

Dear Parents and Students of Franklin Township,

Research clearly shows that students who read extensively on their own develop strong vocabulary and reading skills that help them in all of their studies. The Franklin Township Public Schools have developed this list of books and authors to help parents and students in selecting summer reading.

The books and authors on this list are representative of the finest of American and world literature. Included are winners of the most prestigious awards in writing: Coretta Scott King, Pura Belpre, and Newbery Awards, Nobel, and Pulitzer Prizes. Yet, in no way should this list be considered definitive. Thousands of others authors and books are read and enjoyed by readers of all ages.

This list is a good starting place for parents and students interested in reading. You will note that the recommendations are divided by grade level and identified by type, or genre, of literature. While the books on this list are considered age appropriate, many of the books could be read by students on any grade level. Although this list is intended to inspire summer reading, it may also be used as a general document to encourage students to read throughout the year.

Summer vacation can be a relaxing and pleasant time for students and their families. We hope that this list will help you to add reading to your list of summer activities. We urge parents and students to share in this wonderful reading experience.

Sincerely,

SUMMER READING COMMITTEE
Revised 2005

Grade 7

POETRY

Adoff, Arnold, (ed) My Black Me: A Beginning Book of Black Poetry

Celebrate African American history and culture with famous poets, such as Langston Hughes, Nikki Giovanni, and Lucille Clifton.

Carlson, Lori M. (ed)- Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States

These poems appear in their original language (some English and some Spanish) and are especially geared to Latino teenagers

Dickinson, Emily - Poems for Youth

This collection includes 78 poems written by Emily Dickinson that appeal to young readers.

Greenberg, Jan, editor - Heart to Heart: New Poems inspired by Twentieth Century Art

A compilation of poems by Americans writing about American art in the twentieth century, including such writers as Nancy Willard, Jane Yolen, and X.J. Kennedy.

Harmon, Williams (ed) – The Top 500 Poems

This is an anthology of the most widely read poems.

FICTION

Alcott, Louisa May – Little Women

This is the classic story of four sisters growing up in nineteenth century New England.

Avi – City of Light, City of Dark

Told in comic-book style, this fantasy story describes the mysterious Kurbs, who own New York, and the ritual “Power” search humans must undergo to continue borrowing Manhattan.

Bauer, Joan – Hope Was Here

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Brooks, Bruce – Moves Make the Man

.A Black boy and an emotionally troubled white boy in North Carolina form a precarious friendship

Buck, Pearl S. – The Big Wave

The tidal wave and volcano are constant threats to Kino and Jiya who live in a small Japanese fishing village.

Christopher, John – The White Mountains

Two boys fight against interplanetary governmental forces.

Coleridge, Olivia – Come By Here

An African-American girl discovers the difference between being with relatives and living with them.

Cushman, Karen – The Midwife's Apprentice

This surprising Newbery Honor Book tells the story of a young orphan who acts as an apprentice to a cruel midwife in the fourteenth century.

Doyle, Arthur Conan – Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

This classic collection of mystery and adventure stories features the master detective at his cunning best.

DuPrau, Jeanne– The City of Ember

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever! This stunning debut novel offers refreshingly clear writing and fascinating, original characters

Farmer, Nancy – The Ear, the Eye and the Arm

Set in Zimbabwe in the year 2194, this science fiction novel tells the story of children who are kidnapped during an innocent scout trip. It is a Newbery Honor Book.

Flake, Sharon G. – The Skin I'm In

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.

Fox, Paula – The Eagle Kite: A Novel

Fourteen-year old Liam unravels a web of lies as he makes peace with his father who is dying of A.I.D.S.

Kerr, M.E. – Gentlehands

While attempting to impress his girlfriend, Buddy discovers his grandfather's secret past as a Nazi war criminal.

Konigsburg, E. L. – A View from Saturday

Four bright seventh grade misfits find friendship while competing on the school academic team in this Newbery Award winning novel.

Lipsyte, Robert – The Chief

With a strong will to win, the Tomahawk Kid dreams of becoming a boxing champion.

Lubar, David – In the Land of the Lawn Weenies and other Misadventures

From the award-winning author of *Hidden Talents*, two remarkable short story collections - *Kidzilla* and *The Witch's Monkey* - together for the first time. *Plus* several brand new stories. Each hilarious and harrowing. A substitute teacher finds out she has some monsters for students. A group of kids attempt a levitation trick with hair-raising results. A neighborhood is so boring the grown ups are turning into...well...you know. And dozens more.

LeGuin, Ursula K. – A Wizard of Earthsea

Young Ged, while studying the art of wizardry, accidentally unleashes a terrifying creature that he must subdue to save the Earthsea.

Meyers, Walter Dean – Somewhere in the Darkness

An escaped convict goes on the road with his son to clear his name.

Montgomery, L.M. – Anne of the Green Gables

Anne is a spunky redhead who is mistakenly adopted by family that wants a boy. This book is the first of a series.

Napoli, Donna Jo – Zel

A woman unable to have children sells her soul to have power over all plants. She uses this power to steal a baby girl, Zel. She loves and nurtures Zel until she is thirteen and begins to take an interest in Konrad, a young nobleman. In her rage the witch locks Zel in a tower and watches Zel's sanity slip away with the seasons.

Nolan, Han – If I Should Die Before I Wake

As Hilary, an angry neo-Nazi, lies in a coma, she finds herself becoming Chana, a Polish teen living through the events of WW II.

Paterson, Katherine – Jacob Have I Loved

In this story, a twin is overshadowed by her beautiful and talented sister. This is a Newbery Medal Winner.

Paulsen, Gary – Hatchet

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Rawlings, Marjorie – The Yearling

The story of a special relationship between a boy and the fawn he tamed.

Rowling, J.K. - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Orphaned as a baby, Harry Potter has spent 11 awful years living with his mean aunt, uncle, and cousin Dudley. But everything changes for Harry when an owl delivers a mysterious letter inviting him to attend a school for wizards. At this special school, Harry finds friends, aerial sports, and magic in everything from classes to meals, as well as a great destiny that's been waiting for him...if Harry can survive the encounter. From an author who has been compared to C. S. Lewis and Roald Dahl, this enchanting, funny debut novel won England's National Book Award and the prestigious Smarties Prize.

Schaefer, Jack – Shane

A boy in the Old West learns bravery from a stranger who comes to save the family farm.

Stevenson, Robert Lewis – Treasure Island

This is a classic tale of pirates, hidden treasure and bravery.

Voight, Cynthia – Homecoming

This is a story of abandoned children, trying to keep their family together.

Yep, Laurence - Dragon of the Lost Sea

Shimmer, a renegade dragon princess, tries to redeem herself by capturing a witch with the help of a human boy.

NON-FICTION

Conrad, Pat – Prairie Songs

This is a collection of stories of the strength and struggle of American pioneers.

Dahl, Roald – Boy: Tales from Childhood

This collection of funny tales from the author's youth is only the first in a series of autobiographical books.

Filipovic, Zlata – Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo

In her diary, Zlata chronicles the ugliness of war in Bosnia.

Fremon, David – Japanese-American Internment in American History

While the Holocaust was raging in Europe, America was rounding up innocent Japanese immigrants and imprisoning them because of their heritage.

Harris, Jacqueline L. – The Tuskegee Airmen: Black Heroes of World War II

African Americans had to overcome racial prejudice in order to fly. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African Americans to serve as airmen. They demonstrated high ability and courage.

O'Dell, Scott – Streams to the River, River to the Sea

This is the story of Sacagawea, who served as a guide for Lewis and Clark.

Paulsen, Gary – Woodson

In this autobiography, Paulsen tells the story of his trek through the Arctic with his dogs.

Weidhorn, Nancy – Jackie Robinson

This is a sports biography of Robinson's struggles and triumphs.

DRAMA

Zindel, Paul – The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds

This is the story of a high school girl's prize.

Grade 8

POETRY

Adoff, Arnold – Slow Dance Heart Break Blues

This rhythmic volume of poetry includes black and white artwork.

Bagert, Brod (ed.) – Poetry for Young People: Edgar Allan Poe

Experience Poe's spooky, suspenseful, and sometimes gory world of poetry and prose.

Okutoro, Linda Omolola (ed.) – Quiet Storm: Voices of Young Black Poets

The poetry of young students from various African ancestries is highlighted in this collection.

Perrine and Arp (ed.) – Sound and Sense: An introduction to Poetry

This collection of more than 300 poems includes chapters on interpretation and enjoyment. It is often used as a college text in poetry.

Soto, Gary – Canto Familiar

This book contains twenty-five poems that are written from Soto's Mexican American cultural background.

FICTION

Anonymous – Go Ask Alice

A fifteen-year-old drug user chronicles her daily struggle to escape the pull of the drug world.

Anthony Piers – A Spell for Chameleon

A young boy is driven from his community because he has yet to discover his magical power.

Asimov, Issac – I, Robot

This is a collection of nine short stories about robot danger in the future.

Avi – The Barn

A young man is called home from school to care for a disabled parent.

Blos, Joan W. – A Gathering of Days

A young girl's diary depicts life in early nineteenth-century America. This is a Newbery Medal Winner.

Bradley, Ray – Something Wicked This Way Comes

The carnival rolls in sometime after midnight, ushering in Halloween a week early. The shrill siren song of a calliope beckons to all with a seductive promise of dreams and youth regained. In this season of dying, Cooger & Dark's Pandemonium Shadow Show has come to Green Town, Illinois, to destroy every life touched by its strange and sinister mystery. And two boys will discover the secret of its smoke, mazes, and mirrors; two friends who will soon know all to well the heavy cost of wishes... and the stuff of nightmare.

Card, Orson Scott – Ender's Game

Ender Wiggin is a very different boy who has been selected to participate in alien war games.

Clark, Mary Higgins – While My Pretty One Sleeps

This is a story of murder and greed in New York's fashion industry.

Creech, Sharon – Walk Two Moons

A Young Girl discovers herself on her journey to find her mother. This 1995 Newbery Award winner is full of twists and surprises.

Crew, Linda – Children of the River

After escaping from Cambodia, Sundara struggles to fit in at an Oregon high school.

Cushman, Karen – Catherine, Called Birdy

In her diary of the year 1290, a feisty fourteen-year-old paints a vivid picture of medieval life. This is a Newbery Honor book

Dexter, Catherine – The Alien Game

In this science fiction thriller, a game of tag develops into much more.

Gurney, James – Dinotopia: The Land Apart From Time

In 1862, after being shipwrecked in uncharted seas, Professor Arthur Denison and his twelve-year-old son will find themselves washed up on a strange island where people and dinosaurs live together peacefully.

Hunt, Irene – Across Five Aprils

When a family splits over the Civil War, a farm boy is left to deal with his dilemma. This is a Newbery Honor Book.

Kilworth, Garry – The Electric Kid

Two boys struggle to survive in the year 2061.

King, Stephen – Misery

Paul Sheldon, author of a series of historical romances, wakes up in a secluded farmhouse in Colorado with broken legs and Annie Wilkes, a disappointed fan, hovering over him with drugs, ax, and blowtorch and demanding he bring his heroine back to life. This book is for mature readers.

L'Engle, Madeline – The Young Unicorns

An ex-gang member and blind musician face gang violence in New York City.

Lowry, Lois – Gathering Blue

As she did in *The Giver*, Lois Lowry creates a future society that is ruled by savagery and deceit that shuns the weak. This is the story of a young, physically flawed orphan girl and her quest for truth.

Myers, Walter Dean – Hoops

Lonnie Jackson hopes that basketball will be his ticket out of the inner city ghetto.

Myers, Walter Dean – Monster

Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon has been charged as an adult accomplice to murder. It is great for discussions about the judicial system, pre-judging, self-perception, parent-child relationships and our prison system.

Paulson, Gary – Nightjohn

A man gives up his freedom at teach enslaved people to read.

Pinkwater, Daniel – The Education of Robert Nifkin

A loner who hates school and everybody in it devises a plan to escape it all. If you liked *A Catcher in the Rye*, you'll love this.

Quindlen, Anna – Object Lessons

A thirteen-year-old struggles with problems in her Irish-Catholic family.

Ryan, Pam Munoz – Esperanza Rising

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Taylor, Mildred D. – Let the Circle be Unbroken

This sequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, follows four Black children growing up in Mississippi during the Depression.

NON FICTION

Bachrach, Susan D. – Tell Them We Remember: Story of the Holocaust

A factual retelling of the history of the Holocaust as seen through the eyes of survivors.

Bartoletti, Susan – Kids on Strike

This chronicle focuses on children who stood up for their rights to earn better wages, fair housing costs, and safer working environments.

Freedman, Russell – Lincoln: A Photobiography

Pictures enhance the historical descriptions in this Newbery Award winning biography.

Fulghum – Robert – All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

This is simple collection of thoughts and gentle opinions.

Haskins, James – The Scottsboro Boys

A train rode turned into a nightmare for nine Black teenagers when they were charged and sentenced to death for the rape of two white girls in Alabama in 1931.

Murphy, Jim – The Great Fire

This Newbery Honor Book gives a first person account of the Great Fire of 1871 in Chicago.

Preston, Richard, - The Hot Zone

Told in story form, this is the true tale of the Ebola virus. It is a must read for those interested in the medical field or for those who just love to be horrified.

Roseforte, Tim – Tiger Woods – Making of a Champion

This is the story of golf's newest sensation.

Watkins, Yoko Kawashima – My Brother, My Sister and I

With barely enough money to survive, the three siblings encounter one difficulty after another in their struggle to survive as refugees in post-World War II Japan. This book provides a fascinating look at life in post-war Japan and is a sequel to the author's earlier work, *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*.

Wolfe, Tom – The Right Stuff

America's first astronauts and the Mercury space program are chronicled in this book.

Grade 9

POETRY

Angelou, Maya – The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou

Angelou provides a rich poetic experience in this collection of well-known writings.

Asher, Sandy, editor – On Her Way: Stories and Poems About Growing Up Girl

Growing up has never been easy, but the girls in this inspiring collection of twenty-one stories and poems for 'tweens tackle it with gusto.

Doty, Mark – Atlantis: Poems

Doty writes about fate, tragedy, and beauty with brilliant imagery rooted in nature and the earth.

Harjo, Joy – The Woman Who Fell from the Sky: Poems

In her fourth volume of poetry, Harjo weaves storytelling, prayer and song to talk about Native American tradition, modern American culture, human spirit, and the earth.

Herrera – Laughing Out Loud, I Fly: Poems in English and Spanish

Herrera's poems create a bicultural experience full of flavors and intense feelings that carry readers into a rhythm of laughter. The text has rich poetic language and the images are full of vivid concepts with playful, but serious poems. *A Pura Belpre Book, 2000.*

Hopkins, Lee Bennett (ed.) – Hand in Hand: An American History through Poetry

This collection of poems and traditional lyrics about the United States is organized by eras and ideas and charts the country's origins from the early 1600's. It includes works by Walt Whitman, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Langston Hughes.

Nye, Naomi Shihab, editor - 19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East

Naomi Shihab Nye has been writing about being Arab-American, about Jerusalem, about the West Bank, about family all her life. These new and collected poems of the Middle East – sixty in all – appear together here for the first time.

Nye, Naomi Shihab, editor – Is This Forever or What? Poems and Paintings From Texas

It's Texas in all its glory, from the immeasurable sky to the small snakes in the grass, and it's filled with boundless energy, unlimited creativity, and endless enthusiasm – not to mention universally appealing poems and art.

Rodriquez, Alijo – It's Tough Being a Kid These Days: Simple Poems for Teens

These collected poems address teen issues.

Tor Editions – Selected Poems and Letters of Emily Dickinson

A collection of the New England author's poems and selected letters, which reveal her inspiration and deepest thoughts about her writing and her life.

FICTION

Alcott, Louisa May – Little Men

In this sequel to *Little Women*, the "little men" are students at Plumfield School, a progressive school run by Jo and her husband.

Anderson, Laurie Halse – Speak

Melinda is a friendless outcast at Merryweather High. She busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, and now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her.

Asimov, Isaac - Fantastic Voyage

Miniaturized scientists rush to save a person's life from inside his body.

Barker, Clive – Abarat

Candy Quackenbush is a troubled yet good-natured Minnesotan girl, but when she ventures into an empty field one day and meets John Mischief, a creature with seven extra talking heads on his antlers, she's rendered awestruck and knows she's bound for a heap of adventure. Soon the two are narrowly escaping a dark hunter sent by the evil Lord Carrion and diving into the Sea of Izabella, a vast ocean containing 25 islands that stand for each hour of the day, plus a mystical Twenty-Fifth Hour.

Bennett, Cherie – Wild Hearts

Jane McVay, a talented jazz drummer, thinks her world has ended, when she and her family move from Manhattan to Nashville, Tennessee. After a schoolmate recruits her to play in the school musical Grease, Jane learns more about music, friendship and responsibility.

Bradbury, Ray - Dandelion Wine

A young boy recognizes the world around him for the first time in this series of short stories woven into a novel.

Cabot, Meg – Teen Idol

When teenage heartthrob Luke Stryker shows up at a small-town Indiana high school to do research for a movie role, he persuades junior Jenny Greenley to use her considerable talents to try to change things at school for the better.

Carter, Alden B. – Between a Rock and a Hard Place

Teenage cousins are pushed into family tradition, which is meant to mark their transition into the adult world. They actually begin to enjoy the experience. *ALA Best Books for Young Adults, 1996.*

Crichton, Michael – Jurassic Park

A breakthrough in genetic engineering leads to the development of a technique for recovering and cloning dinosaur DNA, a method that brings about the creation of Jurassic Park, a tourist attraction populated by creatures extinct for eons.

Dickens, Charles – Oliver Twist

The orphan Oliver is sold to an undertaker but escapes, only to fall in with a gang of pickpockets on the streets of London. It's a story of crime, poverty, abuse, murder, and redemption, first published in 1837-39, but as current as any contemporary story.

Gaines, Ernest – The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman

This is a fictional biography of a black slave who lived for one hundred years after the Civil War.

Hemingway, Ernest – The Snows of Kilimanjaro

A desperately ill author and a big game hunter struggle to survive in the shadows of the African mountain.

Hobbs, Wills – Downriver

Fifteen-year-old Jessie and the other rebellious teenage members of a wilderness survival school team abandon their adult leader, hijack his boats, and try to run the dangerous white water at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Kinsella, W.P. – Shoeless Joe

This is the nostalgic baseball story on which the Hollywood blockbuster *Field of Dreams* was based.

Klause, Annette Curtis – Blood and Chocolate

Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom.

LaFarge, Oliver – Laughing Boy

An American-Indian boy faces the conflicts of a white-dominated society.

LeGuin, Ursula K. – A Wizard of Earthsea

Young Ged, while studying the art of wizardry, accidentally unleashes a terrifying creature that he must subdue to save the Earthsea.

Lewis, C.S. – Out of the Silent Planet

An interstellar kidnapping is the focus of this fantastic tale.

Lund, Doris – Eric

A mother writes graphically of her soccer son's battle with cancer.

Lynch, Chris – Mick: Blue-Eyed Son #1

Fifteen-year-old Mick has spent all of his life in a blue-collar Irish neighborhood in a very segregated city. Mick struggles to redefine himself when he realizes that there may be more to life than getting drunk with his older brother and terrorizing people just because they are not white and Irish.

MacLean, Alistair – Where the Eagles Dare

This is another of MacLean's wonderfully written WWII war adventure tales.

McKinley, Robin – Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast.

A young woman, well educated and honorable, accepts responsibility for her father's act and leaves her family to enter the enchanted world of castle and Beast. The Beast she finds is not the one she imagined, but can she stay with him?

McNamee, Graham – Acceleration

Stuck working in the Lost and Found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him.

Myers, Walter Dean – Slam

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

Renault, Mary – Fire from Heaven

This story chronicles Alexander the Great from this childhood to his glory as a king and a warrior.

Roybal, Laura – Billy

Billy Melendez was kidnapped by his biological father when he was ten. Eventually he is reunited with his "parents" but has to make a painful transition, facing a new environment in which he does not fit and a family he no longer knows. *ALA Best Books for Young Adults, 1995. ALA Quick Picks or Young Adults, 1995.*

Straub, Peter – Mystery

Mystery and suspense abound in this thriller by Straub, who often collaborates with Stephen King.

Steinbeck, John – The Red Pony

Steinbeck's warm, and at times heartbreaking story, of a young boy's love for a horse and of his conflict with his father.

Voigt, Cynthia – Orfe

This unusual story is the modern version of the Greek myth of Orpheus, but with a female protagonist, Orfe. Orfe's friend Enny, the story's narrator, contrasts the power of meaningful expressive songs with the devastation of drug addiction associated with the dark side of the rock music world. *Publishers Weekly Best Book of 1992.*

Werlin, Nancy – Are You Alone on Purpose?

Alison Shandling and Harry Roth have one thing in common. They hate each other. Yet, when Harry is paralyzed in an accident, Alison takes it upon herself to befriend him out of guilt. Eventually, however, she realizes that they have become true friends.

Williams-Garcia, Rita – Like Sisters on the Homefront

At fourteen, Gayle spends her time hanging out with her “sisters” and mothering her baby. When she gets into trouble again, her mother sends her down South to live with her aunt and her uncle, a strict minister. The companionship Gayle develops with Great, the family matriarch and keeper of the family history, has a deep effect on Gayle, who begins to feel the power of family. *ALA Best Books for Young Adults, 1996. ALA Quick Picks for Young Adults, 1996.*

Woodson, Jacqueline – Autobiography of a Family Photo: A Novel

Reminiscent of *The House on Mango Street*, this novel presents a series of memories of an unnamed African American narrator who shares her coming of age in 1970’s Brooklyn.

Wright, Richard – Rite of Passage

Life in Harlem is good for fifteen-year-old straight-A student Johnny Gibbs until the day that he is told that he is a foster child headed for a new home. Feeling abandoned and empty, he launches into a life of crime. *Notable 1994 Children’s Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies.*

Yumoto, Kazumi – The Friends

During the summer before they will take their school entrance exam, three boys try to answer the multitude of questions they have about death by watching a decrepit old man, but they learn more than they bargain for when he begins watching them in return.

NON-FICTION

Angelou, Maya – Heart of a Woman

The writer’s account of her life as a beginning writer and an activist in New York.

Bredeson, Carmen – Henry Cisneros: Building a Better America

This volume is a profile of the former secretary of housing and urban development, his extensive educational background and his experiences in his efforts to build a better American and renovate public housing.

Hersey, John, - Hiroshima

The author of *A Bell for Adano* and many others writes of the famous Japanese city, destroyed by the first atomic bomb attack in history.

Jones, Maurice K. – Say It Loud! The Story of Rap Music

Fans of rap will enjoy this overview of the development, controversies, and spread of this form of music.

Zeinert, Karen – Those Incredible Women of WW II

The women in this book are pilots, nurses, volunteers, journalist and factory workers who have one thing in common – their desire to serve their country in World War II. Despite prejudice and obstacles, they persevered in their struggle and did what they set out to do. Black-and-white photographs are included.

DRAMA

Antush, John V. (ed.) Nuestro New York: An Anthology of Puerto Rican Plays.

This collection of eleven plays by and about Puerto Ricans explores contemporary issues faced by the Puerto Rican community in America.

Coward, Noel – Blithe Spirit

In this favorite Coward comedy, a casual evening among witty friends is transformed by a séance during which the host's deceased wife returns to wreak havoc on his new marriage.

Fugard, Athol – Master Harold and the Boys

A provocative journey into the psychosis of racism, set in South Africa.

MacLeod, Joan – The Hope Slide: Little Sister

This text contains two one-act plays, including a one-woman show in which the actor-protagonist travels back in time in order to grasp the meaning of modern life. In the other five teenagers grapple with images of themselves as they deal with one teenager's eating disorder.

Schiff, Ellen, (ed.) Fruitful and Multiplying: Nine Contemporary Plays from the American Jewish Repertoire

This anthology of plays explores the universal themes of family, religion, homosexuality, and more.

Wilson, August – The Piano Lesson

The spirit of a family member appears to confront two brothers who plan to sell a prized piano.

Grade 10

POETRY

Carroll, Lewis, Jabberwocky

Stephane Jorsch brings his daring vision to Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem "Jabberwocky," the first book in the *Visions of Poetry Series*.

Dahl, Roald - Revoltng Rhymes

Humorous retellings in verse of six well-known fairy tales featuring surprise endings in place of the traditional happily-ever-after. This collection is for mature readers.

Glaser, Isabel Joshlin (ed.) – Dream of Glory: Poems Starring Girls

This illustrated collection of poetry focuses on girls' experiences with many issues such as self-esteem, friendship, and achievement.

Gordon, Ruth (ed.) - Pierced by a Ray of Sun

Poems about the *Times We Were Alone*. The poems in this collection speak to the universal feelings of loneliness, alienation, and being different. This collection testifies to the fact that working through loneliness defies time and place.

Hollinder, John (ed.) – Committed to Memory: 100 Best Poems to Memorize

This is an anthology of classic and contemporary poems that may easily be recalled.

Kheridan, David (ed.) – Beat Voices: An Anthology of Beat Poetry

Hailing from all points from New York of San Francisco, beat poets and writers write with passion, vision, and hope that are still relevant today. This collection provides a useful introduction to the themes and vision of the Beat Generation.

Kipling, Rudyard – Gunga Din and Other Favorite Poems

This is a collection of classic narrative poems by Kipling.

DRAMA

Christie, Agatha – The Mouse Trap and Other Plays

You're front-row center to murder as a homicidal maniac stalks the snowbound guests of an imposing manor...as a group of strangers gather on an isolated island -- to the diabolical delight of a secret killer...as a scheming wife takes the stand against her husband in a startling criminal trial. From *The Mousetrap* (the longest-running play in history) to *Ten Little Indians* and *Witness for the Prosecution* (both made into classic film thrillers), here are eight brilliantly staged acts of murder featuring twice as many suspects and final-curtain twists. All solved to perfection by the Queen of Crime at her royal best.

FICTION

Alvarez, Julia – In the Time of Butterflies

The four Mirabel sisters take turns telling the story of the struggles they endure – with parents, against government, within their own families, for freedom – during Rafael Trujillo's dictatorship in the Dominican Republic.

Bakker, Robert. - Raptor Red

As this story begins, a fierce fight pitting a female raptor and her mate against a giant astrodon sets the stage for a gripping odyssey related from a dinosaur's point-of-view. With Raptor Red's mate killed in the attack, she embarks on a year-long test of survival. Traffic-stopping hologram cover!

Baldwin, James – Go Tell It on the Mountain

A strict minister and father has to realize that his past has come back to haunt him in the form of a son who is coming of age in the Harlem of the 1940's.

Carmody, Isobelle – The Gathering

Nathaniel tries to sort through the eerie events of the past and present in the too-perfect community of Chestnut, where nothing is as it "should" be.

Cather, Willa – My Antonia

A 19th century pioneer woman is an inspiration to readers as she endures the struggles of the American West.

Clark, Mary Higgins – All Around the Town

A young female student is accused of killing her professor in this murder mystery set in a New Jersey college town.

Clarke, Arthur C. – Childhood's End

Peace comes to the earth as an alien race intervenes in human relations.

Cooper, James Fenimore – The Last of the Mohicans

The story of a Native American struggles against the pressures of the new white civilization.

Dickens, Charles – David Copperfield

This is a classic Dickens' story of a young man in early Victorian England.

Farmer, Nancy – The House of the Scorpion

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Groom, Winston – Gump & Co.

The further adventures and misadventures of Forrest Gump are chronicled in this third-person, Huck Finn-style narrative, which takes the reader through the 1980's and 1990's.

Gunther, John – Death Be Not Proud

This novel is a father's tribute to his son who died at the age of seventeen of a brain tumor.

Kincaid, Jamaica – At the Bottom of the River

This is Kincaid's collection of short stories recounting experiences relevant to her Caribbean upbringing.

Korman, Gordan – Son of the Mob

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.

LeGuin, Ursula – The Lathe of Heaven

This is Kincaid's collection of short stories recounting experiences relevant to her Caribbean upbringing.

Masters, Edgar Lee – Spoon River Anthology

In Masters's collection of post-mortem autobiographical "epitaphs," 244 former citizens of the fictional Spoon River, Illinois tell us the truth about their lives—with the honesty no fear of consequences enables.

Myers, Walter Dean – Here in Harlem

Here are powerful first-person poems in the voices of residents who make up the legendary neighborhood: basketball players, teachers, mail carriers, jazz artists, maids, veterans, nannies, students, and others. These poems capture the energy and resilience of a neighborhood and a people.

Parks, Gordon – The Learning Tree

A man finds himself the sole witness to a murder in a small Kansas town.

Plum-Ucci, Carol – The Body of Christopher Creed

Chris Creed grew up as the class freak--the bullies' punching bag. After he vanished, the weirdness that had once surrounded him began spreading. It was as if a darkness reached out of his void to grab at the most normal, happy people--like some twisted joke or demented form of justice. It tore the town apart. Sixteen-year-old Torey Adams's search for answers opens his eyes to the lies, the pain, and the need to blame when tragedy strikes, and his once-safe world comes crashing down around him.

Schusterman, Neal – Dissident

A sometimes difficult person, Derek rebels against his situation and his mother, the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, by befriending the teenage daughter of a famous exiled dissident.

Sinclair, Upton – The Jungle

Deplorable factory conditions in the early 20th century before union regulations are graphically depicted in this book.

Twain, Mark – The Prince and the Pauper

A prince and a poor boy change places in this classic tale.

Wolf, Allan – New Found Land

The letters and thoughts of Thomas Jefferson, members of the Corps of Discovery, their guide Sacagawea, and Captain Lewis's Newfoundland dog, all tell of the historic exploratory expedition to seek a water route to the Pacific Ocean.

NON-FICTION

Beals, Melba Pattillo – Warrior's Don't Cry: A Seating Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High

As one of the "Little Rock Nine," the author endured racist taunts, threats, and violence during the year she and her cohorts spent at Central High School at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Boyko, Carrie, et. al – Hold Fast to Your Dreams

Twenty Commencement Speeches Individualism, multiculturalism, and patriotism, are just a few of the topics addressed in these commencement speeches by such notables as Colin Powell, Billy Joel, and Jimmy Carter.

Bowden, Nina – In My Own Time: Almost an Autobiography

This book provides an objective look at the history, roles, current status, and future of the Democratic, Republican, and third parties in the United States.

McCall, Nathan – Makes Me Want to Holler

In this book, McCall, a journalist for the Washington Post, uses his memoirs to express his rage at racism.

Yep, Lawrence – The Lost Garden

In this autobiography Yep accounts his life growing up as an Asian American in San Francisco.

Grade 11

POETRY

Frost, Robert – The Complete Poems of Robert Frost

This collection contains all of the works of one of America's greatest poets.

Giovanni, Nikki (ed.) – Grand Mothers: Poems, Reminiscences and Short Stories about the Keepers of Our Traditions

In this collection, edited by the award-winning African-American poet, writers including Maxine Hong Kingston, Gwendolyn Brooks, Kyoko Mori, and Gloria Naylor, celebrate the memories of their grandmothers.

Hughes, Langston – The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes

This collection contains all of Hughes's most famous poems, including "A Dream Deferred", but Hughes's legacy goes much deeper. This collection gives a broader perspective of this great African-American writer's work.

Janeczko, Paul B. – Worlds Afire

In this collection of "eyewitness" poems, the excitement and anticipation of attending the circus on July 6, 1944 in Hartford, Connecticut, turns to horror when a fire engulfs the circus tent, killing nearly 180 people, mostly women and children.

Nelson, Marilyn – Carver: A Life in Poems

This collection of poems assembled by award-winning writer Marilyn Nelson provides young readers with a compelling, lyrical account of the life of revered African-American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver. Through 44 poems, told from the point of view of Carver and the people who knew him, Nelson celebrates his character and accomplishments. She includes prose summaries of events and archival photographs.

Poe, Edgar Allan – Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe

This collection contains all of Poe's most famous pieces as well as some you may not have seen before.

FICTION

Adams, Douglas – The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy

The story of a British earthling plucked from his planet, and his subsequent adventures elsewhere in the universe.

Allen, Paula Gunn (ed.) – Spider Woman’s Granddaughters

This collection of traditional tales and contemporary writing by Native American women derives its title from a Cherokee account that Grandmother Spider brought the light of intelligence and experience to the people.

Alvarez, Julia – How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent

A family of Latino girls adjust to American life and culture.

Austen, Jane – Emma

A young Englishwoman decides that she makes a better matchmaker than a wife, but soon learns of the power of love.

Binchy, Maeve – Firefly Summer

The popular novelist tells a tale of love in Ireland in the 1960’s.

Bradford, Barbara Taylor – Angel

Four orphans face life’s difficulties together.

Cather, Willa – O, Pioneers

The tale of Alexandra Bergson, a young Swedish immigrant girl who inherits her father’s farm and must transform it from raw prairie into a prosperous enterprise.

Cofer, Judith Ortiz – An Island Like you: Stories of the Barrio

Twelve stories about young people caught between their Puerto Rican heritage and their American surroundings.

Crichton, Michael – Coma

The shocking truth about organ donation is discovered at a major hospital.

Dickens, Charles – Hard Times

This tale of Victorian England in the industrial revolution is well named. Dickens explores issues of class and labor in the 19th century.

Donnelly, Jennifer – A Northern Light

In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story.

Esquivel, Laura – Like Water for Chocolate

In the mystical tradition of Mexican writing, Esquivel tells a magical story of love and food, set in Mexico. Mature content.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott – Tender is the Night

The author of *The Great Gatsby* writes a probably autobiographical novel about a famous psychiatrist who treats, then falls in love with and marries his wealthy young patient.

Gaines, Ernest K. – A Lesson Before Dying

This powerful story of race relations and bravery is set in 1940's Louisiana.

Hardy, Thomas – The Return of the Native

This mystical novel is set in the moors of southwestern England. This is Hardy at his most interesting.

Holt, Victoria – Snare of Serpents

A woman is tried for the murder of her father.

Irving, John – The Cider House Rules

Irving presents a novel of young people set in New England – recently an Academy Award winner for best screenplay.

James, Henry – The Turn of the Screw

James writes the classic psychological horror story.

Joyce, James – A Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man

Joyce is difficult, but for lovers of language where better to start reading him than with this novel about young Stephen Dedalus?

Kingsolver, Barbara – Animal Dreams

Set in the desert, this novel traces one woman's quest for tranquility and her place in the world.

Lord, Betty Bao – Spring Moon

Spanning five generations of a Chinese family, this novel illuminates the cultural and political changes in China in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Mackler, Carolyn – The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things

Fifteen-year-old Virginia Shreves has a larger-than-average body and a plus-size inferiority complex. She lives on the Web, snarfs junk food, and follows the "Fat Girl Code of Conduct." Her stuttering best friend has just moved to Walla Walla (of all places). Her new companion, Froggy Welsh the Fourth (real name), has just succeeded in getting his hand up her shirt, and she lives in fear that he'll look underneath. Then there are the other Shreves: Mom, the successful psychologist and exercise fiend; Dad, a top executive who ogles thin women on TV; and older siblings Anaïs and rugby god Byron, both of them slim and brilliant. Delete Virginia, and the Shreves would be a picture-perfect family. Or so she's convinced. And then a shocking phone call changes everything.

Markandaya, Kamala – Nectar in the Sieve

Markandaya tells of life in India in the early twentieth century.

Momaday, N. Scott – House Made of Dawn

Momaday writes a mystical story of American Indians.

Plath, Sylvia – The Bell Jar

The tragic poet and writer's most famous novel, this book is thought to be largely autobiographical.

Shakespeare, William – The Taming of the Shrew

This is the play upon which the film *Ten Things I Hate About You* was based.

Stewart, Mary – The Last Enchantment

Stewart retells tales of King Arthur.

Tan, Amy – The Kitchen God's Wife

A young Chinese-American Woman learns about her mother's early life in China.

Tolkien, J. R. R. - Fellowship of the Ring

Frodo the hobbit and his companions set out to deliver the One Ring of Power to the dark land of Mordor in order to destroy the ring in the forge of its creation.

NON-FICTION

Andrew, William L. (ed.) – Sisters of the Spirit: Three Black Women's Autobiographies of the Nineteenth Century

These fascinating accounts can stand on their own, but the author makes them even more accessible by providing a comprehensive introduction and helpful footnotes.

Apter, T.E. – Altered Loves: Mothers and Daughters During Adolescence

Based on interviews with mothers and daughters, this book brings fresh perspectives to understanding the complexities of female development.

Baldwin, James – The Fire Next Time

In this classic work, the famous African-American writes of racial prejudice and what he views as the inevitable result-a-must-read for those who would understand the developing racial crisis and civil rights movement of mid-twentieth century America.

Conroy, Pat – The Water is Wide

Conroy recounts his early teaching experiences on the out islands of Georgia-later made into the film, Conrack.

Conway, Jill Kerr – Written by Herself- Autobiographies of American Women

A collection of autobiographical writings of American women over the last 150 years, this powerful book depicts the efforts of individual American women of many social strata to pursue their own vision and purpose for their lives.

Fossey, Diane – Gorillas in the Mist

This is the book on which the movie of the famous expert on the great apes was based.

Lone, Carole – Pride of Family; Four Generations of Women of Color

The author, a playwright and psychotherapist, writes about the singular, astonishing women in her Black aristocratic family.

Macauley, David – The New Way Things Work

A new edition of the famous New York Times best seller, this book explains the origins and physics of everyday things. Macauley is the

host of a popular engineering series on PBS. This book would be perfect for students thinking about a career in engineering.

McCullough, David – John Adams

In this volume, the eminent biographer reveals the true nature of one of the most fascinating and influential of our Founding Fathers.

Rucker, Rudolf V.B. – Geometry, Relativity and the Fourth Dimension

This book is a comfortable introduction to non-Euclidean geometry and the concept of relativity-especially interesting to high-level math students and those who plan a career in computer graphics or design.

Ryan, Cornelius – The Longest Day

Ryan tells the story of Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944 through the eyes of men who fought the battle on both sides.

Shaara, Jeff – Rise to Rebellion

In this first of a planned two-part series, Shaara chronicles the rise of the American Revolution from the Boston Massacre in 1770 to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

DRAMA

Albee, Edward – The American Dream and Zoo Story

The author of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, presents two earlier short, bizarre and fascinating plays of the absurd.

Anderson, Robert – Tea and Sympathy

In this play set in a boys' school, the playwright explores the question of masculine strength and bravery.

Schiff, Ellen, editor – Awake and Singing: Seven Classical Plays from the American Jewish Repertoire

This collection of plays touches on such universal themes as family, generation gaps, immigration, and the struggle for the American dream. The seven classic plays in this anthology cover a variety of topics and styles characteristic of the American Jewish repertoire from 1920 to 1960. Included are works by Aaron Hoffman, Elmer Rice, Clifford Odets, Sylvia Regan, Arthur Laurents, S.N. Behrman, and Paddy Chayefsky.

Wilder, Thornton – The Skin of our Teeth

In his inimitable comic style, Wilder tells the tale of mankind from the beginning.

Grade 12

POETRY

Brooks, Gwendolyn – Selected Poems

Brooks, the eminent African-American poet, writes of everyday life, but in a poetic style marked by genius.

Dickinson, Emily – Complete Poems

Emily Dickinson lived a life of seclusion in Amherst, Massachusetts, never publishing any of her poetry during her lifetime, but her legacy lives on in readers of all ages.

Eliot, T.S. – Complete Poems

Included in this collection are all of Eliot's poems, including "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and "The Hollow Men"

Hesse, Karen – Aleutian Sparrow

Vera, a young Aleut girl, lives with an elderly couple on a large Alaskan island where she earns her keep by doing chores so she can attend school. In the summer of 1942 she returns home to her island of Kashega to visit her mother and friends. But when the Japanese launch an air attack on the Aleutian Islands, her quiet, peaceful summer comes to an end.

FICTION

Agee, James – A Death in the Family

When their father is killed in an accident, an early 20th century family struggles to cope.

Chopin, Kate – The Awakening

The protagonist seeks a life of her own, despite the restrictions imposed on her by society.

Cisneros, Sandra – Woman Hollering Creek: And Other Stories

These stories are about Mexican and Mexican-American women. Some are ironic and funny, while others are dark and angry.

Cussler, Clive – Raise the Titanic

The English writer of action/adventure tackles the famous ship.

Eliot, Ralph (Mary Evans) – Middlemarch

One of the greatest English novelists of the Victorian age provides a poignant portrait of an intelligent woman trying to live through her husband.

Ellison, Ralph – Invisible Man

The famous African-American writer writes of the pain and challenge of growing up black in a racist America.

Frazier, Charles – Cold Mountain

A wounded Civil War soldier seeks to recover his past life after deserting.

Grafton, Sue – G is for Gumshoe

(Or any of the “alphabet” series.) Grafton, a writer of detective fiction at its modern best, continues her alphabet series of mysteries.

Greene, Graham – The Honorary Consul

The English master writes of a politically motivated kidnapping.

Grisham, John – A Time to Kill

A father seeks revenge against society’s racial bias, Grisham’s first.

King, Stephen – Misery

Paul Sheldon, author of a series of historical romances, wakes up in a secluded farmhouse in Colorado with broken legs and Annie Wilkes, a disappointed fan, hovering over him with drugs, ax, and blowtorch and demanding he bring his heroine back to life. This book is for mature readers.

Kingston, Maxine Hong – Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book

Wittman Ah Sing is a young Chinese-American in San Francisco in the 1960’s. His problem is that he bears a striking resemblance to Monkey, the trickster who brought the Buddhist scriptures from India, resulting in a series of funny and no-so-funny occurrences.

Lewis, Sinclair – Main Street

The American Nobel Prize winner writes about small town America in the early 20th century.

London, Jack – The Sea Wolf

A young aristocratic intellectual confronts a brutal but well-read sea captain aboard a sailing vessel, and is forced to confront what he

believes about humankind.

Mansfield, Katherine – Stories by Katherine Mansfield

Mansfield's genius lies in capturing the almost imperceptible moments in which people's relationships with others change forever.

Mason, Bobbie Ann – In Country

In this novel, Mason examines the lasting effects of the Vietnam War through the teenage daughter of one of its casualties.

Maquire, Gregory – Wicked – The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West (mature)

When Dorothy triumphed over the Wicked Witch of the West in L. Frank Baum's classic tale, we heard only her side of the story. But what about her arch-nemesis, the mysterious Witch? Where did she come from? How did she become so wicked? And what is the true nature of evil? Gregory Maguire creates a fantasy world so rich and vivid that we will never look at Oz the same way again.

McCarthy, Cormac – All the Pretty Horses

The first of a trilogy from McCarthy, this novel concerns young horsemen in Mexico in 1950. National Book Award – 1992.

Proulx, Annie E. – The Shipping News

This multiple award-winning novel set in the Canadian Maritimes epitomizes great writing.

Rand, Ayn - The Fountainhead

One man faces a struggle against the mediocrity imposed by a corporate society.

Rice, Anne – Interview with the Vampire

The famous monster seeks understanding and release from his curse.

Sayers, Dorothy – Gaudy Night

This engaging mystery gives a wonderful picture of an Oxford women's college in the 1930's.

Toole, John Kennedy – A Confederacy of Dunces

The hero is a bum who depends on others for his livelihood, but there's something fascinating about him nonetheless.

Tyler, Ann – Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant

This family is a mess, but somehow they manage to muddle through. Set in Baltimore, this story continues the author's fascination with dysfunctional families.

Wallace, Marilyn (ed.) – Sisters in Crime

For those who enjoy mysteries, these annual anthologies present a great assortment of women-authored mysteries.

Waugh, Evelyn – The Loved One

The English master presents an irreverent satire on the American way of death and burial.

Wrede, Patricia C., and Stevermer, Caroline – Sorcery and Cecelia or the Enchanted Chocolate Pot

In 1817 in England, two young cousins, Cecilia living in the country and Kate in London, write letters to keep each other informed of their exploits, which take a sinister turn when they find themselves confronted by evil wizards.

NON-FICTION

Etter-Lewis, Gwendolyn – My Soul Is My Own: Oral Narratives of African-American Women in the Professions

Oral histories of Black women who tried to break into the professions in the 1920's and 30's.

Hunter-Gault, Charlayne – In My Place

The distinguished print and video journalist relates her story as a bright and ambitious high school student who became, despite jeers and rioting, the first African-American student at the University of Alabama.

Kasper, Shirl – Annie Oakley

This is the best book to date about the greatest sharpshooter who ever lived, and one of the most famous women of the late 19th century.

Meyer, Susan E. – Mary Cassatt

This lavishly illustrated biography gives us a view of the first American woman to win fame as an artist.

Tuchman, Barbara W. – A Distant Mirror – The Calamitous 14th Century

In this sweeping narrative, the eminent historian and writer looks at the Hundred Years War, the destruction of the medieval church and the fight against the Black Death – a must-read for students of the middle ages.

DRAMA

Albee, Edward – Three Tall Women

Winner of the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for best play, as well as a number of other prestigious awards, Three Tall Woman has been called Albee's finest achievement. In his triumphant return to the New York and London stages, Albee demonstrates insight and vision with a moving look at mortality. "Stunning . . . nuanced and breathtaking."--Time.

Wasserstein, Wendy – The Heidi Chronicles and Other Plays

Three works by one of America's famous young playwrights explore a young woman's growing up, funny and painful at the same time.