

11th and 12th Grade Summer Reading List 2011

If there are any books on this list that your parents may not approve of, select another book!

- Albom, Mitch. ***Tuesdays With Morrie***. The author, an alumnus of Brandeis University, tells of his meetings with a former professor suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease and of the lessons he learned about life and death from his college mentor.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Wintergirls***. Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.
- Bausum, Ann. ***Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration***. Discusses cases from the history of immigration in the U.S. in which immigrants are denied, such as the people aboard "The St. Louis" who were sent back to Nazi Germany during the Holocaust, the detained, such as Japanese Americans during WWII, and the deported, such as Emma Goldman, who was sent back to Russia in 1919 after living in the U.S. for thirty years.
- Caletti, Deb. ***Honey, Baby, Sweetheart***. Ruby McQueen, high school junior, focuses on the relationships in her life. Conflicts arise with teenage issues, her thieving first boyfriend, her parent's separation, and a book club called the Casserole Queens.
- Davis, Kenneth. ***Don't Know Much About History: Everything you need to know about American history but never learned***. Question-and-answer format provides information about American history from exploration of the New World through the present.
- Doctorow, Corey. ***Little Brother***. Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.
- Doyle, Arthur Conan. ***The Complete Sherlock Holmes***. Presents all of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's works featuring the detective Sherlock Holmes, including fifty-six short stories and four novellas.
- Donnelly, Jennifer. ***Revolution***. An angry, grieving seventeen-year-old musician facing expulsion from her prestigious Brooklyn private school travels to Paris to complete a school assignment and uncovers a diary written during the French revolution by a young actress attempting to help a tortured, imprisoned little boy--Louis Charles, the lost king of France.
- Dungy, Tony. ***Quiet Strength***. NFL football coach Tony Dungy reflects on his personal and professional life; discussing his childhood, family, religious beliefs, coaching practices, Super Bowl victory, and more.
- Dungy, Tony. ***Uncommon: Finding Your Path to Significance***. *Uncommon* reveals lessons on achieving significance that the coach has learned from his remarkable parents, his athletic and coaching career, his mentors, and his journey with God. A particular focus of the book: what it means to be a man of significance in a culture that is offering young men few positive role models.

Efaw, Amy. **After.** Devon Davenport is a straight-A student and prominent player on her school's soccer team, but when she is linked to an abandoned baby found in the trash she is accused of attempted murder.

Ellison, Ralph. **Invisible Man.** In the course of his wanderings from a Southern college to New York's Harlem, an African-American man becomes involved in a series of adventures.

Fahy, Thomas R. **Sleepless.** Terrified by the gruesome nightmares and unexplained bouts of sleepwalking that seem to be affecting her and many other students at Saint Opportuna High, Emma and her friends become even more unnerved when, after several deaths, they begin to suspect that something is causing them to kill in their sleep.

Feinstein, John. **The Punch: One Night, Two Lives, and the Fight That Changed Basketball Forever.** Recounts the events surrounding a fistfight between the Houston Rockets and the Los Angeles Lakers in 1977 in which Rudy Tomjanovich was nearly killed by a blow from Kermit Washington and discusses how both men's lives, and the game of basketball, were affected by the fight.

Garcia, Kami. **Beautiful Creatures.** In a small South Carolina town, where it seems little has changed since the Civil War, sixteen-year-old Ethan is powerfully drawn to Lena, a new classmate with whom he shares a psychic connection and whose family hides a dark secret that may be revealed on her sixteenth birthday.

Goldberg, Myla. **Bee Season.** Eliza Naumann is used to being the unremarkable member of her family, but when she wins a series of spelling bees, her once distant family begins to lavish praise on her, bringing about surprising complications.

Grimes, Nikki. **Bronx Masquerade.** While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Grogan, John. **Marley and Me.** The author presents a tender story of his family's love for their golden retriever, Marley, and recalls how he grew from a mischievous puppy into a nearly impossible adult that no amount of obedience school training could correct, and of the love they felt for him.

Hillenbrand, Laura. **Unbroken a World War II story of Survival, Resilience and Repemption.** A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.

Hosseini, Khaled. **The Kite Runner.** Amir, haunted by his shocking betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a Taliban official.

Johnson, LouAnne. **Muchacho.** Living in a neighborhood of drug dealers and gangs in New Mexico, high school junior Eddie Corazon, a juvenile delinquent-in-training, falls in love with a girl who inspires him to rethink his life and his choices.

- Kaysen, Susanna. ***Girl Interrupted***. The author describes her two-year stay at a psychiatric hospital renowned for its famous clientele and for its progressive methods of treatment.
- Lester, Julius, ***Guardian***. In a rural southern town in 1946, a white man and his son witness the lynching of an innocent black man. Includes historical note on lynching.
- Letts, Billie. ***Where the Heart Is***. Novalee Nation, seventeen, pregnant, and living in a Wal-Mart store discovers friendship, encouragement, direction and love with a group of caring people in Sequoyah, Oklahoma.
- Lewis, Michael. ***The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game***. Details the life of University of Mississippi football player Michael Oher, who was raised by a crack addicted mother and adopted at the age of sixteen by a wealthy family, and explores the rising importance and salary of the offensive left tackle in the game of football.
- Madigan, L.K. ***Flash Burnout***. Fifteen-year-old amateur photographer Blake gains self-awareness through his relationships with a girlfriend and a friend who he helps come to terms with her feelings about her homeless, methamphetamine-addicted mother.
- McCormick, Patricia. ***Purple Heart***. While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali.
- Moran, Michelle. ***Cleopatra's Daughter***. Selene, the daughter of Marc Antony and Cleopatra, is taken with her twin Alexander and younger brother Ptolemy to Rome following the deaths of her parents where she grows up in the household of Octavia, the wife Antony abandoned for Cleopatra, and adjusts to life in the midst of political intrigue.
- Mortenson, Greg. ***Three Cups of Tea***. Greg Mortenson recounts the experiences he had while trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children.
- Pena, Matt de la. ***We Were Here***. After a judge sentences Miguel to spend a year in a group home and write in a journal, he makes plans to escape the youth detention center and go to Mexico, where he can put his past behind him.
- Picoult, Jodi. ***House Rules***. Emma Hunt's son Jacob, who has Asperger's syndrome and occasionally tries helping the police with his unique forensic analysis abilities, falls under suspicion when a murder occurs in town, reminding Emma of society's--and the legal system's--misunderstanding with regard to the behavioral cues associated with Asperger's.
- Picoult, Jodi. ***Nineteen Minutes***. The people of Sterling, New Hampshire, are forever changed after a shooting at the high school leaves ten people dead, and the judge presiding over the trial tries to remain unbiased, even though her daughter witnessed the events and was friends with the assailant.
- Pollan, Michael. ***The Omnivore's Dilemma***. Offers insight into food consumption in the twenty-first century, explaining how an abundance of unlimited food varieties reveals the responsibilities of consumers to protect their health and the environment.

- Reinhardt, Dana. ***How to Build a House***. Seventeen-year-old Harper Evans hopes to escape the effects of her father's divorce on her family and friendships by volunteering her summer to build a house in a small Tennessee town devastated by a tornado.
- Roberts, Cokie. ***Founding Mothers***. Profiles the women whose bravery, convictions, and patriotism impacted the formation of the United States, focusing on the contributions of the wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of the country's founding fathers.
- Schlosser, Eric. ***Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal***. The author charges that the fast food has hastened the malling of the American landscape widened the chasm between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled U.S. cultural imperialism abroad.
- Smithson, Ryan. ***Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year-Old GI***. Ryan Smithson recounts the experiences he had serving his first tour of duty as an Army engineer in Iraq when he was only nineteen.
- Stiefvater, Maggie. ***Shiver***. In all the years she has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house, Grace has been particularly drawn to an unusual yellow-eyed wolf who, in his turn, has been watching her with increasing intensity.
- Stockett, Kathryn. ***The Help***. Skeeter returns home to Mississippi from college in 1962 and begins to write stories about the African-American women that are found working in white households, which includes Aibileen, who grieves for the loss of her son while caring for her seventeenth white child, and Minny, Aibileen's sassy friend, the hired cook for a secretive woman who is new to town.
- Walker, Alice. ***The Color Purple***. Tells the story of two African-American sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the south, in the medium of their letters to each other and in Celie's case, the desperate letters she begins, "Dear God."
- White T. H. ***The Once and Future King***. Tells the story of the youth and reign of King Arthur, the establishment of the Round Table, and the search for the Holy Grail.
- Whitney, Daisy. ***The Mockingbirds***. When Alex, a junior at an elite preparatory school, realizes that she may have been the victim of date rape, she confides in her roommates and sister who convince her to seek help from a secret society, the Mockingbirds.
- Wilcockson, John. ***Lance: The Making of the World's Greatest Champion***. Chronicles the life of Lance Armstrong, discussing his childhood, close relationship with his mother and friends, early interest in cycling, athletic achievements, battle with testicular cancer, personal relationships, and other related topics.