



*The mission of the Shaker City Schools Library Media Program is to ensure that all students and staff are effective users of information and ideas.*

## Recommended Reading for High School, Grades 9 - 12

Strong reading skills are the key to student achievement and lifelong learning. This reading list is intended as an aid in choosing books to provide rich reading experiences for students.

Professional school librarians work with all of their students to build strong skills in locating, accessing and analyzing information. This begins with the retelling of stories in the earliest grades, through the teaching of sophisticated web evaluation strategies for older students. These critical thinking skills serve students well throughout their school career and beyond.

### Resources

In addition to strong book collections in all our school buildings, we provide online resources for students and families to use. From a home Internet connection, you can find the Library Media Program's web pages at [www.shaker.org](http://www.shaker.org). Click "Resources for Learning" and you will find a link to "Library Resources." You will find online databases, curriculum-based web links and our online catalog. Some of these resources require a password, which is available from your child's school library or from the District Library Media Office.

The Internet has increased our resources for learning, but also overwhelms us in its quantity, with no assurance of quality. Our goal is to help our students make good selections and learn to judge the quality and intent of information in all formats.

To help students and parents make good selections, we provide a variety of online subscription databases including encyclopedias, magazines, and other reference materials. Our databases for high school students include the *Gale Student Resource Center*; INFOhio databases such as *AccessScience* and *Ebsco Research Databases*; *NoodleTools* to create bibliographies; and more.

We also encourage you to use the Shaker Heights Public Library for a multitude of good books, reading experiences and activities. You'll also find a great Teen Center at the Main Library.

### Reading Links

Looking for more good reading? Here are some websites that will help.

#### **Internet Public Library Teen Division**

The Internet Public Library's home page links to Teen Space, where you'll find a link for books and writing. It features all sorts of reading lists and other activities to help in your studies and leisure interests. <http://www.ipl.org>

#### **New York Public Library's Teen Links**

A variety of booklists are linked under the "On the Shelf" heading. <http://teenlink.nypl.org/index.html>

#### **Reading Rants: Out of the Ordinary Teen Book Lists**

Librarian Jennifer Hubert Swan offers a "thinking teen's" set of book suggestions and organizes them by topic. <http://www.readingrants.org/>

#### **Shaker.org Reading Links**

Check the [shaker.org](http://shaker.org) website for our library links to good reading materials. You can go to [shaker.org](http://shaker.org) and choose Resources for Learning, Library Resources, your school building and the "Reading Links" section on the navigation bar. The direct address is <http://shaker.org/resources/library/high/readingLinks.htm>

*For more information about the Shaker Schools Library Media Program, call (216) 295-1400.*

**Abadzis, Nick** *Laika*

Laika, an abandoned puppy, becomes Earth's first space traveler in the Soviets' Sputnik. Fact and fiction are intertwined in stories of 3 compelling lives highlighting a pivotal moment in modern history. *Fiction*

**Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi** *Purple Hibiscus*

Two Nigerian teens live in a wealthy home that feels like a prison because of a domineering father. When they visit their aunt's family, the lack of comforts is more than made up for by the freedom and joys of a loving family. *Fiction*

**Adoff, Arnold** *I am the Darker Brother*

This collection of 20th century African-American poetry expresses the love, pain, and perseverance of the common man. *Poetry*

**Alexander, Robert** *The Kitchen Boy*

Narrated by 94-year-old Mikhail Semyanov, a Russian immigrant now living outside Chicago, the novel recalls the bloody days of the Russian Revolution, when the royal family is imprisoned in Siberia, in a building known as the House of Special Purpose. *Fiction*

**Anderson, Laurie Halse** *Twisted*

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his disagreeable father, Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl. When life starts to go bad again, he must choose: transform himself or give in to destructive thoughts. *Fiction*

**Anderson, M. T.** *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation: The Pox Party (Vol I) and Kingdom on the Waves (Vol 2)*

Diaries, letters, and manuscripts chronicle the life of Octavian, an African American raised as part of a science experiment during the American Revolution. In Vol 2 Octavian joins Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment to gain his freedom. *Fiction*

**Bainbridge, David** *Beyond the Zonules of Zinn: A Fantastic Journey through Your Brain*

This witty book chronicles what we know about the brain (its structure), what we can hope to know (its function), and what we may never know (its evolution). *Nonfiction*

**Baldwin, James** *Giovanni's Room*

A young American expatriate living in Paris after WWII grapples with his sexual identity. This 1956 novel was daring for its time. *Fiction*

**Bausum, Ann** *Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement*

Bausum introduces the 1961 bus integration protests through personal experiences of two participants – one black and one white. *Nonfiction*

**Beah, Ishmael** *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*

A former child soldier in Sierra Leone recalls the heart-wrenching experiences that transformed him from an innocent 12-year-old into a cold-blooded killer. *Nonfiction*

**Bell, Ruth** *Changing Bodies, Changing Lives*

This contains everything you always wanted to know about teenage sexuality and relationships – honest, explicit and thorough. *Nonfiction*

**Benioff, David** *City of Thieves*

By turns insightful and funny, thrilling and terrifying, *City of Thieves* is a gripping, cinematic World War II adventure and a coming-of-age story with a contemporary feel for how boys become men. *Fiction*

**Blackman, Malorie** *Naughts and Crosses* and *Knife Edge*

A forbidden friendship between teens of two different races causes catastrophic events in a culture where the dark-skinned elite have white slaves. *Fiction*

**Bradbury, Jennifer** *Shift*

Best friends Chris and Win go on a cross-country bicycle trek the summer after graduating. When only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened. *Fiction*

**Bray, Libba** *A Great and Terrible Beauty*

After many years in India and after the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, Gemma Doyle returns to England. At her school, she realizes she has magical powers. Her adventures continue in *Rebel Angels* and *The Sweet Far Thing*. *Fiction*

**Brooks, Kevin** *Being*

Doctors snake a fiber-optic tube down Robert Smith's throat, but what they see doesn't make medical sense. Armed with a stolen gun and the video of his strange organs, Robert is determined to find out exactly who--and what--he is. *Fiction*

**Brynne, Faith Hickman** *101 Questions about Muscles to Stretch Your Mind and Flex Your Brain*

This book answers 101 questions with concise, factual statements that explain the characteristics, functions, and growth of muscles. A perfect book for athletes! *Nonfiction*

**Budhos, Marina** *Ask Me No Questions*

Nadira and her family leave Bangladesh for New York City. The expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, create frustration, sorrow and terror for the family. *Fiction*

**Busby, Cylin, ed.** *First Kiss (Then Tell)*

In this entertaining collection of essays, poems, plays and comic strips, the contributors' experiences range from the sublime to the hilarious. *Fiction*

**Caletti, Deb** *The Fortunes of Indigo Skye*

Indigo looks forward to being a full-time waitress after graduation. Her life is turned upside down by a large check from a customer who appreciates that she cares enough to scold him about smoking. *Fiction*

**Cameron, Peter** *Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You*

In the tradition of *The Catcher in the Rye*, this darkly comic story of a young man's reluctant coming-of-age paints an indelible portrait of a teenage hero holding out for a better grown-up world. *Fiction*

**Card, Orson Scott** *Ender's Game*

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin is a young genius in Battle School, where he is training to fight the alien Buggers. He must put his skills to the ultimate test sooner than he expected. What will happen when he is forced to leave Earth? The story continues in *Ender in Exile*. *Fiction*

**Carroll, Lewis** *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-glass and What Alice Found There*

Alice falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters. She steps through the mirror into a strange world where curious adventures await her. *Fiction*

**Cather, Willa** *My Antonia*

This portrait of an indomitable pioneer woman depicts her many hardships. *Fiction*

**Chan, Gillian** *The Turning*

After his mother's death, Ben's father moves him to England. There Wyliff, a Green Man, enlists Ben in a bizarre fairy-world conflict that puts humans in danger. *Fiction*

**Coburn, Jake** *Lovesick*

After an accident seems to end his college and athletic dreams, Ted is offered a second chance at school if he agrees to spy on a classmate and help her father monitor her bulimia. *Fiction*

**Cornwell, Autumn** *Carpe Diem*

Vassar Spore's detailed plans for the next 20 years of her life are derailed when her bohemian grandmother insists that she join her in Southeast Asia for the summer. There Vassar discovers new possibilities. *Fiction*

**Crisler, Curtis L.** *Tough Boy Sonatas*

Poems about boys growing up poor and black vividly show the constant threats of ghetto life, as well as the positive relationships that help sustain boys and their community. *Nonfiction*

**Crutcher, Chris** *Deadline*

Ben Wolf learns he has one year to live. He decides to attempt his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose, and converses with his spiritual guide, "Hey-Soos." *Fiction*

**Cummings, Priscilla** *Red Kayak*

Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy that tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong. *Fiction*

**Davis, Sampson** *We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success*

Three boys from the tough neighborhoods of Newark (NJ) where survival, not schoolwork, is the priority, make a friendship pact. They take on the biggest challenges of their lives -- college and medical school. *Nonfiction*

**DeLint, Charles** *Dingo*

Miguel Schreiber and a long-time enemy are drawn into a strange dream world when they fall in love with shape-shifting twin sisters from Australia. *Fiction*

**Dessen, Sarah** *Just Listen*

Annabel Greene is ostracized by classmates because of what happened at a party last summer, and is affected by problems her family refuses to acknowledge. Owen helps Annabel listen to her heart and speak out honestly. *Fiction*

**Dessen, Sarah** *Lock and Key*

When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, Ruby, a high school senior, winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for 10 years. Ruby learns what makes a family, how to let people to help her, and that she too has something to offer others. *Fiction*

**Dove, Rita** *American Smooth: Poems*

Pulitzer Prize winner and poet laureate Rita Dove is a formidable writer. Her readers might expect a compelling poetry collection, and Dove does not disappoint. *Poetry*

**Doyle, Arthur Conan** *The Hounds of the Baskervilles*

In what is arguably both the best Sherlock Holmes story in the canon and one of the all-time classic mystery novels, Doyle couples his interest in the occult with keen scientific detection in this story that showcases Holmes' sidekick, Dr. Watson. *Fiction*

**Faulkner, William** *As I Lay Dying*

A poor white family in the South accompanies the coffin of their mother to the town where she wished to be buried. *Fiction*

**Fields, Terri** *HoldUp*

Teens react differently to a busy Saturday night shift at a Phoenix, AZ, Burger Haven that ends in a show-down with armed robbers. *Fiction*

**Flake, Sharon** *Who Am I Without Him?*

This collection of short stories spotlights teenage girls and the issues they must deal with in their relationships with boys. *Fiction*

**Fleming, Candace** *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary*

Though Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln's backgrounds differed considerably, both were intellectuals who shared interests in literature and politics, as well as a great love for each other. *Nonfiction*

**Fradin, Dennis Brindell** *Jane Addams: Champion of Democracy*

In a time when women had little control over their lives, Jane Addams became a powerful force for good by helping the poor and disadvantaged and by fighting for peace. *Biography*

**Friedman, Thomas L.** *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution--and How It Can Renew America*

Friedman brings a fresh outlook to the issues of destabilizing climate change and rising competition for energy. *Nonfiction*

**Friedman, Thomas L.** *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century*

By "flat" Friedman means "connected." The lowering of trade and political barriers and the advances of the digital revolution make it possible to do business, or almost anything else, instantaneously with billions of other people across the planet. *Nonfiction*

**Friesen, Jonathan** *Jerk, California*

Plagued by Tourette Syndrome and a stepfather who despises him, Sam meets an old man in his small Minnesota town who sends him on a road trip designed to help him discover the truth about his life. *Fiction*

**Gaines, Ernest** *A Lesson Before Dying*

In rural Louisiana in the 1940s, a primary school teacher tries to restore the dignity of a wrongly accused prisoner before his execution. *Fiction*

**Garfinkle, D.L.** *Stuck in the 70's*

Moving from slice-of-life fiction to magical realism, Garfinkle (Storky) breaks new ground with this lighthearted time-travel tale. *Fiction*

**Gehrman, Jody** *Triple Shot Betty*

Geena, Hero, and Amber spend the summer working at a Sonoma, CA, coffee shop, where they experience romance, identity crises, and new friendships. *Fiction*

**Giblin, James Cross** *Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth*

Giblin spotlights the famous Booth brother, John Wilkes, and his not-so-famous older brother Edwin. Through their lives you will learn more about the Civil War and 19<sup>th</sup> century theater. *Biography*

**Giovanni, Nikki** *The Collected Poetry of Nikki Giovanni*

Her outspoken advocacy, her consciousness of roots in oral traditions, and her charismatic delivery place Giovanni among the forerunners of present-day slam and spoken-word scenes. *Poetry*

**Goff, Keli** *Party Crashing: How the Hip-Hop Generation Declared Political Independence*

Political commentator Keli Goff provides a provocative look at America's newest swing voter. Like soccer moms and Nascar dads before them, young, black voters born after the Civil Rights Movement are a new political force. *Nonfiction*

**Green, John** *An Abundance of Katherines*

Dumped for the 19th time by a girl named Katherine, recent grad and former child prodigy Colin begins a road trip with his best friend. He looks for a new direction in life and a mathematical formula to explain his relationships. *Fiction*

**Green, John** *Looking for Alaska*

Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. *Fiction*

**Green, John** *Paper Towns*

A month before graduating from his Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until his neighbor and classmate, the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears. *Fiction*

**Griffin, John Howard** *Black Like Me*

The author changes his skin color to understand what black people in the Deep South had to endure in the late 1950s. *Nonfiction*

**Hakopian, Roya** *Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran*

A Jewish girl in Iran during the reign of the Ayatollah Khomeini hopes his revolution will bring freedom, but recognizes his real plans in a world of Islamic fundamentalism. *Biography*

**Halam, Ann** *Snakehead*

Perseus accepts the evil king Polydectes's challenge to bring the head of the monstrous Medusa to Serifos. Although he questions the gods' interference in human lives, he sets out, accompanied by his beloved Andromeda, a princess with her own harsh destiny to fulfill. *Fiction*

**Helfer, Andrew** *Malcolm X: A Graphic Biography*

Events and controversies of Malcolm X's life, culminating in his assassination, are presented with realism in a graphic format. *Biography*

**Heller, Joseph** *Catch 22*

This intensely serious comedy exposes the madness of war, human nature, and institutions. *Fiction*

**Hemphill, Stephanie** *Your Own, Sylvia*

The author interprets the people, events, influences and art that made up the brief life of poet and author Sylvia Plath. *Nonfiction*

**Hesse, Herman** *Siddhartha*

Emerging from a kaleidoscope of experiences and pleasures, Siddhartha ascends to a state of peace and mystic holiness. *Fiction*

**Hickam, Homer** *Rocket Boys*

NASA engineer Homer Hickam paints a warm, vivid portrait of the harsh West Virginia mining town of his youth, evoking a time of innocence and promise, when anything was possible, even in a company town that swallowed its men alive. *Biography*

**Irving, John** *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

A very short schoolboy with a strange voice accidentally kills the beloved mother of his best friend and becomes a prophet with an anti-war, anti-hypocrisy message. *Fiction*

**Johnson, Varian** *My Life as a Rhombus*

When the classmate she is tutoring admits she is pregnant, high school junior Rhonda comes to terms with the abortion her father insisted she have 3 years earlier, and examines how it has changed her life. *Fiction*

**Jones, Lloyd** *Mister Pip*

On a tropical island shattered by war, survival is a daily struggle. Eccentric Mr. Watts, the only white man left after the other teachers flee, spends his day reading to the local children from Charles Dickens' classic *Great Expectations*. *Fiction*

**Jones, Patrick** *Nailed*

An outcast in a school full of jocks, 16-year-old Bret struggles to maintain his individuality through his interest in drama and music and to reconnect with his father. *Fiction*

**Kerouac, Jack** *On the Road*

Three generations of writers, musicians, artists, and poets cite their discovery of *On the Road* as the event that “set them free.”  
*Fiction*

**Kingsolver, Barbara** *The Poisonwood Bible*

Missionary Nathan Price takes his wife and four daughters to Africa to convert the “savages.” As the story progresses, it is clear that the biggest changes occur in the family and its members. *Fiction*

**Kluger, Steve** *My Most Excellent Year*

Three teenagers in Boston narrate their experiences of a year of new friendships, first loves, and coming into their own. *Fiction*

**Koja, Kathe** *Kissing the Bee*

While working on a bee project for her advanced biology class, quiet high school senior Dana reflects on her relationship with gorgeous best friend Avra and Avra’s boyfriend Emil, whom Dana secretly loves. *Fiction*

**Kosinski, Jerzy** *Being There*

Everyone quotes Chance, a “man without qualities,” though they are not sure what he’s really saying. *Being There* is one of those rare books that echo in the mind long after you have finished it. It is a seminal work of the Seventies. *Fiction*

**Larson, Erik** *Devil in the White City*

Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, architect responsible for the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor. *Nonfiction*

**Lazenby, Roland** *The Show: The Inside story of the Spectacular LA Lakers*

The book is must reading for NBA fans, young and old. *Nonfiction*

**Levithan, David** *How They Met, and Other Stories*

These 18 short stories are about love--from unrequited, to longing, to being smitten, to family love and friendship. Levithan leaves no form untouched, and tells each tale passionately. *Fiction*

**Lockhart, E.** *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*

Sophomore Frankie is dating senior Matthew Livingston. When he refuses to talk about the all-male secret society that he and his friends belong to, Frankie infiltrates the society to enliven their mediocre pranks. *Fiction*

**Lopez, Steve** *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music*

Lopez, a natural storyteller, gives a close-up view of the improbable intersection of musicianship, schizophrenia, homelessness, and dignity. *Nonfiction*

**Lubar, David** *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie: A Novel*

While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer. *Fiction*

**Macaulay, David** *The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body*

Macaulay leads readers on a visual journey through the basic workings of the human body. *Nonfiction*

**MacLean, Alistair** *Guns of Navarone*

During World War II, a five-man British army team is chosen to knock out the guns of Navarone, which control the approaches to the eastern Mediterranean islands. *Fiction*

**McCormick, Patricia** *Sold*

Based on interviews, this unforgettable account of sexual slavery tells the story of Lakshimi, who is sold into prostitution by her stepfather and ends up in a Calcutta brothel. *Fiction*

**Mendell, David** *Obama: From Promise to Power*

A journalist who has covered Obama through his senate and presidential campaigns offers a portrait that features Obama’s childhood and youth in Hawaii as well as his successful political campaigns. *Biography*

**Morgan, David Lee** *LeBron James: The Rise of a Star*

Morgan, a sportswriter for the Akron Beacon Journal, offers an intimate and inspiring look at the life and career of the Akron native who became a Cleveland Cavalier’s superstar. *Biography*

**Morrison, Toni** *A Mercy*

*A Mercy* reveals what lies beneath the surface of slavery. It is the story of a mother who casts off her daughter in order to save her, and of a daughter who may never exorcise that abandonment. *Fiction*

**Myers, Walter Dean** *Sunrise Over Fallujah*

Robin Perry of Harlem is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion. His time there profoundly changes him. *Fiction*

**Nelson, Marilyn** *A Wreath for Emmett Till*

An illustrated collection of sonnets eulogizes Emmett Till, an African- American boy killed in a brutal, racially-motivated lynching in 1955. *Poetry*

**Oates, Joyce Carol** *After the Wreck, I Picked Myself Up, Spread My Wings, and Flew Away*

Blaming herself for the car accident that killed her mother, Jenna undergoes a difficult physical and emotional recovery. *Fiction*

**Oates, Joyce Carol** *Big Mouth and Ugly Girl*

When Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school, his friends turn against him. An unlikely classmate comes to his aid. *Fiction*

**Obama, Barack** *Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*

In an unsentimental and compelling memoir, Obama, the son of a black African father and a white American mother, searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American. *Biography*

**Orczy, Baroness** *The Scarlet Pimpernel*

In this classic novel, a British aristocrat risks his life as the Scarlet Pimpernel to save Frenchmen condemned by the masses in the French Revolution. *Fiction*

**Pearson, Mary E.** *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*

What happens when your body and brain are bioengineered after a near-fatal accident? Jenna is not sure which memories are hers – or who she should believe – as she awakes from a year-long coma. *Fiction*

**Peltzer, David** *A Child Called It*

This book chronicles the unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history. *Nonfiction*

**Phillips, Suzanne** *Burn*

As a result of constant bullying during his freshman year, Cameron's anger and isolation grow, leading to deadly consequences. *Fiction*

**Plum-Ucci, Carol** *The Night My Sister Went Missing*

When his sister goes missing under mysterious circumstances, Kurt spends a night at the local police station, overhearing witnesses' statements that reveal deep prejudices and shocking secrets about his small beach community. *Fiction*

**Polly, Matthew** *American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: An Odyssey in the New China*

On a mission to transform himself from a scrawny weakling into a kung-fu master, Matthew Polly drops out of Princeton and journeys to the legendary Shaolin Temple. *Nonfiction*

**Potok, Chaim** *The Chosen*

Two Jewish boys growing to manhood in Brooklyn discover that differences can strengthen friendship and understanding. *Fiction*

**Raddatz, Martha** *The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family*

An investigative journalist contrasts the physical brutality of the Iraq War with the stress of family at home when an American platoon is trapped in a firefight. *Nonfiction*

**Remarque, Erich** *All Quiet on the Western Front*

A young German soldier in World War I experiences pounding shellfire, hunger, sickness, and death. *Fiction*

**Ripslinger, Jon** *Derailed*

High school football player Stony is failing his English class. His tutor helps him make some decisions about his future, while revealing some potentially dangerous secrets from her own past. *Fiction*

**Satrapi, Marjane** *Persepolis: the Story of a Childhood*

Satrapi's autobiography (told in graphic format) is a compelling and timeless story of a young girl's life under the Islamic Revolution. In *Persepolis 2* she moves from Iran to Vienna where her feelings of alienation compel her to return to Iran's repressive society. *Nonfiction*

**Shapiro, James** *A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare*

Shapiro's biography examines how public events left their mark on these four plays: "Henry V," "Julius Caesar," "As You Like It," and "Hamlet." *Nonfiction*

**Sijie, Dai** *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*

The power of books to excite, to enlighten, and to inspire is the theme of this engaging gem by Chinese-born filmmaker Dai Sijie. *Fiction*

**Singer, Marilyn** *Make Me Over: Eleven Original Stories about Transforming Ourselves*

This book features stories of transformation by some of the best and best-known young adult authors, such as Joseph Bruchac. *Short Stories*

**Sis, Peter** *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*

In this graphic masterpiece Sis tells of his life in communist Czechoslovakia, his yearning for freedom, his attraction to Western pop culture, and his determination to embrace his creativity. *Nonfiction*

**Smith, Betty** *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

Growing up in a tenement with her immigrant parents, Francie inherits her father's ability to dream. But it is her mother's fortitude that sees them through crises and helps Francie survive adolescence. *Fiction*

**Smith, Charles R. Jr.** *Chameleon*

The summer before starting high school in inner-city Los Angeles, Shawn grapples with his first experience of love, the complicated bonds of friends and family, and the reality of street gang violence. *Fiction*

**Spiegelman, Art** *Maus I; Maus II*

These classic graphic novels tell the story of a son and his father, a Holocaust survivor. Spiegelman transcends the traditional boundaries of visual art, narrative, and biography. *Nonfiction*

**Spillebeen, Geert** *Kipling's Choice*

A riveting account of World War I, *Kipling's Choice* could become the next great war novel. It combines historical facts with speculation about John Kipling's short life and gruesome death. *Fiction*

**Staples, Suzanne Fisher** *Under the Persimmon Tree*

When her father and brother are taken by the Taliban and her mother and baby brother are killed by a bomb during the Afghan war, Najmah begins an arduous journey across the border to Peshawar, Pakistan. *Fiction*

**Stoker, Bram** *Dracula*

Can there be a more terrifying and seductive tale than this? The notorious vampire Count Dracula, Lord of the Undead, rises from his coffin at night to suck the blood of the living! *Fiction*

**Stone, Irving** *The Agony and the Ecstasy: A Novel of Michelangelo*

More than just a chronicle of the life and work of Michelangelo, this rich fictional biography illustrates that all of life is a journey and that passion always comes with a price. *Fiction*

**Tammet, Daniel** *Born on a Blue Day: A Memoir: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant*

Recounting a long struggle to connect emotionally with others, Tammet vividly describes his childhood and adolescence as an autistic savant. *Biography*

**Tolkien, J.R.R.** *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings trilogy*

Tolkien creates a unique other world, evoked from deep in the well of Time, massively detailed, entertaining, profound in meaning. *Fiction*

**Truss, Lynne** *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*

This impassioned and laugh-out-loud manifesto on punctuation made the best-seller lists in Britain and the US. *Nonfiction*

**Umrigar, Thrity** *First Darling of the Morning: Selected Memories of an Indian Childhood*

This powerful, poignant memoir of bestselling author and Case professor Umrigar, traces the arc of her Bombay childhood and adolescence to her eventual departure for the United States. *Biography*

**Valentine, Jenny** *Me, the Missing, and the Dead*

When a series of chance events leaves him in possession of an urn of ashes, Londoner Lucas Swain becomes convinced that the ashes of Violet Park are communicating with him. His voyage of self-discovery forces him to confront his father's sudden disappearance. *Fiction*

**Verne, Jules** *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*

While investigating marine disturbances, the crew of the submarine Nautilus is captured by the megalomaniacal Captain Nemo. *Fiction*

**Vizzini, Ned** *It's Kind of a Funny Story*

This is a humorous account of a New York City teenager's battle with depression and his time spent in a psychiatric hospital. *Fiction*

**Volponi, Paul** *Hurricane Song*

Miles Shaw goes to live with his father, a jazz musician, in New Orleans. They survive the horrors of Hurricane Katrina in the Superdome, learning about each other and growing closer through their painful experiences. *Fiction*

**Volponi, Paul** *Rucker Park Setup*

While playing in a crucial basketball game on the court where his best friend was murdered, Mackey tries to come to terms with his part in that murder. He must decide whether to maintain his silence or tell J.R.'s father and the police what really happened. *Fiction*

**Vonnegut, Kurt** *Breakfast of Champions*

Kilgore Trout's experiences with an alien feature themes of health versus sickness and humanity versus inhumanity in this savage satire of middle class American values. *Fiction*

**Walls, Jeannette** *The Glass Castle*

"Being homeless is an adventure," her mom used to say. In this memoir, MSNBC gossip columnist Walls recalls with affection her dysfunctional family and nomadic life. *Biography*

**Weatherford, Carol Boston** *Becoming Billie Holiday*

Jazz vocalist Billie Holiday looks back on her early years in this fictional memoir written in verse. *Fiction*

**Welsh, T.K.** *Resurrection Men*

In 1830 London human corpses are a commodity. Who is the murderer at the heart of London's furtive trade in human corpses? *Fiction*

**Werlin, Nancy** *Impossible*

Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight. She must perform three impossible tasks to break the curse before her daughter is born in order to save them both. *Fiction*

**Wharton, William** *Birdy*

This is an inventive, hypnotic novel about friendship and family, love and war, madness and beauty, and, above all, "birdness." *Fiction*

**White, T.H.** *The Once and Future King*

White retells the Arthurian legend, from Arthur's birth to the end of his reign as King of Camelot. The story is based largely on Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte D' Arthur*. *Fiction*

**Wouk, Herman** *The Caine Mutiny*

Willie Keith's World War II naval career involves him in a bitter dispute with the captain of an ancient minesweeper, sparking a revolt and a court martial. *Fiction*

**Wright, Richard** *Native Son*

Trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, a young black man finds release only in acts of violence. Written in 1940, this book captures the brutal result of inequality and legalized segregation. *Fiction*

**X, Malcolm** *Autobiography of Malcolm X*

If any one man articulated the anger, struggle, and beliefs of African Americans in the 1960s, that man was Malcolm X. *Biography*

**Yang, Gene Luen** *American Born Chinese*

This graphic novel explores different aspects of Chinese-American life through 3 characters: Jin, who tries to fit in with his white classmates; the Monkey King, who chafes under his lowly status among gods; and Danny, who tries to escape his embarrassing cousin Chin Yee. *Fiction*

**Zusak, Markus** *The Book Thief*

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death tells the story of Liesel--a young German orphan whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family, the Jewish man they are hiding, and their neighbors. *Fiction*