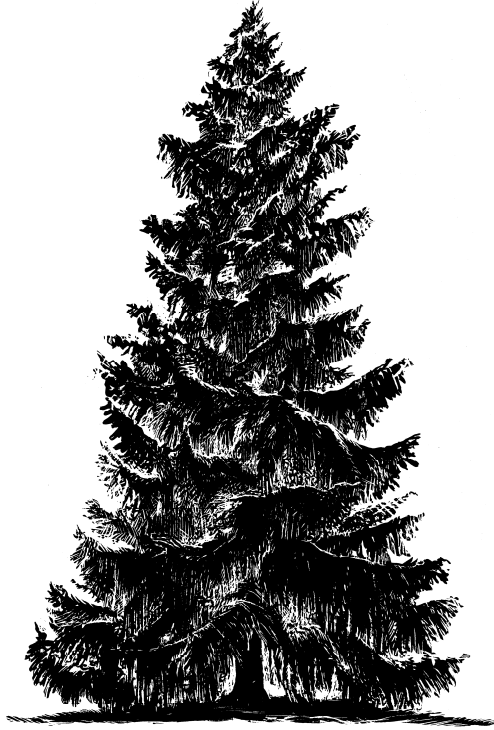


# TANDEM FRIENDS SCHOOL

## Ideas for Summer Reading 2009



*We should read to give our souls a chance to luxuriate.*  
~Henry Miller

Dear Friends,

It is our hope that summer reading will nourish your love of the written word. We encourage you to explore the wide world of books available to you and choose something to read that you feel you will enjoy. The following annotated list is offered as a point of departure to guide you in book selection. The list includes a variety of excellent writing and titles are grouped rather loosely into Middle School and Upper School selections. If you have any question about the appropriateness of any of these titles for your child, please check with a librarian or bookseller. As in years past, we ask your forgiveness if your favorite book of all time is not included on this list and we encourage any suggestions you may have for future summer reading!

At the end of this list, you will find lists of books that have won recent literary awards as well as links to book selection resources on the Internet. Also included are suggestions for films that you and your children might enjoy this summer.

Happy reading!

Barbara Studholme and Nancy Summers

## Middle School Suggestions

Our middle school students have suggested many of the following titles. Like any list, this one is simply one point of departure and an invitation to explore well-written books in many genres.

Adams, Douglas

### ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***

Arthur Dent, mild-mannered, out-to-lunch earthling, is plucked from his planet by his friend Ford Prefect just seconds before it is demolished to make way for a hyper-space bypass. Ford, posing as an out-of-work actor, is a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Together they begin their inter-galactic journey through time and space.

Adams, Richard

### ***Watership Down***

The epic Tolkienesque adventures of Fiver, Hazel, and a ragtag band of rabbits. This book has been recommended every year by students as one of their favorites.

Aiken, Joan

### ***The Wolves of Willoughby Chase***

Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia are left in the care of a cruel governess when Bonnie's parents go on a sea voyage. Besieged by wolves without and the terrible Miss Slighcarp within, how are they to reclaim Willoughby Chase? If you enjoy Aiken's writing, try her *Is Underground* and *All But a Few*.

Alcott, Louisa May

### ***Little Women; Little Men***

Set in Massachusetts during the Civil War, the tale of four sisters who have little material wealth, but are rich in love, spirit, and companionship. These books may be difficult, but they are worth the effort. They might also be fun to read aloud, which may help students to become familiar with the cadence of 19<sup>th</sup> century prose.

Alexander, Lloyd

### ***The Iron Ring***

This adventure is rooted in the mythology of ancient India. A losing game of chance with a mysterious stranger seems like a dream to young King Tamar, but there is an iron ring on his finger that suggests that his life may be forfeit. In an effort to discover the truth, Tamar makes a journey to the stranger's distant kingdom in the company of a band of interesting and amusing characters. You may also enjoy Alexander's *Chronicles of Prydain* which include *The Book of Three*, *The Black Cauldron* (Newbery Honor), *The Castle of Llyr*, *Taran Wanderer*, and *The High King* (Newbery Medal).

Anaya, Rudolfo

### ***Bless Me, Ultima***

This novel of a young boy in New Mexico in the 1940s and his encounter with Ultima, a curandera, one who cures with herbs and magic, won the Premio Quinto Sol national Chicano literary award.

Anthony, Piers

### ***A Spell for Chameleon***

The first in the Xanth series of humorous fantasy novels. In this tale a young man is without magical powers in a world ruled entirely by magic. He undertakes a quest to discover his own special talents.

Armstrong, William

### ***Souder***

"... the death of a devoted dog and his master in the rural 19th-century South leaves the man's son a hard but hopeful legacy of stoicism, resilience, and self-independence."--School Library Journal. Winner of the 1970 Newbery Medal.

Asimov, Isaac

### ***The Foundation Series***

Difficult reading, but many students enjoy these novels set so far in the future that Earth is all but forgotten by humans who live throughout the galaxy. Yet all is not well with the Galactic Empire.

Avi

***Crispin: Cross of Lead***

Newbery Medal winner. Story is set in 14th-century England. The adolescent son of a village outcast is accused of a murder he did not commit and flees his town to discover the friendship of a traveling juggler and the truth of his own identity.

Avi

***True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle***

Despite the hostile and often dangerous conditions on board the ship *Seahawk*, lone passenger Charlotte Doyle transforms herself from a powerless young girl to the mastermind behind a daring sea voyage.

Babbitt, Natalie

***Tuck Everlasting***

Winifred's accidental encounter with the unusual Tuck family and their extraordinary secret transforms her life.

Baker, E.D.

***The Frog Princess***

Fascinating and hilarious characters ranging from a self-conscious but friendly bat to a surprisingly loyal snake and a wise green witch confirm that readers won't soon forget this madcap story.

Balliett, Blue

***Chasing Vermeer***

A pair of precocious kids on a quest full of puzzles, patterns, and the power of blue M&Ms. If you like her writing, you might also *The Calder Game* and *Wright 3*.

Barker, Clive

***The Thief of Always***

A fantasy world that is eerily engaging. When a young boy wishes to get away from a boring rainy day, a strange creature takes him to a place where he can have and do whatever he wants. If you enjoy this, you might also like reading Barker's *Abarat*.

Barron, T. A.

***The Ancient One***

When the untouched redwood forests of the magical Lost Crater are in danger of destruction, Kate journeys back in time five hundred years, where she befriends a young Halami girl, encounters strange creatures, and continues the centuries-old fight to save the forests.

Barron, T. A.

***The Lost Years of Merlin***

The first in a trilogy about the beloved wizard's boyhood and coming of age. A much-loved book.

Beagle, Peter S.

***The Last Unicorn***

A unicorn, a haphazard wizard, and a spunky scullery woman journey to the dreaded kingdom of Hagggaard, an evil ruler who, with the help of a bull-shaped demon, imprisons all the unicorns of the world.

Bierhorst, John

***The Mythology of South America***

Wonderful background for literature and cultural studies.

Birdsall, Jeanne

***The Penderwicks***

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. 2005 National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

Blackwood, Gary

***The Shakespeare Stealer***

The tale of a 14-year-old Yorkshire orphan sent by a rival theater manager to steal the as-yet-unpublished Hamlet in 1601 London. A story of Elizabethan stagecraft and street life.

Bloor, Edward

***Storytime***

George and Kate are promised the best education but instead face obsessed administrators, endless tests, and evil spirits when they are transferred to Whittaker Magnet School.

Blos, Joan

***A Gathering of Days***

The journal of a fourteen-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.

Blumberg, Rhoda

***Shipwrecked! The True Adventures of a Japanese Boy***

This is the true tale of a 14-year-old Japanese boy who, after being shipwrecked while fishing in 1841, was marooned for six months, rescued by an American whaling ship, educated in New England, and returned home to become an honored samurai.

Blume, Judy

***Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret***

Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private God.

Boston, L. M.

***The Children of Green Knowe***

An uncommon fantasy, blending the magical and the real, of a young boy who goes to live with his grandmother in their ancestral home. First in a series.

Bradbury, Ray

***The Martian Chronicles***

A colonist family turns away from the demise of the Earth toward a new future on Mars.

Bradbury, Ray

***Fahrenheit 451***

"Fahrenheit 451 – the temperature at which book paper catches fire, and burns..." Montag enjoys his work as a burner of books until he meets a girl who defies the Mechanical Hound.

Brashares, Ann

***Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants***

Four best girlfriends spend the biggest summer of their lives enchanted by a magical pair of pants

Brink, Carol Ryrie

***Caddie Woodlawn***

The reminiscence by the author about her grandmother Caddie is a story of Wisconsin frontier life in the 1860s.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

***The Secret Garden***

Colin lives the life of a spoiled and incurable invalid until the arrival of his orphaned cousin, Mary. The two children conspire to restore his mother's secret garden and also to restore Colin to health and his father's affection.

Burnford, Sheila

***The Incredible Journey***

Instinct told them that the way home lay to the west. And so the doughty young Labrador retriever, the roguish bull terrier and the indomitable Siamese set out through the Canadian wilderness. Separately, they would soon have died. But, together, the three house pets faced starvation, exposure, and wild forest animals to make their way home to the family they love.

Cambell, Eric

***The Place of Lions***

When the plane flying Chris and his father crashes on the Serengeti Plain, Chris sets out to find help and finds that his journey is paralleled by that of an aging lion.

Carbone, Elisa

***Storm Warriors***

Driven from his home by the Ku Klux Klan and still reeling from the death of his mother, Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to the desolate Pea Island on the Outer Banks of North Carolina to start a new life.

Carroll, Lewis

***Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass***

Read or reread these this summer and enjoy the story of what takes place after young Alice falls asleep during her lessons and dreams of following a white rabbit down a rabbit hole. No central, concrete story line, but a wonderful progression of bizarre situations and fantastic characters you will remember all of your life.

Christopher, John

***When the Tripods Came***

The story of how aliens came to earth in England, Russia and the United States and changed life on the planet forever. Other books in the Tripod series include *The White Mountains*, *The City of Gold and Lead*, and *The Pool of Fire*.

Clark, Ann Nolan

***Secret of the Andes***

An Indian boy who tends llamas in a hidden valley in Peru learns the traditions and secrets of his Inca ancestors.

Cleary, Beverly

***Dear Mr. Henshaw***

Follows the correspondence of Leigh Botts and his favorite author after Leigh's parents are divorced and his father undertakes a wayfaring life in his tractor-trailer with the family dog, leaving Leigh hurt and confused. Newbery Medal.

Clements, Andrew

***Frindle***

Of all Nick's ideas, the frindle is his most successful. What's a frindle? It's a pen, or what used to be called a pen before Nick began his brilliant campaign. Soon much of the nation is crazy about frindles—except for Mrs. Granger, Nick's teacher, who, although she doesn't realize it, was the inspiration for the idea.

Coerr, Eleanor

***Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes***

Japanese legend holds that if a person who is ill makes a 1,000 paper cranes, the gods will grant that person's wish to be well again. Beautiful illustrations by Caldecott-medalist Ed Young enhance the story of Sadako, a young girl dying of leukemia as a result of the bombing of Hiroshima.

Colfer, Eoin

***Artemis Fowl***

For fans of J.R.R. Tolkien, J.K. Rowling, and Philip Pullman, *Artemis Fowl* is a humorous high-tech fantasy, mixing fairies, leprechauns, and other creatures.

Colfer, Eoin

***The Supernaturalist***

Colfer's newest book is an engaging and suspenseful science fiction tale set in a future dystopia where cities are for-profit businesses and children are forced to endure product testing. 14-year old Cosmo Hill is rescued by the Supernaturalists and joins a motley crew of young people seeking to escape and redeem society.

Collier, Chris and James Collier

***My Brother Sam is Dead***

Young Tim Meeker watches his 16-year-old brother go off to fight with the Patriots while his father remains a reluctant British Loyalist in the Tory town of Redding Ridge, Connecticut. Over the course of war, Tim learns that life teaches some bitter lessons and does not guarantee clear answers.

Coolidge, Olivia

***Men of Athens***

Coolidge's books of ancient history and mythology are fascinating and accurate retellings of Greek and Roman legends and histories.

Cooper, Susan

***Over Sea, Under Stone***

On holiday in Cornwall, three children discover an ancient map in the attic of the house that they are staying in. They know immediately that it is special. It is even more than that—the key to finding a grail, a source of power to fight the forces of evil known as the Dark. Also in this series are *Silver on the Tree*, *The Grey King* (Newbery Award), *Greenwitch*, and *The Dark Is Rising*.

Creech, Sharon

***Love That Dog***

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

Creech, Sharon

***The Wanderer***

Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England. Newbery Honor book for 2001.

Curtis, Christopher Paul

***Bud, Not Buddy***

After his mother's death in 1936, 10-year-old Bud can't squelch a yearning to find out his father's identity. Bud has a hunch from clues his mother left—posters of Herman E. Calloway and his band. The fearless fellow takes off on a journey to find his father and himself. Newbery Honor winner

Cushman, Karen

***Catherine, Called Birdy***

Fighting fleas, unsuitable suitors, and her mother's attempts to make a lady of her, Catherine writes in her diary about her frustrations with her life as a young noblewoman in medieval times.

Cushman, Karen

***The Midwife's Apprentice***

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

Dadier, Bernard

***The Black Cloth***

A collection of African folklore compiled by one of the leading West African writers.

Dahl, Roald

***Danny Champion of the World***

Danny's dad had a secret, but now the secret is out and it's going to lead Danny on the adventure of a lifetime. Consider reading other books by Roald Dahl if you enjoy this.

Dahl, Raold

***The BFG***

A wonderful read-aloud, like all of Dahl's works. This story of a young girl's dealing with giants (and the Queen of England) is quirky, slightly off-color, and lots of fun.

DeAngeli, Marguerite

***The Door in the Wall***

A crippled boy in fourteenth-century England proves his courage and earns recognition from the King.

De Jenkins, Lyll Becerra

***The Honorable Prison***

This is the story of the imprisonment of a newspaper editor and his family living under a South American dictatorship. Somewhat mature in content.

DeJong, Meindert

***The Wheel on the School***

DeJong is an award-winning author and this novel is set in a little Dutch fishing village where the storks have stopped coming and the school children set out to bring them back.

DeJong, Meindert

***The House of Sixty Fathers***

Set in China during World War II, during the early days of the Japanese invasion. Young Tien Pao is alone in enemy territory and undertakes a long and dangerous journey in search of his family.

DiCamillo, Kate

***Because of Winn-Dixie***

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. Newbery Honor Book.

DiCamillo, Kate

***The Tale of Despereaux***

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

DiCamillo, Kate

***Tiger Rising***

12-year-old Rob Horton finds a caged tiger in the woods behind the motel where he lives with his dad. This incongruous discovery triggers all sorts of change and magic in his life. A story of cages and changes of all kinds.

Dickens, Charles

***David Copperfield, Oliver Twist, Great Expectations***

These are wonderful books to read aloud with parents or on your own. The writing may be challenging, but reading any of Dickens' work is always rewarding and memorable.

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee

***The Conch Bearer***

In India, a healer invites twelve-year-old Anand to join him on a quest to return a magical conch to its safe and rightful home high in the Himalayan mountains.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan

***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes***

Is there any case too tricky for the world's most famous sleuth and his incredible powers of deduction?

DuBois, William Pene

***Twenty-One Balloons***

When Professor William Waterman Sherman was found adrift in the Atlantic clinging to the debris of twenty-one balloons, all America was rocked with curiosity. A humorous tale of a chance encounter with a fantastic land.

Duprau, Jeanne

***The City of Ember***

An engaging novel telling the story of two children's efforts to save their fading homeland. The story takes place in the dark city of Ember surrounded by the vast Unknown. Supplies are running out, power is ebbing and instructions on how to leave Ember have been lost by a corrupt mayor.

Eager, Edward

***Half Magic***

Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.

Eager, Edward

***The Time Garden***

Four cousins spending a summer in a house by the sea discover a magic thyme garden from which they embark on a number of adventures in time.

Estes, Elanor

***Ginger Pye***

When the Pye family's puppy, Ginger, disappears on Thanksgiving Day, the children are convinced that he has been abducted by a stranger in a yellow hat.

Farley, Walter

***The Black Stallion***

The tale of a boy and a wild horse from their first meeting on an ill-fated ship to their adventures on a desert island and their eventual rescue.

Farmer, Nancy

***The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm***

When General Matsika's three children are kidnapped after they leave the safety of their armed compound, their mother hires the best detective team available in 2194 Zimbabwe—the appropriately named mutant partners—the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm.

Farmer, Nancy

***House of the Scorpion***

Considered by many to be her best book. The protagonist is a clone of El Patron, a powerful drug lord. The story raises questions of what it means to be human, what is the value of life and what are the responsibilities of a society. 2002 National Book Award. For older Middle School readers.

Fitzhugh, Louise

***Harriet, the Spy***

Eleven year old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her after-school spy route, but when some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge.

Flake, Sharon.

***The Skin I'm In***

Her very dark complexion makes Malleka the butt of jokes and an outcast – until her teacher shows her that she can accept herself.

Fleischman, Paul

***Seedfolks***

An old man seeking renewal, a young girl connecting to a father she never knew, a pregnant teenager dreading motherhood, are just a few of the 13 voices that tell one story of the flowering of a vacant city lot into a neighborhood garden.

Fleischman, Paul

***Bull Run***

The Battle of Bull Run as seen from the widely varying perspectives of sixteen different characters from all walks of life.

Fletcher, Susan

***Alphabet of Dreams***

Mitra and her little brother, Babak, are refugees in ancient Persia before the birth of Christ, living in caves and stealing food to survive. When it is discovered that Babak has the gift of prophetic dreaming, the children are taken in by a local magus who they accompany on a journey following signs in the stars. The journey takes them into Roman territories, and eventually to the village of Bethlehem.

Forbes, Esther

***Johnny Tremain***

A story filled with danger and excitement, Johnny Tremain tells of the turbulent passionate times in Boston just after the Revolutionary War. Johnny, a young apprentice silversmith, is caught up in a dramatic involvement with James Otis, John Hancock, and John and Samuel Adams in the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington; and finally, a touching resolution of Johnny's personal life.

Fox, Paula

***The Slave Dancer***

A powerful story of slavery that tells the tale of a 13-year old boy who is snatched from the docks of New Orleans and made to play his fife aboard a slave ship. A Newbery award winner. You might also read Fox's *The One-Eyed Cat*.

Fritz, Jean

***Stonewall***

A biography of the eccentric and brilliant Confederate General who gained the nickname "Stonewall" by his stand at Bull Run during the Civil War.

Funke, Cornelia

***The Thief Lord***

A novel of runaway children in the labyrinth of Venice who discover a mysterious, protected island and time-turning carousel. A wonderful adventure with a great cast of characters.

Funke, Cornelia

***Dragon Rider***

*Dragon Rider* is aimed at slightly younger readers than her previous novels, though it's a long read at five hundred pages. The story is about a brave young dragon who sets out on a dangerous journey to a magical place where silver dragons can find sanctuary from the threat of destruction by mankind.

Furlong, Monica

***Juniper***

Juniper, a young Cornish princess, draws on the healing arts and white magic she learned from her godmother to protect her kingdom and her family from the machinations of her power-hungry aunt, an evil black witch. Follow with *Wise Child*.

Garland, Sherry

***Song of the Buffalo Boy***

This is an unusual story about an Amerasian girl's search for her identity in Vietnam after the war. It is somewhat mature in content.

George, Jean Craighead

***Julie of the Wolves***

While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

George, Jean Craighead

***My Side of the Mountain Trilogy***

George's trilogy includes *My Side of the Mountain*, *The Far Side of the Mountain*, and *Frightful's Mountain*. They are the story of a young boy's wilderness adventures with his falcon, Frightful.

Gibson, Fred

***Old Yeller***

A wily stray, Old Yeller, helps Travis and his family stay safe from the many dangers of the wild Texas frontier in this heartwarming tale of the Old West. A perennial favorite.

Giff, Patricia Wiley

***Pictures of Hollis Woods***

Hollis Woods, an artistically talented 12-year old, has made a habit of running away from foster homes, but she has found a place on Long Island where she wants to stay. She bonds with her new guardian, a slightly eccentric, retired art teacher, who soon needs care herself.

Gordon, Sheila

***Waiting for the Rain***

An excellent story about the injustice of apartheid in South Africa.

Grahame, Kenneth

***Wind in the Willows***

The timeless story of Toad, Rat, Mole, and Badger. Also wonderful to read aloud.

Grahame, Kenneth

***The Reluctant Dragon***

A personal favorite of mine for the younger reader. This is the story of the friendship of a young knight and the dragon he is expected to slay.

Gray, Elizabeth

***Adam of the Road***

Set in medieval England, this is the story of the adventures of the young son of a minstrel who is separated from his father.

Green, John

***Looking for Alaska***

When Miles goes away to boarding school, he makes his first real friends including a beautiful and troubled girl named Alaska. There is tragedy and trying to make sense of tragedy.

Hamilton, Virginia

***M.C. Higgins the Great***

As a slag heap, the result of strip mining, creeps closer to his house in the Ohio hills, fifteen-year-old M. C. is torn between trying to get his family away and fighting for the home they love.

Harriot, James

***All Things Bright and Beautiful***

Stories from the life of a large animal country veterinarian. You might also enjoy *All Creatures Great and Small* and *All Things Wise and Wonderful*. These books just make life better.

Haugaard, Erik Christian

***The Samurai's Tale***

An exciting adventure set in 16<sup>th</sup> century Japan.

Henry, Marguerite

***Misty of Chincoteague***

Nobody could capture the Phantom, the wildest mare on the island. Paul and Maureen had their hearts set on owning her. They worked hard to earn the money she would cost. On Pony Penning Day, Paul not only brings in the Phantom, but her newborn colt as well. Can Paul and Maureen possibly earn enough to buy them both? Newbery Award winner.

Hesse, Karen

***Out of the Dust***

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Holm, Jennifer L.

***Our Only May Amelia***

As the only girl in a Finnish American family of seven brothers, May Amelia Jackson resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington State in 1899.

Horowitz, Anthony

***Stormbreaker***

There are times when a grade-B adventure is just the ticket—especially if it offers plenty of action, spying, and high-tech gadgets. This adventure features a 14-year-old orphan who is a reluctant spy for the British government.

Horvath, Polly

***The Canning Season***

Thirteen-year-old Ratchet spends a summer in Maine with her eccentric great-aunts Tilly and Penpen, hearing strange stories from the past and encountering a variety of unusual and colorful characters.

Hunt, Irene

***Across Five Aprils***

In this historically accurate story Jethro Creighton comes of age during the Civil War which divides his family in southern Illinois.

Ibbotson, Eva

***The Secret of Platform 13***

The rescue of a baby prince who has been kidnapped from an enchanted island, this story has wonderful, humorous characters and is a magical adventure. Also consider reading *Which Witch?*, *Island of the Aunts*, and *The Beasts of Clawstone Castle*.

Jacques, Brian

***Redwall***

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

Juster, Norton

***The Phantom Tollbooth***

A comical journey through a nonsensical land cures Milo of his boredom forever.

Kipling, Rudyard

***Kim***

Kimball O'Hara grows up an orphan in the walled city of Lahore, India. Deeply devoted to an old Tibetan lama but involved in a secret mission for the British, Kim struggles in his life in India under British rule. Action, suspense, and big questions.

Konigsburg, E.L.

***From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler***

Claudia knew that she could never pull off the old-fashioned kind of running away...so she decided not to run FROM somewhere, but TO somewhere. And so, after some careful planning, she and her younger brother, Jamie, escaped – right into a mystery that made headlines!

Konigsburg, E.L.

***A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver***

A witty story of the adventurous life of Eleanor of Aquitaine. Full of good history.

Krumgold, Joseph

***...and now Miguel***

A memorable and deeply moving story of a family of New Mexican shepherders, in which Miguel, neither child nor man, tells of his great longing to accompany men and sheep to summer pasture, and expresses his need to be recognized as a maturing individual."—Booklist. Newbery Medal; ALA Notable Children's Book.

Larson, Kirby

***Hattie Big Sky***

16-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks struggles to make a place for herself as a homesteader on the prairie in 1918.

Lawrence, Iain.

***The Wreckers***

Shipwrecked on the coast of Cornwall, the only survivor learns that the local people are not rescuers, but wreckers, pirates who lure ships into danger to plunder their cargo.

Lawson, Robert

***Rabbit Hill***

New folks are coming to the old house on the hill and the rabbit community is wondering if they will plant a garden and be good providers.

LeGuin, Ursula

***A Wizard of Earthsea***

Ged was the greatest sorcerer in all Earthsea, but he was once a reckless youth, hungry for power and knowledge who losted a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tale of how he restored the balance and tamed an ancient dragon.

L'Engle, Madeleine

***A Wrinkle in Time***

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

Levine, Gail Carson

***Ella Enchanted***

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Lewis, C. S.

***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe***

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

London, Jack

***The Call of the Wild; The Sea Wolf***

Survival stories from a masterful storyteller. Tales from the sea and from the frozen north.

Lowry, Lois

***Number the Stars***

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think about life before the war. But it's now 1943 and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching in their town.

Lowry, Lois

***The Giver***

In this Newbery award winning novel, a young boy who is chosen to be the community's Receiver of Memories discovers the disturbing truth about his utopian world and struggles against its hypocrisy.

MacLachlan, Patricia

***Arthur, For the Very First Time***

After a summer visit to his aunt and uncle's farm, Arthur begins to understand there is more than one way of seeing and doing and loving—that there is a world waiting for him to discover.

McCaffrey, Anne

***Dragonsong***

A favorite writer for fantasy lovers. This is the tale of how planet Pern's first female harper rediscovers the legendary fire lizards who helped to save her world. You might also enjoy McCaffrey's *The White Dragon*.

McKinley, Robin

***Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast***

A favorite of many who read and reread it. McKinley's Beauty takes more pride in her own intelligence, love of learning, and talent in riding, than in her appearance. The tale is captivating.

McKinley, Robin

***Blue Sword***

The dazzling stories of the adventures of the orphaned Harry Crewe as she fights to claim both birthright and love. Follow this with *The Hero and the Crown* for which McKinley won the Newbery award.

Mikaelsen, Ben

***Petey***

In 1922 Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot and institutionalized; sixty years later, still in the institution, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life.

Milne, A. A.

***Winnie the Pooh***

Pooh, Piglet, Tigger, Owl, and Eeyore are such good company on a summer day. Lie in the hammock and read it to a friend.

Montgomery, L. M.

***Anne of Green Gables***

A timeless story of an impetuous young orphan who finds a family in the small Canadian town of Avonlea. The movie, with Megan Follows and Colleen Dewhurst, is one of the few that are actually almost as good as the book. Enjoy together.

Mowat, Farley

***Never Cry Wolf: Amazing True Story of Life Among Arctic Wolves***

Dropped on the Arctic tundra to observe a wolf pack that has been slaughtering the caribou, Mowat comes to understand the wolves as he joins their society.

Myers, Walter Dean

***Hoops***

Lonnie and the rest of his Harlem ghetto basketball team learn the fine art of playing and winning like pros from Cal, who once was one.

Napoli, Donna Jo

***Bound***

Based on Chinese Cinderella tales, this is the story of 14-year-old stepchild Xing Xing who endures a life of servitude as her stepmother binds her own child's feet so that she may be the one to marry well.

Naylor, Phyllis

***Shiloh***

When Marty Preston comes across a young beagle in the hills behind his home, it's love at first sight – and also big trouble.

Nesbit, Elizabeth

***The Railway Children***

Roberta, Peter and Phyllis were very happy living in a comfortable house surrounded by a cook and servants and two loving parents until one evening when there was a knock on the door and their father was taken away by two mysterious men. So begins a series of exciting adventures. If you enjoy this book, you might also enjoy Nesbit's *Five Children and It*, *The Enchanted Castle*, and *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*.

Nhung, Huynh Quang

***The Land I Lost***

A collection of memoirs about the boyhood of a Vietnamese man whose life was utterly changed by the Vietnam War and who wants to preserve the memory of the culture he loved.

North, Sterling

***Rascal***

The author recalls his carefree life in a small Midwestern town at the close of World War I, and his adventures with his pet raccoon, Rascal.

Nye, Naomi Shihab

***19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East***

O'Brien, Robert C.

***Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh***

When mouse widow Mrs. Frisby needs advice on how to move her children safely, she consults the rats who live under the rosebush. Not only do they help her; they tell her of their escape from a laboratory where experimentation had made them literate, and of the brave death of her husband. Newbery Medal.

O'Dell, Scott

***Island of the Blue Dolphins***

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

Orczy, Baroness ***The Scarlet Pimpernel***  
A story of international intrigue during the French Revolution.

Paterson, Katherine ***Bridge to Terebithia***  
Jess copes with tragedy by going to a secret kingdom in the woods invented by newcomer Leslie Burke.

Paterson, Katherine ***The Great Gilly Hopkins***  
An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly.

Paterson, Katherine ***The Sign of the Chrysanthemum; The Master Puppeteer; Of Nightingales that Weep***  
Paterson is a master of historical fiction and these are about early medieval and premodern Japan.

Pattou, Edith ***East***  
A young woman journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear that is the victim of a cruel enchantment.

Paulsen, Gary ***Hatchet***  
After a plane crash, 13-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the Canadian wilderness, surviving with only the aid of a hatchet, and learning also to deal with his parents' divorce. A Newbery Honor Book.

Peck, Richard ***A Long Way From Chicago***  
City children visiting their grandmother discover a character that is larger than life and challenges her small town's status quo in a series of extraordinary adventures.

Peck, Robert Newton ***A Day No Pigs Would Die***  
When he must sacrifice his beloved pet pig for the good of his Shaker family, young Rob is forced to grow up quickly and confront the nature of duty.

Pierce, Tamora ***Alanna: The First Adventure***  
Disguising herself as a boy, young Alanna sets off to be trained as a knight but soon finds herself in a difficult situation when she becomes a friend with Prince Jonathan, antagonizing his evil uncle, Duke Roger.

Pullman, Philip ***The Golden Compass***  
Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan ***The Yearling***  
Rawling's timeless story of backwoods Florida and the tender relationship of a young boy and his tame fawn.

Rawls, Wilson ***Where the Red Fern Grows***  
The adventures of a ten-year-old boy and the two beloved dogs he bought with money he had earned.

Reeve, Philip ***Larklight, or The Revenge of the White Spiders, or to Saturn's Rings and Back, a Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space***  
Just what it says it is; this is a departure for Reeve and is a fun adventure set in the future in Outer Space.

Rennison, Louise ***Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging***  
An outrageous romp with 14-year-old Georgia Nicolson as she shares her daily highs and lows. Read it if you're in the mood to laugh. A Michael Printz Honor Book. If you like it, there are many more.

Rinaldi, Ann

***Finishing Becca***

Fourteen-year-old Becca takes a position as a maid in a wealthy Philadelphia Quaker home and witnesses the events that lead to General Benedict Arnold's betrayal of the American forces during the Revolution.

Rowling, J. K.

***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows***

The 7<sup>th</sup> and final book in the series is a perfect poolside or summertime read.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz

***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.

Rylant, Cynthia

***Missing May***

After the death of Aunt May, twelve-year-old Cynthia and Uncle Ob try to cope with their devastating loss. Newbery Medal.

Sachar, Louis

***Holes***

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Saint-Exupery, Antoine de

***The Little Prince***

A pilot stranded in the desert awakens one morning to see, standing before him, a most extraordinary little fellow, who teaches him the secret of what is really important in life.

Sewall, Anna

***Black Beauty***

A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experience with both good and bad masters.

Seredy, Kate

***The Good Master; The White Stag***

Good background for Eastern Europe. These short novels are set in Hungary.

Silverstein, Shel

***Falling Up***

Come wander through the Nose Garden, ride the Little Hoarse, eat in the Strange Restaurant, and let the magic of Shel Silverstein open your eyes and tickle your mind. Poetry young people love.

Singer, Isaac Bashevis

***Zlateh the Goat***

Stories written by a distinguished writer for young readers. You might also enjoy *When Shlemiel Went to Warsaw* and *Naftalii the Storyteller and his Horse*. As you get older, you might enjoy Singer's memoirs, *In My Father's Court*.

Sleator, William

***Interstellar Pig***

Barney's boring seaside vacation suddenly becomes more interesting when the cottage next door is occupied by three exotic neighbors who are addicted to a game they call "Interstellar Pig".

Smith, Betty

***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn***

Francie Nolan, poor but bright and resourceful, is growing up in a Brooklyn slum in the early 1900's.

Speare, Elizabeth

***The Bronze Bow***

Set in Galilee in the time of Jesus, this is the story of a young Jewish rebel who is won over to the gentle teachings of Jesus.

Speare, Elizabeth

***The Witch of Blackbird Pond***

In 1687, Kit Tyler moves from the Caribbean to Connecticut Colony. Her friendship for an elderly Quaker woman leads to her trial for witchcraft.

Spinelli, Jerry

***Call it Courage***

A legendary adventure story of how Mafatu, the son of the Great Chief of Hikuero, a Polynesian race that worships courage, conquers his fear of the sea and proves he isn't a coward. 1941 Newbery Medal; ALA Notable Children's Book.

Spinelli, Jerry

***Wringer***

A young boy dreads his birthday when he will become a "wringer," someone who wrings the necks of pigeons gunned down in an annual shooting contest. He makes a pet of a stray pigeon and struggles to find the courage to confront his peers and act in accordance with his conscience. A moral drama and a well-written story. *Wringer* is a Newbery Honor book.

Spinelli, Jerry

***Maniac Magee***

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats, which awe his contemporaries.

Stevenson, R. L.

***Treasure Island***

An absorbing tale of buccaneers and a romantic quest for treasure, *Treasure Island* is also the portrait of the brilliantly drawn character, Long John Silver. If there are younger children in the family, you might all enjoy following this with the Muppet *Treasure Island* movie that is quite true to the original tale.

Steward, Trenton Lee

***The Mysterious Benedict Society***

This trilogy is recommended by Carey Morton. Four children are being trained by a criminal mastermind to assist him in his scheme to take over the world. They must use their special talents to discover his secrets.

Stroud, Jonathan

***The Amulet of Samarkand***

The first book of the Bartimaeus Trilogy. Set in modern-day London where the government is run by magicians and mayhem rules. The main character, Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, is studying the arts of magic. Funny and engaging. A blend of magical espionage, blackmail and revenge.

Taylor, Mildred

***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***

Facing a year of night riders and burnings, Cassie and her family continue their struggle to keep their land and hold onto what rightfully belongs to them, despite the difficult battles they must continue to endure.

Taylor, Theodore

***The Cay***

When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old West Indian sailor are stranded on a tiny Caribbean island.

Thurber, James

***The Thirteen Clocks***

The tale of a wicked duke who thinks he has stopped time. Newly reissued, with an introduction by Neil Gaiman who calls it "probably the best book in the world."

Tolkien, J. R. R.

***The Hobbit; The Lord of the Rings***

"In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole and that means comfort." And as for *The Lord of the Rings*, if you have only seen the movies, be sure to read the book that inspired them.

Udall, Eleanor

***Montmorency, Thief Liar Gentleman?***

A cliff-hanger of a mystery novel about a quirky Victorian thief's dual existence. Also a good read-aloud.

Van Draanen, Wendelin

***Flipped***

A story of a long-standing love-hate relationship between next-door neighbors, told in alternating chapters.

Walsh, Jill Paton

***A Chance Child***

This is an unusual book about the misery of a child's life during the Industrial Revolution in England.

Whelan, Gloria

***Homeless Bird***

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

White, E.B.

***Stuart Little***

The adventures of the debonair mouse Stuart Little as he sets out in the world to seek out his dearest friend, a little bird who stayed a few days in his family's garden. Don't stop here. You will also love *The Trumpet of the Swan* which tells the story of Louis, a voiceless trumpeter swan, from hatching to employment as a bugler, to eventual fatherhood. White's *Charlotte's Web* is also a perennial favorite. It is a tale of friendship, loyalty and coming to an understanding of how life works through the adventures of unforgettable friends Wilbur the pig, Charlotte the spider, Templeton the rat, and Fern the girl.

Wiles, Deborah

***Each Little Bird That Sings***

A warm novel narrated by 10-year-old Comfort Snowberger whose family owns and operates the funeral parlor in the small town of Snapfinger, MS.

Woodson, Jacqueline

***Locomotion***

Inspired by his teacher, eleven-year-old Lonnie begins to write about his life in a series of poems in which he discusses his feelings about his friends, his foster mom, his little sister Lili, and the death of his parents.

Wrede, Patricia

***Dealing with Dragons***

Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom.

Wrede, Patricia and Caroline Stevermer. ***Sorcery and Cecelia or the Enchanted Chocolate Pot: Being the Correspondence of two Young Ladies of Quality Regarding Various Magical Scandals in London and the Country.***

In 1817, two young cousins write letters of their exploits that take an interesting turn when they encounter evil wizards.

Yep, Laurence

***Dragonwings: Golden Mountain Chronicles: 1903***

Laurence Yep's Newbery Honor book offers insights into the lives of Chinese-Americans in early 20th century California. The story begins as eight-year-old Moon Shadow Lee travels across the Pacific to join his father at the family-owned laundry in San Francisco.

Yep, Laurence

***The Rainbow People***

Chinese folktales.

Yolen, Jane

***The Devil's Arithmetic***

A serious book about the Holocaust. Hannah is tired of hearing about the Nazis during the Holocaust, but when she opens the door for Elijah at the Passover Seder, she is transported in time to 1940s Poland, where she is captured and put in a death camp. A girl named Rivka befriends her, teaching her how to fight the dehumanization of the camp and hold onto her identity.

Zindel, Paul

***The Pigman***

Two lonely high school students befriend a strange old man, Mr. Pignati.

Zusak, Markus

***The Book Thief***

Death tells the story of a young German girl who steals books and tells stories to sustain her family and the man they are hiding.

## Audio Books

Rushdie, Salman

### ***Haroun and the Sea of Stories***

Like many classics, this is a story that is enjoyed by all ages. Rushdie wrote this fantasy to “explain” to his son the nature of censorship and the importance of free speech, imagination, and story. Read by Rushdie himself who is a master of voices as well as of story. Unforgettable.

## Upper School Suggestions

Any book list is simply a point of departure. The books listed below are all well written and offer avenues to an understanding of the human experience in all its mystery and glory. Some are classics, some will be; some are light reading and are just for fun. Please explore other books by these authors and know that we would love to hear from you about what your suggestions might be for future summer reading recommendations.

Abbey, Edward

### ***Desert Solitaire***

Edward Abbey lived for three seasons in the desert at Moab, Utah. What he discovered about the land around him is a fascinating, sometimes raucous, always personal account of a place that has already disappeared, but is worth remembering and living through again and again. Also read his 1975 novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, the comic adventures of a motley gang of characters who challenge the developers in their beloved canyon lands and also a call to protect the American wilderness.

Ablom, Mitch

### ***The Five People You Meet in Heaven***

Eddie is an embittered amusement park employee who dies in an accident trying to save a little girl. He finds heaven to be a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people who were in it. They may be loved ones or strangers, but each changed your path forever. Also read *Tuesdays with Morrie*, if you like Ablom's style.

Achebe, Chinua

### ***Things Fall Apart***

A classic novel about the confrontation of African tribal life with colonial rule tells the tragic story of a warrior whose manly, fearless exterior conceals bewilderment, fear, and anger at the breakdown of his society.

Adams, Douglas

### ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***

Arthur Dent, mild-mannered, out-to-lunch earthling, is plucked from his planet by his friend Ford Prefect just seconds before it is demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass. Ford, posing as an out-of-work actor, is a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Together they begin their inter-galactic journey through time and space.

Adams, Richard

### ***Watership Down***

An allegorical tale of a band of wild rabbits who leave their ancestral home to build a better society.

Agee, James

### ***A Death in the Family***

An account of a man's death and its impact on his family. Agee's novel of innocence, tenderness, and loss should be read aloud for the sheer music of its prose.

Allende, Isabel

### ***The House of the Spirits***

The epic story of the passionate Trueba family begins at the turn of the century in South America.

Allende, Isabel

### ***Zorro***

Allende's retelling of the Zorro myth with her trademark vivid characterization and rich storytelling.

Alvarez, Julia

***In the Time of the Butterflies***

A fictionalized account of four sisters in the Dominican Republic under the dictatorship of General Trujillo.

Ambrose, Stephen

***Undaunted Courage***

Chronicles the experiences of Meriwether Lewis--the man chosen by President Jefferson to lead a voyage from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean--discusses the experiences of those who took part in the expedition, and tells of the leading political, scientific, and military figures involved in the mapping of the American West.

Ammons, A. R.

***A. R. Ammons: Selected Poems***

Poetry steeped in the natural world and in the world of the mind. Ammons's poetry is both intimate and universal. This is a nice, broad selection of his work.

Anderson, Sherwood

***Winesburg, Ohio***

Classic collection of stories set in Ohio.

Atwood, Margaret

***The Handmaid's Tale***

In the Republic of Gilead, formerly the U.S., far-right ideals are carried to an extreme in a repressive monotheocratic government. The society strictly controls women who are not allowed to have jobs and who are assigned to various classes: the childless wives, the housekeepers, and the reproductive handmaids.

Austen, Jane

***Pride and Prejudice***

Will Miss Bennett and Mr. Darcy find true love amidst the pride and prejudices of 18th century England? This beautifully written story of their romance and its challenges is fun to combine with the exceptional BBC mini-series starring Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle. Also read *Persuasion*, which some like even better!

Baldwin, James

***Go Tell it on the Mountain***

A short work first published in 1953 when Baldwin was 29. The action spans a single day and tells the suffering of a black family during the Depression using as a frame the spiritual and moral awakening of a 14-year-old boy during a Saturday night service in a Harlem storefront church.

Banks, Russell

***Rule of the Bone***

A fifteen-year-old youth goes on an epic journey in this modern day *Huckleberry Finn*.

Bellow, Saul

***Henderson the Rain King***

Bellow's glorious comic novel of an eccentric American millionaire who finds a home of sorts in deepest Africa. If you enjoy this, also try *The Adventures of Augie March*.

Bishop, Elizabeth

***The Complete Poems of Elizabeth Bishop***

Influenced and admired by the American poets Marianne Moore and Robert Lowell, Bishop's *Complete Poems* won the National Book Award in 1970.

Bogary, Hamza

***A Sheltered Quarter***

Hamza Bogary describes a bygone way of life in Mecca before the advent of the oil industry.

Bradbury, Ray

***Fahrenheit 451***

Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which books burn. A book burner in a future fascist state finds out books are a vital part of a culture he never knew. He clandestinely pursues reading, until he is betrayed.

Bradbury, Ray

***Farewell Summer: A Novel***

This sequel to Bradbury's much-beloved novel *Dandelion Wine* came out this past autumn. Of this special time of year Bradbury writes: "There are those days which seem a taking in of breath, which, held, suspends the whole earth in its waiting. Some summers refuse to end."

Bradley, David

***The Chaneysville Incident***

Compared by reviewers to the writing of James Baldwin and Ralph Ellison, this book is the powerful story of one man's obsession with discovering a secret in his heritage.

Branch, Taylor

***At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-68***

The last of Branch's America in the King Years trilogy, this comprehensive biography of the last three years of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. won the 2006 National Book Award for non-fiction.

Bronte, Charlotte

***Jane Eyre***

In early nineteenth century England, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her employer who has a terrible secret.

Brooks, Geraldine

***March***

Brooks's second novel imagines the Civil War experiences of Mr. March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. Winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Also read her acclaimed *Year of Wonders*.

Bryson, Bill

***A Walk in the Woods***

In order to rediscover America by, as he puts it, "going out into an America that most people scarcely know is there," he sets out to walk the length of the Appalachian Trail, in the company of his equally out-of-shape middle-aged college roommate. Both a personal memoir and a chronicle of the trail, the people who created it and the places it passes through.

Burns, Olive Ann

***Cold Sassy Tree***

Grandpa Blakeslee marries a young milliner just three weeks after Granny Blakeslee has gone to her reward. Young Will is boggled by this act but becomes the newlyweds' conspirator and confidant.

Brown, Dan

***The Da Vinci Code***

This popular mystery/thriller concerns a murder in the Louvre that reveals a sinister plot to uncover a secret that has been protected by a clandestine society since the days of Christ. You might also enjoy Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*, an earlier thriller about an ancient secret brotherhood and a plot against the Vatican.

Byatt, A.S.

***Possession***

A pair of young scholars discover a love affair between the two Victorian poets they have dedicated their lives to studying.

Cahill, Thomas

***How the Irish Saved Civilization***

Thomas Cahill takes his readers to the "island of saints and scholars," the Ireland of St. Patrick and the Book of Kells.

Cantor, MacKinley

***Andersonville***

Acclaimed as the greatest novel ever written about the War Between the States, this Pulitzer Prize-winning book captures all the glory and shame of America's most tragic conflict in the vivid, crowded world of Andersonville, and the people who lived outside its barricades.

Card, Orson Scott

***Ender's Game***

Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy. Read also *Speaker for the Dead* and *Xenocide*.

Carson, Rachel

***Silent Spring***

Written over the years 1958 to 1962, this book takes a hard look at the effects of insecticides and pesticides on songbird populations throughout the United States, whose declining numbers yielded the silence to which her title attests.

Cather, Willa

***My Antonia***

A New York lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with a simple girl.

Catton, Bruce

***A Stillness at Appomattox***

Catton recounts the most spectacular conflicts between Grant and Lee and details the end of hope for the Confederacy. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for excellence in nonfiction.

Chabon, Michael

***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay***

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize. This novel includes golems and magic and miraculous escapes and evil nemeses as it pursues questions of love and war, dreams and art, longing and hope, identity and mass culture. Enjoy the ride.

Cheever, John

***The Stories of John Cheever***

Recalling the era "when you heard Benny Goodman quartets from a radio . . . and when almost everybody wore a hat," here are four stories from a modern master.

Cisneros, Sandra

***Woman Hollering Creek***

A collection of stories, whose characters give voice to the vibrant and varied life on both sides of the Mexican border.

Coelho, Paulo

***The Alchemist***

An Andalusian shepherd boy sets out from his home in Spain and ventures across the Egyptian desert on a quest for treasure and his Personal Legend.

Collins, Wilkie

***The Moonstone***

T.S. Eliot called this book "the first and greatest English detective novel." It is the story of a famous yellow diamond captured during a military campaign in India in 1799 and stolen from one of the soldier's young relatives once it arrives in England. Told from several points of view.

Conrad, Joseph

***Heart of Darkness***

The captain of a steamship on the Congo River meets and observes Mr. Kurtz, the fabled chief of the Inner Station for the trading company on that river in 1890.

Crane, Stephen

***Red Badge of Courage***

A young Union soldier, Henry Fleming, tells of his feelings when he is under fire for the first time during the battle of Chancellorsville.

Cummings, E. E.

***The Enormous Room***

Cummings served in a Red Cross ambulance unit on the Western Front during World War I. His free-spirited ways eventually landed him in a French concentration camp as a possible enemy of *La Patrie*. Unexpectedly, here Cummings found fulfillment of his ever-elusive quest for freedom. This is the fictional account of his four-month internment. He explores the essential paradox of his experience: to lose everything--all comforts, all possessions, all rights and privileges--is to become free.

Cunningham, Michael

***The Hours***

The author draws inventively on the life and work of Virginia Woolf to tell the story of a group of contemporary characters struggling with the conflicting claims of love and inheritance, hope and despair.

De Berniere, Louis

***Corelli's Mandolin***

Set during World War II on a Greek island occupied by the Italians. Engaging characters and a compelling love story.

Desai, Kiran

***The Inheritance of Loss***

Winner of the 2006 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. An exquisitely written family-saga that takes place in both India and the United States. Deals with the residual influence of India's colonial occupation and the

Nepalese insurgency. If you enjoy Desai's voice, you may also enjoy reading her first novel, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*.

Diamant, Anita

***The Red Tent***

The Old Testament is the setting of this tale told by Dinah, the cherished daughter of "four mothers." Dinah tells her own story as well as the stories of other women and the events in their lives.

Diamond, Jared

***Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies***

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize. "A short history of everything about everybody. The origins of empires, religion, writing, crops, guns..." in short, how the modern world came to be what it is.

Dick, Philip

***Ubik***

The reality/illusion balance spins in Dick's science fiction comedy of death and salvation in which the departed give business advice and shop for their next incarnation. If you like Dick's writing, you might read his book *The Man in the High Castle*, a tale of a United States occupied by Nazi Germany and Japan.

Doctorow, E. L.

***The March***

Doctorow's telling of General Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas won the 2006 PEN/Faulkner Award. Many engaging characters. Described by one reviewer as a kind of "Civil War *Canterbury Tales*." Read also *Ragtime*, his excellent novel of 1906 America.

Dumas, Alexander

***The Count of Monte Cristo***

Nineteen-year-old French sailor Edmond Dantes is unjustly imprisoned on his planned wedding day, and--after fourteen years of solitary confinement--a daring escape, hidden riches on the island of Monte Cristo, and a new identity bring him closer to a reunion with his love, Mercedes, and revenge upon his accusers. You might enjoy following this with the film starring Gerard Depardieu.

Egan, Timothy

***The Worst Hard Time***

Subtitled *The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*. Egan's novel won the 2006 National Book Award.

Ellison, Ralph

***Invisible Man***

A black man undertakes a quest for personal identity in a society unaware of his existence.

Erdrich, Louise

***Love Medicine***

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction, a moving saga of two Native American families.

Faulkner, William

***Three Famous Short Novels***

Three different ways to approach Faulkner, each of them representative of his work as a whole. Includes "Spotted Horses," "Old Man," and his famous "The Bear."

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

***The Great Gatsby***

Nick, a young Midwesterner, lives in a cottage near Jay Gatsby's fabulous East Coast estate. He learns that the great Gatsby is the self-created myth of a young man from the wrong side of the tracks who happened to fall in love with socialite Daisy. This is Fitzgerald's classic story of early 20th century excess and a man's search for money, success, and love.

Forster, E. M.

***A Passage to India***

A classic account of the clash of cultures in British India after the turn of the century, revealing the menace lurking just under the surface of ordinary misunderstanding.

Fowles, John

***The French Lieutenant's Woman***

The story of a nineteenth-century gentleman who falls in love with an enigmatic outcast who has been jilted by her French lover. Moves between past and present, commenting on Victorian customs, politics and morals.

Gaarder, Jostein                    ***Sophie's World: A Novel about the History of Philosophy***  
A novel about the history of philosophy that uses the life of a schoolgirl as a backdrop for a discussion of the meaning of life.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel                    ***One Hundred Years of Solitude***  
The story of the rise and fall, birth and death of a mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family.

Gardner, John                                    ***Grendel***  
A modern retelling of the Beowulf epic from the point of view of the monster, Grendel, the villain of the 8th-century Anglo-Saxon epic.

Golden, Arthur S.                                    ***Memoirs of a Geisha***  
Nitta Sayuri, was born in a small village, the daughter of a fisherman. At a young age she was sold into slavery as a geisha. This book tells the fascinating story of her life, a way of life that no longer exists

Golding, William                                    ***Lord of the Flies***  
The classic tale of a group of English school boys who are left stranded on an unpopulated island and who must confront not only the defects of their society but the defects of their own nature.

Goodall, Jane    ***Reason for Hope***  
Beloved primatologist Jane Goodall writes here about chimpanzees--and faith. Sustained in her work by a relationship with God, Goodall shows that throughout her career science deepened, rather than undermined, her faith.

Gore, Al    ***An Inconvenient Truth***  
Subtitled "The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It." There is also a documentary film with the same title that is opening June 30<sup>th</sup> at Vinegar Hill Theater.

Greene, Graham    ***The Heart of the Matter***  
The story of Henry Scobie, a British assistant police commissioner stationed in a West African coastal town during World War II, in a failing marriage and a failing social order and his efforts to be the man he thought he was.

Haddon, Mark    ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time***  
A murder-mystery of sorts. When his neighbor's poodle is killed and autistic Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes and track down the killer. The murder leads him to the secrets of his family and his place in the world. A unique and compelling literary voice.

Harrison, Jim    ***The Woman Lit by Fireflies***  
Three novellas that echo the best works of Raymond Carver and James Dickey. A collection evoking life lived close to the land--and a brilliant portrayal of the complex relationships of the men and women there.

Heacox, Kim    ***The Only Kayak: A Journey into the Heart of Alaska***  
An environmental portrait of Alaska, reminiscence of the author's 25 years living in Glacier Bay, and a look at the region's past and future. This book inspired Dave Krovetz's commencement address in 2008.

Heaney, Seamus    ***Beowulf: A New Verse Translation***  
The best-ever translation of the Anglo-Saxon epic, composed between the 7th and 10th centuries. Warriors, mead-halls, monsters, and epic battles.

Heller, Joseph

***Catch-22***

A bombardier, based in Italy during World War II, repeatedly tries to avoid flying bombing missions while his colonel tries to get him killed by demanding that he fly more and more missions. A classic of dark humor.

Hemingway, Ernest

***The Sun Also Rises***

A portrait of American expatriates during the 1920s searching for meaning in the wake of World War I.

Hemingway, Ernest

***The Short Stories***

Short stories form a substantial part of Hemingway's work. Some of these are considered to be classics of the genre.

Herbert, Frank

***Dune Chronicles***

The tale of the desert planet Arrakis, the focus of an intricate power struggle in a byzantine interstellar empire. This 1965 sci-fi book is a Hugo and Nebula Award winner.

Hesse, Hermann

***Siddhartha***

A moral allegory set in ancient India, about one soul's quest for the ultimate answer to the enigma of man's role in this world. The hero, Siddhartha, undergoes a series of experiences to emerge in a state of peace and wisdom.

Hoose, Philip M.

***The Race to Save the Lord God Bird***

The story of the extinction of the ivory-billed woodpecker in the United States. Excellent reading for those pondering the preservation of endangered species and the interaction of humans and endangered wildlife.

Horowitz, Tony

***Confederates in the Attic***

The Pulitzer Prize-winning Horowitz humorously illustrates the continuing presence of pro-Confederate sentiments in The South where the Civil War is still being fought, this time in courtrooms, classrooms, and battle reenactments.

Hurston, Zora Neale

***Their Eyes Were Watching God***

This classic novel is about a proud, independent black woman, living in the black town of Eaton, Florida, whose quest for identity takes her through three marriages.

Ishiguro, Kazuo

***Never Let Me Go***

More beautiful writing from Ishiguro, this time a reminiscence about a British boarding school for special students who discover that they are different from others "outside." They learn that they are clones, raised for the purpose of harvesting organs and destined to live as donors and carers.

James, Henry

***Daisy Miller***

The young Daisy Miller, an American on holiday with her mother on the shores of Switzerland's Lac Lemano, is one of James's most vivid and tragic characters. Daisy's friendship with an American gentleman, Mr. Winterbourne, and her subsequent infatuation with a passionate but impoverished Italian bring to life the great Jamesian themes of Americans abroad, innocence versus experience, and the grip of fate.

Joyce, James

***Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man***

A largely autobiographical novel that portrays the childhood, school days, adolescence, and early manhood of Stephen Daedalus; published in 1916, the novel depicts the awareness of a growing artist in conflict with the narrow world of his youth.

Junger, Sebastian

***The Perfect Storm***

Riveting true story of a storm that pummeled a ship in the North Atlantic in 1991.

Kafka, Franz

***The Metamorphosis***

A novel about a man who finds himself transformed into a huge insect, and the effects of this change upon his life.

Kaplan, Robert D.

***Balkan Ghosts***

A history of the Balkan Peninsula explores the region's political, social, religious, and economic past in order to understand the nature of the recently rekindled, centuries-old blood feuds.

Kawabata, Yasunari

***Palm-Of-The-Hand Stories***

These stories reflect Kawabata's abiding interest in the miniature, the wisp of plot reduced to the essential. In them we find loneliness, love, the passage of time, and death.

Keneally, Thomas

***Schindler's List***

The true story of a man who took incredible risks and spent his considerable fortune to build a factory camp to protect Jews during World War II.

Kennedy, William

***Ironweed***

An ex-ballplayer, part-time gravedigger, and full-time drunk, has hit bottom. Years after he left Albany in a hurry after killing a scab during a trolley workers' strike, and after a tragic accident with his infant son, he is back in town trying to make peace with the ghosts of the past and the present. A short and powerful novel.

Kerouac, Jack

***On the Road***

A 1950's Huck Finn lights out for the territory in a jubilant, but bittersweet novel of the Beat Generation.

Kesey, Ken

***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest***

This comic-tragic novel depicts the struggle for power between a head nurse and a male patient in a mental institution.

King, Ross

***Brunelleschi's Dome : How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture***

Filippo Brunelleschi's design for the dome of the cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence was a remarkable feat of daring, design and engineering and stands as one of the greatest achievements of Renaissance architecture.

Kingsolver, Barbara.

***The Poisonwood Bible***

The story of a troubled missionary family in the political upheaval of 1960s Congo, narrated by four funny, smart, brave sisters.

Kinsella, W.P.

***The Thrill of the Grass***

A collection of Kinsella's short stories about baseball and life. Although it is generally agreed that his short stories are his best writing, you might also enjoy reading *Shoeless Joe*, the book that inspired the movie *Field of Dreams*.

Kipling, Rudyard

***Captains Courageous***

The spoiled son of a millionaire falls from an ocean liner off the coast of Newfoundland in the 1890's and is rescued by the crew of a fishing schooner where he must remain and work the season. His experiences and the bonds he forms with the crew transform him into a self-reliant young man. The film with Spencer Tracy and Lionel Barrymore is also a classic.

Kurlansky, Mark

***Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World***

The cod fish helped inspire the discovery and exploration of North America and had a profound impact on the economic development of New England and eastern Canada from the earliest times. Sounds odd, but a fantastic book. You might also be interested in Kurlansky's *Salt: A World History*.

Lahiri, Jhumpa

***Interpreter of Maladies***

Navigating between the Indian traditions they've inherited and the baffling new world, the characters in Jhumpa Lahiri's stories seek love beyond the barriers of culture and generations. Also consider *Namesake*.

LeCarre, John

***The Spy Who Came in From the Cold***

Graham Greene called this the "finest spy story ever written." It is the tale of Alec Leamas, a British agent in early Cold War Berlin and I won't say any more.

Lee, Harper

***To Kill A Mockingbird***

The explosion of racial hatred in an Alabama town is viewed by a young girl whose father defends a black man accused of rape. Even if you have already read it, consider rereading this remarkable book.

Lewis, C. S.

***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe***

Four children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan the lion to triumph over the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter. A children's book perhaps, but also one for all ages.

Lewis, Sinclair

***Babbitt***

This classic novel portrays middle-aged George Babbitt and his irreconcilable urges to conform to social standards and to satisfy his deeper inner restlessness.

Lively, Penelope

***Moon Tiger***

A kaleidoscopic story of the life of Claudia Hampton, former war correspondent and historian, as she lies dying of cancer. A Booker Prize winner.

Lowry, Malcolm

***Under the Volcano***

Set in Mexico on the eve of WWII, the story tells of a man in extremis, an alcoholic consul confronted with regret and longing as he wanders the Mexican landscape on the last day of his life. Inspired by Joyce, there are several parallels to Ulysses. Also a comment on Europe's descent into war.

Mahfouz, Naguib

***Fountain and Tomb***

A short and luminous work by the Nobel Prize winning author. Vignettes of life in a Cairo neighborhood in the 1920s, from the point of view of a young boy.

Maraniss, David

***Clemente: The Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero***

A biography of right-fielder Roberto Clemente who, after 18 distinguished seasons, died in a 1972 plane crash while en route to deliver relief supplies to Nicaraguan earthquake victims.

Martel, Yann

***Life of Pi***

Pi Patel, a young man from India, tells how he was shipwrecked and stranded in a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger for 227 days. This outlandish story is only the core of a deceptively complex three-part novel about memory as a narrative and about how we choose truths.

McCarthy, Cormac

***All the Pretty Horses***

John Grady Cole is too young to be given charge of the family ranch and is cut off from the only life he has ever imagined wanting. A coming-of-age in the Texas-Mexico borderlands.

McCullers, Carson

***The Heart is a Lonely Hunter***

At the center of this novel is deaf-mute John Singer, who is the confidant for various misfits in a small Georgia town during the 1930s. A haunting story of the spiritual isolation underlying the human condition.

McCullough, David

***1776***

McCullough is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and history enthusiasts will enjoy his focus on a momentous 12 months in our country's struggle for independence.

McEwan, Ian ***Atonement***  
Sweeps from prewar Britain to Dunkirk to a family reunion in 2001, propelled by a dark moment when three young people lost their innocence.

Merwin, W. S. ***Migration***  
A collection of the poet's work from an early verse fairy tale, through his free verse and protest poems, to his new, more lyrical poetry. Includes his Pulitzer Prize winning "The Carrier of Ladders."

Miller, Arthur ***Death of a Salesman***  
Arthur Miller's 1949 *Death of a Salesman* has "got the goods on the human condition, all packed into a day in the life of one self-deluded, self-promoting, self-defeating soul." Willy Loman is the all-American dreamer and loser. *Death of a Salesman* works as well on the page as it does on the stage.

Moore, Lorrie ***Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?***  
Realizing during a trip to Paris that she no longer loves her husband, Berie Carr remembers her childhood in upstate New York, where she shared a deep friendship with a captivating older girl named Sils.

Morrison, Toni ***Beloved***  
Pulitzer Prize winning novel about the spirit of a dead child that haunts the home of a former slave. A masterful reconciliation of past and present. A haunting, beautiful work.

Murray, Joan, ed. ***The Pushcart Book of Poetry***  
Selected poems from 30 years of annual Pushcart Prize winning volumes. Includes work by some of the most interesting modern poets, including Adrienne Rich, Seamus Heaney, Jane Hirschfield, Philip Levine, Lucille Clifton, Li-Young Lee, William Stafford, Sharon Olds. A great book to read to discover new voices.

Nabokov, Vladimir ***Pale Fire***  
May be a struggle, but may be worth the effort. A fusion of poetry and prose in which a pedantic critic writes an overly elaborate critique of a poem by a recently deceased scholar.

Nasar, Sylvia ***A Beautiful Mind***  
A biography about a mathematical genius who suffered from schizophrenia, miraculously recovered, and later received the Nobel Prize in 1994.

Nasr, Seyyed Hossein ***The Heart of Islam***  
Nasr, a professor at George Washington University and a living legend in Islamic studies, was commissioned to write this book after the attacks of September 11. Presented as "an explanation of the authentic teachings of Islam anew in light of the challenges of the present-day situation."

Nemirovsky, Irene ***Suite Francaise***  
The Washington Post's *Book World* calls this book "a full-fledged masterpiece." This work is two parts of an intended five-part work about the German occupation of France, written in 1941-1942 by a young Jewish Russian-born immigrant who fled the Bolsheviks as a teenager. Nemirovsky died in Auschwitz in 1942. Her daughters discovered the manuscript and brought it to light 60 years after their mother's death.

Nichols, John ***The Milagro Beanfield War***  
What happens when a poor town's irrigation channel is tapped? The beanfield war, and the many comic events in the first book of the New Mexico trilogy.

Niffenegger, Audrey ***The Time Traveler's Wife***  
A fantasy tale and love story told alternatively from the point of view of the time-traveling Henry and his wife who travels the conventional path of time.

O'Brien, Tim ***The Things They Carried***  
In these candid short stories based on O'Brien's Vietnam experiences, pictures, heartaches, dreams and terror are the things soldiers in Vietnam carry.

Oliver, Mary

***New and Selected Poems***

There are now two volumes of Mary Oliver's *New and Selected Poems*. Choose either one. This poet has won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for her moving and luminous work.

Ondaatje, Michael

***The English Patient***

Four people come together in a deserted Italian villa during the final moments of World War II: a young American nurse and her horribly burned English patient, an American soldier of fortune, and an Indian soldier in the British army. Their stories of the past and of the present weave a spellbinding tapestry of how lives are caught and changed by the circumstances of war. Also consider *Anil's Ghost* and his just-published *Divisadero*. Ondaatje's writing is exquisite.

Orczy, Baroness

***The Scarlet Pimpernel***

A great adventure story and perhaps the first in the "masked avenger" genre of fiction. The Pimpernel is an apparently effete English aristocrat who leads a double life and daringly spirits condemned innocents out of France during the Reign of Terror. Pair with the film. The best versions are the one starring Jane Semour and Anthony Andrews (1982) and the one starring Leslie Howard (1934). For those who enjoy musicals, the sound track of the original Broadway cast is fantastic.

Orwell, George

**1984**

Orwell's classic vision of totalitarian society was once considered futuristic. It now instills fear because of how closely it fits contemporary reality. In a grim city where Big Brother is always Watching You, Winston is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions.

Patchett, Ann

***Bel Canto***

At a birthday party for a Japanese industrialist somewhere in South America, a famous American soprano and 58 international guests are taken hostage by terrorists. Time stands still and hostages and captors forge intense and unexpected bonds. A thought-provoking novel that makes you consider the importance of social context to an individual's persona.

Philbrick, Nathaniel

***In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex***

Examines the 19th-century Pacific whaling industry through the sinking of the whaleship *Essex* by a sperm whale, a story that inspired Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. National Book Award winner.

Picoult, Jodi

***My Sister's Keeper***

Anna was born to be a perfect genetic match to her sister Kate whose rare form of leukemia will require access to compatible organs for transplants. An intriguing story of life or death.

Plath, Sylvia

***The Bell Jar***

During a sultry summer in New York, Esther Greenwood works as a junior editor on *Mademoiselle*, quarrels with her mother and boy friend, and is gradually aware of her descent into madness.

Pollan, Michael

***The Omnivore's Dilemma***

Subtitled "A Natural History of Four Meals," this book examines our national and personal relationship with food, the prevalence of corn in the American diet, and the startling role and prevalence of petroleum in our food production. Read also Pollan's *Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World*, an engaging account of four plants and their coevolution with humans.

Preston, Diana and Michael Preston

***A Pirate of Exquisite Mind: Explorer, Naturalist, and Buccaneer: The Life of William Dampier***

In the late 1600s, Dampier, an Englishman, circumnavigated the globe three times. His travels took him to the Caribbean, Virginia, Central America, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Not only was Dampier a pirate and botanist but he was also a noted author whose writings influenced both Cook and Darwin.

Rhys, Jean

***Wide Sargasso Sea***

Beautiful, wealthy Antoinette Cosway's passionate love for the arrogant Mr. Rochester threatens to destroy her idyllic Caribbean existence and her very life, in a novel based on *Jane Eyre*.

Riverbend

***Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog from Iraq***

Actual postings from a blog by Riverbend (the pseudonym of a young woman in Baghdad), revealing her attempts to live a normal life in a war zone after the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Covers the period from April 2003 to September 2004.

Robinson, Marilynne

***Gilead***

The narrator, John Ames, is 76, a preacher who has lived almost all of his life in Gilead, Iowa. He is writing a letter to his almost seven-year-old son, the blessing of his second marriage. It is a summing up, an apology, a consideration of his life. Robinson's *Housekeeping* might also be a good selection if you enjoy her voice.

Roth, Philip

***American Pastoral***

Pulitzer Prize winning novel of America in the 1960s.

Ruiz Zafon, Carlos

***Shadow of the Wind***

A mystery centered around books. The main character falls in love with a book and seeks to find more of the author's novels to read only to find out that he has died under mysterious circumstances and that someone has been systematically destroying all of his books.

Saint-Exupery, Antoine de

***The Little Prince***

A pilot stranded in the desert awakens one morning to see, standing before him, a most extraordinary little fellow, who teaches him the secret of what is really important in life.

Salinger, J. D.

***Nine Stories***

Vivid and poignant portraits of ordinary people challenged and undone by their experience of life. Many consider this to be Salinger's best fiction.

Sedaris, David

***Me Talk Pretty One Day***

Sedaris is a master of digression. His comic short stories share a theme of the challenges of human communication on all levels. The title is his rendition in transliterated English of how he and fellow students in Paris mangle the French language.

Shields, Carol

***The Stone Diaries***

From her calamitous 1905 birth in Manitoba to her journey with her father to Indiana, throughout her years as a wife, mother, and widow, Daisy Stone Goodwill struggles to understand her place in her own life. Now, in old age, Daisy attempts to tell her life story within a novel that is itself about the limitations of autobiography.

Sobel, Dava

***Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time***

Thousands of lives were lost at sea over the centuries due to the inability to determine an east-west position. This is the story of how clockmaker John Harrison solved one of the most critical scientific problems of the eighteenth century.

Spark, Muriel

***The Prime of Miss Jane Brodie***

Set in Edinburgh in the 1930s, the story's universal theme of standing up against conventionality is still relevant. Miss Jean Brodie, an admirer of fascism, is a teacher at the Marcia Blaine School and favors a particular group of girls who are going to be "the crème de la crème."

Spurling, Hilary ***Matisse the Master: A Life of Henri Matisse: The Conquest of Color: 1909-1954***

This was the 2005 Whitbread prize-winner for biography. Also named Book of the Year for 2005.

Stegner, Wallace

***Crossing to Safety***

The story of the friendship over many years of two couples, fellow English teachers. A meditation on the idealism of youth and the strains and compromises effected by the passage of time. A haunting story with vivid and memorable characters.

Steinbeck, John

***The Pearl***

A Mexican fisherman tries to overcome the greed of society, with tragic consequences, when he discovers a giant pearl.

Styron, William

***The Confessions of Nat Turner***

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel based on the true story of an abortive slave rebellion in 1831 gives a chilling account of a noble man's moral decline.

Sullivan, Robert

***Rats: Observations on the History and Habitat of the City's Most Unwanted Inhabitants***

In the spirit of examining history through a selected lense, Sullivan uses the brown rat as the vehicle for a fascinating history of New York City, from the present back through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This book won the Alex Award for non-fiction.

Thoreau, Henry David

***Civil Disobedience***

Originally published in 1849 as "Resistance to Civil Government," this classic essay on resistance to the laws and acts of government that he considered unjust was largely ignored until the Twentieth Century when Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and anti-Vietnam War activists applied Thoreau's principles. This essay encourages us to think for ourselves and have the courage to assess our government honestly and with conviction.

Tolstoy, Leo

***War and Peace***

Considered by many to be the greatest novel ever written in any language, this novel has as its backdrop Napoleon's invasion of Russia and at its core three memorable characters as they seek fulfillment, fall in love, and become scarred by battle and life in different ways. Try the Anthony Briggs translation.

Toole, John Kennedy

***A Confederacy of Dunces***

A self-absorbed and deluded thirty-year old medievalist and hot-dog vendor takes you on a quirky and memorable trip through the back streets of New Orleans. The humor is a bit coarse for some but the many excellent secondary characters and the wild twists of story make this a worthwhile read. Good preface by Walker Percy.

Tresize, Rachel

***Fresh Apples***

A collection of short stories by a Welsh writer who has just been named the winner of the Dylan Thomas Prize.

Vonnegut, Kurt

***Slaughterhouse-Five***

Kurt Vonnegut's absurdist classic introduces us to Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes unstuck in time after he is abducted by aliens. In a plot-scrambling display of virtuosity, we follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his (and Vonnegut's) shattering experience as an American prisoner of war who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden.

Walker, Alice

***The Color Purple***

Tells the story of two 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." Pulitzer Prize in 1983.

Warren, Robert Penn

***All the King's Men***

A classic novel about American politics. Set in the '30s, this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel traces the rise and fall of demagogue Willie Stark, a fictional character who resembles the real-life Huey Long of Louisiana.

Weber, Katharine

***Triangle***

The 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire killed 146 workers, most of them women, and galvanized efforts to reform working conditions in sweatshops. Told in three versions by the last remaining survivor of the fire, the inconsistencies reveal truths about the sufferings of factory life and the human need for stories.

Wienczek, Henry.

***The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White***

Explores the lives of the black and white members of the Hairston clan in Virginia through slavery, emancipation, reconstruction, segregation, lynching, and civil rights. Reveals how southern families have been affected by slavery's legacy and its continuing burden.

Welty, Eudora

***The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty***

This National Book Award-winning collection includes all 41 of her short stories. Welty's stories combine humor and an astute perception of human psychology and the intricacies of human relationships. Great characters.

Wharton, Edith

***The Age of Innocence***

A portrayal of New York society in the 1870s where money counted for less than manners and morals.

White, Bailey

***Mama Makes Up Her Mind: And Other Dangers of Southern Living***

Rich in humor and eccentricity, this collection of some fifty short stories, many of which center around the author's strong-minded and abstract mother, is an excellent summer companion and is also good for reading aloud.

Wideman, John

***Brothers and Keepers***

This 1984 autobiography/biography discusses the relationship of two brothers who grew up in the black ghetto of Homewood in Pittsburgh; one brother becomes a college professor and writer while the other serves a life sentence for murder.

Wiesel, Elie

***The Trial of God***

A play, based on events that Wiesel witnessed while in Auschwitz, during which God is tried for violating the covenant by turning his back on his chosen people in their time of need. Also consider reading Wiesel's *Night*, an autobiographical novel of Wiesel's experiences as a teenager in the Nazi death camps, Auschwitz and Buchenwald, during World War II. Wiesel vividly shares how the Nazis destroyed his family, his community, and his way of life and tells how he managed to survive the death camps

Wilde, Oscar

***The Happy Prince and Other Tales***

"The Happy Prince" is the tale of a young nobleman, who in life sought only pleasure but in death, as a gold-encrusted statue, helps the needy. Other stories include "The Nightingale and the Rose," "The Selfish Giant," "The Devoted Friend," and "The Remarkable Rocket."

Wilder, Thornton

***The Bridge of San Luis Rey***

A tiny footbridge in Peru breaks, and five people hurtle to their deaths. For Brother Juniper, a humble monk who witnesses the catastrophe, the question is: Why those five?

Wolfe, Tom

***The Bonfire of the Vanities***

A novel of lust, greed, Wall Street and the American way of life in the '80s.

Wright, Richard

***Native Son***

Trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, a young African-American man finds release only in acts of violence.

Wynd, Oswald

***The Ginger Tree***

Betrothed to a military attaché in China, twenty-year-old Mary MacKenzie sets sail for China in 1903.

**ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR FACULTY, PARENTS AND STUDENTS LOOKING FOR SUMMER  
READING IDEAS:**

**New York Times Book Review Survey**

Early in 2006, *The New York Times Book Review* editor, Sam Tanenhaus, sent out a request to nearly two hundred prominent writers, critics and editors asking them to identify “the single best work of American fiction published in the last 25 years.” Of course, the contest engendered argument, complaint, and rich discussion. It also resulted in a list that offers us yet another avenue to the selection of summer reading.

**The winner:**

Tony Morrison. *Beloved*

**The runners-up:**

Don DeLillo. *Underworld*

Cormac McCarthy. *Blood Meridian*

John Updike. *Rabbit Angstrom: The Four Novels*

Philip Roth. *American Pastoral*

**Other titles that received multiple votes include:**

John Kennedy Toole. *A Confederacy of Dunces*

Marilynne Robinson. *Housekeeping*

Mark Helprin. *Winter's Tale*

Don DeLillo. *White Noise*

Philip Roth. *The Counterlife*

Don DeLillo. *Libra*

Raymond Carver. *Where I'm Calling From*

Tim O'Brien. *The Things They Carried*

Norman Rush. *Mating*

Denis Johnson. *Jesus' Son*

Philip Roth. *Operation Shylock*

Richard Ford. *Independence Day*

Philip Roth. *Sabbath's Theater*

Cormac McCarthy. *Border Trilogy*

Philip Roth. *The Human Stain*

Edward P. Jones. *The Known World*

Philip Roth. *The Plot Against America*

**PRIZE WINNERS**

**Costa Book Awards**

Formerly the Whitbread Book Awards, the Costa Book Awards aim to celebrate and promote the best of contemporary writing in the UK and Ireland.

**2008 winners**

**First Novel**

Sadie Jones, *The Outcast*

**Novel**

Sebastian Barry, *The Secret Scripture*

**Biography**

Diana Athill, *Somewhere Towards the End*

**Poetry**

Adam Foulds, *The Broken Word*

**Children's Book**

Michelle Magorian, *Just Henry*

**2007 winners****Book of the Year**

A.L. Kennedy, *Day*

**Children's Book**

Ann Kelley, *The Bower Bird*

**2006 winners****Book of the Year**

Stef Penney, *The Tenderness of Wolves*

**Children's Book**

Linda Newbery, *Set in Stone*

**2005 winners****Book of the Year**

Hilary Spurling. Matisse the Master: A Life of Henri Matisse: The Conquest of Color: 1909-1954

**Children's Book**

Kate Thompson. *The New Policeman*

**Man Booker International Prize for Fiction**

This is a new prize inaugurated in 2005. The Man Booker International Prize is awarded every two years and seeks to recognize a living author who has contributed significantly to world literature and to highlight the author's continuing creativity and development on a global scale. Ismail Kadaré, an Albanian poet and novelist living in France, was the winner of the very first (2005) Man Booker International Prize. The 2007 Man Booker International Prize winner was Chinua Achebe.

The 2009 Man Booker International Prize winner is Alice Munro.

Munro's works include:

*Carried Away: A Selection of Stories*

*Runaway*

*Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You*

**The Man Booker Prize for Fiction**

One of the world's most prestigious awards, and one of my personal favorites. Many recipients of the Booker Prize also have reached bestseller lists: Alan Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty* in 2004, *Life of Pi* in 2002, and *Vernon God Little* in 2003.

**2008 Winner**

Aravind Adiga. *The White Tiger*

**2007 Winner**

Anne Enright. *The Gathering*

**2006 Winner**

Kiran Desai. *The Inheritance of Loss*

**2005 Winner**

John Banville. *The Sea*

**2004 Winner**

Alan Hollinghurst. *The Line of Beauty*

**2003 Winner**

DBC Pierre. *Vernon God Little: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Comedy in the Presence of Death*

**2002 Winner**

Yann Martel. *Life of Pi*

## National Book Awards

The National Book Awards have been awarded every November by the National Book Foundation in the United States since 1950. The Awards were established to enhance the public's awareness of exceptional books written by Americans, and to increase the popularity of reading in general. They are awarded in Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, and Young People's Literature. The 2007 National Book Awards will be announced in November.

### National Book Awards – Fiction

**2008**

Peter Matthiessen, *Shadow Country*

**2007**

Denis Johnson. *Tree of Smoke*

**2006**

Richard Powers. *The Echo Maker*

**2005**

William Vollmann. *Europe Central*

**2004**

Lily Tuck. *The News from Paraguay*

**2003**

Shirley Hazzard. *The Great Fire*

**2002**

Julia Glass. *Three Junes*

### National Book Awards - Non-Fiction

**2008**

Annette Gordon-Reed, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*

**2007**

Tim Weiner. *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*

**2006**

Timothy Egan. *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*

**2005**

Joan Didion. *The Year of Magical Thinking*

**2004**

Kevin Boyle. *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age*

**2003**

Carlos Eire. *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy*

**2002**

Robert A. Caro. *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: Master of the Senate*

## National Book Awards – Poetry

**2008**

Mark Doty, *Fire to Fire: New and Collected Poems*

**2007**

Robert Hass. *Time and Materials*

**2006**

Nathaniel Mackey. *Splay Anthem*

**2005**

W. S. Merwin. *Migration: New and Selected Poems*

**2004**

Jean Valentine. *Door in the Mountain: New and Collected Poems 1965-2003*

**2003**

C. K. Williams. *The Singing*

**2002**

Ruth Stone. *In the Next Galaxy*

## National Book Awards – Young People’s Literature

**2008**

Judy Blundell, *What I Saw and How I Lied*

**2007**

Sherman Alexie. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

**2006 Winner**

M.T. Anderson. *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol. 1: The Pox Party*  
Suitable for eighth grade and up.

**2005 Winner**

Jeanne Birdsall. *The Penderwicks*

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

**2004 Winner**

Pete Hautman. *Godless*

**2003 Winner**

Polly Horvath. *The Canning Season*

**2002 Winner**

Nancy Farmer. *The House of the Scorpion*

## National Book Critics Circle Award

Every year the NBCC presents awards for the finest books and reviews published in English. Below are the winners for 2006 and 2007.

**2008 NBCC Winners**

**Fiction**

Roberto Bolano, *2666*

**Non-Fiction**

Dexter Filkins, *The Forever War*

**Biography**

Patrick French, *The World is What it is: The Authorized Biography of V. S. Naipaul*

**Autobiography**

Ariel Sabar, *My Father’s Paradise: A Son’s Search for His Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq*

**Poetry**

August Kleinzahler, *Sleeping It Off in Rapid City*  
and Juan Felipe Herrera, *Half the World in Light*

**Criticism**

Seth Lerer, *Children's Literature: A Reader's History from Aesop to Harry Potter*

**2007 NBCC Winners****Fiction**

Junot Diaz. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

**Non-Fiction**

Harriet Washington. *Medical Apartheid*

**Biography**

Tim Jeal. *Stanley, the Impossible Life of Africa's Greatest Explorer*

**Autobiography**

Edwidge Danticat. *Brother, I'm Dying*

**Poetry**

Mary Jo Bang. *Elegy*

**Criticism**

Alex Ross. *The Rest is Noise*

**2006 NBCC Winners****Fiction**

Kiran Desai. *The Inheritance of Loss*

**Non-Fiction**

Simon Schama. *Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution*

**Biography**

Julie Phillips. *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*

**Autobiography**

Daniel Mendelsohn. *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million*

**Poetry**

Troy Jollimore. *Tom Thomson in Purgatory*

**Criticism**

Lawrence Weschler. *Everything That Rises: A Book of Convergences*

**PEN/Faulkner Award**

The PEN/Faulkner Foundation each year recognizes the best published works of fiction by contemporary American writers. Named for William Faulkner, who used his Nobel Prize funds to create an award for young writers, and affiliated with PEN (Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists and Novelists), the international writers' organization, the PEN/Faulkner Award was founded by writers in 1980 to honor their peers, and is now the largest juried award for fiction in the United States. The award judges, who are themselves writers of fiction, each read more than 250 novels and short story collections published during the calendar year before selecting five outstanding books.

**2009 Winner**

Joseph O'Neill, *Netherland*

"Hans van der Broek, the Dutch-born narrator of O'Neill's meditative narrative, is dislodged along with his wife Rachel and young son Jake, from their downtown Manhattan apartment in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. The family who had moved to New York from London becomes temporary residents of the Chelsea Hotel, one among a series of fantastically colorful, off-kilter locales in the book. Fearing another imminent calamity and disillusioned with her marriage, Rachel returns to London with their son, leaving "a city gone mad" and a husband dazed with grief. "Life itself had become disembodied. My family, the spine of my days, had crumbled. I was lost in invertebrate time." Hans's life in the aftermath is lived within convention (he is an equities analyst for a large merchant bank) but also as a seemingly

destinationless journey, accompanied often by his fellow cricket enthusiast and companion Chuck Ramkissoon, a Trinidadian immigrant of boundless enthusiasm.”

**2008 Winner**

Kate Christensen. *The Great Man*

On the death of Oscar Feldman, a renowned painter, his obituary notes that he is survived by his wife, Abigail, their son, Ethan, and his sister, the well-known abstract painter Maxine Feldman. Omitted is the fact that he is also survived by a longtime mistress and their daughter. As the women are interviewed by Feldman’s biographers, his secrets come to light.

**2007 Winner**

Philip Roth. *Everyman*

*Everyman* takes as its subject an unnamed hero at the time of his death, being buried in a Jewish cemetery in New Jersey by his grown children, ex-wife, and a few friends. Its title drawn from the 15<sup>th</sup> century English morality play, Philip Roth’s novel describes the frailty, illness and deterioration of the hero’s body as he undergoes a series of medical procedures that frame his process of aging. The narrative which casts back across the ordinary life of this man: creative artist for an advertising agency, three-times married, father of two sons and a daughter, is filled with the enormous questions, longings, regrets, and desires, universal and elegantly detailed, that make up life.

**2006 Winner**

E. L. Doctorow. *The March*

Doctorow’s telling of General Sherman’s march through Georgia and the Carolinas. Many engaging characters. Described by one reviewer as a kind of “Civil War *Canterbury Tales*.”

**2005 Winner**

Ha Jin. *War Trash*

**2004 Winner**

John Updike. *The Early Stories*

**Pulitzer Prizes 2009**

**Fiction**

Elizabeth Strout, *Olive Kitteridge*

**Non-Fiction**

Douglas A. Blackmon, *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*

**History**

Annette Gordon-Reed, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*

**Biography**

Jon Meacham, *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*

**Drama**

Lynn Nottage, *Ruined*

**Poetry**

W. S. Merwin, *The Shadow of Sirius*

**Pulitzer Prizes 2008**

**Fiction**

Junot Diaz. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

**Non-Fiction**

Saul Friedlander. *The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945*

**History**

Daniel Walker Howe. *What Hath God Wrought*

**Biography**

John Matteson. *Eden's Outcasts*

**Drama**

Tracy Letts. *"August: Osage County"*

**Poetry**

Robert Hass. *Time and Materials*

Philip Schultz. *Failure: Poems*

**Pulitzer Prizes 2007****Fiction**

Cormac McCarthy. *The Road*

**Non-fiction**

Lawrence Wright. *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*

**History**

Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff. *The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation*

**Biography**

Debby Applegate. *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*

**Drama**

David Lindsay-Abaire. *Rabbit Hole*

**Poetry**

Natasha Trethewey. *Native Guard*

**Pulitzer Prizes 2006****Fiction**

Geraldine Brooks. *March*

**History**

David M. Oshinsky. *Polio: An American Story*

**Biography**

Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*

**Poetry**

Claudia Emerson. *Late Wife*

**General Nonfiction**

Caroline Elkins. *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*

**Young Reader's Choice Award**

The Pacific Northwest Library Association's Young Reader's Choice Award is the oldest children's choice award in the U.S. and Canada. The award was established in 1940 by a Seattle bookseller, Harry Hartman, who believed that every student should have an opportunity to select a book that gives her or him pleasure. Nominations are taken only from the children, teachers, parents and librarians. Only 4th to 12th graders in the Pacific Northwest are eligible to vote.

**2009**

Junior Division 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades: Kate Dicamillo, *Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

Intermediate Division 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades: John Boyne, *Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

Senior Division 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades: Stephenie Meyer, *New Moon*

**2008**

Junior Division 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades: Ann Martin, *A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray*

Intermediate Division 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades: Rick Riordan, *Lightning Thief*

Senior Division 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades: Jodi Lynn Anderson, *Peaches*

**2007**

Junior Division 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades: Cornelia Funke, *Dragon Rider*

Intermediate Division 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades: Eoin Colfer, *Supernaturalist*

Senior Division 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades: Terry Pratchett, *Hat Full of Sky*

**2006**

Junior Division 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades: Kate Dicamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux*

Intermediate Division 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades: Christopher Paolini, *Eragon*

Senior Division 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades: K. L. Going, *Fat Kid Rules the World*

**2005**

Junior Division 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades: Cornelia Funke, *The Thief Lord*

Intermediate Division 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades: Gordon Korman, *Son of the Mob*

Senior Division 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades: Nancy Farmer, *The House of the Scorpion*

## **Watch This!** **Films Recommended by the British Film Institute**

In 2005 the British Film Institute and the Barbican Cinema jointly hosted a debate called Watch This! to discuss issues of children's film heritage and whether there should be a list of films that all children should see by the age of 14. Participants at the debate, as well as a number of children's film organizations across Europe and individuals including British Film Institute staff, filmmakers and teachers, were invited to submit nominations. The following are alphabetical lists of their top ten and top fifty most recommended films for children. The Watch This! debate showed how passionately people care about children's film heritage. Films on the lists aren't just there because people think they'd be good for children: they're films that people have shown to their own families or to students and they know how much children have enjoyed them. Some matters of possible contention include the relative lack of cultural diversity and the preponderance of boys as central characters.

If you can't find these at your local public library or video store, you might try checking at Sneak Reviews in Charlottesville. They have a great selection of foreign films.

These are great films for viewers of any age. Enjoy!

### **The Top Ten**

*Bicycle Thieves* (Vittorio De Sica, 1948, Italy)  
*ET The Extra-Terrestrial* (Steven Spielberg, 1982, USA)  
*Kes* (Ken Loach, 1969, UK)  
*The Night of the Hunter* (Charles Laughton, 1955, USA)  
*Les Quatre Cents Coups* (François Truffaut, 1959, France)  
*Show Me Love* (Lukas Moodysson, 1998, Sw/Dk)  
*Spirited Away* (Hayao Miyazaki, 2001, Japan)  
*Toy Story* (John Lasseter, 1995, USA)  
*Where is the Friend's House?* (Abbas Kiarostami, 1987, Iran)  
*The Wizard of Oz* (Victor Fleming, 1939, USA)

### **The Top Fifty**

*A Day at the Races* (Sam Wood, 1937, USA)  
*The Adventures of Robin Hood* (Michael Curtiz/William Keighley, 1938, USA)  
*Au revoir les enfants* (Louis Malle, 1987, France/W.Germany)  
*Back to the Future* (Robert Zemeckis, 1985, USA)  
*Beauty and the Beast* (Gary Trousdale/Kirk Wise, 1991, USA)  
*Bicycle Thieves* (Vittorio De Sica, 1948, Italy)  
*Billy Elliot* (Stephen Daldry, 2000, UK/France)  
*E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (Steven Spielberg, 1982, USA)  
*Edward Scissorhands* (Tim Burton, 1990, USA)  
*Etre et Avoir* (Nicolas Philibert, 2002, France)  
*Finding Nemo* (Andrew Stanton/Lee Unkrich, 2003, USA)  
*It's a Wonderful Life* (Frank Capra, 1946, USA)  
*Jason and the Argonauts* (Don Chaffey, 1963, UK/USA)  
*Kes* (Ken Loach, 1969, UK)  
*The Kid* (Charles Chaplin, 1921, USA)  
*King Kong* (Merian C.Cooper/Ernest B.Schoedsack, 1933, USA)  
*Kirikou et la sorcière* (Michel Ocelot, 1998, France/Belgium/Luxembourg)  
*La Belle et la bête* (Jean Cocteau, 1946, France / Luxembourg)  
*Le Voyage dans la lune* (Georges Melies, 1902, France)

*Les Quatre cents coups* (Francois Truffaut, 1959, France)  
*Monsieur Hulot's Holiday* (Jacques Tati, 1953, France)  
*My Life as a Dog* (Lasse Halstrom, 1985, Sweden)  
*My Neighbour Totoro* (Hayao Miyazaki, 1988, Japan/USA)  
*The Night of the Hunter* (Charles Laughton, 1955, USA)  
*Oliver Twist* (David Lean, 1948, UK)  
*The Outsiders* (Francis Ford Coppola, 1983, USA)  
*Pather Panchali* (Satyajit Ray, 1955, India)  
*Playtime* (Jacques Tati, 1967, France/Italy)  
*The Princess Bride* (Rob Reiner, 1987, USA)  
*Rabbit-Proof Fence* (Phillip Noyce, 2002, Australia)  
*Raiders of the Lost Ark* (Steven Spielberg, 1981, USA)  
*The Railway Children* (Lionel Jeffries, 1970, UK)  
*The Red Balloon* (Albert Lamorisse, 1956, France)  
*Romeo + Juliet* (Baz Luhrman, 1996, USA)  
*The Secret Garden* (Agnieszka Holland, 1993, UK/USA)  
*Show Me Love* (Lukas Moodysson, 1998, Sweden/Denmark)  
*Singin' in the Rain* (Stanley Donen/Gene Kelly, 1952, USA)  
*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (Disney, 1937, USA)  
*Some Like it Hot* (Billy Wilder, 1959, USA)  
*The Spirit of the Beehive* (Victor Erice, 1973, Spain)  
*Spirited Away* (Hayao Miyazaki, 2001, Japan)  
*Star Wars* (George Lucas, 1977, USA)  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* (Robert Mulligan, 1962, USA)  
*Toy Story* (John Lasseter, 1995, USA)  
*Walkabout* (Nicholas Roeg, 1971, UK)  
*Whale Rider* (Niki Caro, 2002, New Zealand)  
*Where is the Friend's House?* (Abbas Kiarostami, 1987, Iran)  
*Whistle Down the Wind* (Bryan Forbes, 1961, UK)  
*The White Balloon* (Jafar Panahi, 1995, Iran)  
*The Wizard of Oz* (Victor Fleming, 1939, USA)

## Selection Resources

Reading over the summer months is an important part of a student's education. In order to promote a love of reading and a habit of reading, we feel it is important for students to read books that bring them joy and pleasure. Becoming a reader also means learning to select books from the many choices available. Besides recommendations from teachers, school librarians, or the local public librarians, the selection resources listed below offer useful guides to quality literature. And please don't forget the joy of reading aloud.

Recommended titles can be found at the local public library or the UVA Education Library that loans books to members of the Charlottesville community. We also encourage students to participate in summer reading activities at the public library. Book suggestions are also available from the Jefferson-Madison Public Library site - <http://jmrl.org/pr-teens-booklist.htm> – that includes links to other reputable book list sites on the web.

You might also check the web site of Virginia Readers' Choice of the Virginia State Reading Association (formerly Virginia Young Readers) that publishes annotated book lists for elementary, middle and high school students - <http://www.vusra.org/VRCindex.html>.

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh maintains a site with annotated book lists for teens arranged by subject - <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/teens/read/teenlists.html> – this might be a great way to find “just the right book” for your child.

### **Award Sites:**

#### **Comprehensive Portal Site for Literary Prizes and Book Awards**

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz/literaryprizes/>

#### **Man Booker Award**

<http://www.themanbookerprize.com/>

#### **Man Booker International**

<http://www.manbookerinternational.com/>

#### **National Book Award**

<http://www.nationalbook.org/nba.html>

#### **Pulitzer Prize**

<http://www.pulitzer.org/>

#### **PEN/Faulkner Award**

<http://www.penfaulkner.org/>

### **Children's Award Sites:**

#### **Caldecott Medal Award**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alasc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal.htm>

#### **Children's Literary Awards Links**

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz/Kids/LiteraryPrizes/>

**Coretta Scott King Award**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/emiert/corettascottkingbookawards/corettascott.htm>

**Jane Addams Children's Book Award**

<http://www.janeaddamspace.org/index.asp>

**National Book Award for Young People's Literature**

<http://www.nationalbook.org/nba.html>

**Newbery Medal Award**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/newberymedal/newberymedal.htm>

**Young Reader's Choice Award**

<http://www.pnla.org/yrca/>

**Other Selection Resources:**

**American Library Association Young Adult Library Services Association**

See the main site for ALA recommendations and award winners.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklistsbook.htm>

**Internet Public Library TeenSpace**

<http://www.ipl.org/div/teen/>

**Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/quickpicks/quickpicksreluctant.htm>