

## Cate School Summer Reading 2010

The English Department requires each student to read four books during the summer. We leave the choice to the students themselves, but we hope they'll consider reading works that challenge their ideas about literature and life. We've divided our list into more than fifty categories and have provided suggestions in many of them; we've also added recommendations from many members of the English Department.

*“A writer only begins a book. A reader finishes it.”*

Samuel Johnson

### Action and Adventure

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster* details the author's ascent of Mount Everest, which turned catastrophic when eight climbers were killed and several others were stranded by a 'rogue storm'.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. *Into the Wild* is about the adventures of Christopher McCandless. It is an expansion of Krakauer's 9,000-word article, "Death of an Innocent", which appeared in the January 1993 issue of *Outside*.

*Seven Summits* by Dick Bass

*Ghosts of Everest* by Hemmleb, Johnson, Simonson, and Nothdurft

*Grand Ambition* by Lisa Michaels

*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candace Millard

*What the Ice Gets* by Melinda Mueller

*Banner in the Sky* by James Ramsey Ullman

*Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer

*Left For Dead: My Journey Home from Everest* by Beck Weathers

*Points Unknown* by David Roberts

*The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger

*The Last River: The Tragic Race for Sanri-Li* by Todd Balf

*Ninety Degrees North: The Quest for the North Pole* by Fergus Fleming

*Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters* by Derek Lundy

*The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas

*Day of the Jackal* by Frederick Forsyth

*Master and Commander* (and many others) by Patrick O'Brian

*Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing

### Africa

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Power of One* by Bryce Courtney. First published in 1989 and set in South Africa during the 1930s and 1940s, *The Power of One* tells the story of an Anglo-African boy who, through the course of the story, is sent to boarding school. Being the only English speaker in the largely Afrikaner school, he soon becomes the target of the other boys.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. This novel depicts the life of Okonkwo, a leader and local wrestling champion in Umuofia—a fictional group of nine villages in Nigeria, inhabited by the Igbo ethnic group. In addition it focuses on his three wives, his children, and the influences of British colonialism and Christian missionaries on his traditional community.

*West with the Night* by Beryl Markham  
*The Flame Trees of Thika* by Elizabeth Huxley  
*Out of Africa* by Isak Dinesen  
*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe  
*When a Crocodile Eats the Sun* by Peter Godwin  
*The Last King of Scotland* by Giles Foden  
*Rules of the Wild* by Francesca Marciano  
*White Man's Grave* by Richard Dooling  
*The Book of Secrets* by M.G. Vassanji  
*Brazzaville Beach* by William Boyd  
*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver  
*The Famished Road* by Ben Okri  
*A Grain of Wheat* by Ngugi wa Thiongo  
*The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay  
*July's People* by Nadine Gordimer

**African American Fiction**

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines. In a small Cajun community in 1940s Louisiana, a young black man is about to go to the electric chair for murder. A white shopkeeper had died during a robbery gone bad; though the young man on trial had not been armed and had not pulled the trigger, in that time and place, there could be no doubt of the verdict or the penalty.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*The Song of Solomon*. American author Toni Morrison follows the life of Macon "Milkman" Dead III, an African-American male living in Michigan, from birth to adulthood. *The Song of Solomon* won the National Books Critics Award and was cited by the Swedish Academy in awarding Morrison the 1993 Nobel Prize in literature.

*The Salt Eaters* by Toni Cade Bambara  
*Nobody Knows My Name* by James Baldwin  
*Paradise* by Toni Morrison  
*Beloved* by Toni Morrison  
*The Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison  
*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston  
*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison  
*The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin  
*Black Boy* by Richard Wright  
*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison  
*If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin  
*Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin  
*Mumbo Jumbo* by Ishmael Reed  
*Erasure* by Percival L. Everett  
*A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines  
*The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by Ernest J. Gaines  
*High Cotton* by Darryl Pinckney

*The Emperor of Ocean Park* by Stephen L. Carter  
*Sunday You Learn How to Box* by Bill Wright  
*What You Owe Me* by Bebe Moore Campbell  
*Waiting to Exhale* by Terry McMillan  
*He Say, She Say* by Yolanda Joe  
*Your Blues Ain't Like Mine* by Bebe Moore Campbell  
*Blues Dancing* by Diane McKinney-Whetstone  
*Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do* by Valerie Wilson Wesley  
*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker  
*Lucy* by Jamaica Kincaid  
*Annie John* by Jamaica Kincaid  
*Sula* by Toni Morrison  
*The Women of Brewster Place* by Gloria Naylor  
*Fences* by August Wilson  
*I Am the Darker Brother: An Anthology of Modern Poems by African Americans*  
*A Wreath for Emmett Till* by Marilyn Nelson

## **American History**

### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara. This historical novel by Michael Shaara was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1975. The book tells the story of four days of the Battle of Gettysburg in the American Civil War.

### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Ragtime* by E.L. Doctorow. This work of historical fiction is primarily set in the New York City area from about 1900 until the United States entry into World War I in 1917. A unique adaptation of the historical narrative genre, the novel blends three fictional American families and various actual historical figures into a framework that revolves around events, characters and ideas important in U.S. history.

*The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth  
*The Americanization of Ben Franklin* by Gordon Wood  
*A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn  
*The First Tycoon* by T.J. Stiles  
*The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara  
*The Age of Gold: The California Gold Rush and the New American Dream* by H.W. Brands  
*The Founding Brothers* by Joseph Ellis  
*Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water* by Marc Reiser  
*Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* by Dee Brown and Hampton Sides  
*Dreamland* by Kevin Baker  
*Paradise Alley* by Kevin Baker  
*All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren  
*In the Fall* by Jeffrey Lent  
*City of Light* by Lauren Belfer  
*Ragtime* by E.L. Doctorow  
*Underworld* by Don DeLillo  
*Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan

## **American Indian Experiences (see Native American Experiences)**

## **Animals**

Particularly recommended:

*Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat. Hordes of bloodthirsty wolves are slaughtering the arctic caribou, and the government's Wildlife Service assigns naturalist Farley Mowat to investigate.

*Seabiscuit: An American Legend* by Laura Hillenbrand  
*Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditerod* by Gary Paulsen  
*An Owl in the Family* by Farley Mowat  
*Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat  
*My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell  
*Best Friends: The True Story of the World's Most Beloved Animal Sanctuary* by Samantha Glen  
*James Herriot's Animal Stories* by James Herriot  
*Through Other Eyes: Animal Stories by Women* by Doris Lessing, Ursula LeGuin, Alice Walker, Annie Dillard  
*A Whale for the Killing* by Farley Mowat  
*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

**Asia**

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Boat* by Nam Le. *The Boat* catches people in moments of extremis, confronted by death or loss or terror (or all three. Whether it's the prospect of dying at sea or being shot by a drug kingpin or losing family members in a war, Nam Le's people are individuals trapped in the crosshairs of fate.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*God of Small Things* by Arunhati Roy. In her first novel, award-winning Indian screenwriter Arundhati Roy conjures a whoosh of wordplay that rises from the pages like a brilliant jazz improvisation. *The God of Small Things* is nominally the story of young twins Rahel and Estha and the rest of their family, but the book feels like a million stories spinning out indefinitely.

*The Surrendered* by Chang-rae Lee  
*The Moon Pearl* by Ruthann Lum McCunn  
*Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama  
*The Gift of Rain* by Twan Eng  
*The Sorrow of War: A Novel of North Vietnam* by Bao Ninh  
*The Boat* by Nam Le  
*Monkey Bridge* by Lan Cao  
*In A Free State* by V.S. Naipaul  
*The Siege of Krishnapur* by J.G. Farrell  
*Heat and Dust* by Ruth Praver Jhabwala  
*God of Small Things* by Arunhati Roy  
*The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai  
*Snow Country* by Yasunari Kawabata  
*Spring Moon* by Betty Bao Lord  
*A Silent Cry* by Kenzaburo Oe  
*The Lady and the Monk* by Pico Iyer  
*Red Azalea* by Min Achee  
*Iron and Silk* by Mark Salzman  
*The Laughing Sutra* by Mark Salzman

**Asian American Experiences**

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka. This heartbreaking, bracingly unsentimental debut describes in poetic detail the travails of a Japanese family living in an internment camp during World War II, raising the specter of wartime injustice in bone-chilling fashion.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston. *The Woman Warrior* is a pungent, bitter, but beautifully written memoir of growing up Chinese American in Stockton, California.

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan  
*Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri  
*Fifth Chinese Daughter* by Jade Snow Wong  
*The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston  
*Bone* by Faye Mynenne Ng  
*Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers* by Lois-Ann Yamanaka  
*Donald Duk* by Frank Chin  
*When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka  
*Typical American* by Gish Jen  
*Who's Irish?* by Gish Jen  
*Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson  
*Obasan* by Joy Kogawa  
*Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* by Ji-Li Jiang  
*American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang  
*A Step From Heaven* by An Na

### **Autobiography and Biography**

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi. Satrapi's autobiography is a timely and timeless story of a young girl's life under the Islamic Revolution. Descended from the last Emperor of Iran, Satrapi is nine when fundamentalist rebels overthrow the Shah. A graphic novel.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. Published in 1965, this is the memoir of the American black militant religious leader and activist who was born Malcolm Little. Written by Alex Haley, who had conducted extensive audiotaped interviews with Malcolm X just before his assassination in 1965, the book gained renown as a classic work on black American experience

*The Jade Peony* by Wayson Choy  
*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*  
*Growing Up* by Russell Baker  
*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candace Millard  
*Living Well is the Best Revenge* by Calvin Tompkins  
*Everybody Was So Young: Gerald and Sara Murphy -- A Lost Generation Love Story* by Amanda Vaill  
*Days of Grace* by Arthur Ashe  
*Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* by Sara and A. Elizabeth Delany  
*The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank  
*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*  
*Roots* by Alex Haley  
*The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller  
*Kaffir Boy* by Mark Mathabane  
*Born on the Fourth of July* by Ron Kovic  
*A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf  
*Speak, Memory* by Vladimir Nabokov  
*Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt

*Educating Esme: Diary of a Teacher's First Year* by Esme Raji Codell  
*Travels with Charley: In Search of America* by John Steinbeck  
*Finding George Orwell in Burma* by Emma Larkin  
*Double Down: Reflections on Gambling and Loss* by Frederick Bartheleme  
*I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning* by Bill Bryson

## **Boarding School**

### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*Stand Before Your God: An American Schoolboy in England* by Paul Watkins. This true account of coming of age in an English boarding school, by an acclaimed young writer, is reminiscent of such books as *A Separate Peace* and *The Catcher in the Rye*.

### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Old School* by Tobias Wolff. *Old School* is at once a celebration of literature and delicate hymn to a lost innocence of American life and art. Set in a New England prep school in the early 1960s, the novel imagines a final, pastoral moment before the explosion of the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and the suicide of Ernest Hemingway.

*The Lawrenceville Stories* by Owen Johnson  
*To Serve Them All My Days* by R.F. Delderfield  
*Well Schooled in Murder* by Elizabeth George  
*Goodbye, Mr. Chips* by James Hilton  
*The Crazy School* by Cornelia Reed  
*The Headmaster: Frank l. Boyden of Deerfield* by John McPhee  
*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger  
*The Rector of Justin* by Louis Auchincloss  
*The Good School* by Richard Yates  
*Stand Before Your God: An American Schoolboy in England* by Paul Watkins  
*Old School* by Tobias Wolff  
*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles  
*Gentlemen and Players* by Joanne Harris  
*The World According to Garp* by John Irving  
*Fifth Business* by Robertson Davies

## **Business/Economics/Finance**

### Particularly recommended

*The Turning Point* by Malcolm Gladwell. Little changes can have big effects; when small numbers of people start behaving differently, that behavior can ripple outward until a critical mass or "tipping point" is reached, changing the world.

*The Big Short* by Michael Lewis  
*Liar's Poker* by Michael Lewis  
*The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell  
*The Predator's Ball* by Connie Bruck  
*Den of Thieves* by James B. Stewart  
*Barbarians at the Gate* by Bryon Burrough  
*Why We Buy: The New New Thing* by Michael Lewis  
*Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

## **California**

Particularly recommended:

*The Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle. In this explosive and timely novel, T. C. Boyle explores an issue that is at the forefront of the political arena. He confronts the controversy over illegal immigration head-on, illuminating through a poignant, gripping story the people on both sides of the issue, the haves and the have-nots.

*The Nowhere City* by Alison Laurie  
*Bluebird Canyon* by Dan McCall  
*Golden Days* by Carolyn See  
*The Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle  
*Greetings from the Golden State* by Leslie Brenner  
*If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home By Now* by Sandra Singh Loh  
*China Boy* by Gus Lee  
*Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck  
*East of Eden* by John Steinbeck  
*Changing Places* by David Lodge

**Chick Lit**

*Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon  
*The Year of Living Famously* by Laura Caldwell  
*Don't Even Think About It* by Lauren Henderson  
*Hit Reply* by Rocki St. Claire  
*English as a Second Language* by Megan Crane  
*Couch World* by Cathy Yardley  
*Salem Falls* by Jodi Piccoult

**Civil War**

Particularly recommended:

*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. Tells the story of W. P. Inman, a wounded deserter from the Confederate army near the end of the American Civil War who walks for months to return to Ada Monroe, the love of his life; the plot shares several similarities with Homer's *The Odyssey*. The novel alternates chapter-by-chapter between Inman's and Ada's stories.

*The Black Flower* by Howard Bahr  
*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier  
*Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara  
*The Civil War: A Narrative* by Charles Frazier

**Classics**

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Set in a small Southern town during the Depression, this novel follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus--three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. Dickens' second novel tells the story of the orphan Oliver set against the seamy underside of the London criminal world.

*Franny and Zooey* by J.D. Salinger

*Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov  
*Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*I, Claudius* by Robert Graves  
*A Death in the Family* by James Agee  
*Seize the Day* by Saul Bellow  
*Catch -22* by Joseph Heller  
*A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway  
*The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath  
*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen  
*Emma* by Jane Austen  
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte  
*The Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad  
*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky  
*A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster  
*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
*Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce  
*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton  
*Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy  
*Life on the Mississippi* by Mar Twain  
*Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain  
*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte  
*Tender is the Night* by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
*Howard's End* by E.M. Forster  
*Zorba the Greek* by Nikos Kazantzakis  
*The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis  
*Sons and Lovers* by D.H. Lawrence  
*The Fixer* by Bernard Malamud  
*Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner  
*East of Eden* by John Steinbeck  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton  
*Darkness at Noon* by Arthur Koestler

### **Coming of Age**

#### Particularly recommended:

*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy. John Grady Cole is a 16-year-old boy who leaves his Texas home when his grandfather dies. With his parents already split up and his mother working in theater out of town, there is no longer reason for him to stay. He and his friend Lacey Rawlins ride their horses south into Mexico; they are joined by another boy, the mysterious Jimmy Blevins, a 14-year-old sharpshooter.

*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hossenei  
*My Brilliant Career* by Miles Franklin  
*This Boy's Life* by Tobias Wolff  
*Call it Sleep* by Henry Roth  
*Duke of Deception* by Geoffrey Wolff  
*The Lords of Discipline* by Pat Conroy  
*Alligator Bayo* by Donna Jo Napoli  
*The Orange House* by Paul Griffin

*Dreamland* by Sarah Dessen  
*Tales of the Madmen Underground* by John Barnes  
*Wintergirls* by Laure Halse  
*Isaac and his Devils* by Fernanda Eberstadt  
*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles  
*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger  
*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy  
*The Assault* by Harry Muslich  
*Testing the Current* by William McPherson  
*About a Boy* by Tobias Wolff  
*The Rotter's Club* by Jonathan Coe  
*Old School* by Tobias Wolff  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith  
*The Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers  
*Stand Before Your God: An American Schoolboy in England* by Paul Watkins  
*Out Stealing Horses* by Per Patterson  
*The Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie and Ina Rilke  
*The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier  
*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros  
*Annie John* by Jamaica Kincaid  
*A Ring of Endless Light* by Madeleine L'Engle  
*Them* by Joyce Carol Oates  
*Because it is Bitter* by Joyce Carol Oates  
*My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok  
*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini  
*The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* by Allan Sillitoe  
*Anywhere but Here* by Mona Simpson  
*Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin  
*The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold  
*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

### **Contemporary Fiction**

#### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. Zusak has not really written "Harry Potter and the Holocaust." It just feels that way.

#### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri. The rituals of traditional Indian domesticity buttress the characters of Lahiri's elegant first collection and mark the measure of these fragile people's dissolution. Frequently finding themselves in Cambridge, Mass., or similar but unnamed Eastern seaboard university towns, Lahiri's characters suffer on an intimate level the dislocation and disruption brought on by India's tumultuous political history.

*The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood  
*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood  
*The Bone Children* by Keri Hulme  
*The Ground Beneath Her Feet* by Salman Rushdie  
*Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie  
*The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie  
*Regeneration* by Pat Barker  
*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro  
*White Noise* by Don DeLillo  
*The Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon

*In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez  
*Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri  
*The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards  
*The Secret History* by Donna Tart  
*The English Patient* by Michael Ondaatje  
*Nobody's Fool* by Richard Russo  
*The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger  
*Three Junes* by Julia Glass  
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak  
*The Palace Thief* by Ethan Canin  
*The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga  
*The House of Spirits* by Isabelle Allende  
*Empire Falls* by Richard Russo  
*After the Fall* by Jeffrey Lent  
*In the Fall* by Jeffrey Lent  
*A Peculiar Grace* by Jeffrey lent  
*Last Nation* by Jeffrey Lent  
*Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro  
*The Shooting Party* by Isabel Colegate  
*The Baron in the Trees* by Italo Calvino  
*The Shipping News* by Annie Proulx  
*The Bonfire of the Vanities* by Tom Wolfe

## **Crime**

### Particularly recommended:

*Out of Sight* by Elmore Leonard. When Jack Foley, a career bank robber, surfaces after tunneling out of a medium-security penitentiary in Florida, he comes face to face with Karen Sisco, a beautiful federal marshal. Though the barrel of her shotgun is pointed right at his face, she doesn't shoot, and Foley's accomplice, Buddy, overpowers her and puts her in the trunk of a car.

*Out of Sight* by Elmore Leonard  
*The Godwulf Manuscript* (and others) by Robert B. Parker  
*The Devil in the White City: A Saga of Magic and Murder at the Fair that Changed America* by Erik Larson  
*The Firm* (and others) by John Grisham  
*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote  
*A Death in Belmont* by Sebastian Junger  
*King's Ransom* by Ed McBain  
*The Black Dahlia* by James Elroy  
*Double Whammy* by Karl Hiaasen  
*The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett  
*The Tiger in the Smoke* by Margary Allingham  
*The Getaway* by Jim Thompson  
*Devil in Blue Dress* by Walter Mosley  
*All the Flowers Are Dying* by Lawrence Block

## **Cyberspace**

*IWOZ: Computer Geek to Cult Icon: How I Invented the Personal Computer, Co-Founded Apple, and Had Fun Doing It* by Steve Wozniak  
*The Google Story* by David Vise and Mark Malseed  
*Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho* by Jon Katz

## Dickens

*David Copperfield*  
*Great Expectations*  
*Oliver Twist*  
*Bleak House*  
*Nicholas Nickleby*

## Eco Fiction

### Particularly recommended:

*Zodiac* by Neal Stephenson. Stephenson's improbable hero is Sangamon Taylor, a high-tech jack-of-all-trades who inhales nitrous oxide for kicks and scouts environmental hazards for GEE, the Group of Environmental Extremists. Taylor particularly wants to nab the polluters of Boston Harbor, whose toxic sludge he monitors by zipping from illegal pipeline to illegal pipeline in his inflatable Zodiac raft.

*Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver  
*The Monkeywrench Gang* by Edward Abbey.  
*Tourist Season* by Karl Hiaasen  
*A Friend of the Earth* by T.C. Boyle  
*Zodiac* by Neal Stephenson

## Edgy Fiction

### Particularly recommended:

*White Teeth* by Zadie Smith. Focuses on the later lives of two wartime friends - the Bangladeshi Samad Iqbal and the Englishman Archie Jones, and their families in London.

*Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk  
*The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* by Tom Wolfe  
*Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson  
*On the Road* by Jack Kerouac  
*A Prayer for the Dying* by Stewart O'Nan  
*White Teeth* by Zadie Smith  
*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy  
*What is the What* by Dave Eggers  
*A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy O'Toole  
*Edisto* by Padgett Powell  
*Still Life With Woodpecker* by Tom Robbins  
*Another Roadside Attraction* by Tom Robbins  
*Jitterbug Perfume* by Tom Robbins

## Essays

*Slouching Towards Bethlehem* by Joan Didion  
*Consider the Lobster* by David Foster Wallace  
*Orphans* by Charles D'Ambrosio  
*We Tell Ourselves Stories In Order to Live* by Joan Didion  
*The White Album* by Joan Didion  
*The Best American Essays of the Century* edited by Joyce Carol Oates  
*Traveling Light* by Bill Barich

## **Families**

*The Privileges* by Jonathan Dee  
*The Unnamed* by Joshua Ferris  
*Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen  
*House Rules* by Jody Picoult  
*My Sister's Keeper* by Jody Picoult  
*The Pact* by Jody Picoult  
*The Unnamed* by Joshua Ferris  
*Ordinary People* by Judith Guest

## **Fantasy**

### Particularly recommended:

*A Winter's Tale* by Mark Helprin. The story told in "Winter's Tale" begins in the late 19th century, jumping abruptly, in mid-course, to the year 2000. Its focus is a series of interconnected heroic lives, chief of which is that of Peter Lake, orphan, burglar, lover, idealist, mechanic first- class. "Seized by the police as a public danger, Peter Lake is incarcerated in the Overweary Home for Lunatic Boys, an early metropolitan slave labor camp, but he's swiftly advanced to the home's elite: 50 lads serving unpaid apprenticeships under the tutelage of a splendidly Dickensian Reverend Mootfowl, "mad craftsman, a genius of tools."

*A Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin  
*The Malazan Book of the Fallen* by Steven Erikson  
*The Lord of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkein  
*A Demon's Lexicon* Sarah Rees Brennan  
*A Winter's Tale* by Mark Helprin  
*The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruis Zafon  
*Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn  
*The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss  
*The Wheel of Time* by Robert Jordan  
*The Farseer* by Robert Hobb  
*His Dark Materials* by Philip Pullman  
*Watership Down* by Richard Adams  
*Thomas Covenant - The Unbeliever* by Stephen Donaldson  
*The Princess Bride* by William Goldman  
*American Gods* by Neil Gaiman  
*Interview With the Vampire* by Anne Rice  
*The Sword of Shannara* by Terry Brooks  
*The Dark Tower Series* by Stephen King  
*The Mists of Avalon* by Marion Zimmer Bradley  
*The Chronicles of Prydain* by Lloyd Alexander  
*Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones  
*The Last Unicorn* by Peter S. Beagle  
*Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury  
*Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder  
*The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper  
*A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray

## **Flying**

*Fate is the Hunter* by Ernest Kellogg Gann  
*A Gift of Wings* by Richard Bach

*The Spirit of St. Louis* by Charles Lindbergh  
*Yeager: An Autobiography* by Chuck Yeager  
*Airman's Odyssey* by Antoine De Saint Exupery

## **Food**

*Food and Loathing: A Life Measured Out in Calories* by Betsy Lerner  
*The Last Chinese Chef* by Nicole Mones  
*Gine Bamboo* by Anthony Bourdain  
*The Salvo Montalbano Series* by Andrea Camillari  
*My Life in France* by Julia Child

## **Gay and Lesbian**

*Death in Venice* by Thomas Mann  
*Orlando* by Virginia Woolf  
*Kiss of the Spider Woman* by Manuel Puig  
*Maurice* by E.M. Forster  
*Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh  
*Other Voices, Other Rooms* by Truman Capote  
*The Object of My Affection* by Stephen McCauley  
*Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* by Tom Robbins  
*The Front Runner* by Patricia Neil Warren  
*Rubyfruit Jungle* by Rita Mae Brown  
*The Laramie Project* by Moses Kaufman  
*Angels in America* by Tony Kushner  
*Becoming a Man* by Paul Monette

## **Ghost Stories**

*The Monkey's Paw* by W.W. Jacobs  
*Ghost Story* by Peter Straub  
*The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James

## **Gothic and Horror**

### Particularly recommended:

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. A governess goes to work for a moody employer, captures his heart, and a dark secret intrudes.

*Bellefleur* by Joyce Carol Oates  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte  
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte  
*Dracula* by Bram Stoker  
*Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier  
*Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austin  
*We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson  
*Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* by Patrick Suskind  
*The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield  
*Geek Love* by Katherine Dunn  
*The Gormenghast Novels* by Anthony Burgess  
*Hell House* by Richard Matheson  
*The Shining* by Stephen King

*The Stand* by Stephen King  
*The Fifth Child* by Doris Lessing  
*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman  
*The Dracula Dossier* by James Reese  
*The Great and Secret Show* by Clive Barker  
*Sharp Teeth* by Toby Barlow  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelly Woolstonecraft

## Graphic Novels

### Particularly recommended:

*Maus* by Art Spiegelman. "*Maus* is a book that cannot be put down, truly, even to sleep. When two of the mice speak of love, you are moved, when they suffer, you weep. Slowly through this little tale comprised of suffering, humor and life's daily trials, you are captivated by the language of an old Eastern European family, and drawn into the gentle and mesmerizing rhythm, and when you finish *Maus*, you are unhappy to have left that magical world." -- Umberto Eco

*Trotsky: A Graphic Biography*  
*American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang  
*Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi  
*Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons  
*V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore  
*Stardust* by Neil Gaiman  
*Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* by Frank Miller  
*Ghost World* by Daniel Clowes  
*A Contract with God* by Will Eisner  
*Maus* by Art Spiegelman  
*The Sandman* by Neil Gaiman  
*Black Hole* by Charles Burns  
*Epileptic* by David B.

## History

### Particularly recommended:

*Schindler's List* by Thomas Kennealy. Tells the story of Oskar Schindler, a Nazi Party member, who turns into the unlikely hero. By the end of the war, Schindler has saved 1,200 Jews from concentration camps all over Poland and Germany. It won the Booker Prize for fiction in 1982.

*John Adams* by David McCullough  
*A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century* by Barbara Tuchman  
*1776* by David McCullough  
*Truman* by David McCullough  
*Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose  
*Peter the Great* by Robert K. Massie  
*The Guns of August* by Barbara Tuchman  
*Manhunt: The 12 Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson  
*There is a River: The Black Struggle for Freedom in America* by Vincent Harding  
*Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War* by Karl Marlantes  
*The Art of War* by Sun Tzu  
*The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable* by Nassim Taleb  
*Collapse* by Jared Diamond  
*Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond  
*Myths of the Norsemen* by H.A. Gruber  
*Life in Year One: What Life Was Like in First-Century Palestine* by Scott Korb

*Empires and Barbarians* by P.J. Heather  
*Mythology* by Edith Hamilton  
*Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World* by Mark Kurlansky  
*Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization* by Steven Solomon  
*The Murder of King Tut: The Plot to Kill the Child King* by James Patterson and Martin Dugard  
*Salt: A World History* by Mark Kurlansky  
*How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World and Everything in It* by Arthur Herman  
*How the Irish Saved Civilization* by Thomas Cahill  
*The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America* by Louis Menand  
*Son of the Morning Star* by Evan Connell  
*Schindler's List* by Thomas Kennealy  
*Nicholas and Alexandra* by Robert Massie

## **Historical Fiction**

### Particularly recommended:

*Shogun* by James Clavell. Beginning in 1600 in feudal Japan, some months before the critical battle of Sekigahara, it gives an account of the rise of the daimyo "Toranaga" (based upon the actual Tokugawa Ieyasu) of the Shogunate, seen through the eyes of an English sailor whose fictional heroics are loosely based on William Adams's exploits.

*Wolf Hall* by Hillary Mantel. Winner of the Booker Prize. Henry VIII's challenge to the church's power with his desire to divorce his queen and marry Anne Boleyn set off a tidal wave of religious, political and societal turmoil that reverberated throughout 16th-century Europe.

*People of the Book: A Novel* by Geraldine Brooks  
*The Little Book* by Selden Edwards  
*The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett  
*Wild Life* by Molly Gloss  
*Wolf Hall* by Hillary Mantel  
*Year of Wonder* by Geraldine Brooks  
*March* by Geraldine Brooks  
*Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell  
*The Agony and the Ecstasy* by Irving Stone  
*Jack Maggs* by Peter Carey  
*Oscar and Lucinda* by Peter Carey  
*The Other Boleyn Girl* by Phillipa Gregory  
*Weep No More* by Janet Stevenson  
*The Untouchable* by John Banville  
*Cloudsplitter* by Russell Banks  
*The Last Canyon* by John Vernon  
*The Death of Che Guevara* by Jay Cantor  
*The Bull from the Sea* by Mary Renault  
*Fire from Heaven* by Mary Renault  
*The Persian Boy* by Mary Renault  
*The Road to Sardis* by Stephanie Plowman  
*Little Big Man* by Thomas Berger  
*Shogun* by James Clavell  
*Imagining Argentina* by Lawrence Thornton  
*Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon  
*The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant  
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak  
*The Clan of the Cave Bear* by Jean M. Auel  
*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

*Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen  
*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry  
*The Alienist* by Caleb Carr

## **Humor**

*Lucky Jim* by Kingsley Amis.  
*Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris  
*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams  
*The Devil Wears Prada* by Lauren Weisberger  
*Naked* by David Sedaris  
*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* by Dave Eggers  
*In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash* by Jean Shepherd  
*I Am American (And So Can You)* by Stephen Colbert  
*Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs* by Chuck Klosterman

## **Inspiration**

*Dakota: A Spiritual Guide* by Kathleen Norris  
*The Cloister Walk* by Kathleen Norris  
*Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* by Kathleen Norris  
*Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* by Annie Lamott  
*The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho  
*Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom  
*The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne  
*The Essential Rumi* by Jalal Al-Din Rumi  
*Conversation with God* by Neale Diamond Walsh  
*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis  
*Surprised by Joy* by C.S. Lewis  
*The Road Less Traveled* by Scott Peck  
*The Tao of Pooh*  
*Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder  
*Three Cups of Tea* by G. and Relin D. Mortensen  
*There is No Me Without You* by Melissa Faye Greene  
*Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn

## **Islam**

### Particularly recommended:

*Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafsi. For two years before she left Iran in 1997, Nafsi gathered seven young women at her house every Thursday morning to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature. They were all former students whom she had taught at university. Some came from conservative and religious families, others were progressive and secular; several had spent time in jail.

*The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran* by Roy Mottahedeh  
*A History of the Arab People* by Albert Hourani  
*Islamic Art and Architecture* by Robert Hildebrand  
*Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices* by Andrew Rippin  
*Islam Today: A Short Introduction to the Muslim World* by Akbar S, Ahmed  
*Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafsi  
*After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy* by Noah Feldman

## **Jewish American Literature**

### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Fixer* by Bernard Malamud. The novel is about Yakov Bok - a Jewish handyman or "fixer". Living in Kiev without official papers, Bok is arrested on suspicion of murder, when a Christian boy is killed during Passover. Jailed without being officially charged, and denied visitors or legal counsel, Bok is treated poorly and interrogated repeatedly.

### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Call it Sleep* by Henry Roth. "Arguably the most distinguished work of fiction ever written about immigrant life...Surely the most lyrically authentic novel in American literature about a young boy's coming to consciousness." --Lis Harris, *The New Yorker*

*Call it Sleep* by Henry Roth  
*The Adventures of Augie March* by Saul Bellow  
*Herzog* by Saul Bellow  
*Mr. Sammler's Planet* by Saul Bellow  
*Humboldt's Gift* by Saul Bellow  
*An American Dream* by Norman Mailer  
*The Assistant* by Bernard Malamud  
*The Fixer* by Bernard Malamud  
*The Magic Barrel* by Bernard Malamud  
*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok  
*My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok  
Wanderings: Chaim Potok's History of the Jews  
*Goodbye, Columbus* by Philip Roth  
*Portnoy's Complaint* by Philip Roth  
*Letting Go* by Philip Roth  
*American Pastoral* by Philip Roth  
*The Amazing Adventure of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon  
*The Yiddish Policeman's Union* by Michael Chabon  
*Maus* by Art Spiegelman  
*If You Come Softly* by Jacqueline Woodson

## **Latino/Latina and Latin American**

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
*Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
*The House of Spirits* by Isabel Allende  
*Child of the Dark* by Caroline Maria de Jesus  
*House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros  
*Famous All Over Town* by Danny Santiago  
*Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel  
*Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States*  
*CrashBoomLove: A Novel in Verse* by Juan Felipe Herrera  
*La Línea* by Ann Jaramillo

## **Literary and Language**

*Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Annie Lamott  
*Slouching Towards Kalamazoo* by Peter de Vries  
*The American Language* by H.L. Mencken  
*The Elements of Style* by William Strunk and E.B. White

*On Writing Well* by William K. Zinsser  
*On Writing* by Stephen Ki

## **Memoirs**

### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*Gorillas in the Mist* by Dian Fossey. In 1963, an occupational therapist from Kentucky, in uncertain health and spirits, traveled to central Africa in the quixotic hope of seeing a mountain gorilla in its natural habitat. Dian Fossey had read everything she could about the reclusive and much-feared animal, and she returned from her trip convinced that most of the books were wrong.

### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind* by Ivan Doig. Doig was born in Montana in 1939 and grew up along the Rocky Mountain Front, the dramatic landscape that has inspired much of his writing. His first book, *This House of Sky*, was a finalist for the National Book Award in contemporary thought. "The language begins in western territory and experience but in the hands of an artist it touches all landscape and all life," Robert Kirsch wrote in the *Los Angeles Times*.

*This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind* by Ivan Doig  
*Gorillas in the Mist* by Dian Fossey  
*A Girl Named Zippy* by Haven Kimmel  
*The Cage* by Ruth Minsky Sender  
*Down These Mean Streets* by Piri Thomas  
*When I was Puerto Rican and Almost a Woman* by Esmerelda Santiago  
*Addie: A Memoir* by Mary Lee Settle  
*The Unwanted: A Memoir of Childhood* by Kien Nguyen  
*Journey in the Whirlwind* by Eugenia Ginzberg  
*My Life in France* by Julia Child  
*Operating Instructions* by Annie Lamott  
*Wait Until Next Year: A Memoir* by Doris Kearns Goodwin  
*The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Clayborne Carson  
*Running with Scissors* by Augusten Burroughs  
*Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris  
*Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's* by John Elder Robison  
*Musical Chairs* by Jen Knox  
*The Liar's Club* by Mary Karr  
*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls  
*Jesus Land* by Julia Scheeres  
*Moose: A Memoir of Fat Camp* by Stephanie Klein

## **The Middle East**

*Reading Lolita in Teheran* by Azar Nafisi  
*Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith* by Jon Krakauer

## **Mysteries**

*The Thief of Time* (and others) by Tony Hillerman  
*Malice Aforethought* by Francis Iles  
*The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey  
*Rumpole of the Bailey* by John Mortimer  
*The Complete Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

*Fletch* by Gregory McDonald  
*Gorky Park* by Martin Cruz Smith  
*Motherless Brooklyn* by Jonathan Lethem  
*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie  
*Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie  
*The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie  
*Deja Dead* by Kathleen J. Reichs (A Temperance Brennan Novel)  
*Crocodile on the Sandbank* by Elizabeth Peters  
*Strong Poison* by Dorothy L. Sayers  
*Enter a Murderer* by Ngaio Marsh  
*A is for...* (or any of the alphabetical mysteries) by Sue Grafton  
*Death in a Tenured Position* by Amanda Cross

## **Native American Experiences**

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* by Michael Dorris. The emotional terrain of lives led without the steady presence of fathers or husbands is common ground for the three generations of American Indian women who successively tell their stories in this absorbing novel. Rayona, 15, half black and half Indian, is abandoned by her mother and in turn abandons her Aunt Ida.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich. Erdrich's first novel explores sixty years of a small group of Chippewa living on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota. The narratives are very conversational, as if the narrators were telling a story, often from the first-person perspective

*Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich  
*Lakota Woman* by Mary Crow Dog and Richard Erdoes  
*Tracks* by Louise Erdrich  
*The Broken Cord* by Michael Dorris  
*Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko  
*A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* by Michael Dorris  
*Smoke Rising* by Joseph Bruchac  
*House Made of Dawn* by N. Scott Momaday  
*The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexie  
*The Heartsong of Charging Elk* by James Welch  
*I Heard the Owl Call My Name* by Margaret Craven  
*Yo* by Ruth Bebe Hill  
*The Thief of Time* by Tony Hillerman

## **Nature**

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Snow Leopard* by Peter Mathiessen. Published in 1978, *The Snow Leopard* is rightly regarded as a classic of modern nature writing. Guiding his readers through steep-walled canyons and over tall mountains, Mathiessen offers a narrative that is shot through with metaphor and mysticism, and his arduous search for the snow leopard becomes a vehicle for reflections on all manner of matters of life and death.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey. Abbey's *Desert Solitaire*, the noted author's most enduring nonfiction work, is an account of Abbey's seasons as a ranger at Arches National Park outside Moab, Utah. Abbey reflects on the nature of the Colorado Plateau desert, on the condition of our remaining wilderness, and on the future of a civilization that cannot reconcile itself to living in the natural world.

*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard  
*Wind, Sand, and Stars* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry  
*A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold  
*Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey  
*The Control of Nature* by John McPhee  
*The Wild Trees* by Richard Preston  
*A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson  
*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer  
*In a Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson  
*A River Runs Through it and Other Stories* by Norman Maclean  
*Arctic Dreams* by Barry Lopez  
*An Outside Chance* by Thomas McGuane

## Psychological

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* by Hanna Green. A semi-autobiographical account of a teenage girl's three-year battle with schizophrenia. Deborah Blau, bright and artistically talented, has created a world, the Kingdom of Yr, as a form of defense from a confusing, frightening reality.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Girl Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen. *Girl, Interrupted* is a best-selling memoir by American author Susanna Kaysen, relating her experiences as a young woman in a psychiatric hospital in the 1960s after being diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. The memoir's title is a reference to the Vermeer painting *Girl Interrupted at her Music*.

*Girl Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen  
*I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* by Hannah Green  
*The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales* by Oliver Sacks  
*Sybil* by Flora Rita Schreiber  
*Drinking: A Love Story* by Caroline Knapp  
*Musical Chairs* by Jen Knox  
*Devil in the Details: Scenes from an Obsessive Girlhood* by Jennifer Trig  
*Sickened: The Memoir of a Munchausen by Proxy Childhood* by Julie Gregory  
*Prozak Nation* by Elizabeth Wurtzel  
*Manic* by Terri Cheney  
*Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia* by Marya Hornbacher  
*Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's* by John Elder Robison  
*Identical Strangers: A Memoir of Twins Separated and Reunited* by Elys Schein  
*When Rabbit Howls* by Truddi Chase  
Any of the Alex Delaware novels by Jonathan Kellerman  
*Lisa, Bright and Dark* by John Neufeld  
*The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey  
*A Doctor Among Addicts* by Nat Hentoff  
*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon

## Road Novels

*On the Road* by Jack Kerouac  
*Looking for Alaska* John Green  
*Going Bovine* Liobba Bray

*Punkzilla* by Adam Rap

## **Russia and Russian Fiction**

*The 900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad* by Harrison Salisbury  
*The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People who Read Them* by Elif Batuman  
*Omon Ra* by Viktor Pelevin  
*Lenin's Tomb* by David Remnick  
*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky  
*Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy  
*The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky  
*The Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov  
*War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy  
*The Idiot* by Fyodor Dostoevsky  
*Notes from Underground* by Fyodor Dostoevsky  
*Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev  
*Stories of Anton Chekhov*  
*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn  
*Overcoat and Other Tales of Good and Evil* by Nikolai Gogol  
*The Death of Ivan Ilych* by Leo Tolstoy  
*The Gambler* by Fyodor Dostoevsky  
*Dr. Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak

## **Science**

### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*Full House: The Spread of Excellence from Plato to Darwin* by Stephen Jay Gould. Harvard paleontologist Gould examines trends in natural variation throughout organic evolution, thereby discrediting the abstract ideas of eternal forms, fixed essences, and intrinsic progress. His insightful study even applies to sports systems, accounting for the apparent extinction of .400 hitting in baseball.

### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking. Stephen Hawking, one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists in history, wrote the modern classic *A Brief History of Time* to help nonscientists understand the questions being asked by scientists today: Where did the universe come from? How and why did it begin? Will it come to an end, and if so, how?

*Full House* by Stephen Jay Gould  
*The Lives of a Cell* by Lewis Thomas  
*Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson  
*The Living Planet* by David Attenborough  
*A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking  
*The Ascent of Man* by Jacob Bronowski  
*The Genius in All of Us* by David Shenk  
*The Voyage of the Beagle* by Charles Darwin  
*The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins  
*One Two Three...Infinity* by George Gamow  
*The Double Helix* by James D. Watson  
*The Cosmic Connection* by Carl Sagan  
*The Mismeasure of Man* by Stephen Jay Gould  
*Gaia* by James Lovelock  
*The Insect Societies* by Edward O. Wilson  
*The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales* by Oliver Sacks  
*Gorillas in the Mist* by Dian Fossey

*The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature* by Steven Pinker  
*Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman* by Richard Feynman  
*A Natural History of the Senses* by Diane Ackerman  
*The Making of the Atomic Bomb* by Richard Rhodes  
*The Elegant Universe* by Brian Greene  
*The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan  
*Food Inc.* by Eric Schlosser  
*Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser  
*Flight of the Iguana* by David Quammen  
*Algeny* by Jeremy Rifkin  
*The Flying Circus of Physics* by Jearl Walker

## Science Fiction

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*Timeline* by Michael Crichton. *Timeline* tells the story of historians who travel to the Middle Ages to save a friend who already traveled back in time. The book follows in Crichton's long history of combining technical details and action in his books, addressing quantum physics and time travel.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula Le Guin. Le Guin herself has described the book as a "thought experiment". Winter, the ice-wrapped world she presents, is populated by humans – but humans who are neither male nor female. Once a month they enter "kemmer", a period in which they can develop either male or female sexual characteristics, father a child, or become pregnant: "burden and privilege," as Le Guin puts it, "are shared out equally".

*2001 A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke  
*I, Robot* by Isaac Asimov  
*Starship Troopers* by Robert A. Heinlein  
*Neuromancer* by William Gibson  
*The Man in the High Castle* by Philip K. Dick  
*Dune* by Frank Herbert  
*The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* by Robert Heinlein  
*Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein  
*The Hunger Game* by Suzanne Collins  
*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card  
*Ender's Shadow* by Orson Scott Card  
*Hyperion* by Dan Simmons  
*The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells  
*The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury  
*Snow Crash* by Neal Stephenson  
*The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula Le Guin  
*Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton  
*Ringworld* by Larry Niven  
*Lord of the Light* by Roger Zelazny  
*Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut  
*The Dark Tower* by Stephen King  
*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury  
*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams  
*The Foundation Trilogy* by Isaac Asimov

## Sea Stories

*In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick  
*The Voyage of the Narwahl* by Andrea Barrett

*Master and Commander* (and many others) by Patrick O'Brian  
*Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing  
*Ninety Degrees North: The Quest for the North Pole* by Fergus Fleming  
*Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters* by Derek Lundy  
*The Cruel Sea* by Nicholas Monsarratt

## **Short Stories**

### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Collected Short Stories of Roald Dahl*. "With the inventive power of a Thomas Edison and the imagination of a Lewis Carroll . . . Roald Dahl is a wizard of comedy and the grotesque, an artist with a marvelously topsy-turvy sense of the ridiculous in life."

### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Flannery O'Connor: Collected Works*. Flannery O'Connor, a unique and important figure in the Southern literary tradition, was one of the finest writers of the twentieth century.

*Pigeon Feathers* by John Updike  
*Collected Stories* by Frank Connor  
*The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway*  
*The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty*  
*Where I'm Calling From: Selected Stories* by Raymond Carver  
*The Lottery and Other Stories* by Shirley Jackson  
*The Collected Stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer*  
*Wilderness Tips* by Margaret Atwood  
*Shiloh and Other Stories* by Bobbie Ann Mason  
*Stories* by T.C. Boyle  
*In the Loyal Mountains* by Rick Bass  
*The Means of Escape* by Penelope Fitzgerald  
*Anton Chekhov's Short Stories*  
*Selected Stories* by Alice Munro  
*The Stories of John Cheever*  
*Rock Spring* by Richard Ford  
*Emperor of the Air* by Ethan Canin  
*Goodbye, Columbus* by Philip Roth  
*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* by Philip K. Dick  
*Collected Short Stories* by Raold Dahl  
*The Elizabeth Stories* by Isabel Huggins  
*Who's Irish?* by Gish Jen  
*In the Loyal Mountains* by Rick Bass  
*Town Smokes* by Pinckney Benedict  
*The Three Button Trick* by Nicola Barker  
*The Short Stories of Nikolai Gogol*

## **Sociology/Anthropology**

*The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman  
*Reading Lolita in Teheran* by Azar Nafisi  
*Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith* by Jon Krakauer

## **Spies and Espionage**

*Eye of the Needle* by Ken Follett

*Hopscotch* by Brian Wynne  
*Six Days of the Condor* by James Grady  
*The Day of the Jackal* by Frederick Forsyth  
*The Faithful Spy* by Alex Berenson  
*I Spy* by Geoffrey Elliot  
*The Man Who Kept the Secrets: Richard Helms and the CIA* by Thomas Powers  
*The Hunt for Red October* by Tom Clancy  
*Without Remorse* by Tom Clancy  
*The Room and the Chair* by Lorraine Adams  
*Berlin Game* by Len Deighton  
*Spy Wednesday* by William Hood  
*The Soul of Viktor Tronko* by David Quammen  
*The Last Supper* by Charles McCarry  
*The Tears of Autumn* by Charles McCarry  
*The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* or any by John LeCarre

## **Southern Fiction**

### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Lords of Discipline* by Pat Conroy. The narrator, Will McLean, attends the South Carolina Military Institute (a fictional military college based on The Citadel) in Charleston, from 1963 to 1967. The novel describes the traditions of the academy and Will's battle against the mysterious "Ten."

### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*Charm for the Easy Life* by Kaye Gibbons. Like its predecessors *Ellen Foster*, *A Virtuous Woman*, and *A Cure for Dreams*, this novel depicts three generations of Southern women living together during World War II. Unworthy men marry into this formidable tribe, but they cannot break the women's circle of strength and grace.

*The Mysterious Secret of the Valuable Treasure* by Jack Pendarvis  
*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier  
*Run With the Horsemen* by Ferrol Sams  
*Raney* by Clyde Edgerton  
*The Last Gentleman* by Walker Percy  
*The Second Coming* by Walker Percy  
*The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner  
*As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner  
*Sanctuary* by William Faulkner  
*Light in August* by William Faulkner  
*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams  
*The Water is Wide* by Pat Conroy  
*The Great Santini* by Pat Conroy  
*The Lords of Discipline* by Pat Conroy  
*The Prince of Tides* by Pat Conroy  
*Paris, Texas* by Dexter Trout  
*Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor  
*A Virtuous Woman* by Kaye Gibbons  
*Ellen Foster* by Kaye Gibbons  
*The Unvanquished* by William Faulkner  
*The Traveler* by Ellen Gilchrist

## **Sports**

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Southpaw* by Mark Harris. "Even those whose knowledge of baseball is elemental will find the book worth reading. For let there be no doubt about it, this is a distinguished and unusual book." New York Times "Cheers to Mark Harris, who gives us by far the best 'serious' baseball novel published."

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*End Zone* by Don DeLillo. Set at small Logos College in West Texas, *End Zone*, is a light-hearted farce narrated by Gary Harkness, a blocking back on the American football team during that school's first integrated season.

*Odd Man Out* by Matt McCarthy  
*Bagger Vance* by Steven Pressfield  
*The Southpaw* by Mark Harris  
*Bang the Drum Slowly* by Mark Harris  
*The Natural* by Bernard Malamud  
*Shoeless Joe* by W.P. Kinsella  
*End Zone* by Don DeLillo  
*The River Why* by David James Duncan  
*The Yogi Book: I Really Didn't Say Everything I Said* by Yogi Berra  
*You Know Me, Al* by Ring Lardner  
*Summer of '49* by David Halberstam  
*Seabiscuit: An American Legend* by Laura Hillenbrand

## **Thrillers and Suspense**

Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Andromeda Strain* by Michael Crichton. This is a techno-thriller novel documenting the efforts of a team of scientists investigating a deadly extraterrestrial microorganism that rapidly and fatally clots human blood, while in other people inducing insanity, mostly ended in suicide or murder-suicide.

Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*No Country for Old Men* by Cormac McCarthy. Set along the United States–Mexico border in 1980, the story concerns an illicit drug deal gone wrong in a remote desert location. The title comes from the poem "Sailing to Byzantium" by William Butler Yeats. The book was adapted into the 2007 film *No Country for Old Men*, which won four Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

*Silence of the Lambs* by Thomas Harris  
*Stranger on a Train* by Patricia Highsmith  
*The Talented Mr. Ripley* by Patricia Highsmith  
*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson  
*The Drowning Pool* by Ross Macdonald  
*A Time to Kill* by John Grisham  
*The Fifth Woman* by Henning Mankell  
*The Lake of Darkness* by Ruth Rendell  
*Postmortem* by Patricia Cornwell  
*Shutter Island* by Dennis Lehane  
*The Stranger Beside Me* by Ann Rule  
*Primal Fear* by William Diehl  
*Presumed Innocent* by Scott Turow  
*Whiteout* by Ken Follett  
*Coma* by Robin Cook  
*The Andromeda Strain* by Michael Crichton  
*Mammoth* by John Varley  
*Green River Running Red* by Anne Rule  
*Killing Floor* by Lee Child

*In the Dark* by Mark Billingham  
*Deception* by Jonathan Kellerman  
*Cure* by Robin Cook  
*The Thanatos Syndrome* by Walker Percy

## **The West and Westerns**

### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry. 1985 Pulitzer Prize-winning western novel written by Larry McMurtry. The story focuses on the relationship of several retired Texas Rangers and their adventures driving a cattle herd from Texas to Montana.

### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean. "A River Runs Through It" concerns the Macleans, a Presbyterian family during early 20th century Montana whose opinions of life are filtered through their passion for fly-fishing. The novella is noted for using detailed descriptions of fly-fishing and nature to engage with a number of profound metaphysical questions.

*Blood Meridian* by Cormac McCarthy  
*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy  
*Centennial* by James Michener  
*Hondo* by Louis L'Amour  
*Riders of the Purple Sage* by Zane Grey  
*Shane* by Jack Schaefer  
*The Ox-Bow Incident* by Walter Van Tilberg Clark  
*Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry  
*True Grit* by Charles Portis  
*Wild Life* by Richard Form  
*The House of Sky* by Ivan Doig  
*The River Why* by David James Duncan  
*The Jump Off Creek* by Molly Gloss  
*Plainsong* by Kent Haruf  
*Three-Ten to Yuma and other stories* by Elmore Leonard  
*Hud* by Elmore Leonard  
*Hombre* by Elmore Leonard  
*A River Runs Through it and Other Stories* by Norman Maclean  
*Monte Walsh* by Jack Schaefer

## **War**

### Particularly recommended for 9th and 10th grades:

*The Guns of Navarone* by Alister Maclean. An entire navy had tried to silence the guns of Navarone and failed. Full-scale attacks had been driven back. Now they were sending in just five men, each one a specialist in dealing death.

### Particularly recommended for 11th and 12th grades:

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. "They carried all the emotional baggage of men who might die. Grief, terror, love, longing--these were intangibles, but the intangibles had their own mass and specific gravity, they had tangible weight. They carried shameful memories. They carried the common secret of cowardice.... Men killed, and died, because they were embarrassed not to."

*Dispatches* by Michael Herr  
*The Naked and the Dead* by Norman Mailer

*Where Eagles Dare* by Alister Maclean  
*H.M.S. Ulysses* by Alister Maclean  
*A Town Like Alice* by Neville Shute  
*Rumor of War* by Philip Caputo  
*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien  
*King Rat* by James Clavell  
*Chickenhawk* by Robert Mason  
*The Painted Bird* by Jerzy Kozinski  
*Rumors of Peace* by Ella Leffland  
*In Country* by Bobbie Ann Mason  
*Bloods* by Terry Wallace  
*Catch -22* by Joseph Heller  
*A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway  
*The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **Recommended by Peter Mack of the English Department:**

*Selected Short Stories* by Andre Dubus. These twenty-three stories represent the best work of one of the finest and most emotionally revealing writers in America.

*The Long Walk* by Slavomir Rawicz. "One of the epic treks of the human race. Shackleton, Franklin, Amundsen. . . history is filled with people who have crossed immense distances and survived despite horrific odds. None of them, however, has achieved the extraordinary feat Rawicz has recorded. He and his companions crossed an entire continent--the Siberian arctic, the Gobi desert and then the Himalayas--with nothing but an ax, a knife, and a week's worth of food.

*Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. To the list of great American child narrators that includes Huck Finn and Scout Finch, let us now add Reuben "Rube" Land, the asthmatic 11-year-old boy at the center of Leif Enger's remarkable first novel, *Peace Like a River*. Rube recalls the events of his childhood, in small-town Minnesota circa 1962, in a voice that perfectly captures the poetic, verbal stoicism of the northern Great Plains. "Here's what I saw," Rube warns his readers. "Here's how it went. Make of it what you will." And Rube sees plenty.

*The Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig. Doig writes about a vanished way of life on the Western plains with the kind of irony-free nostalgia that seems downright courageous in these ironic times.

### **Recommended by Anna Fortner of the English Department:**

*Where Rivers Change Direction* by Mark Spragg. Linked narrative essays about life on a dude ranch in Wyoming; stunningly lyrical. A good read for those about to write their college essays.

*Among the Thugs* by Bill Buford. Non-fiction about Buford's eight years studying and becoming one of the rabid fans of Manchester United. A good read for soccer enthusiasts and those interested in journalism.

*House of Leaves* by Mark Z. Danielewski. One of the most interesting books out there. Part horror, part love story, you'll be terrified, intellectually challenged, bent over laughing, and always engrossed.

*Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned* by Wells Tower. A debut collection of short stories that explore the troubled relationships of men down on their luck. Tower is one of the best short story writers out there and sure to become one we remember years after he's gone.

**Recommended by Peter Arango of the English Department:**

*Summer of '49* by David Halberstam. What a year! Yankees, Red Sox, Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, and Jackie Robinson's first season as a Dodger - baseball at its best!

*The Code of the Woosters* by P.G. Wodehouse. This is wonderfully silly stuff as the bumbling Bertie Wooster (feckless gentleman of leisure) is saved from countless scrapes by the unflappable Jeeves, his valet and butler.

*The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood. This is a "left-handed novel" - one that has to be read from back to front- with several nested narratives and even an entire novel-within-a-novel. This is the way literary puzzles should be written.

**Recommended by Katheryn Park of the English Department:**

*Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. A group of terrorists crashes a birthday party whose guests include many world leaders. From this action-packed beginning flows a beautiful story of unexpected love, negotiation, and opera singing.

*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver. Kingsolver documents a year with her husband and two daughters as they move to a farm in Virginia, vowing to eat only what they can grow or buy locally. Kingsolver is a wonderful novelist, and in this book she turns her narrative skills to telling a wry and amusing story about weather, weeding, and how one can live without bananas.

*Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson. The novel tells the story of Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, who live in Fingerbone, a small town in the West. They are cared for by a series of female relatives, including their eccentric aunt Sylvie, who loves them as much as she can. The word most often used to describe this book is "lyrical;" the language is beautiful, and the reader is immersed in the girls' losses and their longing for a home of their own.

*The Liars' Club* by Mary Karr. Karr writes about her girlhood in a backwater refinery town in East Texas. Her artist mother, her tale-telling father, and the gun-toting, hard-drinking neighbors who people this memoir surround the young girl with craziness and lots of love.

**Recommended by Ross Robins of the English Department:**

*House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende. An epic South American story of a family's adventures, scandals, ghosts, and romances.

*The Gambler* by Fyodor Dostoevsky. The "confessions" of a compulsive roulette man, by the master psychologist and storyteller.

*Lucy* by Jamaica Kincaid. Nineteen-year-old Lucy comes to America from the West Indies to work for a couple and their four children.

*The Makioka Sisters* by Junichiro Tanizaki. Four sisters vie for husbands, fortunes, and independence. Hailed as "Japan's greatest post-war novel."

*Journey in the Whirlwind* by Eugenia Ginzberg. The powerful memoirs of a devout young Communist woman who just manages to survive the "terror" of Stalin's purges in Russia in the 1930s.

*Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman* by Richard Feynman. Funny and intelligent memoirs by the wacky Nobel Prize-winning physicist.

**Recommended by Molly Krill of the Library:**

*Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen

My favorite of Austen's novels, this was her first published work. It's funny and poignant. It's a story about two sisters, Marianne and Elinor Dashwood, who couldn't be more different, and the joys and troubles they have in life and in love. Light and fun!

*The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

This is a moving novel that takes place in Mississippi in the early 1960s. It's about the relationships forged between white women and their maids in the South. It's hilarious and sad and disturbing and thought-provoking.

*Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner

One of my all time favorite novels, *Crossing to Safety* is more about friendship than anything else. It follows the lives of two couples who meet when they are young teachers at a university in Wisconsin. They grow up together. It's beautifully written! If you've never read Wallace Stegner, you're missing out.

*The Little Book* by Selden Edwards

Time travel, Freud, World War II, baseball, rock and roll, and love! A fabulous read!

*A Room with a View* by E.M. Forster

I read this book during my freshman year of college and it changed how I felt about love forever. It's the epitome of romantic. A great summer read!