

Wilson County School System Protected Reading List

The Purpose of the Wilson County Schools Protected Reading List:

The Protected Reading List of the Wilson County School System is a list of books that are reserved for class study at specific grade levels in order to better ground students in different types of literature. At each grade level, there are both texts that students are required to study and texts that students have a choice to study as part of the student's English class. Teachers may not teach any piece of literature that is listed as protective at another grade level. This includes, but is not limited to, whole class instruction, small group instruction, independent study, literature circles/book studies, teacher read-alouds, excerpts, or videos.

The Goal of the Wilson County Schools Protected Reading List:

The Wilson County School System's Reading List is designed to encourage students to read and to instill a love of reading, and to refrain from repetitiously re-reading the same pieces and types of literature. It is our intent that all students will graduate from the Wilson County School System being well read and educated. The Protected Reading List contains both literary classics and more modern works of literature from a variety of authors. There is also an increased selection of non-fiction texts. It is our hope that all students will attain a love of reading during their time as a student here in Wilson County.

Alternative Texts for Challenged Books

As with any piece of literature, a parent, student, or student's legal guardian may find the content of a piece of literature inappropriate. In these cases, the parent, student, or parent's guardian may request a meeting with the teacher and the school's administration. If after conferencing it is decided the student should read an alternative text, the parent/guardian and the teacher should work collaboratively to choose an appropriate replacement text (if possible it should be another title from the Protected Reading Choice List). If the parent/guardian wishes to submit a written objection as well they may do so. A copy of all written objections should be sent to the English Language Arts Secondary Supervisor. All objections will be reviewed to determine if titles on the Protected Reading List should be revisited. (Note: Advanced Placement classes have had their syllabi approved by the College Board and therefore do not adhere to the Protected Reading List. Texts for these classes are appropriate as college level texts.)

Parental/Guardian Cooperation

The Wilson County School System believes that parental and guardian support is vital to the success of all students. Therefore, we ask that parents and guardians take the time to research, and even read the titles that their child will be reading. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to contact the school if they feel any title on this list is inappropriate for their child.

Protected Reading List 2012 Revision Committee

The Wilson County School System would like to thank the teachers, librarians, and administrators who agreed to serve on the Protected Reading List Revision Committee. The following teachers worked diligently during the spring semester of the 2008-2009 school year: Rachel Artley, Julie Bishop, Randi Staggs, LaConda McKinney, Lane Hamnett, Ava Cozart, Vickie Wright, Joan Oxley, Alison Johnson, Lindsay Mosley, Cyndi Vaught, Amber Gross, Beth Pulley, Lori Scott, Carrie Tinsley, Leigh Miller, Carmen Valkyrie, Scott, Eve Southworth, and Scott Walters.

Protected Reading List

Grade Level: 4

1. *Zlateh the Goat* (Singer) (850L)
2. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (Lin) (810L)
3. *Discovering Mars* (Berger) (670L)
4. *Hurricanes* (Lauber) (930L)
5. *Kid's Guide to Money* (Otfinoski) (980)
6. *Toys* (Wulffson) (920L)
7. "Ancient Mound Builders" (Kavash) (article)
8. *My Librarian Is a Camel* (Ruurs) (980L)
9. "Fog" (Sandburg) (poem)
10. "Dust of Snow" (Frost) (poem)
11. "Kenya's Long Dry Season" (Cutler) (article)
12. "They Were My People" (Nichols) (poem)
13. *Horses* (Simon) (930L)
14. *Volcanoes* (Simon) (920L)
15. *Sign of the Beaver* (Speare) (770L)
16. *Riding Freedom* (Ryan) (720L)
17. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Dahl) (810L)
18. *Mostly True adventures of Homer P. Figg* (Phihlbrick) (950L)
19. *Blood on the River* (Carbone) (820L)
20. *Escaping the Giant Wave* (Kehret) (750L)
21. "Inside Out and Back Again" (Lai) (poem)
22. *Shiloh* (Naylor) (860L)
23. *Holes* (Sachar) (660L)

L = Lexile Level

NF = Non-Fiction Selection

\$ Free electronic copy available via select electronic device(s)

*These selections may contain subject matter that may be objectionable to some students or families. Students may choose to read an alternate book from this list in lieu of any of these books.

Fourth Grade Synopsis of Stories

(Fiction)

Zlateh the Goat. Singer, Isaac Bashevis. (850L)

Isaac Bashevis Singer's "Zlateh the Goat" is a collection of short stories about Jewish adulthood. Singer begins the work by exploring the people of East Chelm, who are foolish. In the first story, a young man is anxious about life. In "Grandmother's Tale," the grandmother teaches her grandchildren how to behave appropriately. In other stories, Singer explores the foolishness of ideas. In "Zlateh the Goat," Singer centers the narrative on a young man and his goat caught in a snowstorm. Much of how Singer portrays the characters is based upon the idea of "misguided wisdom." Singer doesn't present his characters in a negative light. Instead, he focuses the stories on the knowledge they possess based upon their understanding of moral values.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon. Lin, Grace. (810L)

In the valley of Fruitless Mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

(Non-Fiction)

Discovering Mars: The Amazing Story of the Red Planet. Berger, Melvin. (670L)

Pretend you can go far, far back in time to about five billion years ago. Huge clouds of dust and gas are swirling around in space. Each cloud stretches across trillions of miles. As time goes by, the dust and gas pull closer together. The clouds shrink, but they are still huge. They are now millions of miles across. This book is filled with many wonderful color photos and the History of Mars.

Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms. Lauber, Patricia. (930L)

An excellent children's nonfiction book about hurricanes that will appeal to nine- to fourteen-year-olds. Spectacular black & white and color photographs, maps, satellite images, and weather diagrams accompany the text by Patricia Lauber. The terrible impact of hurricanes is introduced in the first chapter, a dramatic account of the hurricane of 1938 and the extensive damage it caused. Having piqued her reader's interest, Lauber goes on to discuss the making of a hurricane, the naming of hurricanes, the widespread damage caused by high winds, and what scientists think about future storms.

The Kid's Guide to Money. Otfinoski, Steve. (980L)

This activity book identifies ten steps to improve the counting of children aged six to seven years old. It aims to help parents to improve children's achievements at school, which is important for Key Stage 1 SATs. It builds on children's school learning and provides home-school links. The book also has a central pull-out and merit stickers to help make learning fun. The ten steps include: recognizing numbers; counting a set; knowing number names; counting with "teens" numbers; counting with large numbers; odd and even; counting with numbers up to 100; rounding up and down; finding more and fewer; and numbers below zero.

Toys! : Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions. Wulffson, Don. (920L)

Have you ever wondered who invented Lego, Mr. Potato Head, or toy trains? Here are the fascinating stories behind these toy inventions and many others. Learn why the see-saw was popular with the Romans, how the Slinky was used during the Vietnam War, and the reason Raggedy Ann has a red heart on her chest that says "I love you." From dolls and checkers to pinball and the modern video game, there's a wide selection here for boys and girls alike.

With humor and wit, this intriguing book serves up slices of cultural history that will inspire young readers to start thinking up their own toy inventions.

My Librarian is a Camel. Ruurs, Margriet. (980L)

When we think of a library, we picture a building on a street or perhaps a room in a school. But some libraries aren't kept behind four walls. Some move from place to place in the most remarkable ways: by bus, by boat, by elephant, by donkey, by train, even by wheelbarrow. These unusual mobile libraries are often the only way that books can be brought to people in remote areas, such as the mountains of Thailand, the Gobi Desert of Mongolia, or rural areas of Zimbabwe. In places such as these, the arrival of the libraries is a major and much anticipated event. But the books would never reach the people without the hard work of dedicated librarians and volunteers.

Horses. Simon, Seymour. (930L)

Horses are some of the most fascinating -- and important -- creatures on Earth. In fact, our world would not be the way it is today if not for horses. Horses have carried medieval knights into battle, transported settlers to the American West, and hauled fire engines and buses. They even turned the wheels that provided power for factories! But one of their greatest, most enduring gifts to us is companionship and trust.

Volcanoes. Simon, Seymour. (920L)

Simon presents information on volcanoes to young readers in an understandable text and colorful format. While Lauber's *Volcano* (Bradbury, 1986) primarily describes the life cycle of Mount St. Helens, this book provides a general overview of the types of volcanoes found around the world. *Volcanoes* is a good choice for reading aloud and as a lead-in to discussions; the superb full-color photographs.

“Ancient Mound Builders”. Kavash, E. Barrie.

The mound builders of ancient North America: 4000 years of American Indian art, science, engineering, & spirituality reflected in majestic earthworks & artifacts.

“Kenya’s Long Dry Season”. Cutler, Nellie Gonzalez.

The East African nation of Kenya is experiencing a severe drought. Crops are failing. People are struggling to feed their families.

(Poetry)

“Fog”. Sandburg, Carl.

The simple metaphors and imagery Sandburg uses captivate our imaginations and evoke a broad spectrum of emotions and ideas ranging anywhere between surprise, awe, and fear, to name a few. And since it's so short, you might even feel compelled to give it a few reads and see how many different ideas come to mind.

“Dust of Snow”. Frost, Robert.

In our present day world, where stereotyping and misjudging others due to race, religion, sexual persuasion, etc. will hopefully be lessening, isn't it amazing that Robert Frost was able to use the black, fearsome, scavenger, crow to represent a wonderful purpose? It is the crow that was able to shake the dust of snow from the hemlock tree and bring about a wondrous change to the author's otherwise, gloomy, miserable day.

“They Were My People”. Nichols, Grace.

Grace Nichols is Guyanese poet. She was born in 1950 in Georgetown Guyana. My people are the olden Caribbeans. The poem is about working in the cane fields.

Additional Novels:

(Fiction)

Sign of the Beaver. Speare, Elizabeth George. (770L)

Although he faces responsibility bravely, thirteen-year-old Matt is more than a little apprehensive when his father leaves him alone to guard their new cabin in the wilderness. When a renegade white stranger steals his gun, Matt realizes he has no way to shoot game or to protect himself. When Matt meets Attean, a boy in the Beaver clan, he begins to better understand their way of life and their growing problem in adapting to the white man and the changing frontier.

Riding Freedom. Ryan, Pam Munoz. (720L)

In this fast-paced, courageous, and inspiring story, readers adventure with Charlotte Parkhurst as she first finds work as a stable hand, becomes a famous stage-coach driver (performing brave feats and outwitting bandits), finds love as a woman but later resumes her identity as a man after the loss of a baby and the tragic death of her husband, and ultimately settles out west on the farm she'd dreamed of having since childhood. It wasn't until after her death that anyone discovered she was a woman.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Dahl, Roald. (810L)

Dahl seems to know just how far to go with his oddball fantasies; for example, nasty Violet Beauregarde blows up into a blueberry from sneaking forbidden chewing gum, and bratty Augustus Gloop is carried away on the river of chocolate he wouldn't resist. In fact, all manner of disasters can happen to the most obnoxiously deserving of children because Dahl portrays each incident with such resourcefulness and humor.

Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg. Philbrick, Rodman. (950L)

In this Newbery Honor-winning page-turner, twelve-year-old orphan Homer runs away from Pine Swamp, Maine, to find his older brother, Harold, who has been sold into the Union Army. With laugh-aloud humor, Homer outwits and outruns a colorful assortment of civil War-era thieves, scallywags, and spies as he makes his way south, following clues that finally lead him to Gettysburg. Even through a hail of gunfire, Homer never loses heart--but will he find his brother? Or will it be too late?

Blood on the River: James Town 1607. Carbone, Elisa. (820L)

Twelve-year-old Samuel Collier is a lowly commoner on the streets of London. So when he becomes the page of Captain John Smith and boards the *Susan Constant*, bound for the New World, he can't believe his good fortune. He's heard that gold washes ashore with every tide. But beginning with the stormy journey and his first contact with the native people, he realizes that the New World is nothing like he imagined. The lush Virginia shore where they establish the colony of James Town is both beautiful and forbidding, and it's hard to know who's a friend or foe. As he learns the language of the Algonquian Indians and observes Captain Smith's wise diplomacy, Samuel begins to see that he can be whomever he wants to be in this new land.

Escaping the Giant Wave. Kehret, Peg. (750L)

Thirteen-year old Kyle thought spending a vacation on the Oregon coast with his family would be great. He'd never flown before, and he'd never seen the Pacific Ocean. Kyle's perfect vacation becomes a nightmare while he's babysitting his sister, BeeBee. An earthquake hits the coast and starts afire in their hotel. While fighting their way through smoke and flame, Kyle remembers seeing a sign at the beach that said after an earthquake everyone should go uphill and inland, as far from the ocean as possible. Tsunamis, giant waves that often follow earthquakes, can ride in from the sea and engulf anyone who doesn't escape fast enough.

Inside Out and Back Again. Lai, Thanhha. (800L)

For all the ten years of her life, Ha has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, the warmth of her friends close by, and the beauty of her very own papaya tree. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Ha and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope. This is the moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing as she journeys from one country to another, one life to the next.

Shiloh. Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. (890L)

When Marty Preston comes across a young beagle in the hills behind his home, it's love at first sight -- and also big trouble. It turns out the dog, which Marty names Shiloh, belongs to Judd Travers, who drinks too much and has a gun -- and abuses his dogs. So when Shiloh runs away from Judd to Marty, Marty just has to hide him and protect him from Judd. But Marty's secret becomes too big for him to keep to himself, and it exposes his entire family to Judd's anger. How far will Marty have to go to make Shiloh his?

Holes. Sachar, Louis. (660L)

This winner of the Newbery Medal and the National Book Award features Stanley Yelnats, a kid who is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake: the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

Protected Reading List

Grade Level: 5

1. *Black Stallion* (Farley) (680L)
2. *Tuck Everlasting* (Babbitt) (770L)
3. *Birchbark House* (Erdich) (970L)
4. *Bud, Not Buddy* (Curtis) (950L)
5. *About Time* (Koscielniak) (1200L)
6. *England the Land* (Banting) (1150L)
7. *Quest for the Tree Kangaroo* (Montgomery) (830L)
8. *We Are the Ship* (Nelson) (900L)
9. "New Colossus" (Lazarus) (poem)
10. "Casey at the Bat" (Thayer) (poem)
11. "Words Free as Confetti" (Mora) (poem)
12. "Echoing Green" (Blake) (poem)
13. *Number the Stars* (Lowry) (670L)
14. "Out of the Dust" (Hesse) (poem)
15. *Green Glass Sea* (Klages) (790L)
16. *The Bomb* (Taylor) (830L)
17. *Rules* (Lord) (780L)
18. *Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy* (Stanley) (830L)
19. *Frindle* (Clements) (830L)
20. *Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Selznick) (820L)
21. *My Side of the Mountain* (George) (810L)

L = Lexile Level

NF = Non-Fiction Selection

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Fifth Grade Synopsis of Stories

(Fiction)

***Black Stallion.* Farley, Walter. (680L) ***

The sole survivors of a devastating shipwreck, Alec Ramsay and the Black Stallion must learn to rely on each other to survive. As a strong bond develops between them, Alec gains the trust of the magnificent beast and eventually the Black allows Alec to ride. Finally, they are rescued, but will Alec and the Black be allowed to stay together?

***Tuck Everlasting.* Babbitt, Natalie. (770L)**

Doomed to—or blessed with—eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing than it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.

***Birchbark House.* Erdrich, Louise. (970L) ***

Nineteenth-century American pioneer life was introduced to thousands of young readers by Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved *Little House* books. With *The Birchbark House*, award-winning author Louise Erdrich's first novel for young readers, this same slice of history is seen through the eyes of the spirited, 7-year-old Ojibwa girl Omakayas, or Little Frog, so named because her first step was a hop. The sole survivor of a smallpox epidemic on Spirit Island, Omakayas, then only a baby girl, was rescued by a fearless woman named Tallow and welcomed into an Ojibwa family on Lake Superior's Madeline Island, the Island of the Golden-Breasted Woodpecker. We follow Omakayas and her adopted family through a cycle of four seasons in 1847, including the winter, when a historically documented outbreak of smallpox overtook the island.

***Bud, Not Buddy.* Curtis, Christopher Paul. (950L)**

In Flint, Michigan in the 1930s, Bud, not Buddy, is on the run. At 10 years old, having been passed around from foster home to foster home following the death of his mother, Bud decides he has had enough. Before she died, his mother left him with just one clue as to who his father is. Armed with this clue, a suitcase full of his own important, secret things, and his rules for “Having a Funner Life and Making a better Liar Out of Yourself” nothing can stop him. Curtis creates a dynamic story between his deep character development, sense of humor, and exploration of the trying times of the Great Depression.

(Non-Fiction)

***About Time.* Koscielniak, Bruce. (1200L)**

Time to read a book.

Time to wash dishes.

Time to do this or that.

You say things like this every day, all the time. But there was a time when time itself was undefined—no one knew the difference between a minute, an hour, or a day.

Then people started creating tools to measure time. First they used the big stuff around them—the sun, the moon, water. Soon after, using the knowledge they got from their natural time-telling tools, people began to build clocks—huge clocks unlike the ones we use today. They also used their knowledge of the sun and moon to create calendars made up of months and years.

Now, centuries later, we have clocks all around us. We can easily figure out how long a month is. But it took many years of tinkering and inventing to perfect the art of telling time. You could take a few moments now to read all about time. If you have a minute, that is.

This book is provided with the 5th grade Journeys textbook adoption.

***England the Land.* Banting, Erinn. (1150L)**

England's landscape is rich in beauty and dotted with history. From the breathtaking Lake District to the southern downs, take a journey across England with the help of full-color photos that depict the country's cities, industry, and wildlife. Other topics include: the river Thames and Hyde Park; the cities of London, Liverpool, and Manchester; and the Channel Tunnel and other engineering marvels.

Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea. Montgomery, Sy. (830L) *

It looks like a bear, but isn't one. It climbs trees as easily as a monkey— but isn't a monkey, either. It has a belly pocket like a kangaroo, but what's a kangaroo doing up a tree? Meet the amazing Matschie's tree kangaroo, who makes its home in the ancient trees of Papua New Guinea's cloud forest. And meet the amazing scientists who track these elusive animals.

We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball. Nelson, Kadir. (900L)

The story of Negro League baseball is the story of gifted athletes and determined owners; of racial discrimination and international sportsmanship; of fortunes won and lost; of triumphs and defeats on and off the field. It is a perfect mirror for the social and political history of black America in the first half of the twentieth century. But most of all, the story of the Negro Leagues is about hundreds of unsung heroes who overcame segregation, hatred, terrible conditions, and low pay to do the one thing they loved more than anything else in the world: play ball.

(Poetry)

"New Colossus". Lazarus, Emma. (n/a)

Emma Lazarus' famous words, "Give me your tired, your poor,/Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free" may now be indelibly engraved into the collective American memory, but they did not achieve immortality overnight. In fact, Lazarus' sonnet to the Statue of Liberty was hardly noticed until after her death, when a patron of the New York arts found it tucked into a small portfolio of poems written in 1883 to raise money for the construction of the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. The patron, Georgina Schuyler, was struck by the poem and arranged to have its last five lines become a permanent part of the statue itself. More than twenty years later, children's textbooks began to include the sonnet and Irving Berlin wrote it into a Broadway musical. By 1945, the engraved poem was relocated-- including all fourteen lines-- to be placed over the Statue of Liberty's main entrance.

In "The New Colossus," Lazarus contrasts the soon-to-be installed symbol of the United States with what many consider the perfect symbol of the Greek and Roman era, the Colossus of Rhodes. Her comparison proved appropriate, for Bartholdi himself created the Statue of Liberty with the well-known Colossus in mind. What Bartholdi did not intend, however, was for the Statue of Liberty to become a symbol of welcome for thousands of European immigrants. As political propaganda for France, the Statue of Liberty was first intended to be a path of enlightenment for the countries of Europe still battling tyranny and oppression. Lazarus' words, however, turned that idea on its head: the Statue of Liberty would forever on be considered a beacon of welcome for immigrants *leaving* their mother countries.

"Casey at the Bat", Thayer, Ernest Lawrence. (n/a)

'And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout; But there is no joy in Mudville-mighty Casey has struck out.' Those lines have echoed through the decades, the final stanza of a poem published pseudonymously in the June 3, 1888, issue of the San Francisco Examiner. Its author would rather have seen it forgotten. Instead, Ernest Thayer's poem has taken a well-deserved place as an enduring icon of Americana. Christopher Bing's magnificent version of this immortal ballad of the flailing 19th-century baseball star is rendered as though it had been newly discovered in a hundred-year-old scrapbook. Bing seamlessly weaves real and trompe l'oeil reproductions of artifacts-period baseball cards, tickets, advertisements, and a host of other memorabilia into the narrative to present a rich and multifaceted panorama of a bygone era. A book to be pored over by children, treasured by aficionados of the sport-and given as a gift to all ages: a tragi-comic celebration of heroism and of a golden era of sport.

(refers to the edition illustrated by Christopher H. Bing)

"Words Free as Confetti". Mora, Pat. (n/a) *

Like confetti, the poems are light and colorful, full of life and joy. The words seem to float in the air and gently come down as the poems are read aloud. The poems are free verse but some of them have a rhythm all their own and other poems have repetitive lines which make them great to read aloud and children will love listening to them. The narrator of the poems is a little Mexican American girl who is enjoying nature, her culture and the people in her life.

(refers to book Confetti: Poems for children)

"Echoing Green". Blake, William. (n/a)

The poem, The Echoing Green is taken from the collection "Songs of Innocence" by William Blake. After, "Introduction", we are set into a carefree world of alluring happiness. The Echoing Green turns out to be a bit

different. Period. Let's get lost in the shouts of the playing children and the ringing bells. Blake paint many a beautiful pictures though his poetic verse to provide a vivid imagery of the Spring, the swiftness of the fresh air and the magic of blazing sun. Amidst the pleasant shouts of the children, the poet introduces characters like old John with white hat; the character seems to play a significant role in the development of the theme of the poem.

Additional Novels:

(Fiction)

***Number the Stars.* Lowry, Lois. (670L)**

As the German troops begin their campaign to "relocate" all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen's family takes in Annemarie's best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family.

Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war.

***Out of the Dust.* Hesse, Karen. (n/a)**

Like the Oklahoma dust bowl from which she came, 14-year-old narrator Billie Jo writes in sparse, free-floating verse. In this compelling, immediate journal, Billie Jo reveals the grim domestic realities of living during the years of constant dust storms: That hopes--like the crops--blow away in the night like skittering tumbleweeds. That trucks, tractors, even Billie Jo's beloved piano, can suddenly be buried beneath drifts of dust. Perhaps swallowing all that grit is what gives Billie Jo--our strong, endearing, rough-cut heroine--the stoic courage to face the death of her mother after a hideous accident that also leaves her piano-playing hands in pain and permanently scarred.

***The Green Glass Sea.* Klages, Ellen. (790L)**

It's 1943, and eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is en route to New Mexico to live with her mathematician father. Soon she arrives at a town that, officially, doesn't exist. It is called Los Alamos, and it is abuzz with activity, as scientists and mathematicians from all over America and Europe work on the biggest secret of all--"the gadget." None of them--not J. Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Manhattan Project; not the mathematicians and scientists; and least of all, Dewey--know how much "the gadget" is about to change their lives.

***The Bomb.* Taylor, Theo. (830L)**

It is 1946, a year after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and World War II is over. But the U.S. government has decided that further tests of atomic bombs must be conducted. When Bikini Atoll is chosen for the testing site, the inhabitants of the tiny island are told they must relocate for just two years. But sixteen-year-old Sorry Rinamu believes the Americans are lying and that it will *never* be safe to return. He must find a way to stop the first bomb before it is dropped . . . even if it means risking his own destruction.

***Rules.* Lord, Cynthia. (780L)**

This 2007 Newbery Honor Book is a humorous and heartwarming debut about feeling different and finding acceptance. Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life, which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors.

But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

***The Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy.* Stanley, Diana. (830L)**

Franny is thrilled when she's accepted by the Allbright Academy, an elite private boarding school designed to train leaders. But she knows she's not as smart as the other kids there—or as beautiful, accomplished, confident, or mature. The fact is, the Allbright students—from their shining teeth and flawless complexions to their sky-high test scores and long lists of honors—are absolutely perfect. Then the Allbright magic begins to rub off on Franny, too. The question is: Is this a good thing? Can Franny and her friends Cal, Brooklyn, and Prescott un-ravel the Allbright Academy's secret, or will they, too, succumb to its eerie perfection?

Frindle. Clements, Andrew. (830L)

Is Nick Allen a troublemaker? He really just likes to liven things up at school -- and he's always had plenty of great ideas. When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word. Then other people in town start saying frindle. Soon the school is in an uproar, and Nick has become a local hero. His teacher wants Nick to put an end to all this nonsense, but the funny thing is frindle doesn't belong to Nick anymore. The new word is spreading across the country, and there's nothing Nick can do to stop it.

This novel is provided as a trade book set with the 5th grade Journeys textbook adoption.

Invention of Hugo Cabret. Selznick, Brian. (820L)

Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.

My Side of the Mountain. George, Jean Craighead. (810L)

Every kid thinks about running away at one point or another; few get farther than the end of the block. Young Sam Gibley gets to the end of the block and keeps going--all the way to the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. There he sets up house in a huge hollowed-out tree, with a falcon and a weasel for companions and his wits as his tool for survival. In a spellbinding, touching, funny account, Sam learns to live off the land, and grows up a little in the process. Blizzards, hunters, loneliness, and fear all battle to drive Sam back to city life. But his desire for freedom, independence, and adventure is stronger. No reader will be immune to the compulsion to go right out and start whittling fishhooks and befriending raccoons.

Hound Dog True. Urban, Linda. (710L)

“Do not let a mop sit overnight in water. Fix things before they get too big for fixing.” Fifth-grader Mattie Breen writes it all down. She has just one week to convince Uncle Potluck to take her on as his custodial apprentice before school starts. As his apprentice, she'll have important work to do during lunch and recess . . . work that will keep her safely away from other fifth-graders. But when Mattie's plans come crashing down, she ends up with a friend who is hound dog true.

This novel is provided as a trade book set with the 5th grade Journeys textbook adoption.

Grade Level: 6

Required Readings for all English Classes:

1. *A Wrinkle in Time* (L'Engle) (740L)
2. *From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil Frankweiler* (Konigsburg) (700L)
3. *The Prince and the Pauper* (Basal Text Requirement)

Choice List –Students may be required to read one book from the Choice List and complete a teacher approved independent reading project.

Fiction

1. *Dragonwings* (Yep) (870L)
2. *A Long Way from Chicago* (Peck) (750L)
3. *The Lightning Thief* (Riordan) (740L)
4. *Love That Dog* (Creech) (1010L)
5. *Hatchet* (series) (Paulsen) (1020L)
6. *Bridge to Terebithia* (Patterson) (810L)
7. *Where the Red Fern Grows* (Rawls) (700L)
8. *The Egypt Game* (Snyder) (1010L)
9. *Freak the Mighty* (Philbrick) (1000L)
10. *Well of Sacrifice* (Eboch) (930L)
11. *Al Capone Does My Shirts* (Choldenko) (600L)
12. *Heat* (Lupica) (940L)
13. *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* (Avi) (780L)

Non-Fiction

14. *With Their Eyes: September 11-The View from a High School at Ground Zero** (edited by Annie Thoms) (957 L)
15. *The Great Fire* (Murphy) (1130L)

L = Lexile Level

NF = Non-Fiction Selection

\$ Free electronic copy available via select electronic device(s)

*These selections may contain subject matter that may be objectionable to some students or families. Students may choose to read an alternate book from this list in lieu of any of these books.

Protected Reading Choices Book Summaries

The Great Fire

For more than a century, poor Mrs. O'Leary and her cow have shouldered the blame for Chicago's infamous Great Fire of 1871. Now Murphy (*The Boys' War*; *Across America on an Emigrant Train*) lays bare the facts concerning one of the biggest disasters in American history, in the process exculpating the maligned bovine and her owner. Murphy demonstrates that the fire could have been contained: he unfolds a tale of botched communication, class discrimination (the fire began in a working-class section of the city and only later spread to the wealthier areas) and plain old bad luck. Strategically quoting the written accounts of witnesses—who include a 12-year-old girl and a newspaper editor—Murphy both charts the 31-hour spread of the fire and conveys the atmosphere in the streets. — Review adapted from Reed Business Information, Inc. (Copyright 1995)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Blizzard: The Storm that Changed America*, *Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine (1845-1850)*

Dragonwings

Laurence Yep's Newbery Honor book (HarperCollins, 1975) offers insights into the lives of Chinese-Americans in early 20th century California. The story begins as eight-year-old Moon Shadow Lee journeys across the Pacific to join his proud and clever father at the family-owned laundry in San Francisco. The boy recounts their problems with prejudice, as well as the kindness of uncles and cousins. Father and son must leave the protection of the family to move out of Chinatown, but they find refuge with a generous and friendly landlady. Once they have successfully established a repair business, they turn their attention to making a flying machine. Though it's a modern invention, part of their motivation is the elder's belief in his own previous dragon existence. The result is a heartwarming story set in a familiar time and place, but told from a new perspective. Review adapted from *Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT*, Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Julie of the Wolves*, *Dragon's Gate*

A Long Way from Chicago

A rollicking celebration of an eccentric grandmother and childhood memories. Set in the 1930s, the book follows Joe and Mary Alice Dowdel as they make their annual August trek to visit their grandmother who lives in a sleepy Illinois town somewhere between Chicago and St. Louis. A woman with plenty of moxie, she keeps to herself, a difficult task in this small community. However, Grandma Dowdel uses her wit and ability to tell whoppers to get the best of manipulative people or those who put on airs. She takes matters into her own hands to intimidate a father who won't control his unruly sons, and forces the bank to rescind a foreclosure on an elderly woman's house.. (Excerpt from a review by *Shawn Brommer, Southern Tier Library System, Painted Post, NY*)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *A Year Down Yonder*, *The River Between Us*

The Lightning Thief

An adventure-quest with a hip edge. At first glance, Perseus Jackson seems like a loser (readers meet him at a boarding school for troubled youth), but he's really the son of Poseidon and a mortal woman. As he discovers his heritage, he also loses that mother and falls into mortal danger. The gods (still very active in the 21st-century world) are about to go to war over a lost thunderbolt, so Percy and sidekicks Grover (a young satyr) and Annabeth (daughter of Athena) set out to retrieve it. Many close calls and monster-attacks later, they enter Hades's realm (via L.A.). A virtuoso description of the Underworld is matched by a later account of Olympus (hovering 600 floors above Manhattan). There's lots of zippy review of Greek myth and legend, and characters like Medusa, Procrustes, Charon, and the Eumenides get updates. *Adapted from review by Patricia D. Lothrop, St. George's School, Newport, RI, School Library Journal*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: Additional Percy Jackson Stories

Love That Dog

Newbery Medal winner Sharon Creech's *Love That Dog*, a funny, sweet, original short novel written in free verse, introduces us to an endearingly unassuming, straight-talking boy who discovers the powers and pleasures of poetry. Against his will. After all, "boys don't write poetry. Girls do." What does he say of the famous poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"? "I think Mr. Robert Frost / has a little / too / much / time / on his / hands." As his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, introduces the canon to the class, however, he starts to see the light. Poetry is not so bad, it's not just for girls, and it's not even that hard to write. (Adapted from the Book Description from Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Hate that Cat*, *Call Me Maria*

Hatchet

Brian Robeson, 13, is the only passenger on a small plane flying him to visit his father in the Canadian wilderness when the pilot has a heart attack and dies. The plane drifts off course and finally crashes into a small lake.

Miraculously Brian is able to swim free of the plane, arriving on a sandy tree-lined shore with only his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present. The novel chronicles in gritty detail Brian's mistakes, setbacks, and small triumphs as, with the help of the hatchet, he manages to survive the 54 days alone in the wilderness. Paulsen effectively shows readers how Brian learns patience to watch, listen, and think before he acts as he attempts to build a fire, to fish and hunt, and to make his home under a rock overhang safe and comfortable. Adapted review from Barbara Chatton, College of Education, University of Wyoming, Laramie
Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The River, Brian's Winter*

Bridge to Terabithia

The story starts out simply enough: Jess Aarons wants to be the fastest boy in the fifth grade--he wants it so bad he can taste it. He's been practicing all summer, running in the fields around his farmhouse until he collapses in a sweat. Then a tomboy named Leslie Burke moves into the farmhouse next door and changes his life forever. Not only does Leslie not look or act like any girls Jess knows, but she also turns out to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. After getting over the shock and humiliation of being beaten by a girl, Jess begins to think Leslie might be okay. Despite their superficial differences, it's clear that Jess and Leslie are soul mates. The two create a secret kingdom in the woods named Terabithia, where the only way to get into the castle is by swinging out over a gully on an enchanted rope. Here they reign as king and queen, fighting off imaginary giants and the walking dead, sharing stories and dreams, and plotting against the schoolmates who tease them. Jess and Leslie find solace in the sanctuary of Terabithia until a tragedy strikes and the two are separated forever. (Amazon.com Review)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Tuck Everlasting, The Children of Green Knowe*

Where the Red Fern Grows

Billy, Old Dan and Little Ann -- a Boy and His Two Dogs... A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn, Little Ann had the brains -- and Billy had the will to train them to be the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. And close by was the strange and wonderful power that's only found... An exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget. (Review from BarnesandNoble.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Old Yeller, Summer of the Monkeys*

The Egypt Game

The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they have anything in common. But she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt. When they stumble upon a deserted storage yard, Melanie and April decide it's the perfect spot for the Egypt Game. Before long there are six Egyptians, and they all meet to wear costumes, hold ceremonies, and work on their secret code. Everyone thinks it's just a game until strange things start happening. Has the Egypt Game gone too far? (Book Description from Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Witches of Worm, The Headless Cupid*

Freak the Mighty

Maxwell Kane, a lumbering eighth grader who describes himself as a "butthead goon," has lived with grandparents Grim and Gram ever since his father was imprisoned for murdering his mother. Mean-spirited schoolmates and special ed (for an undetermined learning disability) haven't improved his self-image, so he is totally unprepared for a friendship with Kevin, aka Freak, a veritable genius with a serious birth defect that's left him in braces and using crutches. Max is uplifted by Freak's imagination and booming confidence, while Freak gets a literal boost--hoisted onto Max's shoulders, he shares Max's mobility. Together they become Freak the Mighty, an invincible duo.

Adapted from (Copyright 1993) Reed Business Information, Inc.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Max the Mighty, Chicken Boy*

Well of Sacrifice

Eveningstar Macaw lives in a glorious Mayan city in the ninth century. When the king falls ill and dies, the city begins to crumble. An evil high priest, Great Skull Zero, orders the sacrifice of those who might become king, including Eveningstar's beloved brother. Suspicious of the High Priest's motives, Eveningstar attempts to save her brother, thus becoming an acknowledged enemy of the High Priest. Condemned to be thrown into the Well of Sacrifice, Eveningstar must find a way not only to save her own life but to rescue her family and her city from the tyrannical grasp of Great Skull Zero. Set against the vivid background of everyday life at the height of the Mayan golden age and illustrated with striking black-and-white paintings, Eveningstar's candid, gripping, and not-for-the-faint-of-heart account of the last days of a great city will have readers at the edge of their seats. (Book Description from Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of 'The Iliad', Why Snails Have Shells: Minority and Han Folktales from China*

Al Capone Does My Shirts Heat

Twelve-year-old Moose moves to Alcatraz in 1935 so his father can work as a prison guard and his younger, autistic sister, Natalie, can attend a special school in San Francisco. It is a time when the federal prison is home to notorious criminals like gangster Al Capone. Depressed about having to leave his friends and winning baseball team behind, Moose finds little to be happy about on Alcatraz. He never sees his dad, who is always working; and Natalie's condition-- her tantrums and constant needs--demand all his mother's attention. Things look up for Moose when he befriends the irresistible Piper, the warden's daughter, who has a knack for getting Moose into embarrassing but harmless trouble. Helped by Piper, Moose eventually comes to terms with his new situation. With its unique setting and well-developed characters, this warm, engaging coming-of-age story has plenty of appeal, and Choldenko offers some fascinating historical background on Alcatraz Island in an afterword. -- *Ed Sullivan, Booklist*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Children of Alcatraz: Growing Up on the Rock, Rules*

Crispin: The Cross of Lead

Set in 14th-century England, Avi's (The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle) 50th book begins with a funeral, that of a village outcast whose past is shrouded in mystery and whose adolescent son is known only as "Asta's son." Mired in grief for his mother, the boy learns his given name, Crispin, from the village priest, although his presumably dead father's identity remains obscure. The words etched on his mother's treasured lead cross may provide some clue, but the priest is murdered before he can tell the illiterate lad what they say. Worse, Crispin is fingered for the murder by the manor steward, who declares him a "wolf's head" wanted dead or alive, preferably dead. Crispin flees, and falls in with a traveling juggler. How the boy learns his true identity and finds his place in the world makes for a rattling fine yarn. Avi's plot is engineered for maximum thrills, with twists, turns and treachery aplenty, but it's the compellingly drawn relationship between Crispin and Bear that provides the heart of this story. (Adapted review, Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Crispin: At the Edge of the World, Crispin: The End of Time*

With Their Eyes: September 11-The View from a High School at Ground Zero

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 have changed the lives of all Americans. The students, faculty, and staff of Stuyvesant High School, located four blocks from Ground Zero, responded creatively with a unique work of reader's theater. In with their eyes, student actors transcribed monologues culled from interviews with their fellow classmates, teachers, custodians, and cafeteria workers. The pieces describe the pain of watching people jump to their deaths from office windows, the terror of being separated from their families, the lingering aftereffects of being temporarily housed in a different school, and the post-traumatic stress that nearly paralyzed all 3200 students. The monologues echo the individuals' everyday speech, including the "ums," "likes," and "you knows," which, while sometimes jarring to read, make them dramatically immediate and realistic when performed. This unique book rings with authenticity and resonates with power; it can be used in the curriculum or as an independent piece of theatrical art. (Adapted from review by *Susan Riley, Mount Kisco Public Library, NY, School Library Journal*)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *9/11: The Book of Help; Challenged: A Visual History of 9/11 and Its Aftermath: Young Reader's Edition*

Grade Level: 7

Required Readings for all English Classes:

1. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Twain) (800L) \$
2. *The Giver* (Lowry) (760L)
3. *A Christmas Carol* or *Monsters on Maple Street* (Basal Text Requirement)

Choice List –Students may be required to read one book from the Choice List and complete a teacher approved independent reading project.

Fiction

1. *The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks* (Paterson) (930L)
2. *Slake's Limbo* (Holman) (960L)
3. *Book of a Thousand Days* (Hale) (850L)
4. *Nothing but the Truth* (Avi) (670L)
5. *The Westing Game* (Raskin) (750L)
6. *The Hunger Games** (Collins) (810L)
7. *The Devil's Arithmetic* (Yolen) (730L)
8. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* (Avi) (740L)
9. *The Weirdo* (Taylor) (770L)
10. *Al Capone Shines My Shoes* (Choldenko) (600L)
11. *Fever, 1793* (Anderson) (580L)
12. *Stormbreaker* (Horowitz)(670 L)
13. *Z for Zachariah* (O'Brien) (820L)

Non-Fiction

14. *Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction* (Macaulay) (1120L) NF
15. *A Night to Remember* (Lord) NF

L = Lexile Level

NF = Non-Fiction Selection

\$ Free electronic copy available via select electronic device(s)

*These selections may contain subject matter that may be objectionable to some students or families. Students may choose to read an alternate book from this list in lieu of any of these books.

Protected Reading Choices Book Summaries

The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks

A beautiful mandarin duck is captured and caged by a greedy lord who wants to show off the bird's magnificent plumage. But the wild creature pines for his mate. When Yasuko, the kitchen maid, releases the bird against her lord's command, she and the one-eyed servant, Shozo, are sentenced to death. The grateful bird intends to return their kindness, but can he outsmart the cruel lord? (Amazon.com Review)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Touching Spirit Bear*, *14 Cows for America*

Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction

The Gothic cathedral is one of humanity's greatest masterpieces--an architectural feast that couldn't help but attract the attention of renowned author-illustrator David Macaulay. Once an architectural student at the Rhode Island School of Design, Macaulay glories in the intricacies and beauty of structure, as evidenced in his masterful pen-and-ink drawings in critically acclaimed children's books such as [Castle](#), [Pyramid](#), and [Rome Antics](#). He begins *Cathedral* in 1252, when the people of a fictitious French town named Chutreaux decide to build a cathedral after their existing church is struck by lightning. We first meet the craftspeople, then examine the tools, study their cathedral plans, and watch the laying of the foundation. Week by week we witness the construction of this glorious temple to God. Macaulay intuitively hones in on the details about which we are the most curious: How were those enormously high ceilings built and decorated? How were those 60-foot-high windows made and installed in the 13th century? And how did people haul those huge, heavy bells up into the skyscraper-high towers? Thanks to Macaulay's thorough, thoughtful tribute to the Gothic cathedral, not a stone, turret, or pane of stained glass is left unexamined or unexplained. (Ages 9 and older) --*Gail Hudson, Amazon.com Review*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Castle*, *Pyramid* (both by Macaulay)

A Night to Remember

Publicity surrounding the Academy Award- winning motion picture *Titanic* makes this a sure-to-circulate choice. Lord's classic time-travel tale drawn from survivors' accounts remains the best *Titanic* story after all these years. The analysis of the event moves from reports of pre-trip hype through the ambiance of the fated last evening to first reports of trouble, loading life boats, and rescue efforts. Revised review from Sandy Glover, West Linn P.L., OR, Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Night Lives On, Titanic: An Illustrated History*

Slake's Limbo

His only friend has just been killed in an accident when Aremis Slake is chased into the subways by a gang of kids. Since his life above ground is hazardous and without love, Slake moves into an abandoned room adjacent to the subways. Jeered at in his surface life as a clumsy, worthless individual, Slake's subterranean solitary existence proves him to be clever, competent and creative. He learns to survive in the depths of the city and in the subway terminals for four months. (This book was reviewed by Carol Otis Hurst in Teaching K-8 Magazine.)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Ghosts in the Tokaido Inn*, *The Girl who Owned a City*

Book of a Thousand Days

When Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, the two prepare for a very long and dark imprisonment. As food runs low and the days go from broiling hot to freezing cold, it is all Dashti can do to keep them fed and comfortable. But the arrival outside the tower of Saren's two suitors—one welcome, and the other decidedly less so—brings both hope and great danger, and Dashti must make the desperate choices of a girl whose life is worth more than she knows. With Shannon Hale's lyrical language, this forgotten but classic fairy tale from the Brothers Grimm is re-imagined and reset on the central Asian steppes; it is a completely unique retelling filled with adventure and romance, drama and disguise. (Book Description from Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Princess Academy*, Books of Bayern series

Al Capone Shines My Shoes

Readers who enjoyed *Al Capone Does My Shirts* (Putnam, 2004) will find this lively novel a worthy sequel. Most of the large cast has returned and, as in the previous book, the 1935 Alcatraz Island setting is well realized through glimpses of its infamous prison, inmates, and island life. The narrator is Moose Flanagan, whose father works as a prison guard. The 12-year-old baseball-loving boy is both naive and wise beyond his years.— Adapted review by *Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA*, School Library Journal

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *No Passengers Beyond this Point*, *The Graveyard Book*

Nothing but the Truth

Ninth grader Philip Malloy finds himself unable to participate on the track team because of his failing grade in English. Convinced the teacher, Margaret Narwin, dislikes him, he concocts a scheme to get transferred from her homeroom: instead of standing "at respectful, silent attention" during the national anthem, Philip hums. Throughout the ensuing disciplinary problems at school, his parents take his side, ignore the fact that he is breaking a school rule, and concentrate on issues of patriotism. The conflict between Philip and his school escalates, and he quickly finds the situation out of his control; local community leaders, as well as the national news media, become involved. At this point, the novel surges forward to a heartbreaking, but totally believable, conclusion. –Adapted review from Ellen Fader, Westport Public Library, CT, School Library Journal

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *A Single Shard*, *Killing Mr. Griffin*

The Westing Game

For over twenty-five years, Ellen Raskin's Newbery Medal-winning *The Westing Game* has been an enduring favorite. It has sold over one and a half million copies. This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires-it all depends on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, a game involving blizzards, burglaries, and bombings! Ellen Raskin has created a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense. Overview from BarnesandNoble.com

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Mysterious Disappearance of Leon, Figgs & Phantoms*, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*

The Hunger Games

In a not-too-distant future, the United States of America has collapsed, weakened by drought, fire, famine, and war, to be replaced by Panem, a country divided into the Capitol and 12 districts. Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games. Part entertainment, part brutal intimidation of the subjugated districts, the televised games are broadcasted throughout Panem as the 24 participants are forced to eliminate their competitors, literally, with all citizens required to watch. When 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, is selected as the mining district's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She and her male counterpart, Peeta, the son of the town baker who seems to have all the fighting skills of a lump of bread dough, will be pitted against bigger, stronger representatives who have trained for this their whole lives. –

Adapted review by Jane Henriksen Baird, Anchorage Public Library, AK, School Library Journal

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: The Kane Chronicles

The Devil's Arithmetic

In this novel, Yolen attempts to answer those who question why the Holocaust should be remembered. Hannah, 12, is tired of remembering, and is embarrassed by her grandfather, who rants and raves at the mention of the Nazis. Her mother's explanations of how her grandparents and great-aunt lost all family and friends during that time have little effect. Then, during a Passover Seder, Hannah is chosen to open the door to welcome the prophet Elijah. As she does so, she is transported to a village in Poland in the 1940s, where everyone thinks that she is Chaya, who has just recovered from a serious illness. She is captured by the Nazis and taken to a death camp, where she is befriended by a young girl named Rivka, who teaches her how to fight the dehumanizing processes of the camp and hold onto her identity. Adapted review by Susan M. Harding, Mesquite Public Library, Tex.

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If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Breaking Through*, *The Boy Who Dared*

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

A breathtaking seafaring adventure, set in 1832. Charlotte Doyle, 13, returning from school in England to join her family in Rhode Island, is deposited on a seedy ship with a ruthless, mad captain and a mutinous crew. Refusing to heed warnings about Captain Jaggery's brutality, Charlotte seeks his guidance and approval only to become his victim, a pariah to the entire crew, and a convicted felon for the murder of the first mate. There is no doubt that she will survive, however, for the telling is all hers, masterfully related in a voice that perfectly suits the period and the heroine. –Adapted review by Trev Jones, School Lib. Journal

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Esperanza Rising*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

The Weirdo

Environmentalism provides the political backdrop for this story of the courage and self-acceptance acquired by "weirdo" Chip Clewt, 17, in his fight to save the bear population in a North Carolina swamp. Badly disfigured in a fire, the boy takes refuge from the world with only the bears and Tom, his boss, for company. But when Tom disappears, Chip enlists his new friend Samantha to help prove that the man was murdered by poachers. In an eloquent debate that proves informative and moving, human and animal rights are pitted against each other. This murder mystery/love story/environmental thriller by the author of *The Trouble with Tuck* weaves an uncommon spell. Deftly drawn characterizations, from the admirable to the loathsome, and an engrossing journalistic format are among the many strong points that make his timely and compelling novel a winner. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Where the Lilies Bloom*, *Surviving the Applewhites*

Fever, 1793

In the foreground of this story is 16-year-old Mattie Cook, whose mother and grandfather own a popular coffee house on High Street. Mattie's comfortable and interesting life is shattered by the epidemic, as her mother is felled and the girl and her grandfather must flee for their lives. Later, after much hardship and terror, they return to the deserted town to find their former cook, a freed slave, working with the African Free Society, an actual group who undertook to visit and assist the sick and saved many lives. As first frost arrives and the epidemic ends, Mattie's sufferings have changed her from a willful child to a strong, capable young woman able to manage her family's business on her own. (Ages 12 and older) --*Patty Campbell, Amazon.com Review*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Chains (Seeds of America)*, *Forge (Seeds of America)*

Stormbreaker

Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his uncle and guardian has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is sucked into his uncle's undercover world. The Special Operations Division of M16, his uncle's real employer, blackmails the teen into serving England. After two short weeks of training, Alex is equipped with several special toys like a Game Boy with unique cartridges that allow it to scan, fax, and emit smoke bombs. Alex's mission is to complete his uncle's last assignment, to discover the secret that Herod Sayle is hiding behind his generous donation of one of his supercomputers to every school in the country. When Alex enters Sayle's compound in Port Tallon, he discovers a strange world of secrets and villains including Mr. Grin, an ex-circus knife catcher, and Yassen Gregorovich, professional hit man. The novel provides bang after bang as Alex experiences and survives unbelievably dangerous episodes and eventually crashes through the roof of the Science Museum to save the day. Alex is a strong, smart hero. If readers consider luck the ruling factor in his universe, they will love this James Bond-style adventure. With short cliff-hanger chapters and its breathless pace, it is an excellent choice for reluctant readers. *Lynn Bryant, formerly at Navarre High School, FL*. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Alex Rider Adventure Series*

Z for Zachariah

Ann Burden is sixteen years old and completely alone. The world as she once knew it is gone, ravaged by a nuclear war that has taken everyone from her. For the past year, she has lived in a remote valley with no evidence of any other survivors. But the smoke from a distant campfire shatters Ann's solitude. Someone else is still alive and making his way toward the valley. Who is this man? What does he want? Can he be trusted? Both excited and terrified, Ann soon realizes there may be worse things than being the last person on Earth. Seemingly the only person left alive after a nuclear war, a sixteen-year-old girl is relieved to see a man arrive into her valley until she realizes that he is a tyrant and she must somehow escape. Overview from BarnesandNoble.com

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Trouble with Lemons*, *The Compound*

Grade Level: 8

Required Readings for all English Classes:

1. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (Taylor) (920L)
2. *The Outsiders* (Hinton) (750L)
3. *Diary of Ann Frank* (Basal Text Requirement)

Choice List –Students may be required to read one book from the Choice List and complete a teacher approved independent reading project.

Fiction

1. *Little Women* (Alcott) (630L) \$
2. *My Brother Sam Is Dead* (Collier/Collier) (770L)
3. *And Then There Were None* (Christie) (570L)
4. *Catching Fire** (Collins) (820L)
5. *Across Five Aprils* (Hunt) (1100L)
6. *The House of the Scorpion** (Farmer) (660L)
7. *Tears of a Tiger** (Draper) (700L)
8. *No Promises in the Wind* (Hunt) (930L)
9. *Animal Farm** (Orwell) (1170L) \$
10. *The Wave** (Strasser) (770L)
11. *The Uglies** (Westerfeld) (770L)
12. *The Pigman* (Zindel) (950L)

Non-Fiction

13. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years* (Bitton-Jackson) (720L) (*NF*)
14. *Freedom Walkers* (Freedman) (1110L) *NF*
15. *Travels with Charley* (Steinbeck) (1010L) *NF*

L = Lexile Level

NF = Non-Fiction Selection

\$ Free electronic copy available via select electronic device(s)

*These selections may contain subject matter that may be objectionable to some students or families. Students may choose to read an alternate book from this list in lieu of any of these books.

Protected Reading Choices Book Summaries

Little Women

Generations of readers young and old, male and female, have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel, *Little Women*. Here are talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War. Description from BarnesandNoble.com

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Little Men, Black Beauty*

Freedom Walkers

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus and give up her seat to a white man. This refusal to give up her dignity sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, which eventually ended segregation on buses. But the boycott did not start or end there, and here Russell Freedman breathes life into all the key personalities and events that contributed to the yearlong struggle, a major victory in the civil rights movement. This compelling and poignant volume, illustrated with arresting black-and-white photographs from the period, is sure to be an essential addition to the civil rights phenomenon. Book description from Amazon.com

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Elijah of Buxton, The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*

Travels with Charley

In September 1960, John Steinbeck and his poodle, Charley, embarked on a journey across America. A picaresque tale, this chronicle of their trip meanders through scenic backroads and speeds along anonymous superhighways, moving from small towns to growing cities to glorious wilderness oases. *Travels with Charley in Search of America* is animated by Steinbeck's attention to the specific details of the natural world and his sense of how the lives of people are intimately connected to the rhythms of nature—to weather, geography, the cycle of the seasons. His keen ear for the transactions among people is evident, too, as he records the interests and obsessions that preoccupy the Americans he encounters along the way. Book description from Amazon.com

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Blue Highways, The Wayward Bus*

My Brother Sam Is Dead

All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother Sam. Sam's smart and brave -- and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British -- including Tim and Sam's father. With the war soon raging, Tim know he'll have to make a choice -- between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats . . . and between his brother and his father. Book description from Amazon.com

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Fighting Ground, Johnny Tremain*

And Then There Were None

Considered the best mystery novel ever written by many readers, *And Then There Were None* is the story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. Once his guests have arrived, the host accuses each person of murder. Unable to leave the island, the guests begin to share their darkest secrets--until they begin to die. Editorial Review from Amazon.com

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Murder on the Orient Express, The Mousetrap*

Catching Fire

Every year in Panem, the dystopic nation that exists where the U.S. used to be, the Capitol holds a televised tournament in which two teen "tributes" from each of the surrounding districts fight a gruesome battle to the death. In *The Hunger Games*, Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark, the tributes from impoverished District Twelve, thwarted the Gamemakers, forcing them to let both teens survive. In this rabidly anticipated sequel, Katniss, again the narrator, returns home to find herself more the center of attention than ever. The sinister President Snow surprises her with a visit, and Katniss's fear when Snow meets with her alone is both palpable and justified. *Catching Fire* is divided into three parts: Katniss and Peeta's mandatory Victory Tour through the districts, preparations for the 75th Annual Hunger Games, and a truncated version of the Games themselves. Slower paced than its predecessor, this sequel explores the nation of Panem: its power structure, rumors of a secret district, and a spreading rebellion, ignited by Katniss and Peeta's subversive victory. Edited review by Copyright © Reed Business Information

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: The Maximum Ride Series

Across Five Aprils

Irene Hunt's Civil War novel (Berkley Pub., 1986) takes listeners from the first shots fired at Fort Sumter to Lincoln's assassination as seen through the eyes of a Southern Illinois farm boy. Jethro Creighton is nine when his close knit family learns that hostilities have broken out. As numerous male relatives go off to fight for the North and the South, and after his father falls ill, young Jethro takes responsibility for the family farm. With help from an older sister and neighboring farmers, he copes with attacks from local vigilantes, and he makes mature choices about a cousin who has deserted the army. Hunt artfully transforms her grandfather's childhood experiences into a powerful story of family love and the challenges of war. He also weaves a great deal of historical information into this Newbery Honor Book, and adds a generous measure of old-fashioned country wisdom as well. Edited review by *Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT, School Library Journal*
If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Rifles for Watie, Shades of Gray*

The House of the Scorpion

Farmer's (A Girl Named Disaster; The Ear, the Eye and the Arm) novel may be futuristic, but it hits close to home, raising questions of what it means to be human, what is the value of life, and what are the responsibilities of a society. Readers will be hooked from the first page, in which a scientist brings to life one of 36 tiny cells, frozen more than 100 years ago. The result is the protagonist at the novel's center, Matt a clone of El Patron, a powerful drug lord, born Matteo Alacr n to a poor family in a small village in Mexico. El Patro n is ruler of Opium, a country that lies between the United States and Aztl n, formerly Mexico; its vast poppy fields are tended by eejits, human beings who attempted to flee Aztl n, programmed by a computer chip implanted in their brains. With smooth pacing that steadily gathers momentum, Farmer traces Matt's growing awareness of what being a clone of one of the most powerful and feared men on earth entails. (Adapted review) Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. – Publishers Weekly
If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Sea of Trolls Trilogy*

Tears of a Tiger

A hard-hitting story of the unraveling of a young black man who was the drunk driver in an accident that killed his best friend. Andy cannot bear his guilt or reach out for help, and chapter by chapter his disintegration builds to inevitable suicide. Counselors, coaches, friends, and family all fail him. The story is artfully told through English class assignments, including poetry; dialogues; police and newspaper reports; and letters. From time to time, the author veers off into overt lessons on racial issues, but aside from this flaw the characters' voices are strong, vivid, and ring true. This moving novel will leave a deep impression. Kathy Fritts, Jesuit High School, Portland, OR, School Library Journal, Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.
If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Monster, Copper Sun*

No Promises in the Wind

From the Newbery Award winning author of **Across Five Aprils** and **Up a Road Slowly** comes a tale of a brave young man's struggle to find his own strength during the Great Depression... **No Promises in the Wind** In 1932, Americans' dreams were simple: a job, food to eat, a place to sleep, and shoes without holes. But for millions of people these simple needs were nothing more than dreams. When he was just fifteen years old, Josh had to make his own way through a country of angry and frightened people. This is the story of his struggle to find a life for himself during these turbulent times. Book Description from Amazon.com
If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Penny from Heaven, The Door in the Wall*

Animal Farm

Fueled by Orwell's intense disillusionment with Soviet Communism, *Animal Farm* is a nearly perfect piece of writing, both an engaging story and an allegory that actually works. When the downtrodden beasts of Manor Farm oust their drunken human master and take over management of the land, all are awash in collectivist zeal. Everyone willingly works overtime, productivity soars, and for one brief, glorious season, every belly is full. The animals' Seven Commandment credo is painted in big white letters on the barn. All animals are equal. No animal shall drink alcohol, wear clothes, sleep in a bed, or kill a fellow four-footed creature. Those that go upon four legs or wings are friends and the two-legged are, by definition, the enemy. Too soon, however, the pigs, who have styled themselves leaders by virtue of their intelligence, succumb to the temptations of privilege and power --*Joyce Thompson, Amazon.com Review, adapted*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Time Machine, Winter's End*

The Wave

The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action" sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late. Book description from Amazon.com
If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Shattering Glass, Dark Life*

The Uglies

Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society that acculturates its citizens to believe that they are ugly until age 16 when they'll undergo an operation that will change them into pleasure-seeking "pretties." Anticipating this happy transformation, Tally meets Shay, another female ugly, who shares her enjoyment of hoverboarding and risky pranks. But Shay also disdains the false values and programmed conformity of the society and urges Tally to defect with her to the Smoke, a distant settlement of simple-living conscientious objectors. Tally declines, yet when Shay is found missing by the authorities, Tally is coerced by the cruel Dr. Cable to find her and her compatriots—or remain forever "ugly."—*Susan W. Hunter, Riverside Middle School, Springfield, VT, Adapted from School Library Journal*
If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: The Uglies Series

The Pigman

For sophomores John and Lorraine, the world feels meaningless; nothing is important. They *certainly* can never please their parents, and school is a chore. To pass the time, they play pranks on unsuspecting people. It's during one of these pranks that they meet the "Pigman"—a fat, balding old man with a zany smile plastered on his face. In spite of themselves, John and Lorraine soon find that they're caught up in Mr. Pignati's zest for life. In fact, they become so involved that they begin to destroy the only corner of the world that's ever mattered to them. Originally published in 1968, this novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Zindel still sings with sharp emotion as John and Lorraine come to realize that "Our life would be what we made of it--nothing more, nothing less." Amazon.com review
If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Pigman's Legacy, The Pigman & Me*

I Have Lived a Thousand Years

In a graphic present-tense narrative, this Holocaust memoir describes what happens to a Jewish girl who is 13 when the Nazis invade Hungary in 1944. She tells of a year of roundups, transports, selections, camps, torture, forced labor, and shootings, then of liberation and the return of a few. For those who have read Leitner's stark *The Big Lie* (1992), this is a much more detailed account, with the same authority of a personal witness. Horrifying as her experience is, she doesn't dwell on the atrocities. There is hope here. Adapted review by *Hazel Rochman, Booklist*
If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree: A Memoir of a Schindler's List Survivor, Number the Stars*

Grade Level: 9

Required Readings:

1. *Romeo and Juliet* (1260L) (Basal Text) \$
2. *To Kill a Mockingbird* (920L)

***Pre-AP courses may select an additional required reading from the choice list below.**

Choice List –Students may be required to read one book from the Choice List and complete a teacher approved independent reading project.

Fiction

1. *A Raisin in the Sun* (Hansberry)
2. *In the Time of Butterflies* (Alvarez) (910L)
3. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Haddon)* (1180L)
4. *Speak* (Anderson)* (680L)
5. *The Help* (Stockett) *
6. *Of Mice and Men* (Steinbeck)* (630L)
7. *Ender's Game* (Card) (780L)
8. *The Secret life of Bees** (Kidd) (840L)
9. *The Old Man and the Sea* (Hemingway) (940L)
10. *Blood Red Horse* (Grant) (930L)
11. *The Hobbit* (Tolkien) (1000L)

Non-Fiction

12. *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream* (Davis, Jenkins, Hunt) (940L)
13. *I am Scout* (Shields) (1120L)
14. *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced** (Ali)
15. *The Blind Side* (Lewis) (910L)

L = Lexile Level

NF = Non-Fiction Selection

\$ Free electronic copy available via select electronic device(s)

*These selections may contain subject matter that may be objectionable to some students or families. Students may choose to read an alternate book from this list in lieu of any of these books.

Protected Reading Choices Book Summaries

A Raisin in the Sun

This groundbreaking play starred Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeill, Ruby Dee and Diana Sands in the Broadway production which opened in 1959. Set on Chicago's South Side, the plot revolves around the divergent dreams and conflicts within three generations of the Younger family: son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, his sister Beneatha, his son Travis and matriarch Lena, called Mama. When her deceased husband's insurance money comes through, Mama dreams of moving to a new home and a better neighborhood in Chicago. Walter Lee, a chauffeur, has other plans, however: buying a liquor store and being his own man. Beneatha dreams of medical school.

The tensions and prejudice they face form this seminal American drama. Sacrifice, trust and love among the Younger family and their heroic struggle to retain dignity in a harsh and changing world is a searing and timeless document of hope and inspiration. Winner of the NY Drama Critic's Award as Best Play of the Year, it has been hailed as a "pivotal play in the history of the American Black theatre." by *Newsweek* and "a milestone in the American Theatre" by *Ebony*. (From Amazon.com review)

If you enjoyed this play, you might enjoy the following: *The Glass Menagerie*, *Fences*

In the Time of Butterflies

From the author of [*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*](#) comes this tale of courage and sisterhood set in the Dominican Republic during the rise of the Trujillo dictatorship. A skillful blend of fact and fiction, *In the Time of the Butterflies* is inspired by the true story of the three Mirabal sisters who, in 1960, were murdered for their part in an underground plot to overthrow the government. Alvarez breathes life into these historical figures--known as "las mariposas," or "the butterflies," in the underground--as she imagines their teenage years, their gradual involvement with the revolution, and their terror as their dissentience is uncovered. Alvarez's controlled writing perfectly captures the mounting tension as "the butterflies" near their horrific end. The novel begins with the recollections of Dede, the fourth and surviving sister, who fears abandoning her routines and her husband to join the movement.

Alvarez also offers the perspectives of the other sisters: brave and outspoken Minerva, the family's political ringleader; pious Patria, who forsakes her faith to join her sisters after witnessing the atrocities of the tyranny; and the baby sister, sensitive Maria Teresa, who, in a series of diaries, chronicles her allegiance to Minerva and the physical and spiritual anguish of prison life. (From Amazon.com Review)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, *Before We Were Free*

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

When a teen discovers his neighbor's dog savagely stabbed to death, he decides to use the deductive reasoning of his favorite detective to solve the crime. Employing Holmesian logic is not an easy task for even the cleverest amateur sleuth and, in Christopher's case, it is particularly daunting. He suffers from a disability that causes, among other things, compulsive behavior; the inability to read others' emotions; and intolerance for noise, human touch, and unexpected events. He has learned to cope amazingly well with the help of a brilliant teacher who encourages him to write a book. This is his book--a murder mystery that is so much more. Christopher's voice is clear and logical, his descriptions spare and to the point. Not a word is wasted by this young sleuth who considers metaphors to be lies and does math problems for relaxation. What emerges is not only the solution to the mystery, but also insight into his world. Unable to feel emotions himself, his story evokes emotions in readers--heartache and frustration for his well-meaning but clueless parents and deep empathy for the wonderfully honest, funny, and lovable protagonist.

Readers will never view the behavior of an autistic person again without more compassion and understanding. The appendix of math problems will intrigue math lovers, and even those who don't like the subject will be infected by Christopher's enthusiasm for prime numbers and his logical, mathematical method of decision making. From School Library Journal - *Jackie Gropman, Chantilly Regional Library, VA*. Copyright 2003, Reed Business Information Inc. If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Marcelo in the Real World*, *Life of Pi*

Of Mice and Men

Novella by John Steinbeck, published in 1937. The tragic story, given poignancy by its objective narrative, is about the complex bond between two migrant laborers. The book, which was adapted by Steinbeck into a three-act play (produced 1937), earned him national renown. The plot centers on George Milton and Lennie Small, itinerant ranch hands who dream of one day owning a small farm. George acts as a father figure to Lennie, who is large and simpleminded, calming him and helping to rein in his immense physical strength. -- [*The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature*](#) (adapted review)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Pearl*, *A Separate Peace*

Speak

Amazon.com Review

Since the beginning of the school year, high school freshman Melinda has found that it's been getting harder and harder for her to speak out loud: "My throat is always sore, my lips raw.... Every time I try to talk to my parents or a teacher, I sputter or freeze.... It's like I have some kind of spastic laryngitis." What could have caused Melinda to suddenly fall mute? Could it be due to the fact that no one at school is speaking to her because she called the cops and got everyone busted at the seniors' big end-of-summer party? Or maybe it's because her parents' only form of communication is Post-It notes written on their way out the door to their nine-to-whenever jobs. While Melinda is bothered by these things, deep down she knows the real reason why she's been struck mute...

Laurie Halse Anderson's first novel is a stunning and sympathetic tribute to the teenage outcast. The triumphant ending, in which Melinda finds her voice, is cause for cheering (while many readers might also shed a tear or two). After reading *Speak*, it will be hard for any teen to look at the class scapegoat again without a measure of compassion and understanding for that person--who may be screaming beneath the silence. -- Jennifer Hubert
If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Thirteen Reasons Why*, *Invisible*

The Help

Jackson, Mississippi, in the early 1960s is a city of tradition. Silver is used at bridge-club luncheons, pieces polished to perfection by black maids who "yes, ma'am," and "no, ma'am," to the young white ladies who order the days. This is the world Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan enters when she graduates from Ole Miss and returns to the family plantation, but it is a world that, to her, seems ripe for change. As she observes her friend Elizabeth rudely interact with Aibileen, the gentle black woman who is practically raising Elizabeth's two-year-old daughter, Mae Mobley, Skeeter latches onto the idea of writing the story of such fraught domestic relations from the help's point of view. With the reluctant assistance of Aibileen's feisty friend, Minny, Skeeter manages to interview a dozen of the city's maids, and the book, when it is finally published, rocks Jackson's world in unimaginable ways. With pitch-perfect tone and an unerring facility for character and setting, Stockett's richly accomplished debut novel inventively explores the unspoken ways in which the nascent civil rights and feminist movements threatened the southern status quo. Look for the forthcoming movie to generate keen interest in Stockett's luminous portrait of friendship, loyalty, courage, and redemption. --Carol Haggas --*Booklist Review*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*

Ender's Game

Intense is the word for Ender's Game. Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses -- and then training them in the arts of war... The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of 'games'... Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games... He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet? (Amazon.com Review)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Knife of Never Letting Go*, *City of Ember*

Secret Life of Bees

Amazon.com Review

In Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*, 14-year-old Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their South Carolina 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. All Lily has left of Deborah is a strange image of a Black Madonna, with the words "Tiburon, South Carolina" scrawled on the back. The search for a mother, and the need to mother oneself, are crucial elements in this well-written coming-of-age story set in the early 1960s against a background of racial violence and unrest. When Lily's beloved nanny, Rosaleen, manages to insult a group of angry white men on her way to register to vote and has to skip town, Lily takes the opportunity to go with her, fleeing to the only place she can think of--Tiburon, South Carolina--determined to find out more about her dead mother --*Regina Marler*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Bean Trees*, *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt*

The Old Man and the Sea

Here, for a change, is a fish tale that actually does honor to the author. In fact *The Old Man and the Sea* revived Ernest Hemingway's career. It also led directly to his receipt of the Nobel Prize in 1954. A half century later, it's still easy to see why. This tale of an aged Cuban fisherman going head-to-head (or hand-to-fin) with a magnificent marlin encapsulates Hemingway's favorite motifs of physical and moral challenges. (Adapted from an Amazon.com review by James Marcus)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Perfect Storm, The Sun Also Rises*

Blood Red Horse

Based on the Third Crusade with England's King Richard I and the Muslim leader Saladin, this novel takes readers from the de Granvilles' Hartslove Castle to the bloody battlefields of the Middle East. It is a story of loyalty, honor, and nobility and centers around the lives of two brothers, Gavin and William; the fair maiden Eleanor whom they leave behind; and Will's beloved red horse. Readers are caught up in the bloody battles, with alternating chapters revealing what is happening on the "home front," and in the Christian and in the Muslim camps. Tying these stories together is the red horse, Hosanna, who is the book's most compelling and empathetic character. The futility of war is a theme throughout and readers will discover that, much like war today, combat in the 12th century had devastating consequences. The historical setting and the vocabulary may challenge younger readers but ensure that older ones will find the book a rewarding adventure, one not soon forgotten and one that lends itself to great discussion.—Denise Moore, *O'Gorman Junior High School, Sioux Falls, SD*. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *School Library Journal*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Blaze of Silver, Green Jasper*

The Hobbit

The hobbit-hole in question belongs to one Bilbo Baggins, an upstanding member of a "little people, about half our height, and smaller than the bearded dwarves." He is, like most of his kind, well off, well fed, and best pleased when sitting by his own fire with a pipe, a glass of good beer, and a meal to look forward to. Certainly this particular hobbit is the last person one would expect to see set off on a hazardous journey; indeed, when Gandalf the Grey stops by one morning, "looking for someone to share in an adventure," Baggins fervently wishes the wizard elsewhere. No such luck, however; soon 13 fortune-seeking dwarves have arrived on the hobbit's doorstep in search of a burglar, and before he can even grab his hat or an umbrella, Bilbo Baggins is swept out his door and into a dangerous adventure. The dwarves' goal is to return to their ancestral home in the Lonely Mountains and reclaim a stolen fortune from the dragon Smaug. Along the way, they and their reluctant companion meet giant spiders, hostile elves, ravaging wolves--and, most perilous of all, a subterranean creature named Gollum from whom Bilbo wins a magical ring in a riddling contest. It is from this life-or-death game in the dark that J.R.R. Tolkien's masterwork, [*The Lord of the Rings*](#), would eventually spring. Though *The Hobbit* is lighter in tone than the trilogy that follows, it has, like Bilbo Baggins himself, unexpected iron at its core. By the time Bilbo returns to his comfortable hobbit-hole, he is a different person altogether, well primed for the bigger adventures to come--and so is the reader. (*Amazon.com -- Alix Wilbe, adapted description*)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Eragon, Chronicles of Prydain*

The Pact

Adapted from Amazon.com Review

As teenagers from a rough part of Newark, New Jersey, Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt, and George Jenkins had nothing special going for them except loving mothers (one of whom was a drug user) and above-average intelligence. Their first stroke of luck was testing into University High, one of Newark's three magnet high schools, and their second was finding each other. They were busy staying out of trouble (most of the time), and discovering the usual ways to skip class and do as little schoolwork as possible, when a recruitment presentation on Seton Hall University reignited George's childhood dream of becoming a dentist. The college was offering a tempting assistance package for minorities in its Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus Program. George convinced his two friends to go to college with him. They would help each other through. None of them would be allowed to drop out and be reabsorbed by the Newark streets. --Regina Marler

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Gifted Hands, The Bond: Three Young Men Learn to Forgive and Reconnect with Their Fathers*

I am Scout

To Kill a Mockingbird is one of the most widely read novels in American literature. It's also a perennial favorite in highschool English classrooms across the nation. Yet onetime author Harper Lee is a mysterious figure who leads a very private life in her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, refusing to give interviews or talk about the novel that made her a household name. Lee's life is as rich as her fiction, from her girlhood as a rebellious tomboy to her days at the University of Alabama and early years as a struggling writer in New York City. Charles J. Shields is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee*, which he has adapted here for younger readers. What emerges in this riveting portrait is the story of an unconventional, high-spirited woman who drew on her love of writing and her Southern home to create a book that continues to speak to new generations of readers. Anyone who has enjoyed *To Kill a Mockingbird* will appreciate this glimpse into the life of its fascinating author. (Review from Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee; Hey, Boo: Harper Lee & To Kill a Mockingbird*

I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced

Chosen by Glamour magazine as a Woman of the Year in 2008, Nujood of Yemen has become an international hero for her astonishingly brave resistance to child marriage. Sold off by her impoverished family at the age of 10, continually raped by her husband before she even reached puberty, Nujood found the courage to run away, and with the help of an activist lawyer, sympathetic judges, and the international press, she divorced her husband and returned home. Her clear, first-person narrative, translated from the French and written with Minoui, is spellbinding: the horror of her parents' betrayal and her mother-in-law's connivance, the "grown-ups" who send the child from classroom and toys to nightmare abuse. She never denies the poverty that drives her parents and oppresses her brothers, even as she reveals their cruelty. Unlike her passive mother, she is an activist, thrilled to return to school, determined to save others, including her little sister. True to the child's viewpoint, the "grown-up" cruelty is devastating. Readers will find it incredible that such unbelievable abuse and such courageous resistance are happening now. --Hazel Rochman -- Booklist

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Forgotten Girls: Stories of Hope and Courage, Sold*

The Blind Side

As he did so memorably for baseball in *Moneyball*, Lewis takes a statistical X-ray of the hidden substructure of football, outlining the invisible doings of unsung players that determine the outcome more than the showy exploits of point scorers. In his sketch of the gridiron arms race, first came the modern, meticulously choreographed passing offense, then the ferocious defensive pass rusher whose bone-crunching quarterback sacks demolished the best-laid passing game, and finally the rise of the left tackle—the offensive lineman tasked with protecting the quarterback from the pass rusher—whose presence is felt only through the game-deciding absence of said sacks. A rare creature combining 300 pounds of bulk with "the body control of a ballerina," the anonymous left tackle, Lewis notes, is now often a team's highest-paid player. Lewis fleshes this out with the colorful saga of left tackle prodigy Michael Oher. An intermittently homeless Memphis ghetto kid taken in by a rich white family and a Christian high school, Oher's preternatural size and agility soon has every college coach in the country courting him obsequiously. Combining a tour de force of sports analysis with a piquant ethnography of the South's pigskin mania, Lewis probes the fascinating question of whether football is a matter of brute force or subtle intellect.

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If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Moneyball, I Beat the Odds*

Grade Level: 10

Required Readings:

1. *Julius Caesar* (1330L) (Basal Text) **or** *Antigone* (Basal Text) \$
2. *The Book Thief* (Zusak) (730L)

***Pre-AP courses may select an additional required reading from the choice list below.**

Choice List –Students may be required to read one book from the Choice List and complete a teacher approved independent reading project.

Fiction

1. *Joy Luck Club* (Tan)* (930L)
2. *Oedipus Rex* (Sophocles)
3. *Things Fall Apart* (Achebe) (890L)
4. *Fahrenheit 451* (Bradbury)* (890L)
5. *Snow Falling on Cedars* (Guterson)* (1080L)
6. *My Sister's Keeper* (Picoult)* (840L)
7. *The Green Mile* (King)* (910L)
8. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (Boyne) (1080L)
9. *The Road* (McCarthy)* (670L)
10. *A Lesson Before Dying* (Gaines) (750L)
11. *Lord of the Flies* (Golding) (770L)
12. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* (Riggs)* (890L)

Non-Fiction

13. *Night* (Wiesel) (570L)
14. *Friday Night Lights* (Bissinger)* (1260L)
15. *Hiroshima* (Hersey) (1190L)

L = Lexile Level

NF = Non-Fiction Selection

\$ Free electronic copy available via select electronic device(s)

*These selections may contain subject matter that may be objectionable to some students or families. Students may choose to read an alternate book from this list in lieu of any of these books.

Protected Reading Choices

Book Summaries

Joy Luck Club

A stunning literary achievement, *The Joy Luck Club* explores the tender and tenacious bond between four daughters and their mothers. The daughters know one side of their mothers, but they don't know about their earlier never-spoken-of lives in China. The mothers want love and obedience from their daughters, but they don't know the gifts that the daughters keep to themselves. Heartwarming and bittersweet, this is a novel for mother, daughters, and those that love them. (Product Description from Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, *Sister of My Heart*

Oedipus Rex

Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* has never been surpassed for the raw and terrible power with which its hero struggles to answer the eternal question, "Who am I?" The play, a story of a king who—acting entirely in ignorance—kills his father and marries his mother, unfolds with shattering power; we are helplessly carried along with *Oedipus* towards the final, horrific truth. (Adapted from the Product Description from Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Antigone*, *Medea*

Things Fall Apart

Adapted From Library Journal; Peter Josyph, Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

In direct, almost fable-like prose, this novel depicts the rise and fall of Okonkwo, a Nigerian whose sense of manliness is more akin to that of his warrior ancestors than to that of his fellow clansmen who have converted to Christianity and are appeasing the British administrators who infiltrate their village. The tough, proud, hardworking Okonkwo is at once a quintessential old-order Nigerian and a universal character in whom sons of all races have identified the figure of their father. Achebe creates a many-sided picture of village life and a sympathetic hero.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Arrow of God*, *Chike and The River*

Fahrenheit 451

In *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury's classic, 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. Guy Montag is a book-burning fireman undergoing a crisis of faith. His wife spends all day with her television "family," imploring Montag to work harder so that they can afford a fourth TV wall. Their dull, empty life sharply contrasts with that of his next-door neighbor Clarisse, a young girl thrilled by the ideas in books, and more interested in what she can see in the world around her than in the mindless chatter of the tube. When Clarisse disappears mysteriously, Montag is moved to make some changes, and starts hiding books in his home. Eventually, his wife turns him in, and he must answer the call to burn his secret cache of books. After fleeing to avoid arrest, Montag winds up joining an outlaw band of scholars who keep the contents of books in their heads, waiting for the time society will once again need the wisdom of literature. (Adapted from Amazon.com – Neil Roseman)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Feed*, *The Martian Chronicles*

Snow Falling on Cedars

Amazon.com Review

Ishmael Chambers, the one-man staff of the newspaper on San Piedro Island in Puget Sound, is covering the 1954 trial of a high school classmate accused of killing another classmate over a land dispute. We learn the sensory details of life in a small fishing community; the emotional lives of people scarred inside and out by World War II; and the deep and unresolved prejudices toward the island's Japanese Americans, who were interned during the war--a tragedy that led to financial advantage for some islanders. Marinker deliberately but nimbly moves from the characters' distinctive voices to the poignant interior perspectives of the soulful, wounded Chambers as he tells a combination love story, murder mystery, and painful history lesson. --*Lou Schuler*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Cold Mountain*, *East of Eden*

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Amazon.com Book Description

Berlin 1942. When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Maus I and II*, *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*

My Sister's Keeper

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. Anna is now being considered as a kidney donor in a last-ditch attempt to save her 16-year-old sister. As this compelling story opens, Anna has hired a lawyer to represent her in a medical emancipation suit to allow her to have control over her own body. Picoult skillfully relates the ensuing drama from the points of view of the parents; Anna; Cambell, the self-absorbed lawyer; Julia, the court-appointed guardian ad litem; and Jesse, the troubled oldest child in the family. There seems to be no easy answer, and readers are likely to be sympathetic to all sides of the case. The story shows evidence of thorough research and the unexpected twist at the end will surprise almost everyone. (adapted From School Library Journal - Susan H. Woodcock)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, *At Risk*

The Green Mile

Amazon.com Review

This novel taps into what Stephen King does best: character-driven storytelling. The setting is the small "death house" of a Southern prison in 1932. The charming narrator is an old man looking back on the events, decades later. Maybe it's a little too cute, maybe the pathos is laid on a little thick, but it's hard to resist the colorful personalities and simple wonders of this supernatural tale. As *Time* magazine put it, "Like the best popular art, *The Green Mile* has the courage of its cornier convictions ... the palpable sense of King's sheer, unwavering belief in his tale is what makes the novel work as well as it finally does." And it's not a bad choice for giving to someone who doesn't understand the appeal of Stephen King, because the one scene that is out-and-out gruesome can be easily skipped by the squeamish. *The Green Mile* was nominated for a 1997 Bram Stoker Award.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*, *Shawshank Redemption*

The Road

Adapted From Publishers Weekly; Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.

Violence, in McCarthy's postapocalyptic tour de force, has been visited worldwide in the form of a "long shear of light and then a series of low concussions" that leaves cities and forests burned, birds and fish dead and the earth shrouded in gray clouds of ash. In this landscape, an unnamed man and his young son journey down a road to get to the sea. They carry blankets and scavenged food in a shopping cart, and the man is armed with a revolver loaded with his last two bullets. Beyond the ever-present possibility of starvation lies the threat of roving bands of cannibalistic thugs. The man assures the boy that the two of them are "good guys," but from the way his father treats other stray survivors the boy sees that his father has turned into an amoral survivalist, tenuously attached to the morality of the past by his fierce love for his son. McCarthy establishes himself here as the closest thing in American literature to an Old Testament prophet, trolling the blackest registers of human emotion to create a haunting and grim novel about civilization's slow death after the power goes out.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *I am Legend*, *The Children of Men*

Night

In Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*, a scholarly, pious teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family. His memories of the nightmare world of the death camps present him with an intolerable question: how can the God he once so fervently believed in have allowed these monstrous events to occur? There are no easy answers in this harrowing book, which probes life's essential riddles with the lucid anguish only great literature achieves. It marks the crucial first step in Wiesel's lifelong project to bear witness for those who died. Amazon.com Book Description

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Dawn, Day*

A Lesson Before Dying

Amazon.com Book Description

A Lesson Before Dying, is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting—and defying—the expected.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *A Gathering of Old Men*, *Native Son*

Lord of the Flies

William Golding's classic tale about a group of English schoolboys who are plane-wrecked on a deserted island is just as chilling and relevant today as when it was first published in 1954. At first, the stranded boys cooperate, attempting to gather food, make shelters, and maintain signal fires. Overseeing their efforts are Ralph, "the boy with fair hair," and Piggy, Ralph's chubby, wisdom-dispensing sidekick whose thick spectacles come in handy for lighting fires. Although Ralph tries to impose order and delegate responsibility, there are many in their number who would rather swim, play, or hunt the island's wild pig population. Soon Ralph's rules are being ignored or challenged outright. His fiercest antagonist is Jack, the redheaded leader of the pig hunters, who manages to lure away many of the boys to join his band of painted savages. The situation deteriorates as the trappings of civilization continue to fall away, until Ralph discovers that instead of being hunters, he and Piggy have become the hunted. Golding's gripping novel explores the boundary between human reason and animal instinct, all on the brutal playing field of adolescent competition. --*Jennifer Hubert(adapted description)*

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Gone*, *Divergent*

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

Amazon.com Book Description

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Aviary*, *Flowers in the Attic*

Friday Night Lights

Secular religions are fascinating in the devotion and zealousness they breed, and in Texas, high school football has its own rabid hold over the faithful. H.G. Bissinger, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, enters into the spirit of one of its most fervent shrines: Odessa, a city in decline in the desert of West Texas, where the Permian High School Panthers have managed to compile the winningest record in state annals. Indeed, as this breathtaking examination of the town, the team, its coaches, and its young players chronicles, the team, for better and for worse, *is* the town; the communal health and self-image of the latter is directly linked to the on-field success of the former. The 1988 season, the one *Friday Night Lights* recounts, was not one of the Panthers' best. The game's effect on the community--and the players--was explosive. (Amazon.com Review, adapted)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Glory Road*, *Shoeless Joe*

Hiroshima

"At, exactly fifteen minutes past eight in the morning on August 6, 1945, Japanese time, at the moment when the atomic bomb flashed above Hiroshima, Miss Toshiko Sasaki, a clerk in the personnel department of the East Asia Tin Works, had just sat down at her place in the plant office and was turning her head to speak to the girl at the next desk." When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, few could have anticipated its potential for devastation. Pulitzer prize-winning author John Hersey recorded the stories of Hiroshima residents shortly after the explosion and, in 1946, *Hiroshima* was published, giving the world first-hand accounts from people who had survived it. The words of Miss Sasaki, Dr. Fujii, Mrs. Nakamura, Father Kleinsorg, Dr. Sasaki, and the Reverend Tanimoto gave a face to the statistics that saturated the media and solicited an overwhelming public response. Whether you believe the bomb made the difference in the war or that it should never have been dropped, "Hiroshima" is a must read for all of us who live in the shadow of armed conflict. Amazon.com Book Description

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Girl with the White Flag*, *The Legacy Letters*

Grade Level: 11

AP Courses are to abide by their approved AP Syllabus and are not required to follow the Protected Reading List.

Required Readings:

1. *The Crucible* (Basal Text)
2. *The Great Gatsby* (Fitzgerald)* (1070L)

***Pre-AP courses may select an additional required reading from the choice list below.**

Choice List –Students may be required to read one book from the Choice List and complete a teacher approved independent reading project.

Fiction

1. *The Scarlet Letter* (Hawthorne) (1420L) \$
2. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Hurston)* (1080L)
3. *Death of a Salesman* (Miller) (1320L)
4. *A Farewell to Arms* (730L)
5. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Twain)* (990L) \$
6. *The Catcher in the Rye* (Salinger)* (790L)
7. *No Country for Old Men* (McCarthy)*
8. *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Williams)*
9. *Beloved* (Morrison)* (870L)
10. *The Jungle* (Sinclair)* (1170L)

Non-Fiction

11. *Into the Wild* (Krakauer)* (1270L)
12. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (1140L)
13. *Tuesdays with Morrie* (Albom) (830L)
14. *In Cold Blood* (Capote)* (1040L)
15. *The Things They Carried* (O'Brien)* (880L)

L = Lexile Level

NF = Non-Fiction Selection

\$ Free electronic copy available via select electronic device(s)

*These selections may contain subject matter that may be objectionable to some students or families. Students may choose to read an alternate book from this list in lieu of any of these books.

Protected Reading Choices Book Summaries

The Scarlett Letter

America's first psychological novel, *The Scarlet Letter* is a dark tale of love, crime, and revenge set in colonial New England. It revolves around a single, forbidden act of passion that forever alters the lives of three members of a small Puritan community: Hester Prynne, an ardent and fierce woman who bears the punishment of her sin in humble silence; the Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale, a respected public figure who is inwardly tormented by long-hidden guilt; and the malevolent Roger Chillingworth, Hester's husband—a man who seethes with an Ahab-like lust for vengeance. The landscape of this classic novel is uniquely American, but the themes it explores are universal—the nature of sin, guilt, and penitence, the clash between our private and public selves, and the spiritual and psychological cost of living outside society. Constructed with the elegance of a Greek tragedy, *The Scarlet Letter* brilliantly illuminates the truth that lies deep within the human heart. (Adapted from the Product Description on Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The House of the Seven Gables*, *Wuthering Heights*

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Huckleberry Finn had a tough life with his drunk father until an adventure with Tom Sawyer changed everything. But when Huck's dad returns and kidnaps him, he must escape down the Mississippi river with runaway slave, Jim. They encounter trouble at every turn, from floods and gunfights to armed bandits and the long arm of the law. Through it all the friends stick together - but can Huck and Tom free Jim from slavery once and for all? (Adapted from the Product Description on Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Life on the Mississippi*, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

A Farewell to Arms

Amazon.com Book Description

In 1918 Ernest Hemingway went to war, to the 'war to end all wars'. He volunteered for ambulance service in Italy, was wounded and twice decorated. Out of his experience came *A Farewell to Arms*. Hemingway's description of war is unforgettable. He recreates the fear, the comradeship, the courage of his young American volunteer, and the men and women he meets in Italy, with total conviction. But *A Farewell to Arms* is not only a novel of war. In it Hemingway has also created a love story of immense drama and uncompromising passion.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *For Whom the Bells Tolls*, *Tender is the Night*

A Streetcar Names Desire

Amazon.com Play Description

It is a very short list of 20th-century American plays that continue to have the same power and impact as when they first appeared—57 years after its Broadway premiere, Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* is one of those plays. The story famously recounts how the faded and promiscuous Blanche DuBois is pushed over the edge by her sexy and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski. *Streetcar* launched the careers of Marlon Brando, Jessica Tandy, Kim Hunter and Karl Malden, and solidified the position of Tennessee Williams as one of the most important young playwrights of his generation, as well as that of Elia Kazan as the greatest American stage director of the '40s and '50s.

If you enjoyed this play, you might enjoy the following: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*,

The Jungle

In this powerful book we enter the world of Jurgis Rudkus, a young Lithuanian immigrant who arrives in America fired with dreams of wealth, freedom, and opportunity. And we discover, with him, the astonishing truth about "packingtown," the busy, flourishing, filthy Chicago stockyards, where new world visions perish in a jungle of human suffering. Upton Sinclair, master of the "muckraking" novel, here explores the workingman's lot at the turn of the century: the backbreaking labor, the injustices of "wage-slavery," the bewildering chaos of urban life. *The Jungle*, a story so shocking that it launched a government investigation, recreates this startling chapter of our history in unflinching detail. Always a vigorous champion on political reform, Sinclair is also a gripping storyteller, and his 1906 novel stands as one of the most important -- and moving -- works in the literature of social change. (From the publisher of the mass market paperback edition).

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Oil!*, *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*

In Cold Blood

Amazon.com Book Description

On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by blasts from a shotgun held a few inches from their faces. There was no apparent motive for the crime, and there were almost no clues. Five years, four months and twenty-nine days later, on April 14, 1965, Richard Eugene Hickock, aged thirty-three, and Perry Edward Smith, aged thirty-six, were hanged from the crime on a gallows in a warehouse in the Kansas State Penitentiary in Lansing, Kansas. *In Cold Blood* is the story of the lives and deaths of these six people. It has already been hailed as a masterpiece.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Devil in the White City*, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Amazon.com Book Description

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they’d weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Emperor of all Maladies*, *The Disappearing Spoon*

Into the Wild

Amazon.com Review

"God, he was a smart kid..." So why did Christopher McCandless trade a bright future--a college education, material comfort, uncommon ability and charm--for death by starvation in an abandoned bus in the woods of Alaska? This is the question that [Jon Krakauer's](#) book tries to answer. While it doesn't—cannot—answer the question with certainty, *Into the Wild* does shed considerable light along the way. Not only about McCandless's "Alaskan odyssey," but also the forces that drive people to drop out of society and test themselves in other ways. Krakauer quotes [Wallace Stegner's](#) writing on a young man who similarly disappeared in the Utah desert in the 1930s: "At 18, in a dream, he saw himself ... wandering through the romantic waste places of the world. No man with any of the juices of boyhood in him has forgotten those dreams." *Into the Wild* shows that McCandless, while extreme, was hardly unique; the author makes the hermit into one of us, something McCandless himself could never pull off. By book's end, McCandless isn't merely a newspaper clipping, but a sympathetic, oddly magnetic personality. Whether he was "a courageous idealist, or a reckless idiot," you won't soon forget Christopher McCandless.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Into Thin Air*, *Where Men Win Glory*

The Catcher in the Rye

Review – from Amazon.com

Novel by J.D. Salinger, published in 1951. The influential and widely acclaimed story details the two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, he searches for truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world. He ends up exhausted and emotionally ill, in a psychiatrist's office. After he recovers from his breakdown, Holden relates his experiences to the reader.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Chocolate War*, *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Their Eyes Were Watching God, an American classic, is the luminous and haunting novel about Janie Crawford, a Southern Black woman in the 1930s, whose journey from a free-spirited girl to a woman of independence and substance has inspired writers and readers for close to 70 years. This poetic, graceful love story, rooted in Black folk traditions and steeped in mythic realism, celebrates boldly and brilliantly African-American culture and heritage. And in a powerful, mesmerizing narrative, it pays quiet tribute to a Black woman who, though constricted by the times, still demanded to be heard. (Adapted from the Product Description on Amazon.com)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Color Purple*, *Cane*

Death of a Salesman

Adapted from Amazon.com Review

Arthur Miller's 1949 *Death of a Salesman* has sold 11 million copies, and Willy Loman didn't make all those sales on a smile and a shoeshine. This play is the genuine article--it's got the goods on the human condition, all packed into a day in the life of one self-deluded, self-promoting, self-defeating soul. It's a sturdy bridge between kitchen-sink realism and spectral abstraction, the facts of particular hard times and universal themes. --*Tim Appelo*

If you enjoyed this play, you might enjoy the following: *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Iceman Cometh*

Tuesdays with Morrie

This true story about the love between a spiritual mentor and his pupil has soared to the bestseller list for many reasons. For starters: it reminds us of the affection and gratitude that many of us still feel for the significant mentors of our past. It also plays out a fantasy many of us have entertained: what would it be like to look those people up again, tell them how much they meant to us, maybe even resume the mentorship? Plus, we meet Morrie Schwartz--a one of a kind professor, whom the author describes as looking like a cross between a biblical prophet and Christmas elf. And finally we are privy to intimate moments of Morrie's final days as he lies dying from a terminal illness.

Even on his deathbed, this twinkling-eyed mensch manages to teach us all about living robustly and fully. (Adapted from the Amazon.com Review – Gail Hudson)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, *For One More Day*

Beloved

Product Description

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Toni Morrison's *Beloved* is a spellbinding and dazzlingly innovative portrait of a woman haunted by the past. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Meanwhile Sethe's house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: *Beloved*. Sethe works at beating back the past, but it makes itself heard and felt incessantly in her memory and in the lives of those around her. When a mysterious teenage girl arrives, calling herself Beloved, Sethe's terrible secret explodes into the present. Combining the visionary power of legend with the unassailable truth of history, Morrison's unforgettable novel is one of the great and enduring works of American literature.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Invisible Man*, *Black Boy*

The Things They Carried

From Amazon.com Review

A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *If I Die in a Combat Zone: Box Me Up and Ship Me Home*, *Black Hawk Down*

No Country for Old Men

Adapted from From Publishers Weekly

In 1980 southwest Texas, Llewelyn Moss, hunting antelope near the Rio Grande, stumbles across several dead men, a bunch of heroin and \$2.4 million in cash. The bulk of the novel is a gripping man-on-the-run sequence relayed in terse, masterful prose as Moss, who's taken the money, tries to evade Wells, an ex-Special Forces agent employed by a powerful cartel, and Chigurh, an icy psychopathic murderer armed with a cattle gun and a dangerous philosophy of justice. Also concerned about Moss's whereabouts is Sheriff Bell, an aging lawman struggling with his sense that there's a new breed of man (embodied in Chigurh) whose destructive power he simply cannot match. In a series of thoughtful first-person passages interspersed throughout, Sheriff Bell laments the changing world, wrestles with an uncomfortable memory from his service in WWII and—a soft ray of light in a book so steeped in bloodshed—rejoices in the great good fortune of his marriage. While the action of the novel thrills, it's the sensitivity and wisdom of Sheriff Bell that makes the book a profound meditation on the battle between good and evil and the roles choice and chance play in the shaping of a life. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *True Grit*, *All the Pretty Horses*

Grade Level: 12

AP Courses are to abide by their approved AP Syllabus and are not required to follow the Protected Reading List.

Standard Required Readings

1. *Macbeth* (Basal) \$
2. *Beowulf* (1160L) (Basal excerpt) \$
3. *The Canterbury Tales* (Basal excerpt) \$
4. *Gulliver's Travels* (1330L) and *A Modest Proposal* (Swift) (1520L) NF (Basal excerpts) \$
5. *The Prince* (Machiavelli) (1520L) (Basal excerpt) NF \$

***Pre-AP courses may select an additional required reading from the choice list below.**

Choice List –Students may be required to read one book from the Choice List and complete a teacher approved independent reading project.

Fiction

1. *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Wilde) (1390L) \$
2. *Pride and Prejudice* (Austen) (1100L) \$
3. *The Namesake* (Lahiri) (1210L)
4. *Frankenstein* (Shelley) (1170L) \$
5. *Grendel* (Gardner)* (920L)
6. *Dairy Queen* (Murdock) (990L)
7. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (Adams) (1000L)
8. *1984* (Orwell)* (1090L)
9. *Heart of Darkness* (Conrad)* (1050L) \$
10. *Brave New World* (Huxley)* (870L)

Non-Fiction

11. *Quiet Strength* (Dungy) (1010L)
12. *Stiff; The Curious lives of Human Cadavers* (Roach)* (1230L)
13. *The Freedom Writer's Diary* (900L)
14. *Angela's Ashes* (McCourt)* (1110L)
15. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (Beah)* (920L)

L = Lexile Level

NF = Non-Fiction Selection

\$ Free electronic copy available via select electronic device(s)

*These selections may contain subject matter that may be objectionable to some students or families. Students may choose to read an alternate book from this list in lieu of any of these books.

Protected Reading Choices Book Summaries

1984

Adapted from the Product Description from Amazon.com

Thought Police. Big Brother. Orwellian. These words have entered our vocabulary because of George Orwell's classic dystopian novel, *1984*. The story of one man's nightmare odyssey as he pursues a forbidden love affair through a world ruled by warring states and a power structure that controls not only information but also individual thought and memory, *1984* is a prophetic, haunting tale. More relevant than ever before, *1984* exposes the worst crimes imaginable—the destruction of truth, freedom, and individuality.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Handmaids Tale*, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

Heart of Darkness

Adapted from a review from Amazon.com

The story reflects the physical and psychological shock Conrad himself experienced in 1890, when he worked briefly in the Belgian Congo. The narrator, Marlow, describes a journey he took on an African river. Assigned by an ivory company to take command of a cargo boat stranded in the interior, Marlow makes his way through the treacherous forest, witnessing the brutalization of the natives by white traders and hearing tantalizing stories of a Mr. Kurtz, the company's most successful representative. He reaches Kurtz's compound in a remote outpost only to see a row of human heads mounted on poles. In this alien context, unbound by the strictures of his own culture, Kurtz has exchanged his soul for a bloody sovereignty, but a mortal illness is bringing his reign of terror to a close. As Marlow transports him downriver, Kurtz delivers an arrogant and empty explanation of his deeds as a visionary quest.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Poisonwood Bible*, *Paradise Lost*

Brave New World

From Library Journal; *Pat Griffith, Schlow*, Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley is a classic science fiction work that continues to be a significant warning to our society today. Tony Britton, the reader, does an excellent job of portraying clinical detachment as the true nature of the human incubators is revealed. The tone lightens during the vacation to the wilderness and the contrast is even more striking. Each character is given a separate personality by Britton's voices. As the story moves from clinical detachment to the human interest of Bernard, the nonconformist, and John, the "Savage," listeners are drawn more deeply into the plot. Finally, the reasoned tones of the Controller explain away all of John's arguments against the civilization, leading to John's death as he cannot reconcile his beliefs to theirs.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Catch-22*

The Importance of Being Earnest

Adapted from the Product Description from Amazon.com

The rapid-fire wit and eccentric characters of *The Importance of Being Earnest* have made it a mainstay of the high school curriculum for decades. Cecily Cardew and Gwendolen Fairfax are both in love with the same mythical suitor. Jack Worthing has wooed Gwendolen as Ernest while Algernon has also posed as Ernest to win the heart of Jack's ward, Cecily. When all four arrive at Jack's country home on the same weekend—the "rivals" to fight for Ernest's undivided attention and the "Ernests" to claim their beloveds—pandemonium breaks loose. Only a senile nursemaid and an old, discarded hand-bag can save the day!

If you enjoyed this play, you might enjoy the following: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Much Ado About Nothing*

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction; Adams is a master of intelligent satire, barbed wit, and comedic dialogue. *The Hitchhiker's Guide* is rich in comedic detail and thought-provoking situations and stands up to multiple reads. Adapted from Amazon.com Review

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Catch-22*, *A Confederacy of Dunces*

Pride and Prejudice

Product Description from Amazon.com

Few have failed to be charmed by the witty and independent spirit of Elizabeth Bennet. Her early determination to dislike Mr. Darcy is a prejudice only matched by the folly of his arrogant pride. Their first impressions give way to true feelings in a comedy profoundly concerned with happiness and how it might be achieved.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Jane Eyre*, *Emma*

Frankenstein

Product Description from Amazon.com

Set largely in the haunting Alps of mid-nineteenth century Europe, author Mary Shelley brings to life a gothic tale of horror and humanity. In *Frankenstein*, Shelley chronicles the story of a young physician obsessed with the reanimation of human life. Driven to the brink of insanity in this quest, young Frankenstein fails to give thought to the moral or ethical implications of his actions and when the deed is done finds himself repulsed by the obscenity he has wrought. Abandoned by its "father", the nameless creature is hardened - twisted - by a world in which it has no place. Laying the blame for its blasphemous existence on Frankenstein himself, the beast ultimately finds purpose in the calculated destruction of his creator. Written in 1816, this now classic tale examines the isolation of its two protagonists - creator and creature. Through the intertwined lives of these two characters it profoundly examines human emotions of rejection, isolation and suffering while simultaneously contemplating man's role within the larger scheme of creation.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Dracula*, *The Strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Grendel

Grendel is a beautiful and heartbreaking modern retelling of the Beowulf epic from the point of view of the monster, Grendel, the villain of the 8th-century Anglo-Saxon epic. This book benefits from both of Gardner's careers: in addition to his work as a novelist, Gardner was a noted professor of medieval literature and a scholar of ancient languages. (Amazon.com Review)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Beowulf*, *The Once and Future King*

Angela's Ashes

Amazon.com Review

"Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood," writes Frank McCourt in *Angela's Ashes*. "Worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood." Welcome, then, to the pinnacle of the miserable Irish Catholic childhood. 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. It turns out that prospects weren't so great back in the old country either--not with Malachy for a father. A chronically unemployed and nearly unemployable alcoholic, he appears to be the model on which many of our more insulting clichés about drunken Irish manhood are based. Mix in abject poverty and frequent death and illness and you have all the makings of a truly difficult early life. Fortunately, in McCourt's able hands it also has all the makings for a compelling memoir.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Tis: A Memoir*, *The Kite Runner*

The Namesake

Adapted from the Book Description on Amazon.com

The Namesake takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd, antic name. Lahiri brings great empathy to Gogol as he stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. With penetrating insight, she reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents, but also the means by which we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *The Poisonwood Bible*, *Little Bee*

Dairy Queen

D. J.'s family members don't talk much, especially about the fact that 15-year-old D. J. does all the heavy work on their Wisconsin dairy farm since her father broke his hip and her two older brothers left for college. Nor do they talk about why D. J.'s mom, a teacher, is so busy filling in for the middle-school principal that she's never home. And they never, ever discuss the reason why her brothers haven't called home for more than six months. So when D. J. decides to try out for the Red Bend football team, even though she's been secretly training (and falling for) Brian Nelson, the cute quarterback from Hawley, Red Bend's rival, she becomes the talk of the town. Suddenly, her family has quite a bit to say. This humorous, romantic romp excels at revealing a situation seldom explored in YA novels, and it will quickly find its place alongside equally well-written stories set in rural areas, such as Weaver's *Full Service* (2005), Richard Peck's *The Teacher's Funeral* (2004), and Kimberly Fusco's *Tending to Grace* (2004).
Jennifer Hubert-- Booklist

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Front and Center*, *The Off Season*

Quiet Strength

Tony Dungy's words and example have intrigued millions of people, particularly following his victory in Super Bowl XLI, the first for an African American coach. How is it possible for a coach—especially a football coach—to win the respect of his players and lead them to the Super Bowl without the screaming histrionics, the profanities, and the demand that the sport come before anything else? How is it possible for anyone to be successful without compromising faith and family? In this inspiring and reflective memoir, now updated with a new chapter, Coach Dungy tells the story of a life lived for God and family—and challenges us all to redefine our ideas of what it means to succeed. From Amazon.com Review

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Uncommon: Finding Your path to Significance, Through My Eyes*

A Long Way Gone

This gripping story by a children's-rights advocate recounts his experiences as a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s, during one of the most brutal and violent civil wars in recent history. Beah, a boy equally thrilled by causing mischief as by memorizing passages from Shakespeare and dance moves from hip-hop videos, was a typical precocious 12-year-old. But rebel forces destroyed his childhood innocence when they hit his village, driving him to leave his home and travel the arid deserts and jungles of Africa. After several months of struggle, he was recruited by the national army, made a full soldier and learned to shoot an AK-47, and hated everyone who came up against the rebels. The first two thirds of his memoir are frightening: how easy it is for a normal boy to transform into someone as addicted to killing as he is to the cocaine that the army makes readily available. But an abrupt change occurred a few years later when agents from the United Nations pulled him out of the army and placed him in a rehabilitation center. Anger and hate slowly faded away, and readers see the first glimmers of Beah's work as an advocate. Told in a conversational, accessible style, this powerful record of war ends as a beacon to all teens experiencing violence around them by showing them that there are other ways to survive than by adding to the chaos.—*Matthew L. Moffett* (School Library Journal)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky*, *Girl Soldier*

Stiff

Those curious or brave enough to find out what really happens to a body that is donated to the scientific community can do so with this book. Dissection in medical anatomy classes is about the least bizarre of the purposes that science has devised. Mostly dealing with such contemporary uses such as stand-ins for crash-test dummies, Roach also pulls together considerable historical and background information. Bodies are divided into types, including "beating-heart" cadavers for organ transplants, and individual parts—leg and foot segments, for example, are used to test footwear for the effects of exploding land mines. Just as the non-emotional, fact-by-fact descriptions may be getting to be a bit too much, Roach swings into macabre humor. In some cases, it is needed to restore perspective or aid in understanding both what the procedures are accomplishing and what it is hoped will be learned. In all cases, the comic relief welcomes readers back to the world of the living. For those who are interested in the fields of medicine or forensics and are aware of some of the procedures, this book makes excellent reading. - Pam Johnson (School Library Journal)

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Packing for Mars*, *Death's Acre*

Freedom Writer's Diary

Adapted from Review on Amazon.com from the Library Journal

When Gruwell was a first-year high school teacher in Long Beach, CA, teaching the "unteachables" (kids that no other teacher wanted to deal with), she discovered that most of her students had not heard of the Holocaust.

Shocked, she introduced them to books about tolerance. A first-person accounts by the likes of Anne Frank and Zlata Filipovic, who chronicled her life in war-torn Sarajevo. The students were inspired to start keeping diaries of their lives that showed the violence, homelessness, racism, illness, and abuse that surrounded them. These student diaries form the basis of this book, which is cut from the same mold as *Dangerous Minds*: the outsider teacher, who isn't supposed to last a month, comes in and rebuilds a class with tough love and hard work.

If you enjoyed this book, you might enjoy the following: *Akeelah and the Bee*, *Finding Forrester*