbing, yet comic, celebrated debut novel.

**Spiotta, Dana. Eat the Document (3):** A woman caught up in the turbulent anti-war protests of the 1960s makes a fatal error that changes the direction of her life.

**Tan, Amy. Bonesetter's Daughter (2):** San Francisco ghostwriter Ruth Young finally begins to understand her Alzheimer's-afflicted mother LuLing's preoccupation with ghosts and curses when she reads Luling's writings of her dark backwoods childhood in 1920s China.

**The Joy Luck Club (2):** In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money.

**Tey, Josephine. The Daughter of Time (2):** While Inspector Grant of Scotland Yard looks for a way to make his

convalescence in a hospital bed less tedious, his eye falls on a portrait of Richard III. Grant's schoolboy memory of the king who murdered his two nephews suddenly sparks another line of reasoning for the misdeed, and the reader is treated to a new answer to the killings in the Tower.

**Thomas, Piri. Down These Mean Streets (3):** As a dark-skinned Puerto Rican, born in 1928, Piri Thomas faced with painful immediacy the absurd contradictions of America's racial attitudes (among people of all colors) in a time of wrenching social change

**Thompson, Hunter S. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (3):** In Hunter Thompson's wacky tale of the American Dream, he takes his attorney, Gonzo, on a twisted trip to Las Vegas to cover the Mint 400, a bike and dune buggy race sponsored by a casino owner. Then they try and cover a meeting of cops and district attorneys who are meeting in Las Vegas to figure out how to deal with the drug problem in the United States.

**Trigiani, Adriana. Lucia, Lucia (2):** A fictional life story of Lucia Sartori of Greenwich Village. The bulk of the novel is a flashback to her younger years as a woman in the fashion industry of the 1950s, and her interaction with her traditional Italian family.

**Tyler, Anne. The Accidental Tourist (2):** A hysterical book about Macon Leary, a travel writer who hates both travel and anything out of the ordinary. He is grounded by loneliness and an unwillingness to compromise his creature comforts when he meets Muriel, a deliciously peculiar dog-obedience trainer who up-ends Macon's insular world—and thrusts him headlong into a remarkable engagement with life.

**Digging to America (2):** Story of two families who meet at the airport when they are adopting Korean infants. The Donaldson family is as all-American as they come. The Yazdan's are Iranian immigrants. Digging to America uses the story of the families' growing friendship to explore what it means to be American

**Updike, John. Terrorist (2):** Eighteen-year-old Ahmad Ashmawy Mulloy, son of an Irish-American mother and an Egyptian father, feels alienated from his New Jersey classmates, making him an easy target for the unscrupulous iman of the local mosque who steers Ahmad in the direction of a terrorist cell planning an attack on the Holland Tunnel.

**Walker, Margaret. Jubilee (2):** A story of a free spirit who triumphs over bondage. This is the life story of Vvry, daughter of the houseslave and the "master," from "slavery-time" through the Civil War. Dr. Margaret Walker, respected African-American poet and scholar, heard this story as a child from her own grandmother, Vvry's daughter.

**Waters, Sarah. Fingersmith (3):** A thief in Victorian London intends to aid her friend by duping an heiress into marriage. Surprising twists result.

**Weisberger, Lauren. The Devil Wears Prada (1):** A reluctant assistant to a major fashion industry CEO learns to prioritize the important matters in life.

**Wells, Rebecca. Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood (2):** A daughter returns to her Southern family to learn the secrets of her mother, with whom she has a strained relationship.

**Winston, Lolly. Good Grief (2):** A young woman cannot believe that her husband has died. Somehow, Winston manages to find the humor in even tragic circumstances, as the heroine climbs out of depression and learns to live again.

**Wolizer, Meg. The Position (3):** The daughter of an unorthodox couple must survive the legacy of their “how-to” sex book.

**Wolfe, Tom. The Bonfire of the Vanities (2):** Both his cynical irony and sense of the ridiculous are perfectly suited to his subject: the roiling, corrupt, savage, ethnic melting pot that is New York City. Ranging from the rarefied atmosphere of Park Avenue to the dingy courtrooms of the Bronx, this is a totally credible tale of how the communities uneasily coexist and what happens when they collide.

**Yolen, Jan. Briar Rose (1):** Yolen takes the story of Briar Rose (commonly known as Sleeping Beauty) and links it to the Holocaust—a far-from-obvious connection that she makes perfectly convincing. Rebecca Berlin, a young woman who has grown up hearing her grandmother Gemma tell an unusual and frightening version of the Sleeping Beauty legend, realizes when Gemma dies that the fairy tale offers one of the very few clues she has to her grandmother's past.

### **Contemporary Non-Fiction**

**Bryson, Bill. A Short History of Nearly Everything (3):** In *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bryson takes his ultimate journey—into the most intriguing and consequential questions that science seeks to answer.

**Carson, Rachel. Silent Spring (2):** Released in 1962, Carson offered the first shattering look at widespread ecological degradation and touched off an environmental awareness that still exists.

**Diamond, Jared. Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies (3):** An epic story that offers a gripping expose on why the world is so unequal.

**Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed (3)**: Offers geographic and environmental reasons why some human populations have flourished

**Friedman, Thomas. The World is Flat: A Brief History of The Twenty-First Century (3)**: The World is Flat provides a very interesting view that establishes Thomas Freidman's view of globalization in the world today.

**Gore, Albert. An Inconvenient Truth (2)**: Former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously

**Grisham, John. Innocent Man (3)**: Grisham's first nonfiction book concerns a man wrongly sentenced to death.

**Gladwell, Malcolm. Blink (3)**: A social scientist's fascinating study of human behavior, including the influence of first impressions and "gut feelings."

**The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference (3)**: Author looks at why major changes in our society so often happen suddenly and unexpectedly. Gladwell develops these concepts through entertainingly illustrative anecdotes, such as comparing the pedagogical methods of *Sesame Street* and *Blue's Clues*, or explaining why it would be even easier to play Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon with the actor Rod Steiger.

**Hersey, John. Hiroshima (2)**: Describes the effect of the bombing of Hiroshima on six survivors of the atomic blast.

**Johnson, Steven. Everything Bad is Good for You (2)** Presents an examination of popular culture in America, and suggests--with examples from research--that vehicles of mass media and entertainment such as television and video games are evidence of an increasingly sophisticated cognitive culture that makes the mind measurable sharper than in the past.

**Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. Freakonomics (3)**: A probing study of compelling sociological questions, with some disturbing questions and perplexing, thought-provoking answers.

**Mortenson, Greg. Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time (2)**: One man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote, and anti-American reaches of Asia.

**Schlosser, Eric. Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All American Meal (2)**: In this fascinating sociocultural report, Schlosser digs into the deeper meaning of Burger King, Auggie's, The Chicken Shack, Jack-in-the-Box, Little Caesar's and myriad other examples of fast food in America.

**Thomas, Lewis: The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher (3)**: Throughout the book, Thomas reveals truly extraordinary facts about biology and microbiology that tend to leave the reader in awe.

**Wagner, E.J. The Science of Sherlock Holmes: From Baskerville Hall to the Valley of Fear, the Real Forensics Behind the Great Detective's Greatest Cases (2)**: Draws on the stories of Sherlock Holmes to trace the history of forensic science, describing when the stories deviated from fact, what forensic techniques were used in the stories, and how the stories compare to real-life cases.

**Weisman, Alan. The World Without Us (3)**: In *The World Without Us*, Alan Weisman offers an

original approach to questions of humanity's impact on the planet: he asks us to envision our Earth, without us.

### Drama

**Aeschylus. Agamemnon (3):** Ancient Greek trilogy which traces the chain of murder and revenge within the royal house of Artreus.

**Albee, Edward. Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf? (3):** A dark comedy that portrays husband and wife George and Martha in a night of dangerous fun and games. By the evening's end, a stunning, almost unbearable revelation provides a climax that has shocked audiences for years.

**Anderson, Maxwell. Anne of the Thousand Days (2):** Presents the script of a 1948 play about the lives of England's King Henry VIII and his wife, Anne Boleyn.

**Anderson, R. Tea and Sympathy (2):** English teashop and restaurant in New York, based on her time working

there as a waitress, and includes sixty recipes from owner Nicola Perry.

**Chase, Mary. Harvey (1):** When Elwood P. Dowd starts to introduce his imaginary friend Harvey, a six and a half foot rabbit, to guests at a dinner party, his sister, Veta, has seen as much of his eccentric behavior as she can tolerate. She decides to have him committed to a sanitarium to spare her daughter, Myrtle Mae, and their family from future embarrassment.

**Chekhov, Anton. Uncle Vanya (3):** This drama takes place on an estate in 19th-century Russia and explores the complex interrelationships between a retired professor, his second wife, and the daughter and brother-in-law from his first marriage. Interwoven themes of weakness, delusion, and despair—balanced by an underlying message of courage and hope—make this one of the most expressive of Chekhov's works.

**Christie, Agatha. Witness for the Prosecution (1):** Witness for the Prosecution: A murder trial takes a diabolical turn when the wife of the accused takes the stand...A woman's sixth sense—and a loaded revolver—signal premonitions of doom...

**Durang, Christopher. The Actor's Nightmare (2):** Having casually wandered on stage, George is informed that one of the actors, Eddie, has been in an auto accident and he must replace him immediately. Apparently no one is sure of what play is being performed but George.

**Euripedes. Medea (3):** Wife of Jason of the Argonauts seeks revenge on husband for abandoning her. One cannot imagine a more diabolical revenge scheme.

**Fugard, Athol. Master Harold and the Boys (3):** Set in apartheid South Africa, this is a roller coaster of emotions that hits hard. Anyone who has ever experienced racism ought to read this, and anyone who thinks they've never encountered it—much less handed it out themselves, must read it!

**Hart, Moss. The Man Who Came to Dinner (1):** Presents the text of the 1939 play in which Sheridan Whiteside, having dined with the Stanleys, slips on their doorstep and breaks his hip, requiring him to take up residence with the Stanleys for the duration of his convalescence, and turning the Stanley's household upside down.

**Hellman, Lillian. The Little Foxes (3):** Picture a charming home in the South. Into this peaceful scene put the wicked Hubbard family and the lonely Birdie.

**Henrick Ibsen. A Doll's House (3):** Torvald's little doll Nora may not stay caged forever in this beautiful play about the desire for freedom.

**Howard, Lindsay. Clarence Day's Life With Father (1):** Contains the script for the play "Life With Father" in which a family struggles to decide whether or not to have their father properly baptized.

**Ives, David. All in the Timing and other plays (2):** A collection of fourteen plays by David Ives that portray the idiosyncrasies that exist in American society.

**Kesselring, Joseph. Arsenic and Old Lace (2):** A comedy about charming and innocent ladies, the antics of their brother who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt, and the activities of the other brother.

**Kushner, Tony. Angels in America (3):** Characters of different backgrounds are confronted by AIDS, homophobia and difficult choices and decisions.

**Mamet, David. American Buffalo (2):** A classic tragedy, *American Buffalo* is the story of three men struggling in the

pursuit of their distorted vision of the American Dream.

**McCullers, Carson. Member of the Wedding (1):** Twelve-year-old Frankie is bored with life until she hears about her older brother's wedding. Frankie takes on an overly active role in the wedding, hoping even to go, uninvited, on the honeymoon, so deep is her desire to be the member of something larger, more accepting than herself.

**McDonagh, Martin. The Beauty Queen of Leenane (3):** A darkly funny portrait of an Irish mother and her daughter in a small village...dramatic turns develop.

**Miller, Arthur. All My Sons (3):** Joe Keller and Herbert Deever, partners in a machine shop during the war, turned out defective airplane parts, causing the deaths of many men. Deever was sent to prison while Keller escaped punishment and went on to make a lot of money.

**Molnar, Ferenc. Liliom (2):** It tells the story of a carousel barker who falls in love with a common girl. It shows the beauty of love, and the horrors of physical abuse.

**Osborne, John. Look Back in Anger (3):** Jimmy Porter plays trumpet badly. He browbeats his flatmate, terrorizes his wife, and is not above sleeping with her best friend-who loathes Jimmy almost as much as he loathes himself.

**Patric, John. The Teahouse of the August Moon (2):** A comedy first performed in 1953 about the efforts of America's occupation troops to bring democracy to the small village of Tobiki.

**Shaffer, Peter. Equus (3):** A disturbed teenage boy meets with a psychiatrist to uncover the reasons behind his antisocial and violent behavior.

**Shaw, George Bernard. Pygmalion (2):** An idealistic professor transforms an unsophisticated Cockney girl into a refined young lady in turn-of-the-century London.

**Sheridan, Richard Brinsley. The Rivals (3):** Brilliant comic masterpiece revolving around false identities, romantic entanglements, and parental disapproval satirizes the pretentiousness and sentimentality of 18th-century society.

**Simon, Neil. Lost in Yonkers (2):** After the death of their mother, two boys in 1940s New York are sent to live with their difficult grandmother.

**Barefoot in the Park (1):** Set in 1964, Barefoot in the Park follows the lives of newlyweds Paul and Connie Bratter as they adjust to married life in a tiny Greenwich Village apartment. Paul is a lawyer who's wound up a little too tight, while Connie is a free spirit bubbling over with romantic notions

**Sophocles. Electra (3):** Electra anxiously awaits for the return of her brother Orestes. Together, they avenge the death of their father at the hands of their mother and her lover Aegisthus.

**Synge, John. The Playboy of the Western World (3):** Christy Mahon turns up at the home of Michael Flaherty and his daughter, Peegen Mike, and is accepted by the town as a hero following his boastful story of murdering his tyrannical father. The town, especially the women, is seduced by Christy but ultimately turns savagely against him when his "slain" father appears looking for his son.

**Wilde, Oscar. The Importance of Being Earnest (3):** The play pokes fun of society and manners. The characters'

plans are constantly sent topsy-turvy by unexpected turns of events. And, of course, everyone wants to *be* or to *marry* an Earnest.

**Wilder, Thornton. Our Town (2):** Taking as his material three periods in the history of a placid New Hampshire town, Mr. Wilder has transformed the simple events of human life into universal reverie. He has given familiar facts a deeply moving, philosophical perspective.

**Williams, Tennessee. The Glass Menagerie (3):** Williams' alter ego, a young man, recounts his shy sister's difficulties with her overbearing mother, who is determined to make her something she is not or

**Wilson, August. Joe Turner Has Come and Gone (2):** It is August in Pittsburgh, 1911. The sun falls out of heaven like a stone.

### **Historical Account/Memoir/Biography/Autobiography**

**Ambrose, Stephen. Band of Brothers and other titles (3):** A war-time memoir of Major Dick Winters, who assumed command of Easy Company, known as the "Band of Brothers," when they parachuted into France on D-Day, and describes their trek across Europe, the Battle of the Bulge, liberation of concentration camps, and capture of Hitler's alpine retreat.

**Angelou, Maya. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (1):** Famous poet's autobiography of her harrowing childhood as an African-American in the south.

**Anonymous. Go Ask Alice (1):** Based on the diary of a fifteen-year-old drug user chronicling her struggle to escape the pull of the drug world.

**Armstrong, Jennifer. Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance (2):** The harrowing survival story of English explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew as they attempt to cross the frozen Antarctic continent from one side to the other. Remarkably, every crew member survived this incredible journey.

**Beah, Ishmael. A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier (2):** Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army and Beah found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

**Bradley, James. Flags of our Fathers (2):** Presents an account of the Marines who came together during the battle of Iwo Jima to raise the American flag in a moment that has been immortalized in one of the most famous photographs of World War II.

**Brown, Tom. Grandfather (1):** Part of a series of memoirs by a man whose spiritual guide, a Native American, teaches him survival techniques and a lasting respect for nature.

**Bryson, Bill. A Walk in the Woods (1):** The writer's humorous personal account of his attempt to walk the Appalachian Trail.

**Burroughs, Augusten. Running with Scissors (3):** The author chronicles his life from age twelve to sixteen, living in the bizarre home of his mother's psychiatrist, where he was sexually abused by the doctor's thirty-three-year-old adopted son.

**Dry (3):** When he was 13, Augusten Burroughs' mother gave him away to her lunatic psychiatrist, who adopted him. Now he has established a life for himself as a high-paid advertising hotshot in Manhattan where he hides from his haunting past.

**Chang, Jung. Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China (3):** Memoir of three Chinese women, Jung Chang, her mother, and her grandmother in twentieth-century China.

**Dylan, Bob. Chronicles Volume 1 (3):** Singer-songwriter Bob Dylan tells his life story, reflecting on his Minnesota roots, his time in Greenwich Village, his family life, world events, and the ups and downs in his career.

**Eggers, David. A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius (3):** In this comic memoir, whose title captures its content, an orphaned 21-year-old raises his 8-year-old brother in 1990s San Francisco.

**Ehrenreich, Barbara. Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America (2):** Ehrenreich relates her experiences from 1998 to 2000, during which time she joined the ranks of the working poor to see for herself how America's unskilled workers are able to survive on only \$6 or \$7 an hour.

**Esmeralda, Santiago. When I was Puerto Rican (2):** Memoirs of the author's childhood and youth in Puerto Rico and New York City.

**Grogan, John. Marley & Me: Life and Love With the World's Worst Dog (2):** Follows the life story of an exuberant Labrador retriever who gets into perpetual trouble and experiences a range of inspiring adventures, from shutting down an entire beach to guarding a seventeen-year-old neighbor after a stabbing attack.

- Gruwell, Erin. Freedom Writers Diaries (2):** Tells the story of how young English teacher Erin Gruwell confronted the problem of racial and ethnic intolerance in her classroom, and features excerpts from the diaries of her students, now known as The Freedom Writers.
- Hersey, John. Hiroshima (2):** The story of six people who lived through the explosion of the atomic bomb in 1945 in Hiroshima.
- Hickam, Homer. Rocket Boys (2):** Homer Hickam, a NASA engineer, recounts his childhood in Coalwood, a West Virginia mining town, and discusses his dreams of launching rockets into outer space, and how he made those dreams come true.
- Hillenbrand, Laura. Seabiscuit (2):** Tells the story of how owner Charles Howard, trainer Tom Smith, and jockey Red Pollard turned Seabiscuit into a horse racing legend, and presents nearly 150 rare photos.
- Horwitz, Tony. Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War (2):** Why would a grown man spend a frosty Saturday night huddling together with his mates on a 140-year-old battlefield? Why would anyone want to pretend he is a civil war soldier? The author takes a road trip south to investigate the lingering presence of the "war between the states." Meet some interesting, colorful characters as the journey evolves.
- Idle, Eric. The Greedy Bastard Tour (2):** This hilarious memoir by ex-Python Idle covers his 2004 US tour—for fans only.
- Isacson, Walter. Einsten (2):** A biography based on newly released personal letters.
- Kerouac, Jack. On the Road (3):** Presents a thinly fictionalized autobiography of Jack Kerouac's cross-country adventure across North America on a quest for self-knowledge as experienced by his alter-ego, Sal Paradise and Sal's friend Dean Moriarty.
- Klein, Robert. The Amorous Busboy of Decatur Avenue (3):** In this memoir, the comedian reminisces about growing up in the Bronx, entering college upstate and beginning in show business.
- Krakauer, Jon. Under the Banner of Heaven (2):** When a murder occurs in a Mormon town, the author is compelled to explore the culture of the geographical area and background of Mormonism.
- Into Thin Air (1):** A riveting first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest that occurred in 1996. It is a story of the ill-fated adventure and an analysis of the factors leading up to its tragic end.
- Into the Wild (2):** The story of what happened to a young man who disappeared into the Alaskan interior; his body was found 4 months later.
- Larson, Erik. The Devil in the White City (3):** Not long after Jack the Ripper haunted the ill-lit streets of 1888 London, H.H. Holmes dispatched somewhere between 27 and 200 people, mostly single young women, in the churning new metropolis of Chicago. Larson's breathtaking new history is a novelistic yet wholly factual account of the fair and the mass murderer who lurked within it.
- Luttrell, Marcus. Lone Survivor (3).** The only survivor of a Navy Seals operation in Afghanistan describes the battle, his comrades and his escape.

**Massie, Robert K. Nicholas and Alexandra (3):** The mysterious true story of Rasputin's alleged hold over the doomed Romanov royal family.

**Min, Anchee Becoming Madame Mao (3):** This is the story of a young girl coming of age in Mao's China. She recounts her story as a member of the communist party and as a political prisoner on a labor farm.

**McBride, James. The Color of Water (2):** James McBride gives us a wonderful memoir of himself and his mother, a Polish immigrant and Orthodox Jew, a daughter of a tyrannical rabbi father and timid, crippled mother, who dared to ask for something more of this life. His mother crossed an uncrossable barrier by marrying not one, but two, black men, converting to Christianity along the way and isolating herself from her Jewish family, whites, and, to a lesser extent, blacks.

**McCourt, Frank. Angela's Ashes (2):** Born in Brooklyn in 1930 to recent Irish immigrants Malachy and Angela McCourt, Frank grew up in Limerick after his parents returned to Ireland because of poor prospects in America. This is the memoir of Frank who has a difficult childhood (his father is a nearly unemployable alcoholic) yet is able to make us laugh at times.

**Moore, Christopher. Lamb (Dude, Where's My Country?) (3):** A coming-of-age story of "the highest order." Lamb is a funny, lighthearted satire of the life of Christ--from his childhood days up to his crucifixion.

**Nazario, Sonia. Enrique's Journey (2):** Originally written as a newspaper series for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Enrique's Journey* tells the true story of a Honduran boy's journey to find his mother in America.

**Nikkah, John. Our Boys Speak: Adolescent Boys Write About Their Inner Lives (1):** Presents the writings of twentieth-century American boys age twelve through eighteen, including essays, poems, diary entries, and stories on topics such as friendship, family struggles, first love, violence, sexuality, and other concerns.

**Paretsky, Sara. Bleeding Kansas (2):** The story of the Schapens and the Grelliers, two farm families whose histories have been entwined since the 1850s, when their ancestors settled the valley as antislavery emigrants.

**Pelzer, David. A Child Called "It" (2):** David Pelzer, victim of one of the worst child abuse cases in the history of California, tells the story of how he survived his mother's brutality and triumphed over his past.

**Philbrick, Nathaniel. In the Heart of the Sea, the Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex (2):** A chilling tale of the Essex, a whaling ship that was sunk in the middle of the Pacific by an 80-foot sperm whale in 1820. Moby Dick was based on certain key elements of this tragedy!

**Sedaris, David. Naked, Me Talk Pretty One Day (2):** David Sedaris describes the struggles he has had in life due to his voice problems, discussing how his voice has affected his personal relationships, his career, and his family life.

**Schaap, Jeremy. Cinderella Man: Braddock James and Max Bear and the greatest upset in boxer history (2):** Contains a look at the life and career of Depression era heavyweight boxer James Braddock, describing his experiences as a fighter and a longshoreman, and includes a chronicle of his auspicious bout with champion boxer Max Baer.

**Sheff, David. Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction (2):** Sheff chronicles his son's downward spiral into addiction and the impact on him and his family.

**Sheff, Nic. Tweak (2):** Nic Sheff's powerful memoir of drug abuse and alcohol addiction is written in a brutally honest style that makes it difficult for anyone else to narrate. Happily, narrator Paul Michael Garcia delivers a strong and commanding reading that perfectly expresses the rawness of Sheff's most personal recollections.

**Sijie, Dai. Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress (3):** Two boys, moved to the country for "re-education" as part of Mao's Cultural Revolution, find little to amuse them, but things change when they discover a stash of Western classics in Chinese translation and use the stories of Balzac to capture the attention of the beautiful daughter of the local tailor.

**Spitz, Bob. The Beatles, the Biography (3):** An acclaimed recent biography of the influential and wildly popular band.

**Suskind, Ron. A Hope In The Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City o the Ivy League (2):** Follows gifted African-American student Cedric Jennings from his crime-infested high school in Washington D.C. to his junior year at Brown University, discussing the problems he encountered along the road out of the ghetto.

**Walls, Jeanette. The Glass Castle (1):** Walls chronicles her upbringing at the hands of eccentric, nomadic parents—Rose Mary, her frustrated-artist mother, and Rex, her brilliant, alcoholic father. As Rose Mary and Rex, motivated by whims and paranoia, uprooted their kids time and again, the youngsters (Walls, her brother and two sisters) were left largely to their own devices.

**Winchester, Simon. The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of The Oxford English Dictionary (3):** The compilation of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, 70 years in the making, was an intellectually heroic feat with a twist worthy of the greatest mystery fiction: one of its most valuable contributors was a criminally insane American physician, locked up in an English asylum for murder.

**Wolfe, Tobias. This Boy's Life (2):** Teenaged Wolff moves with his divorced mother from Florida to Utah to Washington State to escape her violent boyfriend. Somber though this tale of family strife is, it is also darkly funny and so artistically satisfying that most readers come away exhilarated rather than depressed.

**Wright, Richard. Black Boy (2):** Narrative of one young man's journey from innocence to experience in the Jim Crow South.

**Poetry—Choose anthologies of any of the following poets.**

**Bishop, Elizabeth:** Published poems exploring the physical world from the Forties to the Seventies;  
Poet Laureate of the United States from 1949 to 1950.

**Cassady, Neal:** Beat Poet of the 1950's.

**Cisneros, Sandra:** Contemporary poet, often focusing on her Latina heritage.

**Collins, Billy:** Very accessible poems on various subjects; U.S. Poet Laureate 2001.

**Dickinson, Emily:** Great American poet of the mid-nineteenth century.

**Di Prima, Diane:** Beat poet of the 1950's.

**Frost, Robert:** Great American modernist poet of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; meditations on universal themes; New England landscape.

**Ginsberg, Allen:** Leading figure of the Beat movement in the 1950's; published Howl in 1956

**Homer. The Iliad:** Greek epic describing the Trojan War.

**Hughes, Langston:** Great American poet of the Harlem Renaissance.

**McClure, Michael:** Beat poet of the 1950's.

**Oliver, Mary:** Contemporary American poet; deep insights into the natural world.

**Pinsky, Robert:** Contemporary American poet; focuses on the individual and society; United States Poet Laureate 1997.

**Poe, Edgar Allan:** A Romantic era poet known for his macabre and morbid themes.

**Plath, Sylvia:** Known for her confessional poetry and uncanny use of metaphor. Also known for her novel, The Bell Jar.

**Rumi:** A 13<sup>th</sup> century Islamic poet; focuses on animals and plants; regarded for his ability to direct others towards good conduct and union with Allah.

**Shakespeare, William:** Known for not only his play, but also for his beautifully crafted, classic collection of sonnets about love and life

**Shakur, Tupac (1): The Rose That Grew From Concrete:** Known for his rap-style poetry.

**Strand, Mark:** The fourth Poet Laureate of the United States (1996-1997), Strand wrote poems on subjects ranging from dark and terrible wrestling with one's fears and alter egos to joyous celebrations of life and light. He won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1999.

**St. Vincent Millay, Edna:** In the immediate post-World War I era, Millay emerged as a major figure in the cultural life of Greenwich Village, when the Village served as an incubator of every important American literary, artistic, and political movement of the period. As part of this milieu, Millay's work and life came to represent the modern, liberated woman of the Jazz age, free of the restrictions of the past.

**Waldman, Anne:** Waldman is one of the most interesting members of the post-Beat poetry community. Her confluence of Buddhist concerns and thought-paths with sources of physicality and anger is particularly impressive. Her goal: to speak against, about, around and through the all-pervasive forces of Western patriarchy and its many manifestations.

**Whitman, Walt. Leaves of Grass.** Great 19<sup>th</sup> century American poet; celebrated the individual.

### **Science Fiction/Fantasy**

**Adams, Douglas. Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1):** Arthur Dent travels the galaxy with his pal, Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc.

**Adams, Richard. Watership Down (2):** Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

**Anderson, MT. Feed (1):** This brilliant satire is set in a future world where television and computers are connected directly into people's brains when they are babies. The result is a chillingly recognizable consumer society where empty-headed kids are driven by fashion and shopping and the avid pursuit of silly entertainment

**Asimov, Isaac. I. Robot (2):** A story of robots gone mad, mind-reading robots, robots with a sense of humor, robot politicians, and robots who secretly run the world, all told with a dramatic blend of science fact and science fiction.

**Atwood, Margaret. The Handmaid's Tale (3):** A futuristic, frightening tale in which women are valued only as "seed-bearers"

**Oryx and Crake (3):** Margaret Atwood depicts a near-future world that turns from the merely horrible to the horrific, from a fool's paradise to a bio-wasteland. Snowman (once known as Jimmy) sleeps in a tree and just might be the only human left on our devastated planet. He is not entirely alone, however.

**Bear, Greg. Darwin's Children (3):** Parents of Stella, a genetically-enhanced child born as a result of mutations in the human genome caused by the SHEVA virus, lose the struggle to keep their daughter safe from a repressive government that wants to control the virus children by isolating them from the general population.

**Darwin's Radio (2):** Biologist Kay Lang, a specialist in retroviruses, teams up with virus hunter and anthropologist in an attempt to trace the ancient source of a flu-like disease that is killing expectant mothers and their offspring and threatening the future of the human race.

**Bradbury, Ray. Fahrenheit 451 (2):** In this frightening vision of the future, firemen don't put out fires--they start them in order to burn books. Bradbury's vividly painted society holds up the appearance of happiness as the highest goal--a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad.

**Something Wicked This Way Comes (1):** The memorable story of two boys, James Nightshade and William Halloway, and the evil that grips their small Midwestern town with the arrival of a "dark carnival" one Autumn midnight. How these two innocents, both age 13, save the souls of the town (as well as their own), makes for compelling reading on timeless themes.

**Brooks, Terry. The Sword of Shannara Trilogy (1):** Long ago, the wars of the ancient Evil had ruined the world and forced mankind to compete with many other races---gnomes, trolls, dwarfs, and elves. But in peaceful Shady Vale, half-elfin Shea Ohmsford knew little of such troubles.

**Burgess, Anthony. A Clockwork Orange (3):** Told by the central character, Alex, this brilliant, hilarious, and disturbing novel creates an alarming futuristic vision of violence, high technology, and authoritarianism. Burgess' 1963 classic stands alongside Orwell's *1984* and Huxley's *Brave New World* as a classic of 20<sup>th</sup> century post-industrial alienation, often shocking us into a thoughtful exploration of the meaning of free will and the conflict between good and evil.

**Butler, Octavia. Parable of the Talents (2):** Lauren Olamina, a black teenager, grew up in a 21st-century America that was tearing itself apart. Global warming, massive unemployment, gang warfare and corporate greed combined to break down society in general and her impoverished southern California neighborhood in particular. A victim of hyperempathy syndrome, a disorder that compels its victims to believe they feel others' pain, Lauren found herself homeless and alone in a violent world.

**Kindred (2):** Dawn introduces the reader to a fascinating alien race that intends to save a post-nuclear holocaust earth by repopulating it with half-human, half-alien beings.

**Card, Orson Scott. The Ender's series (1):** Ender Wiggin is a very bright young boy with a powerful skill. One of a

group of children bred to be military geniuses and save Earth from an inevitable attack by aliens, known here as "buggers," Ender becomes unbeatable in war games and seems poised to lead Earth to triumph over the buggers.

- Clarke, Arthur C. Childhood's End (2):** Great alien masters descend on Earth and take control of the world, ushering in a golden age that may be cleverly disguised creative slavery. But Clarke's legendary novel isn't about a human rebellion against alien overlords, but the evolution of humanity into its next stage, and the ultimate dwarfing power of the unknowable order of the cosmos.
- Colfer, Eoin. Artemis Fowl series (1):** Colfer's crime caper fantasy, the first in a series, starts off with a slam-bang premise: anti-hero Artemis Fowl is a boy-genius last in line of a legendary crime family teetering on the brink of destruction. With the assistance of his bodyguard, Butler, he masterminds his plan to regain the Fowls' former glory: capture a fairy and hold her ransom for the legendary fairy gold.
- Cook, Robin. Chromosome 6 (2):** A medical examiner in New York worried by some odd autopsy findings and a scientist in equatorial Africa performing genetic experiments that could dramatically alter life on earth are drawn together in Cook's latest medical thriller.
- Cormier, Robert. Fade (2):** In the summer of 1938, Paul Moreaux, the thirteen-year-old son of French Canadian immigrants, inherits the ability to become invisible, but this power soon leads to death and destruction.
- Crichton, Michael. Jurassic Park (2):** An island off Costa Rica will soon be the world's most ambitious theme park--a dinosaur preserve. A visionary financier's biotechnology company has succeeded in cloning these extinct reptiles. When a rival genetics firm attempts to steal frozen dinosaur embryos, things go haywire.
- Sphere (2):** The focus is humankind's encounter with an alien life form. Within a space ship lying on the sea bottom is a mysterious sphere that promises each of the main characters a personal reward: military might, professional prestige, power and understanding. Trapped underwater with the sphere, the humans confront eerie and increasingly dangerous threats after communication with the alien object has been achieved.
- Timeline (2):** How do you find a missing colleague who inserted a message for help in a 600 year old document, keep your head on, and get home? Imagine being transported to an ancient world that is as real to you as a telephone only to find that the world is as you imagined, but very different and laden with more pitfalls than you thought.
- Dick, Philip K. Dr. Futurity (1):** Jim Parsons is a talented doctor, skilled at the most advanced medical techniques and dedicated to saving lives. But after a bizarre road accident leaves him hundreds of years in the future, Parsons is horrified to discover an incredibly advanced civilization that zealously embraces death. Now, he is caught between his own instincts and training as a healer and a society where it is illegal to save lives.
- Finney, Jack. Time and Again (1):** Simon Morley, an illustrator, is enlisted by a secret government project to hypnotize himself into 1880s New York. He is successful, and goes back to investigate a mystery. As we are overwhelmed with details of 1880s New York, we can almost believe that this time travel is possible.
- Funke, Cornelia. The Thief Lord (1):** A novel about thieving children, a disguise-obsessed detective and a magical merry-go-round. After their mother dies, 12-year-old Prosper and his brother, Bo, five, flee from Hamburg to Venice (an awful aunt plans to adopt only Bo). They live in an abandoned movie theater with several other street children under the care of the Thief Lord, a cocky youth who claims to rob "the city's most elegant houses."

- Goodkind, Terry. Temple of the Winds (1):** Richard, the Seeker of Truth, is caught up in a world of magic, war and extraordinary dangers. His actions and decisions determine the fate of this world.
- Haldeman, Joe. The Accidental Time Machine (2):** Hugo-winner Haldeman's skillful writing makes this unusually thoughtful and picaresque tale shine. Matt Fuller, a likable underachiever stuck as a lab assistant at a near-future MIT, is startled when the calibrator he built begins disappearing and reappearing, jumping forward in time for progressively longer intervals
- Camouflage (2):** When the Navy's efforts to raise a wrecked submarine uncover an artifact from another world, they call in marine biologist Russell Sutton to help decipher what it means, but the end result of Sutton's investigation could have catastrophic consequences for the world.
- Heinlein, Robert. The Puppet Masters (1):** Earth was being invaded by aliens and the top security agencies were helpless: the aliens were controlling the mind of every person they encountered. It was up to Sam Cavanaugh, secret agent for a powerful and deadly spy network, to find a way to stop them.
- Herbert, Frank. Dune (2):** Set on the desert planet Arrakis, Paul Atreides must avenge the traitorous plot against his noble family.
- Hoffman, Alice. Practical Magic (2):** A tale of two sisters, Gillian and Sally Owens, brought up by their two elderly guardian aunts in a world of spells from which they eventually escape—one by running away, the other by marrying—but which never escapes from them.
- Huxley, Aldous. Brave New World (2):** Huxley's vision of the future in his astonishing 1931 novel—a world of tomorrow in which capitalist civilization has been reconstituted through the most efficient scientific and psychological engineering. **(NOTE: THIS IS AN AP ENGLISH 11 CORE TEXT).**
- Keyes, Daniel. Flowers for Algernon (1):** Mentally retarded Charlie Gordon participates in an experiment which turns him into a genius but only temporarily.
- Lawrence, Michael. A Crack in the Line (1):** Alaric and Naia, both 16, have nearly identical lives in parallel worlds. Their parents, their house, and their circumstances are the same, with one major difference. Alaric's mother was killed in a train wreck, while Naia's mother survived. This story of alternate realities raises questions about how one's life might be changed forever by a certain turn of events.
- LeGuin, Ursula K. The Gift (2):** A boy must learn to cope with his destructive gift in this fantastic, other-world setting.
- Lewis, C.S. The Chronicles of Narnia Series (1):** Enter Lewis' magical world where a witch decrees eternal winter; where there are more talking animals than people; and where battles are fought by Centaurs, Giants, and Fauns.
- MacLeod, Ken. The Execution Channel (2):** In the years following the War on Terrorism, people around the world cope with terrorist attacks and governments intentionally misinforming its citizens, making the only place to receive true information a rogue media outlet.
- Maguire, Gregory. Wicked (2):** A tale told from the perspective of the so-called "Wicked Witch of the West."
- Niffenegger, Audrey. The Time Traveler's Wife (3):** A man with an amazing gift falls in love in this gripping and unorthodox novel.

- Orwell, George. 1984 (2):** George Orwell's prophetic, nightmarish vision of "Negative Utopia" is timelier than ever—and its warnings more powerful. **(NOTE: THIS IS AN AP ENGLISH 11 CORE TEXT).**
- Paolini, Christopher. Eragon Series (1):** In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage, called Eragon, finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves and monsters.
- Piers, Anthony. Incarnations of Immaturity Series (2):** New York Times bestselling author Piers Anthony's long-awaited conclusion to the seven volume series—a playful, provocative, and stunning tale of morality, magic and grand adventure.
- Pratchett, Terry. Monstrous Regiment (2):** Polly Perks, an unassuming barmaid from Borogravia, cuts her hair, pretends to be a young man, and joins the army in hopes of finding her brother Paul, who marched off to war a year ago and hasn't been heard from in months.
- Pullman, Philip. The Golden Compass (His Dark Materials Series) (1):** The Saga of Lara Silvertongue, whose adventures in a parallel world (Oxford, the North Pole) invite more characters and danger with each installment.
- Rice, Anne. Interview with a Vampire Series (2):** Here are the confessions of a vampire. Hypnotic, shocking, this is a novel of mesmerizing beauty and astonishing force—a story of danger and flight, of love and loss, of suspense and resolution, and of the extraordinary power of the senses.
- Rowe, Rebecca. Forbidden Cargo (2):** Creid Xerkler, creator of the Molecular Advantage Machine that grants access to all human knowledge, is placed in a difficult position when the government Council asks him to discover whether the Imagofas, a race of illegally engineered human/machine hybrids, really exist.
- Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter series (1):** The celebrated wizard's challenges and love interests grow more complex with every book in this collection.
- Shute, Neil. On the Beach (2):** This is the classic tale of post-nuclear existence that was made into a stunning film of the 1960s.
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. Treasure Island (2):** While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune.
- Stirling, S.M. The Sky People (2):** Marc Vitrac is sent to the U.S. Commonwealth base on the planet Venus, where he studies the different types of life found on the planet and tries to learn how they evolved and adapted.
- Thomson, Rupert. The Divided Kingdom (3):** The leaders of a morally bankrupt country pursue reform by redistributing the population according to personality type. The "Rearrangement" results in four distinct quarters: Red (sanguine), Green (melancholic), Blue (phlegmatic), and Yellow (choleric). Details of the eerie social experiment are revealed by Thomas Parry, who is snatched from his childhood home and indoctrinated as a Red Quarter civil servant.
- Tolkien, JRR. Lord of the Rings series (2):** Frodo must band with the forces of good to rid the world of the evil ring and save his beloved Shire.

**Watts, Peter. Blindsight (2):** Two months after the Earth is taken over by an alien species, a space probe detects a faint signal from the edge of the solar system and attempts to make contact, despite the dangers the signal hints at, relying on a linguist with multiple personalities to make the first contact and attempt a peace agreement.

**Wells, H.G. The Time Machine (1):** A scientist invents a time machine and uses it to travel hundreds of thousands of years into the future, where he discovers the childlike Eloi and the hideous underground Morlocks.

**Zimmer-Bradley, Marion. The Mists of Avalon (2):** Even readers who don't normally enjoy Arthurian legends will love this version, a retelling from the point of view of the women behind the throne. Morgaine (more commonly known as Morgan Le Fay) and Gwenhwyfar (a Welsh spelling of Guinevere) struggle for power, using Arthur as a way to score points and promote their respective worldviews.

**Short Stories – Choose Short Stories from any of the following writers:**

**Anderson, Sherwood** - An American writer, mainly of short stories, most notably the collection *Winesburg, Ohio*.

**Baldwin, James** - Most of Baldwin's work deals with racial and sexual issues in the mid-20th century United States. Popular works include *Sonny's Blues*, "If Beale Street Could Talk" and "Outing."

**Boyle, T.C.** - Many of Boyle's short stories explore the Baby Boom generation, its appetites, joys, and addictions. Short story collections include the *Descent of Man*, *Without a Hero*, *T.C. Boyle Stories*, *After the Plague*, *Tooth and Claw*, and *The Human Fly*.

**Carver, Raymond** - An American short story writer. Carver is considered a major American writer of the late 20th century and also a major force in the revitalization of the short story in the 1980s. His notable works include *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*, *Furious Seasons*, *Cathedral* and *Elephant*.

**Cheever, John** – His short story fiction is mostly set in the Upper East Side of Manhattan, the Westchester suburbs, and old New England villages. Cheever is perhaps best remembered for his short stories (including "The Enormous Radio," "Goodbye, My Brother," "The Five-Forty-Eight," "The Country Husband," and "The Swimmer").

**Chopin, Kate** - She is now considered to have been a forerunner of feminist authors of the 20th century. Her important short stories included "Desiree's Baby", a tale of miscegenation in antebellum Louisiana; "The Story of an Hour" and "The Storm."

**Faulkner, William** – American short story writer and novelist. Some works include "Barn Burning," "A Rose for Emily," "Dry September," "Race at Morning," "Beyond," "Honor," "LO!" and "Two Soldiers."

**Fitzgerald, F. Scott** - Wrote dozens of short stories that treat themes of youth and promise.

**Gordimer, Nadine** - Her writing has long dealt with moral and racial issues, particularly apartheid in South Africa.

**Hawthorne, Nathaniel** - He is seen as a key figure in the development of American literature for his tales of the nation's colonial history. Works include "Rappaccini's Daughter," "The Minister's Black Veil," "The Ambitious Guest," and "Egotism."

**Hemingway, Ernest** – He was an American novelist and short story writer. "The Gambler, the Nun, and the Radio," "Soldier's Home," "The Killers," "The Porter," and "A Train Trip," are especially popular.

**Hurston, Zora Neal** – Short story writer during the time of the Harlem Renaissance.

**Irving, Washington** - He was best known for his short stories "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle", both of which appear in his book *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*

**King, Steven** – King is best known for his horror fiction. His short story collections include "Night Shift," "Skeleton Crew," "Nightmares & Dreamscapes," "Everything's Eventual," and "Just After Sunset" and in the three novella collections: "Different Seasons," "Four Past Midnight," and "Hearts in Atlantis."

**Lardner, Ring** - Short story writer best known for his satirical takes on the sports world, marriage, and the theatre.

**Melville, Herman** - was an American novelist, short story writer, essayist and poet. Works include, "Bartleby the Scrivener," "The Encantadas," "The Bell Tower," "I am my Chimney" and "The Happy Failure."

**Munro, Alice** - Canadian short-story writer who focuses her stories on human relationships looked at through the lens of daily life.

**Oates, Joyce Carol** - Her frequently anthologized short story "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" was dedicated to Bob Dylan. Oates said she wrote the story after listening to a Dylan song.

**O'Connor, Flannery** - However, several stories reveal that O'Connor was familiar with some of the most sensitive contemporary issues that her liberal and fundamentalist characters might encounter, including "Why Do the Heathen Rage?" "The Enduring Chill," and "The Partridge Festival."

**Porter, Katherine Ann** – She was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist, essayist and short story writer. Her works include "The Leaning Tower," "The Journey," "The Witness," "The Last Leaf," "A Day's Work," "The Circus," "The Fig Tree" and "Holiday."

**Updike, John** - Hundreds of his stories, reviews, and poems have appeared in The New Yorker since 1954. One of his most famous is "A&P."

**Vonnegut, Kurt** – Several short stories have become quite popular including "Harrison Bergeron," "Report on the Barnhouse Effect," "Who Am I This Time?" and "Welcome to the Monkey House."

**Wharton, Edith** – Familiar themes of Wharton's are the pursuit of happiness and the conflict of societal mores. Short stories include, "Roman Fever," "The Other Two," "Souls Belated," "The Pelican," "The Muse's Tragedy," "Expiation," "The Dilettante" and "Xingu."

**Wright, Richard** - Much of his short story literature concerned racial themes. His work helped redefine discussions of race relations in America in the mid-20th century.

### **Sports – Fiction and Non-Fiction**

**Alphin, Elaine Marie. The Perfect Shot (1):** This engrossing thriller weaves issues of civil rights, racial prejudice, the judicial system, and the lessons of history into a suspenseful tale of a high-school basketball player who wants to do the right thing.

**Armstrong, Lance. It's not About the Bike (1):** Multiple Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong's memoir about surviving cancer, finding love, and becoming a father.

**Asinof, Eliot. Eight Men Out: The Black Socks and the 1919 World Series (2):** To the horror of their teammates and all of America, eight members of the champion Chicago White Sox gave in to greed and threw the 1919

World Series. Eliot Asinof vividly describes the tense meetings, the hitches in the plot, the actual plays in which the series was thrown, and the grand jury indictment and the famous 1921 trial.

**Bailes, Julian and John McCloskey. When Winning Costs too Much: Steroids, Supplements, and Scandal in Today's Sports (2):** In this day and age when the sports pages of the local newspaper read like either a police report or a pharmacology text, it is impossible not to conclude that the mantra of winning has entered very dangerous ground.

**Beckham, David. Both Feet on the Ground (1):** There is only one David Beckham -- and it's not always the one you read about in the newspapers and magazines or see in the movies. From humble East End London beginnings, the boy with prodigious soccer skills grew up to be one of the most gifted athletes of his generation.

**Bissiner, HG. Friday Night Lights (2):** Riveting true story of the lure of high school football in an economically depressed Texan town.

**Blais, Madeleine. In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle (2):** They were a talented team with a near-perfect record but a reputation for choking in the crunch of the state playoffs. Finally, after five straight years of disappointments, the Amherst Lady Hurricanes found they just might have what it took to go all the way.

**Bouton, Jim. Ball Four (2):** In the early '70s, he tossed off one of the funniest, most revealing, insider's takes on baseball life in *Ball Four*, his diary of the season he tried to pitch his way back from oblivion on the strength of a knuckler.

**Schaap, Jeremy. Cinderella Man: Braddock James and Max Bear and the greatest upset in boxer history (2):** Contains a look at the life and career of Depression era heavyweight boxer James Braddock, describing his experiences as a fighter and a longshoreman, and includes a chronicle of his auspicious bout with champion boxer Max Baer.

**Cantor, George. The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Detroit Tigers (2):** The Tigers have won four world championships, have had two managers die in one season, have played ball while their city rioted around them, and have played host to some of the best and worst players in Major League Baseball.

**Collins, Jim. The Last Best League (2):** Every summer, in ten small towns across Cape Cod, the finest college baseball players in the country gather in hopes of making it to "The Show." This book is about dreams fulfilled and dreams denied, about Cape Cod and the rites of summer, and about the way one small town grows to love a group of young men coming of age in America.

**Conseco, Jose. Juiced (2):** Conseco reveals one of Major League Baseball's darkest secrets: steroids. Entertaining, raucous, and unforgettable, Conseco takes you beneath the veneer of Major League Baseball, demonstrating how big muscles and performance-enhancing drugs have changed the rules of the game forever.

**Crutcher, Chris. Running Loose (1):** Louie, a high school senior in a small Idaho town, learns about sportsmanship, love, and death as he matures into manhood.

**Stotan! (1):** A high school coach invites members of his swimming team to a memorable week of rigorous training that tests their moral fiber as well as their physical stamina.

**Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes (1)**: The daily class discussions about the nature of man, the existence of God, abortion, organized religion, suicide and other contemporary issues serve as a backdrop for a high-school swimmer's attempt to answer a friend's dramatic cry for help.

**D'Orso, Michael. Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska (2)**: Eagle Blue follows the Fort Yukon Eagles, winners of six regional championships in a row, through the course of an entire 28-game season, from their first day of practice in late November to the Alaska State Championship Tournament in March.

**Eig, Jonathan. Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig (2)**: Lou Gehrig was the Iron Horse, baseball's strongest and most determined superstar — struck down in his prime by a disease that now bears his name. This definitive biography gives us a deeper, more intimate understanding of the life of an American hero.

**Fanaru-Wada and Lance Williams. Game of Shadows: Barry Bonds, BALCO, and the Steroids Scandal that Rocked Professional Sports (2)**: This is the window into the underground world of cheating at the highest levels, which set off a frenzy of activity and hand-wringing in the offices of Major League Baseball and Congress.

**Feinstein, John. A March to Madness (1)**: Sportswriter John Feinstein takes readers inside college basketball's Atlantic Coast to illuminate the almost inconceivable pressures on coaches and players in the conference.

**Frey, Darcy. The Last Shot: City Streets, Basketball Dreams (1)**: The story of dreams and cynicism, the often naive hopes of youth played out against the realities of SATs, the NCAA, and the brutal world of college athletic sports recruitment.

**Grisham, John. Bleachers (2)**: When his old coach dies, high school football star Neely Crenshaw returns to his hometown after fifteen years, reunites with his former teammates, and struggles to resolve his mixed feelings about the man.

**Halberstam, David. Summer of '49 (2)**: This book is ostensibly about the pennant race between the Yankees and Red Sox that year and the "rivalry" between Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams.

**Jeter, Derek. The Life You Imagine (1)**: All-Star New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter shows how you can use the same game plan that helped an eight-year-old boy who fantasized about playing baseball for the Bronx Bombers grow up and become MVP of the 2000 World Series.

**Joravsky, Ben. Hoop Dreams (1)**: The remarkable story of Arthur Agee's and William Gates' journeys from the playgrounds to high school competition to college recruitment.

**Kahn, Robert. The Boys of Summer (2)**: This is a book about young men who learned to play baseball during the 1930s and 1940s, and then went on to play for one of the most exciting major-league ball clubs ever fielded, the team that broke the color barrier with Jackie Robinson.

**Kilmeado, Brian. The Games do Count (1)**: A collection of vignettes based on years of interviews with celebrities, politicians, and top businesspeople, popular which reveals that nearly everyone shares a love of sports and has a story about how a game, a coach, or a single moment of competition changed his or her life.

**Kinsella, W. P. Shoeless Joe (1)**: He went to Canada in the 1960's to avoid the draft. Now, back in the USA, he has a vision: build a ballpark in an Iowa cornfield "if you build it they will come." Two who do are the tragic

ballplayer, Joe Jackson and the lead's father. This affecting novel was the basis of the *Field of Dreams*, Kevin Costner's landmark 1980's film.

- Levine, Anna. Running on Eggs (1):** When Karen and Yasmine become friends as well as members of a mixed Arab and Jewish track team in Israel, relatives and friends of both girls disapprove of the relationship.
- Lewis, Michael. The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game (3):** Details the life of University of Mississippi football player Michael Oher, who was raised by a crack addicted mother and adopted at the age of sixteen by a wealthy family, and explores the rising importance and salary of the offensive left tackle in the game of football.
- Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game (3):** Lewis examines how in 2002 the Oakland Athletics achieved a spectacular winning record while having the smallest player payroll of any major league baseball team.
- Lupica, Mike. Bump and Run (1):** Over the course of a single season, Molloy will get a crash course in steroids, gambling, crooked quarterbacks, idiot sportswriters, control-freak coaches, and philandering announcers.
- Myers, Walter Dean. Slam (1):** Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.
- O'Connor, Ian. Jump (2):** Tells the story of Sebastian's journey—a rags-to-riches story of a kid from the Coney Island projects who succeeds in leaving behind the chaos, violence and economic hardship at home for a multi-million dollar life of professional ball and product endorsement.
- Orr, Wendy. Peeling the Onion (2):** Following an automobile accident in which her neck is broken, a teenage karate champion begins a long and painful recovery with the help of her family.
- Malamud, Bernard and Kevin Baker. The Natural (2):** Biting, witty, provocative, and sardonic, Bernard Malamud's *The Natural* is widely considered to be the premier baseball novel of all time. It tells the story of Roy Hobbs—an athlete born with rare and wondrous gifts—who is robbed of his prime playing years by a youthful indiscretion that nearly costs him his life.
- Paulson, Gary. Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod (2):** In the tradition of Jack London, Gary Paulsen presents an unforgettable account of his participation in the 1,100-mile-long dogsled race called the "Iditarod."
- Shaara, Michael. For Love of the Game (1):** Baseball legend Billy Chapel, having learned that the owners are planning to trade him after seventeen seasons, determines the game he is about to pitch will be his last, and takes that opportunity to go out with a bang.
- Stowers, Carlton. Where Dreams Die Hard (1):** An inspiring story by a two-time Edgar Award-winning writer of how a six-man football team united a school and a town.
- Sullivan, Russell. Rocky Marciano (2):** In this portrait of an American sports legend, Russell Sullivan confirms Rocky Marciano's place as a symbol and cultural icon of his era. As much as he embodied the wholesome, rags-to-riches patriotism of a true American hero, Marciano also reflected the racial and ethnic tensions festering beneath the country's benevolent facade.
- Wojnarowski, Adrian. The Miracle of St. Anthony (2):** In a city mired in endless decay, where the youth suffer through all the horrors of urban blight, hope comes in a most unassuming form: a tiny brick schoolhouse run

by two Felician nuns where a singular basketball genius takes teenagers from the mean streets of Jersey City and turns them into champions on the hard court.

## Teen

**Allende, Isabelle. City of the Beasts & other titles (2):** Alexander Cold is sent to accompany his eccentric grandmother, Kate, on a writing assignment in South America to search for a legendary nine-foot-tall "Beast." This marks the beginning of their somewhat surreal journey.

**Anderson, Laurie Halse. Speak (1):** A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

**Catalyst (1)**: Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

**Anderson, M.T. The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation – Volume 1 (2)**: In this fascinating and eye-opening Revolution-era novel, Octavian, a black youth raised in a Boston household of radical philosophers, is given an excellent classical education. The story's scope is immense, in both its technical challenges and underlying intellectual and moral questions.

**Anonymous. Go Ask Alice (2)**: The torture and hell of adolescence has rarely been captured as clearly as it is in this classic diary by an anonymous, addicted teen.

**Asher, Jay. Thirteen Reasons Why (2)**: When Clay Jensen plays the cassette tapes he received in a mysterious package, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker. He's one of 13 people who receive Hannah's story, which details the circumstances that led to her suicide.

**Banks, Russell. Rule of the Bone (2)**: The story of a troubled fourteen-year-old boy who, upon leaving an abusive home life, lives on the edge of society, struggling to find himself.

**Bardi, Abby. The Book of Fred (2)**: A teenage survivor of a fallen cult struggles in her new, secular environment.

**Bloor, Edward. Taken (1)**: In 2036 kidnapping rich children has become an industry, but when thirteen-year-old Charity Meyers is taken and held for ransom, she soon discovers that this particular kidnapping is not what it seems.

**Blume, Judy. Summer Sisters (1)**: Victoria and Caitlin, two girls from very different backgrounds, form a friendship that blooms over the summers spent in Caitlin's privileged world, until heartbreak and betrayal tear them apart.

**Boyne, John. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (2)**: Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

**Bray, Libba. A Great and Terrible Beauty (1)**: After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, Gemma returns to England to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

**Brooks, Kevin. Lucas (1)**: On an isolated English island, Caitlin makes the painful journey from adolescence to adulthood through her experiences with a mysterious boy, whose presence has an unsettling effect on the island's inhabitants.

**Chbosky, Stephen. The Perks of Being a Wallflower (1)**: Through a collection of letters he sends to an unknown receiver, Charlie, a freshman in high school, explores the dilemmas of growing up.

**Conroy, Pat. The Great Santini (2)**: Eighteen-year-old Ben Meecham, a born athlete, struggles to reconcile his feelings about his father, Bull, a Marine officer whose standards and expectations for his family, and especially his firstborn son, are nearly impossible to meet.

**The Lords of Discipline (2)**: In 1966, Will, a senior at the Carolina Military Institute, finds his views conflicting with those of his conservative, gung-ho classmates.

- Cormier, Robert. Tenderness (1):** A psychological thriller told from the points of view of a teenage serial killer and the runaway girl who falls in love with him.
- Courtenay, Bryce. The Power of One (2):** A boy in South Africa during World War II, Peekay turns to two men, one black and one white, to show him how to find the courage to dream, to succeed, to triumph over a world when all seems lost.
- Corrigan, Eireann. Splintering (1):** Relates, in a series of poems from different perspectives, the events and aftereffects of an intruder's violent attack on a family.
- Daly, Maureen. Seventeenth Summer (1):** The summer after high school graduation, seventeen-year-old Angie finds herself in love for the first time.
- Davis, Amanda. Wonder When You'll Miss Me (2):** Sixteen-year-old Faith is running from a brutal assault that led to a suicide attempt and a stay in rehab. Unable to adjust back into school, she invents a new identity and runs away with a traveling group of performers.
- Dessen, Sarah. This Lullaby (1):** Remy, a master at getting rid of boyfriends, finds herself strangely unwilling to free herself from Dexter, a disorganized musician who she suspects she has come to love.
- Donnelly, Jennifer. A Northern Light (1):** Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and boyfriend, takes a job at a hotel in 1906 where the death of a guest renews her determination to live her own life.
- Draper, Sharon. Copper Sun (1):** This action-packed, multifaceted, character-rich story describes the shocking realities of the slave trade and plantation life while portraying the perseverance, resourcefulness, and triumph of the human spirit.
- Green, John. Looking for Alaska (2):** Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.
- Hautman, Pete. Godless (1):** Sixteen-year-old Jason Block resists following in the footsteps of his devoutly Catholic father and instead decides to invent a new religion.
- Hopkins, Ellen. Crank (2):** Kristina's life is turned upside-down, when she visits her absentee father, gets turned on to the drug "crank," becomes addicted, and is lead down a desperate path that threatens her mind, soul, and her life.
- Hurwina, Davida. A Time for Dancing (2):** Seventeen-year-old best friends Samantha and Juliana tell their stories in alternating chapters after Juliana is diagnosed with cancer.
- Jones, Patrick. Things Change (1):** Sixteen-year-old Johanna has her first boyfriend, Paul, the disturbing, anger-filled student body president. As Johanna and Paul become more involved, Johanna's grades drop, her relationships with her parents and best friend are compromised, and her life is jeopardized.
- Korman, Gordon. Born to Rock (1):** A high school Republican Club president learns that his biological father is the

leader of the legendary punk rock band Purge. Narrator Billy Hammond helps young Leo Caraway shed his Brooks Brothers jacket and go on tour with the band to see if dad's rebellious blood truly runs through his veins.

**Lynch, Chris. The Inexcusable (2):** High school senior and football player Keir sets out to enjoy himself on graduation night, but when he attempts to comfort a friend whose date has left her stranded, things go terribly wrong.

**Mazer, Norma Fox. When She Was Good (1):** The death of her abusive, manipulative older sister prompts seventeen-year-old Em to remember their unpleasant life together, with their parents and then later on their own.

**McCormick, Patricia. Cut (1):** Burdened with the pressure of believing she is responsible for her brother's illness, 15-year-old Callie begins a course of self-destruction that leads to her being admitted to Sea Pines, a psychiatric hospital.

**McKinley, Robin. Spindle's End (1):** The infant princess Briar Rose is cursed on her name day by Pernicia, an evil fairy, and then whisked away by a young fairy to be raised in a remote part of a magical country, unaware of her real identity and hidden from Pernicia's vengeful powers.

**Myers, Walter Dean. Fallen Angels (1):** Seventeen-year-old Richie, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

**Nolan, Han. Dancing on the Edge (1):** A young girl from a dysfunctional family creates for herself an alternative world which nearly results in her death but which ultimately leads her to reality.

**Oates, Joyce Carol. Big Mouth and Ugly Girl (2):** Matt Donaghy makes some remarks that land him in a world of trouble. Yanked out of fifth-period study hall by a policeman, he learns that he's suspected of plotting to bomb the school.

**After the wreck, I picked myself up, spread my wings, and flew away (2):** Blaming herself for the car accident on the Tappan Zee Bridge that killed her mother, fifteen-year-old Jenna undergoes a difficult physical and emotional recovery

**Pausewang, Gudrun. Traitor (2):** During the closing months of World War II, a fifteen-year-old German girl must decide whether or not to help an escaped Russian prisoner of war, despite the serious consequences if she does so.

**Runyan, Brent. The Burn Journals (2):** On the sixteenth page of this incisive memoir, eighth-grader Brent Runyon drenches his bathrobe with gasoline and sets himself on fire. Over the course of the book, readers are immersed in the mind of 14-year-old Brent as he struggles to heal body and mind.

**Smith, Dodie. I Capture the Castle (2):** A young woman living on the edge of poverty in a crumbling castle with her somewhat eccentric family, whose prospects begin to improve when new neighbors arrive from America.

**Spinelli, Jerry. Stargirl (1):** Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform.

**Stratton, Alan. Chandra's Wars (2):** Chandra Kabelo, a teenaged African girl, must save her younger siblings after they are kidnapped and forced to serve as child soldiers in General Mandiki's rebel army.

**Van Draanen, Wendelin. Flipped (1):** In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

**Werlin, Nancy. The Rules of Survival (1):** Werlin tackles the topic of child abuse with grace and insight. Narrated by 17-year-old Matt as a letter to his youngest sister, Emmy, *The Rules of Survival* is his effort to come to terms with the vicious treatment he and his two sisters suffered at the hands of Nikki, their beautiful and unpredictable mother.

**Double Helix (2):** Eighteen-year-old Eli discovers a shocking secret about his life and his family while working for a Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose specialty is genetic engineering.

**Westerfeld, Scott. The Uglies (1):** Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties.

**The Last Days (2):** Pearl, Moz, and Zahler team up with a vampire lead singer and a drummer who can foresee future events when a bizarre epidemic hits New York City that threatens total annihilation.

**Wolff, Virginia Euwer. True Believer (1):** Sequel to: Make Lemonade. Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it--an occasion to rise to.

**Zevin, Gabrielle. Elsewhere (1):** Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. This moving, often funny book about grief, death, and loss will stay with the reader long after the last page is turned.

**Zusak, Marcus. I am the Messenger (2):** After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

**The Book Thief (3):** Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

### **Thrillers/Suspense/Mystery**

**Adams, Richard. Watership Down (2):** Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

**Brown, Dan. The DaVinci Code (2):** Investigating the murder of a Louvre curator, Harvard symbologist and French cryptologist find clues painted into a DaVinci work, inadvertently uncovering a plot involving the Holy Grail and the secret society known as the Priory of Sion.

- Caldwell, Ian and Dustin Thomason. The Rule of Four (2):** Four Princeton University students confront murder, romance, danger and detection in their race to solve a puzzle in Rome.
- Carr, Caleb. The Alienist (2):** The year is 1896. The city is New York. The hunt is on for a baffling new kind of criminal—a serial killer.
- Chandler, Raymond. The Big Sleep (2):** Philip Marlowe, a private detective in Los Angeles in the 1930s, takes a case involving a paralyzed California millionaire, two psychotic daughters, blackmail and murder.
- Christie, Agatha. And Then There Were None, Murder on the Orient Express (1):** Spirited inspector Hercule Poirot must use his prodigious talent—once again—to foil a killer.
- Cornwall, Patricia. The Body of Evidence (2):** Forensic sleuth Dr. Kay Scarpetta investigates the circumstances surrounding a stabbed romance novelist.
- Connelly, Michael. City of Bones (2):** Bosch and his well-dressed partner, Jerry Edgar, are working to identify a child's skeleton, buried for 20 years in the forest off Hollywood's Wonderland Drive, and to bring the killer to belated justice.
- Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Hound of the Baskervilles (1):** Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.
- DuMaurier, Daphne. Rebecca (2):** For months after her death, the memory of Rebecca continues to dominate everyone at her former home, Manderley, one of the most famous English country houses.
- Dumas, Alexander. The Count of Monte Cristo (2):** A young sailor who is falsely imprisoned, escapes and assumes a new identity on the island of Monte Cristo.
- Ferguson, Alane. The Christopher Killer (1) and The Angel of Death (1):** Cameryn Mahoney, the teenaged forensic detective, continues her adventures as assistant to her father, the county coroner of Silverton, CO.
- Follett, Ken. Eye of the Needle (2):** A German spy discovers D-Day plans and tries to alert his government in time.
- Grafton, Sue. A is for Alibi, B is for Burglar and other books in the series (1):** These works are a chronological series of mystery novels set in and around the fictional town of Santa Teresa, California. All novels of the series are written from the perspective of a private investigator named Kinsey Millhone.
- Harris, Thomas. Silence of the Lambs (3):** The infamous Hannibal Lecter strikes fear in FBI trainee, Clarice Starling.
- Higgins-Clark, Mary. Where are the Children? (2):** Nancy Harmon long ago fled the heartbreak of her first marriage, the macabre deaths of her two little children, and the shocking charges against her. Now remarried, she has two more beloved children, and the terrible pain has begun to heal -- until the morning when she looks in the backyard and finds only one red mitten. She knows that the nightmare is beginning again.
- Junger, Sebastian. The Perfect Storm (2):** New England sailors face the worst storm in a region's history in this account of a true story.

**King, Stephen. Carrie (2):** Presents the unnerving story of a terribly ostracized young girl with supernatural powers of telekinesis.

**Misery (2):** A bestselling author is held captive in a wheelchair, made drug-dependent, and locked in his room by an angry nurse who demands he bring her favorite character back to life.

**The Stand (2):** It's 1985 and a deadly 'superflu' practically wipes out the population of the U.S. Gradually survivors trail across a wasteland of horror and death to congregate in two zones, one the embodiment of good, the other the embodiment of evil.

**Koontz, Dean. Velocity (2):** An easy-going bartender's simple life gets complicated when he finds a note with a deadly, time-sensitive ultimatum: in six hours he must choose between the death of a young schoolteacher or an elderly humanitarian.

**Odd Hours (2):** Odd Thomas, who can communicate with the dead, confronts evil forces in a California coastal town.

**Le Carrè, John. The Tailor of Panama (2):** Coerced into working for British Intelligence, a tailor concocts a left-wing movement with the goal of luring the American military to do dirty work--invade Panama à la 1989 and nullify a treaty.

**Ludlum, Robert. The Bourne Identity (2):** A man has been shot and as a result, has no memory; as he searches for his origins he comes to fear he may have been an international assassin.

**McCall-Smith, Alexander. The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency (2):** Precious Ramotswe sets herself up as Botswana's first female detective and decides to go against any conventional notion of what an unmarried woman should do. Once the clients start showing up on her doorstep, Precious enjoys a pleasingly successful series of cases.

**O'Flynn, Catherine. What Was Lost. (2):** This award winning book accounts how the repercussions of a girl's disappearance can last for decades. In 1984, Kate Meaney is a 10-year-old loner who solves imaginary mysteries and guesses the dark secrets of the shoppers she observes at the Green Oaks mall. Fast forward to 2003, where it's revealed that Kate disappeared nearly 20 years ago the person blamed in her disappearance, also vanished.

**Patterson, James. Kiss the Girls (2):** Detective Alex Cross is called away from kids and his jazz piano when two murderers, operating on opposite sides of the country, strike at the same time, and one of them has abducted his niece, Naomi.

**Pears, Iain. An Instance of the Fingerpost (2):** When Dr. Robert Grove is found dead in his Oxford room, hands clenched and face frozen in a rictus of pain, all the signs point to poison. The narrative circles around Grove's murder as four different characters give their version of events.

**Rendell, Ruth. The Water's Lovely (2):** The act of murder committed by a 15-year-old brings a terrible darkness to those involved.

**Ruff, Matt. Bad Monkeys (2):** In a holding cell in the psychiatric wing of a prison, a psychologist is interviewing inmate Jane Charlotte. She's been charged with homicide. Although she does not deny it, she weaves an outrageous story about the circumstances surrounding the murder.

**Smith, Tom, Rob. Child 44 (3):** A horror story set in the Soviet Union. In this worker's paradise where the citizen's needs are met: Leo Demidov is a believer who wants only to serve his Country well. He puts contradictions out of his mind and carries on. Until something happens that he cannot ignore. A serial killer of children is on the loose, and the State cannot admit it.