

9th & 10th Grades

Classic Fiction

- ***Across Five Aprils*** by Irene Hunt
Here is the unforgettable story of young Jethro Creighton, who comes of age during the turbulent years of the Civil War. (Newbery Honor)
- ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*** by Mark Twain
Tom's exuberant, high-spirited boyhood by the Mississippi River, and often with Huck Finn, is captured by Twain.
- ***All Quiet on the Western Front*** by Erich Maria Remarque
This is Remarque's harrowing account of World War I, as seen through the eyes of a German soldier.
- ***And Then There Were None*** by Agatha Christie
A pathological killer systematically murders ten strangers entrapped on an island.
- ***April Morning*** by Howard Fast
In an hour by hour recounting, we learn of the Battle of Lexington and the hopes and fears of those who lived through it.
- ***The Bell Jar*** by Sylvia Plath
A semi-autobiographical novel about a young woman's nervous breakdown, attempted suicide, hospitalization and subsequent recovery, the novel contains both humorous and emotionally disturbing parts.
- ***Betsey Brown*** by Ntozake Shange
A thirteen-year-old black girl comes of age in 1957, the year that marked the beginning of school integration.
- ***The Bluest Eye*** by Toni Morrison
Eleven-year old Pecola yearns to have blue eyes like the little white girls she sees, so everything in her life will be different. The horror at the heart of her yearning, however, is exceeded only by the evil fulfillment.
- ***The Chosen*** by Chaim Potok
Friendship between two Jewish boys, one Hasidic and the other Orthodox, begins at a baseball game and flourishes despite their different backgrounds.
- ***Cry the Beloved Country*** by Alan Paton
A country Zulu pastor searches for his sick sister in Johannesburg and discovers that she is living on the street and his son has become a murderer.
- ***The Crystal Cave*** by Mary Stewart
Merlin, the base-born son of royalty in fifth-century Britain, uses magic to outwit his enemies until he sets the stage for the birth of Arthur, the future king.
- ***David Copperfield*** by Charles Dickens
An abandoned waif develops a disciplined heart through challenging encounters with distress and misfortune.
- ***Franny and Zooey*** by JD Salinger
A cult classic of the fifties, the book consists of the Glass family. Franny is a bright teenager and Zooey is her older brother who tries to help her.
- ***Gone With the Wind*** by Margaret Mitchell
Southern belle, Scarlett O'Hara, must grapple with changing life during the turbulent time of the Civil War.
- ***The Good Earth*** by Pearl S. Buck
A peasant family struggles through life in China.

- ***The Hobbit*** by J.R.R. Tolkien
Tolkien has created a world of fantasy called Middle Earth, populated by small creatures known as hobbits. This prelude to the Lord of the Rings trilogy chronicles the adventures of Bilbo Baggins.
- ***I, Juan de Peraja*** by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino
This is a historical novel of Juan, a secret artist, who is a slave to the great Spanish painter Diego Velazquez. (Newbery Medal)
- ***Jane Eyre*** by Charlotte Brontë
An impoverished young woman finds love when she becomes the governess of the brooding Mr. Rochester's young ward.
- ***The Martian Chronicles*** by Ray Bradbury
These stories set on Earth and Mars illustrate the universal forces of love, hate, fear, and courage.
- ***My Side of the Mountain*** by Jean Craighead George
In this enthralling story, a boy builds a treehouse in the mountains and learns to live entirely by his wits.
- ***Nectar in a Sieve*** by Kamala Markandaya
This is the story of a simple woman in a village in India who, married as a child bride, worked with her husband to wrest a living from the ravaged land.
- ***The Old Man and the Sea*** by Ernest Hemingway
An old Cuban fisherman fights a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin.
- ***The Once and Future King*** by T.E. White
White's novel is considered the classic rendition about the court of King Arthur.
- ***Ordinary People*** by Judith Guest
Here is a novel about an ordinary family -- mother, father, and two sons -- that begins to unravel after the death of one son.
- ***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen
Mrs. Bennet scrambles to find husbands for her five daughters in a gentle satire of human folly, weakness, and prejudice.
- ***The Prince and the Pauper*** by Mark Twain
The fates of two boys who look exactly alike -- one poor, one of royal family -- become entwined.
- ***Rebecca*** by Daphne du Maurier
Rebecca has been dead for several months, but her sinister influence is still very much alive at Manderley, as Maxim de Winter's second wife soon comes to realize.
- ***Red Badge of Courage*** by Stephen Crane
A young, frightened soldier comes of age under the stress of combat in the Civil War.
- ***Robinson Crusoe*** by Daniel DeFoe
Meet the original solitary castaway and read of his attempt to establish his life on a deserted island.
- ***A Separate Peace*** by John Knowles
Two young prep school roommates learn to cope with the emotions of adulthood when one of them is crippled accidentally.
- ***That was Then, This is Now*** by S.E. Hinton
Mark and Bryon were like brothers when they joined in gang warfare in their neighborhood. But sudden death and betrayal change this for Bryon.
- ***The War of the Worlds*** by H.G. Wells
Martians invade Earth in this science fiction classic.
- ***Travels with Charley*** by John Steinbeck
With Charley his dog, Steinbeck goes on a quest across America, from the northernmost tip of Maine to California's Monterey Peninsula.

- ***Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*** by Jules Verne
An embittered genius takes refuge from humanity aboard his fantastic submarine, the Nautilus.
- ***When Legends Die*** by Hal Borland
A young boy is left in the wilderness after his parents' death, and he resolves to never return to the white man's world that had condemned his father.

Contemporary Fiction

- ***The Arizona Kid*** by Ron Koertge
Working one summer at a racetrack, living with his gay uncle, and falling madly in love make wimpy, short, tenth-grader Billy Kennedy more self-confident and wiser in the ways of the world.
- ***Autobiography of My Dead Brother*** by Walter Dean Myers
Funerals for young black men, both murdered in drive-by shootings, begin and end this story about contemporary Harlem teens told in the first person voice of Jessie Rise.
- ***The Bean Trees*** by Barbara Kingsolver
Taylor Greer grew up poor in Kentucky in the 1960s and 1970s, managed to avoid pregnancy through high school and earned enough money to buy a Volkswagen that would take her west to Arizona. Once she arrives, she discovers surprising resources in apparently empty places.
- ***Bless Me, Ultima*** by Rudolfo Anaya
Antonio Marez is 6 years old when Ultima comes to stay with his family in New Mexico. She is a "curandera", one who cures with herbs and magic.
- ***The Book Thief*** by Marcus Zusak
Death narrates the WW II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she goes to live with her foster family in Germany and her start as a book thief. An extraordinary narrative.
- ***Breaking Up*** by Friedman/Norrie
In this graphic novel, "there is a fine line between a friend and an enemy. On minute there's all this trust and laughter and love. And the next minute. . . there's hurt and cruelty and betrayal."
- ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*** by Mark Haddon
This bitterly funny novel is a murder mystery of sorts – one told by autistic Christopher John Francis Boone who is mathematically gifted and socially helpless.
- ***Deliver Us From Evie*** by M.E. Kerr
Told by her brother Parr, this is the story of eighteen-year-old Evie, her Missouri farm family, and the turmoil created by Evie's love for the local banker's daughter.
- ***Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*** by Anne Tyler
Ezra creates Homesick Restaurant in order to serve comfort food to lonely people. This intriguing novel is about Ezra and his unforgettable Baltimore family, including his sister, Jenny, a pediatrician who keeps getting married.
- ***Dragonsinger*** by Anne McCaffrey
With the help of Master-harper, Menolly and her fire lizards overcome the prejudice against a woman's becoming a harper for the planet Pern.
- ***Eva*** by Peter Dickinson
After a violent auto accident, Eva, thirteen, wakes up in a hospital to find she must learn how to live as a chimpanzee.
- ***Every Time a Rainbow Dies*** by Rita Williams-Garcia
After seeing a girl raped and becoming obsessed with her, sixteen-year-old Thulani finds motivation to move beyond his grief over his mother's death. (ALA Best Book)

- ***Fallen Angels*** by Walter Dean Myers
Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry's stint in Vietnam brings home to him the agony and futility of war as he learns to kill and watches his comrades die. (Coretta Scott King Award)
- ***Far North*** by Will Hobbs
Stranded in the Canadian wilderness, two boys endure a brutal sub-arctic winter of bear, wolf, and moose attacks while they repeatedly struggle to escape.
- ***Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*** by Fannie Flagg
In this delightful narrative set in the American South, two women run a restaurant, challenge injustice, and form a strong center in a close-knit community.
- ***Girl Stories*** by Lauren Weinstein
A graphic novel, this book captures that awkward age when girls are “perched on the cusp of adolescence.” Hilarious and honest.
- ***The Girl with the Pearl Earring*** by Tracy Chevalier
In Vermeer's prosperous Delft household during the 1660s, Griet is hired as a servant and turmoil follows. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Go Ask Alice*** by Anonymous
This a true and painful diary of a fifteen-year-old girl's experiences with popularity and drugs that eventually lead to her downfall and tragic end.
- ***The Golden Compass*** by Philip Pullman
With the aid of friends, witches and armored polar bears, twelve-year-old Lyra fights the evil that is stealing children and conducting horrible experiments on them. (ALA Best Book)
- ***The Gospel According to Larry*** by Janet Tashjian
A funny, thoughtful novel about Josh who creates an alter-ego to vent all the frustrations he has on life but was afraid to say out loud. Then his website becomes popular.
- ***Haveli*** by Suzanne Fisher Staples
Shabanu, an eighteen-year-old, has been forced to marry a much older man. Separated from her family and living on an estate in the city, Shabanu struggles to raise her daughter while enduring torture at the hands of her husband's more cultured and powerful wives.
- ***The House of the Scorpion*** by Nancy Farmer
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 Alacron to a poor family in a small village in Mexico. Farmer traces Matt's growing awareness of what being a clone of one of the most powerful and feared men on earth entails.
- ***House of Stairs*** by William Sleator
Five 16-year-olds find themselves alone in an experimental nightmare where stairs and landings stretch as far as the eye can see and a weird red light trains them to dance for their food.
- ***How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent*** by Julia Alvarez
The four Garcia girls face a strange new life in America when they are forced to flee the Dominican Republic
- ***Kings in Disguise*** by Vance/Burr
A graphic novel. In January of 1932, Freddie's father suddenly disappears and his brother gets arrested. Freddie finds himself homeless and adrift trying to survive the Detroit labor riots and the anti-Communist mobs.
- ***Kissing Doorknobs*** by Terry Spencer Hesser
Tara struggles to live with her obsessive-compulsive behavior, but before her condition is diagnosed, her relationships with her family and friends begins to crumble.
- ***Kit's Wilderness*** by David Almond
In an examination of the bonds of family from one generation to the next, Kit Watson

allows his new friend Askew to take him into the coal mines, where their relatives have worked and died. (Printz Award)

- ***The Kitchen God's Wife*** by Amy Tan
This novel presents the dynamics of family life in a Chinese-American family by revealing the secrets that a mother and daughter gradually share.
- ***Letters From the Inside*** by John Marsden
Two teenage Australian girls start exchanging pen pal letters, revealing startling and frightening events in each life...until one suddenly stops.
- ***Life in the Fat Lane*** by Cheri Bennet
Sixteen-year-old Lara, beautiful, thin, smart and popular, begins to gain weight due to a metabolic disorder and learns first-hand what it means to be overweight in a society obsessed with appearances.
- ***Make Lemonade*** by Virginia Euwer Wolff
High-school student LaVaughn, determined to earn money for college, babysits for Jolly, an unwed mother of two and matures in the process.
- ***The Naming*** by Alison Croggon
This epic fantasy of Maierad, a slave, who is unaware that she possesses a powerful gift, one that marks her as a member of the school of Pellinor. This strong girl figure is entirely believable in her struggles to master herself and learn the secrets of her identity.
- ***On the Devil's Court*** by Carl Deuker
Seventeen-year-old Joe Faust must decide if it's worth selling his soul to the devil for one perfect season of basketball.
- ***Parrot in My Oven: Mi Vida*** by Victor Martinez
Here is a vivid portrait of a Mexican-American boy's life -- his test of courage, his initiation into a gang, a time full of pain and awkwardness, and the excitement of growing up in a crazy world.
- ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*** by Stephen Chbosky
In a series of letters, Charlie expresses the struggles he faces in high school. He's not a geek and isn't popular; he's a wallflower – shy and introspective and wise.
- ***Pride of Baghdad*** by Vaughn/Henrichon
A stunning graphic novel depicts the escape of a pride of lions from the Baghdad Zoo in the spring of 2003. Lost, hungry, confused, but free, they desperately struggle for their lives.
- ***The Rag and Bone Shop*** by Robert Cormier
Twelve-year old Jason is accused of the brutal murder of a young girl. Is he innocent or guilty? This is a terrifying look at what can happen when the pursuit of justice becomes a personal crusade for victory at any cost. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*** by Mildred Taylor
In this unforgettable book of black pride and black heritage, Cassie Logan, daughter of a Mississippi sharecropper, is determined to maintain her dignity through a turbulent year. (Newbery Medal)
- ***Rules of the Road*** by Joan Bauer
Jenna Boller, star employee of a shoe store chain, is hired to drive the store's elderly president for the summer. Thus begins a cross-country adventure where she and her employer learn a lot about the rules of the road and the rules of life. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Seek*** by Paul Fleischman
Told in a collage of voices, *Seek* describes Rob's search for his father, a search pursued not through San Francisco's streets, but through the labyrinth of the airwaves. Psychic readers, baseball announcers, pirate DJs, friends, and teachers join a rich, ringing aural story that's as joyfully comic as it is compelling.

- ***Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*** by Ann Brashares
Four friends share a pair of magical jeans that helps to make the most memorable summer of their lives. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Soldier's Heart*** by Gary Paulsen
After facing the reality of fighting in the Civil War, Charlie realizes that war is hell on earth -- both mentally and physically.
- ***Speak*** by Laurie Halse Andersen
In-coming ninth grader Melinda Sordino secures outcast status for herself when she calls the cops at a rowdy end-of-the-summer party. Made nearly mute by her experiences that night and in the ensuing year, you will cheer as Melinda regains more than her ability to speak. (Printz Award; ALA Best Book)
- ***Stargirl*** by Jerry Spinelli
"She was elusive. She was today. She was tomorrow. She was the faintest scent of a cactus flower, the flitting shadow of an elf owl. We did not know what to make of her. In our minds we tried to pin her to a cork board like a butterfly, but the pin merely went through and away she flew." (ALA Best Book)
- ***Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*** by Chris Crutcher
Smart, sarcastic Sarah had a mysterious accident when she was three. Fifteen years later, her horrific past finally catches up with her.
- ***A Step From Heaven*** by An Na
This novel is about a Korean girl's experience as an immigrant to the United States, spanning ages three to eighteen, told in vignettes. (Printz Award)
- ***Tomorrow, When the War Began*** by John Marsden
When they return from a wilderness camping trip, Ellie and her friends are shocked to discover Australia has been invaded and soon find fighting and surviving have become their way of life.
- ***Touching the Spirit Bear*** by Ben Mikaelson
Fifteen-year-old Cole Matthews, victim of beatings and neglect at the hands of alcoholic parents, is damaged goods. Now an abuser himself, he viciously beats a classmate. To escape prison, he enters the Native Circle Justice system.
- ***Vampire Loves*** by Joann Sfar
This graphic novel "follows the strangely romantic adventures of Ferdinand (a vampire) and his friends as they flirt with, seduce, cheat on, break up, and make up with all manner of unearthly creatures."
- ***Weetzie Bat*** by Francesca Lia Block
Lanky lizards! Punk teens Weetzie and Dirk search for love in a modern fairy tale that is funny, moving, and unlike any book you've ever read.
- ***When I was Puerto Rican*** by Esmerelda Santiago
This loosely autobiographical novel captures the essence of growing up in Puerto Rico.
- ***Wizard of Earthsea Trilogy*** by Ursula le Guin
This is the story of Ged, a boy with an unusual aptitude for wizardry.
- ***You Don't Know Me: A Novel*** by David Klass
John wrestles with the certainty that no one really knows him -- not in his miserable home, and certainly not at school.

Nonfiction

- ***All Creatures, Great and Small*** by James Herriot
Yorkshire's favorite veterinarian regales the reader with funny and heartwarming stories of balky calves and pampered Pekingese and their equally unique owners.

- ***Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*** by Anne Frank
A young Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis with seven others keeps a diary of her experiences while in an attic in Amsterdam during WW II.
- ***Bad Boys: A Memoir*** by Walter Dean Myers
The story of growing up in Harlem in the 1950s. Though he was athletic and energetic, Myers also had a passion for reading. Secretly he haunted libraries, reading stories, poems, even philosophy as he hunted for his voice. That, even more than fighting and basketball, defined who he was.
- ***Breaking Through*** by Francisco Jimenez
When he was 14, Francisco and his family are caught by la migra (immigration officers) and forced to leave their California home, but they soon find their way back. The author explores the prejudice and challenges they faced while also relaying universal adolescent experiences of school, dances and romances.
- ***Helen Keller: Story of My Life*** by Helen Keller
Overcoming deafness and blindness to become an outstanding citizen, Keller embodies courage, passion and perseverance.
- ***Hiroshima*** by John Hersey
In these heart-rending accounts, Hersey interviews survivors of Hiroshima's bomb when the ashes are still warm. (Pulitzer Prize)
- ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** by Maya Angelou
Here is the moving biography of a talented black woman confronting her own life with dignity. Angelou traces her coming-of-age.
- ***Iron and Silk*** by Mark Salzman
Salzman taught in China following his graduation from Yale. In his memoir, he presents touching vignettes of the people he met, including Pan, his martial arts teacher.
- ***Jackie's Nine*** by Sharon Robinson
Under nine rubrics, from "Courage" and "Determination" to "Commitment" and "Excellence," Jackie Robinson's daughter brings together inspirational episodes from memoirs written by her parents, herself and other individuals frequently cast as role models.
- ***Malcolm X*** by Helfer/DuBurke
Malcolm's passage from troubled boy to influential outspoken man is captured in this graphic biography.
- ***Maus: A Survivor's Tale*** by Art Spiegelman
Maus is the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe. His son, a cartoonist, tried to come to terms with his father's story. In two books, these cartoons shock the reader out of a sense of familiarity with the events. (Pulitzer Prize)
- ***Persepolis*** by Marjan Satrapi
Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, this graphic memoir tells of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution.
- ***Red Scarf Girl*** by Ji Li Jiang
In 1966, Ji Li turned twelve. An outstanding student, she had everything going for her, but that year China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launched the Cultural Revolution, and everything changed.
- ***A Sense of Where You Are*** by John McPhee
Who was Bill Bradley before he became a presidential candidate? McPhee's biography depicts Bradley's life as a basketball star at Princeton, in the years before he was a Rhodes Scholar, an NBA star, and a senator.
- ***This Boy's Life*** by Tobias Wolff
In and out of trouble in his youth, Wolff survives a boyhood that stretches from Florida to the Pacific Northwest.

- ***Tuesdays with Morrie*** by Mitch Albom
When a beloved Brandeis professor is facing death, he meets informally on Tuesdays with a former student, sharing his wisdom and about life, love, mortality and courage.
- ***We Are Witnesses: The Diaries of Five Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust*** by Jacob Boas
Five teenagers kept diaries of their lives as Jews under Hitler's twisted rule. Through them unfolds a personal history of the Holocaust and the hope each had in the face of horror and death.