



Lawrence North High School English Department
Suggested Summer Reading Lists—2018
Grades 11-12



Fiction Novels

***A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole**: John Kennedy Toole's hero is one Ignatius J. Reilly, "huge, obese, fractious, fastidious, and a latter-day Gargantua, a Don Quixote of the French Quarter. His story bursts with wholly original character, denizens of New Orleans' lower depths, incredibly true-to-life dialogue, and the zaniest series of high and low comic adventures".

***Ashes* by Ilsa J. Bick**: When you think things cannot get much worse...they do. This dystopian novel follows seventeen-year-old Alex on her quest to scatter her parents' ashes in the isolated wilds of northern Michigan while dealing with personal issues of her own. An electromagnetic pulse suddenly flashes, turning her whole world upside down. Desperate to find out what happened after the pulse strikes her to the ground, Alex meets up with Ellie, an angry eight-year-old girl, lost and alone, and Tom, a young soldier with his own secrets. This novel is a terrifying journey where some humans survive and others exist but are no longer human. There are no easy answers in this riveting story of survival in a shattered world.

***Beauty Queens* by Libba Bray**: Teen beauty queens. A "Lost"-like island. Mysteries and dangers. No access to email. And the spirit of fierce, feral competition that lives underground in girls, a savage brutality that can only be revealed by a journey into the heart of non-exfoliated darkness. Oh, the horror, the horror! Only funnier. With evening gowns. And a body count.

***Bingo's Run* by James A. Levine**: The ultimate hustler, Bingo uses his brains and charm to run drugs in a Kenyan slum, but after witnessing a murder he finds himself an art dealer, an adoptee, and someone caught in a dangerous moral dilemma.

***Broken China* by Lori Aurelia Williams**: China Cup Cameron might miss school or fall asleep in class sometimes, but she's trying hard to be a good mother to Amina, her two-year-old daughter. When tragedy befalls the small family, China must quit school and work full-time to make ends meet. But the only place in town that's willing to hire a fourteen-year-old high-school dropout is Obsidian Queens, a strip club, and China is forced to make some difficult and potentially self-destructive decisions.

***Born Confused* by Tanjua Desai Hidier**: Dimple Lala doesn't know what to think. She's spent her whole life resisting her parents' traditions. But now she's turning seventeen and things are more complicated than ever. She's still recovering from a year-old break-up and her best friend isn't around the way she used to be. Then, to make matters worse, her parents arrange for her to meet a "suitable boy."

***Collected Short Stories of Sherlock Holmes* by A.C. Doyle**: A collection of murder mystery stories starring the famous Sherlock Holmes.

***Confessions* by Kanae Minato, translated by Stephen Snyder**: Japanese teacher Yuko knows two middle-school students killed her daughter, and nothing in their explanations of why and how will stop her revenge.

***Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton**: A deeply moving story about an African Zulu pastor and his family set against white South Africa during the time of racial injustice. It is a work of sorrow, happiness, courage, and strength.

***Don't Turn Around* by Michelle Gagnon**: Teens are dying and a computer hacker wakes strapped to an operating table. Meeting with another hacker, they try to figure out what's going on. But will they survive long enough to do so?

***Everybody Sees the Ants* by A. S. King:** Lucky Linderman has been bullied by Nader McMillan since he was 7 years old. Now after his freshman year of high school it has escalated to a point where he and his mother leave town and visit his aunt and uncle. His parents have told him to just "walk away", he has monthly appointments with the guidance office because they think he might commit suicide, and he starts daydreaming and having nightmares about his grandfather who is MIA from the Vietnam War. During his three weeks away Lucky discovers a lot about himself, his family, girls, and his grandfather.

***Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng:** Lydia is dead. Is it murder? Suicide? As her family grieves for their perfect teen, they learn how little they really knew Lydia and how many secrets died with her.

***Every Day* by David Levithan:** A is a being who awakes every day in the body of someone new. Dealing with whatever that body deals with each day is not easy, but A has done since being born and has dealt with it; tries to make as little change in the person's life as possible. Until he meets Rhiannon...now A wants to see her every day. Can she understand seeing A as a beautiful black female, an overweight pimply boy, or a suicidal girl? Every day A has to not only deal with whatever the body is dealing with, but how can I see Rhiannon?

***Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad:** This is a dark allegory that deals with the negative effects of ambition and describes the narrator's journey up the Congo River and his meeting with, and fascination by, Mr. Kurtz, a mysterious personage who dominates the unruly inhabitants of the region. A masterful blend of adventure, character development, and psychological penetration, it is considered by many to be notable author Joseph Conrad's finest, most enigmatic story.

***Homeboyz* by Alan Sitomer:** Teddy Anderson is out for revenge. His little sister, Tina, was the victim of a drive-by, gang-related shooting. Her death is explained with the gang label RP, RT -- wrong place, wrong time. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are both grieving the death of their youngest child in their own separate ways. That leaves Teddy to deal with his emotions in the only way he knows how. He turns to the same violence that cut short his little sister's life.

***How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez** This sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic is told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood, when their lives have been shaped by U. S. mores, and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island.

***I Will Save You* by Matt de la Pena:** Kidd is spending his summer at the beach. He'd do anything to get away from his group home and the dark memories there of his past. He's working as a caretaker at the campsite, and he'd be blind if he didn't notice Olivia. Blond hair, blue eyes, rich dad. The prettiest girl in Cardiff. He might even have a chance with her, too. Until Devon appears. Kidd's best friend followed him all the way to the beach. And he's not leaving until he teaches him a few lessons about life. And Olivia.

***If You Come Softly* by Jacqueline Woodson:** Both Elisha (Ellie) and Jeremiah (Miah) attend Percy Academy, a private school where neither quite fits in. Ellie is wrestling with family demons, and Miah is one of the few African American students. The two of them find each other, and fall in love -- but they are hesitant to share their newfound happiness with their friends and families, who will not understand. At the end, life makes the brutal choice for them: Jeremiah is shot and killed, and Ellie now has to cope with the consequences.

***Let It Be Morning* by Sayed Kashua :**A young Arab journalist returns to his hometown — an Arab village within Israel — where his already vexed sense of belonging is forced to crisis when the village becomes a pawn in the never-ending power struggle that is the Middle East.

***Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann :**In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in bestselling novelist Colum McCann's stunningly intricate portrait of a city and its people.

***Lock In* by John Scalzi:** A virus leaves millions as “Hadens”—locked in and fully aware, but unable to move or speak except when linked to androids. Chris is one of them, working as a rookie FBI agent hunting a murderer who is targeting Hadens.

***Looking for Alaska* by John Green:** Sixteen-year-old Miles Halter's adolescence has been one long nonevent - no challenge, no girls, no mischief, and no real friends. Seeking what Rabelais called the "Great Perhaps," he leaves Florida for a boarding school in Birmingham, AL. His roommate, Chip, is a dirt-poor genius scholarship student with a Napoleon complex who lives to one-up the school's rich preppies. Chip's best friend is Alaska Young, with whom Miles and every other male in her orbit falls instantly in love.

***The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold:** A murdered teenager watches from the afterlife as her family struggles to deal with her death and her father hunts for her killer.

***Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult:** In nineteen minutes, you can mow the front lawn, color your hair, watch a third of a hockey game. In nineteen minutes, you can bake scones or get a tooth filled by a dentist; you can fold laundry for a family of five....In nineteen minutes, you can stop the world, or you can just jump off it. In nineteen minutes, you can get revenge. Sterling is a small, ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens -- until the day its complacency is shattered by a shocking act of violence. In the aftermath, the town's residents must not only seek justice in order to begin healing but also come to terms with the role they played in the tragedy.

***No Laughter Here* by Rita Williams-Garcia:** In Queens, New York, ten-year-old Akilah is determined to find out why her closest friend, Victoria, is silent and withdrawn after returning from a trip to her homeland, Nigeria.

***Nothing* by Janne Teller:** “The Earth is 4.6 billion years old. You’ll live to be a maximum of one hundred. Life isn’t worth the bother! So says Pierre Anthon when he decides there is no meaning to life, leaves his seventh-grade classroom, climbs a plum tree, and stays there. His friends and classmates cannot get him to come down, not even by pelting him with rocks. So to prove to him that there is a meaning to life, they set out to give up things of importance, challenging one another to make increasingly serious sacrifices.

***Omeros* by Derek Walcott:** A poem in five books, of circular narrative design, titled with the Greek name for Homer, which simultaneously charts two currents of history: the visible history charted in events—tribal losses of the American Indian, and the tragedy of African enslavement—and the interior, unwritten epic fashioned from the suffering of the individual in exile.

***On the Road* by Jack Kerouac :**On the Road swings to the rhythms of fifties underground America, jazz, sex, generosity, chill dawns, and drugs, with Sal Paradise and his hero Dean Moriarty, traveler and mystic, the living epitome of Beat.

***Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe* by Laurence Bergreen:** Ferdinand Magellan's daring circumnavigation of the globe in the sixteenth century was a three-year odyssey filled with sex, violence, and amazing adventure. The author entwines a variety of candid, firsthand accounts, bringing to life this groundbreaking and majestic tale of discovery that changed both the way explorers would henceforth navigate the oceans and history itself.

***Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis :** Dr Ransom, a Cambridge academic, is abducted and taken on a spaceship to the red planet of Malacandra, which he knows as Mars. His captors are plotting to plunder the planet's treasures and plan to offer Ransom as a sacrifice to the creatures who live there. Ransom discovers he has come from the 'silent planet' -- Earth -- whose tragic story is known throughout the universe!

***Perks of Being A Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky :**This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. More intimate than a diary, Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it puts him on a strange course through uncharted territory.

***Please Ignore Vera Dietz* by A.S. King:** Vera's spent her whole life secretly in love with her best friend, Charlie Kahn. And over the years she's kept a lot of his secrets. Even after he betrayed her. Even after he ruined everything. So when Charlie dies in dark circumstances, Vera knows a lot more than anyone—the kids at school, his family, even the police. But will she emerge to clear his name? Does she even want to?

***Poison Study* by Maria Snyder:** Locked in a coffin-like darkness, there is nothing to distract me from my memories of killing Reyad. He deserved to die—but according to the law, so do I. Here in Ixia, the punishment for murder is death. And now I wait for the hangman's noose. But the same law that condemns me may also save me.

***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver:** A Baptist family travels to the Belgian Congo in 1959 for missionary work, kicking off this sprawling story told over three decades in Africa

***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen:** An exquisitely written novel in the tradition of comedy of manners dealing with a family's life in the nineteenth century.

***Quiet* by Susan Cain :** At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over brainstorming in teams. Although they are often labeled "quiet," it is to introverts that we owe many of the great contributions to society--from van Gogh's sunflowers to the invention of the personal computer.

***Raiders Night* by Robert Lipsyte:** This grim, disturbing story about high-school football centers on Matt, who is a co-captain of the Nearmont Raiders. With Division One schools aggressively recruiting him, Matt's future looks assured. His present, however, is a nightmare. Addicted to Vicodin and "juice," the regular shots of steroids he receives with the support of his father, Matt rides a nonstop emotional roller coaster. Contains some adult situations.

***Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman:** Seraphina grapples with her identity and magical secrets in a world where dragons, who can assume human form, and humans coexist uneasily.

***She's Come Undone* by Wally Lamb:** Meet Dolores Price. She's 13, wise-mouthed but wounded, having bid her childhood goodbye. Stranded in front of her bedroom TV, she spends the next few years nourishing herself with the Mallomars, potato chips, and Pepsi her anxious mother supplies. When she finally orbits into young womanhood at 257 pounds, Dolores is no stronger and life is no kinder. But this time she's determined to rise to the occasion and give herself one more chance before she *really* goes under.

***Starters* by Lissa Price:** The Spore Wars has left only Starters and Enders. Those under twenty and over sixty were vaccinated and everyone else died leaving a lot of children homeless and without parents. Callie must take care of her younger brother in the rough streets. She is desperate for money so she signs a contract to rent her body to Enders who experience youth again by "joyriding" in teen bodies. Something goes wrong and Callie finds out that her renter is involved in an assassination plot. She struggles to maintain control and stop it before the renter ends up killing Callie in the process.

***Steel* by Carrie Vaughn:** Meet Jill. As the book begins she is fencing in a championship round that she does not win. A few weeks later she finds a piece of a sword and ends up on a pirate ship fighting for her life. Can this be real? How does she get home? Does she want to go home? These are just a few of the questions floating through her mind.

***Sunrise over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers:** Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR .

***Ten Miles Past Normal* by Frances O'Roark Dowell :** When Janie Gorman was younger she convinced her family to move to a farm. Now as a high school freshman she is wishing she lived anywhere else. She is finding it hard to fit in. Her best friend convinces her to join the Jam Band then the friend decides not to come. Janie meets Monster who teachers her

to play the Bass Guitar. Her mother plans a huge hootenanny and invites everyone. As Janie struggles to fit in she discovers that she is "Ten Miles Past Normal."

***Tess of the D'ubervilles* by Thomas Hardy:** Violated by one man and forsaken by another, Tess is the magnificent and spirited heroine. She is a good person who is mistreated by others. This novel is her story.

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho :**The magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist.

***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green:** After struggling with terminal cancer for three years, sixteen-year-old Hazel Lancaster prefers books to people, and lives her life in the gray area between sickness and health. After being forced by her parents to attend a Cancer Kids Support Group, she meets Augustus Waters and must face her fear of letting people in.

***The First Time She Drowned* by Kerry Kletter:** Cassie O'Malley has spent the past two and a half years in a mental institution --- dumped there by her mother, against her will. Now, at 18, Cassie emancipates herself, determined to start over. She attends college, forms new friendships, and even attempts to start fresh with her mother. But before long, their unhealthy relationship threatens to pull Cassie under once again. As Cassie struggles to reclaim her life, childhood memories persist and confuse, and Cassie must consider whose version of history is real, and more important, whose life she must save.

***The Healing: A Novel* by Jonathan Odell:** Grenda, a young slave girl, thinks that she likes wearing a dead girl's fancy dresses, but soon finds that in order to fulfill her destiny; she must shed the garb of slavery, rid herself of an unstable plantation mistress, and remember who she is.

***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett :** Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town

***The Latte Rebellion* by Sarah Jamila Stevenson:** Senior Asha Jamison starts a club at her high school to promote mixed-race awareness, but when the "Latte Rebellion" takes on a life of its own, she ends up in trouble at school and her college dreams are threatened.

***The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel:** The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries on various faiths for size, attracting "religions the way a dog attracts fleas." Planning a move to Canada, his father packs up the family and their menagerie and they hitch a ride on an enormous freighter. After a harrowing shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard.

***The Maze Runner* by James Dashner**

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. When the lift's doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they've closed tight. And every 30 days a new boy has been delivered in the lift. Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up—the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers.

***The Raven Boys* by Maggie Stiefvater:** Her entire life Blue Sargeant has been told by her family of psychics that she will kill her true love with a kiss. When she sees a spirit for the first time on St. Mark's Eve she's told that the teen boy, Gansey, is either her true love or, in the next year, she will kill him. She tries to avoid Gansey, but when he and his friends come to her house for a reading, she is drawn into their search for the resting place of an ancient Welsh king, Owain Glendŵr.

***The Skin I'm In* by Sharon G. Flake**: Miss Saunders, whose skin is blotched with a rare skin condition, serves as a mirror to Maleeka Madison's struggle against the burden of low self-esteem that many black girls face when they're darker skinned. Miss Saunders is tough and through this, Maleeka learns to stand up to tough-talking Charlese.

***The Spy Who Came In From the Cold* by John Le Carre**: In the shadow of the newly erected Berlin Wall, Alec Leamas watches as his last agent is shot dead by East German sentries. For Leamas, the head of Berlin Station, the Cold War is over. As he faces the prospect of retirement or worse—a desk job—Control offers him a unique opportunity for revenge.

***The Tao of Pooh* by Benjamin Hoff**: The how of Pooh? The Tao of who? The Tao of Pooh!... in which it is revealed that one of the world's great Taoist masters isn't Chinese... or a venerable philosopher... but is in fact none other than that effortlessly calm, still, reflective bear, A A Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh! While Eeyore frets... and Piglet hesitates... and Rabbit calculates... and Owl pontificates... Pooh just is.

***Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher**

Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker - his classmate and crush - who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah's voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them.

***The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells**: The novel is considered one of the earliest works of science fiction and the progenitor of the "time travel" subgenre. Wells advanced his social and political ideas in this narrative of a nameless Time Traveller who is hurtled into the year 802,701.

***The Watchmen* by Alan Moore**: This Hugo Award-winning graphic novel chronicles the fall from grace of a group of super-heroes plagued by all-too-human failings. Along the way, the concept of the super-hero is dissected as the heroes are stalked by an unknown assassin.

***Why We Broke Up* by Daniel Handler**: Min, precocious and equally obsessed with classic cinema and good coffee, broke up with Ed, a popular math-loving jock who secretly carries a protractor. Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket) weaves this heartrending story of first love and other powerful firsts as Min reveals, item by item, what's in the box she's leaving on Ed's doorstep. As readers learn why these two unforgettable characters broke up, the significance of these simple love tokens charmingly unfolds.

***Veronika Decides to Die* by Paulo Coelho**: Twenty-four-year-old Veronika seems to have everything -- youth and beauty, boyfriends and a loving family, a fulfilling job. But something is missing in her life. So, she takes a handful of sleeping pills expecting never to wake up. But she does.

***Virtuosity* by Jessica Martinez**: At seventeen Carmen has already won a Grammy and plays a 1.2 million dollar violin. She is the favorite to win the prestigious Guarneri Competition and she has been preparing for four years. The only violinist who has a chance to beat her is handsome Jeremy, who both infuriates and attracts her. But the competition comes first and Carmen's manager mother supplies her with anti-anxiety drugs and will do anything to help Carmen win. How far will Carmen go when she finds out the truth?

Non-Fiction Texts

***Columbine* by Dave Cullen**: On April 20, 1999, two boys left an indelible stamp on the American psyche. Their goal was simple: to blow up their school, Oklahoma-City style. Now, in a riveting piece of journalism nearly ten years in the making, comes the story none of us knew.

***Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America's First Black Paratrooper* by Tanya Lee Stone**: "What is it like to jump out of an airplane? Imagine." From these opening sentences, Stone chronicles the courage and persistence that were the hallmarks of the Triple Nickles, the African Americans who pushed through military barriers to become the first black paratroopers. Their individual efforts, the eventual recognition of the 555th Parachute Infantry

Battalion, and the broader issues of segregation during the war period are illustrated with a with a rich collection of interviews, letters, and photos. Stone's afterword, the timeline, and the detailed source notes offer valuable insights into her research methods. Ashley Bryan's foreword and artwork add personal insight and extend the power of this skillfully told story.

***Coyotes* by Ted Conover** : Conover posed as an immigrant, crossing the border twice and learning first-hand about "coyotes" - those who sneak Mexicans and other Latin Americans across the border, often under murderous conditions.

***D-Day: The Climatic Battle of World War Two* by Stephen Ambrose**: Classic account of the most important battle of World War II. First person accounts on both sides; Allies and Axis give vivid pictures of heroic actions. Ambrose compares American and German methods of war and why democracy won. Inspiration for the movie: "Saving Private Ryan."

***Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert** :Elizabeth Gilbert tells how she made the difficult choice to leave behind all the trappings of modern American success (marriage, house in the country, career) and find, instead, what she truly wanted from life.

***Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family* by Condoleezza Rice**:

***I Love You as for White People* by Lac Su** : As a young child, Lac Su made a harrowing escape from the Communists in Vietnam. With a price on his father's head, Lac, with his family, was forced to immigrate in 1979 to seedy West Los Angeles where squalid living conditions and a cultural fabric that refused to thread them in effectively squashed their American Dream.

***Ida M. Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business—and Won!* by Emily Arnold McCully**: Born before the Civil War and living in what was truly a man's world, Ida Tarbell was one of the first practitioners of what we now call investigative journalism. Although she is not well known today, she made a name for herself in her own time by taking on the exploitative practices of John D. Rockefeller and the Standard Oil Company. In this fine biography that also serves as a social history of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, McCully presents a readable and captivating account of this unusual woman, showing the reader her inconsistencies and faults as well as the grit, determination, and intellect that allowed Tarbell to support herself and her family with her writing.

***I'm Down* by Mishna Wolff** :Mishna Wolff grew up in a poor black neighborhood with her single father, a white man who truly believed he was black. And so from early childhood on, her father began his crusade to make his white daughter *Down*.

***Laughing at My Nightmare* by Shane Burcaw**: In this focused, intelligent, and most of all hilarious memoir, Shane Burcaw recalls both the normal and deeply unique experiences he has endured living with spinal muscular atrophy. With a sharp wit, Burcaw is self-deprecating but never defeatist, even in the face of his terminal condition. His anecdotal essays are thought-provoking, and his whip-smart style puts him in a league with some of today's best humorists. In his eminently readable and relatable memoir, Burcaw's positive attitude is inspirational without being the least bit cloying.

***Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah**: In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.

***Mindset* by Carol Dweck**: Dweck explains why it's not just our abilities and talent that bring us success—but whether we approach them with a fixed or growth mindset. She makes clear why praising intelligence and ability doesn't foster self-esteem and lead to accomplishment, but may actually jeopardize success.

***Nicked and Dimed in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich:** Millions of Americans work full time, year round, for poverty-level wages. In 1998, Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that a job -- any job -- can be the ticket to a better life. But how does anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich left her home, took the cheapest lodgings she could find, and accepted whatever jobs she was offered.

***Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town* by Warren St. John:**

This is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach. Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical southern town until it became a refugee resettlement center. The author explores how the community changed with the influx of refugees and how a single individual made a difference in the lives of so many.

***Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi:** This is a wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.

***Somehow Tenderness Survives: Stories of Southern Africa* by Hazel Rochman:** Apartheid. It's about suffering, about violence. Here are ten stories and autobiographical accounts, by southern Africa writers of various races. Their stories individually and as a group, create a moving, sometimes shockingly vivid portrait of what it feels like to grow up in a land where racism is the law.

***Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different* by Karen Blumenthal:** Equally reviled and revered--often by the same people--Steve Jobs, the man who operated from his own "reality distortion field," was an extraordinary "tweaker" who transcended the visionary to perfect the simple and transform the world as we know it. Skillfully crafted and meticulously researched, Blumenthal's accessible biography presents an intimate and fully dimensional portrait of a complex American icon and the multiple trajectories of influence on our technological paradigms that define his enduring legacy.

***Tatoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle** :For twenty years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. He distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith.

***The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcolm X:** This autobiography reveals the long spiritual and intellectual journey of the private Malcolm.

***The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia* by Candace Fleming:** Fleming deftly illuminates the fascinating life of Czar Nicholas II; his wife, Alexandra; and their children, describing their ostentatiously privileged upbringing, the dramatic fall of the Russian Empire, and their tragic deaths in this moving and insightful biography of Russia's Romanov family. She unflinchingly exposes the flawed but human side of the royal family while simultaneously interweaving details about the rich historical context, from Rasputin and Lenin to the narratives of the poor and working class, told in excerpts from the diaries and letters of Russia's peasants, factory workers, and soldiers. With captivating photos, extensive primary sources, and recent research about the fate of the Romanov family, Fleming tells a gripping, comprehensive story of life in a pivotal period of Russian history.

***The Gatekeepers* by Jacques Steinberg:** Spend a year in the admissions office of a highly competitive college and find out what goes on behind those closed doors. Steinberg, the education reporter for the New York Times, spent a year in the offices of Wesleyan University and explains how high level college admissions decisions are made.

***The Ghosts of War* by Ryan Smithson:** Ryan Smithson joined the Army Reserve when he was just out of high school. At age nineteen he was deployed to Iraq. His year in combat changed his life.

***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls:** When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't

want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot:** Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

***The Next Big Story* by Soledad O'Brien with Rose Marie Arce:** O'Brien is the child of a black Cuban mother and white Australian father, and her mixed-race heritage informed every step of her personal and professional voyage, one that took her from an isolated suburban Long Island childhood to the catbird's seat at CNN's anchor desk. Acknowledging the distinctive sensibility she brings to her coverage of the day's most divisive and dramatic events, O'Brien chronicles her early years in broadcast journalism as well as her present position as one of cable news' most respected correspondents.

***The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights* by Steve Sheinkin:** As World War II escalated overseas, African American sailors at Port Chicago were under pressure to load bombs faster and faster onto waiting ships, until finally a horrific explosion killed hundreds. In the days that followed, 50 men refused to work under such unsafe conditions and were charged with mutiny. Sheinkin masterfully weaves interviews, court records, and other primary sources with his driving narrative to tell the complex and little-known history of the Port Chicago Disaster of 1944. Tightly written, this slim volume is rich in information about the history of a segregated military, the emerging civil rights movement, and the exceptional leaders and individuals of the time.

***The Pregnancy Project: A Memoir* by Gaby Rodriguez:** Gaby comes from a long line of dropout teen mothers. On her way to being the first of her family to graduate and go to college, she decides to fake a pregnancy as a senior project to gauge the reactions of her family and peers.

***The Price of Admission* by Daniel Golden:** Golden, the Wall Street Journal education editor, explores and explains the factors in college admissions that aren't related to grades or test scores: family connections, wealth, and elite experiences.

***There Are No Children Here* by Alex Kotlowitz:** The true story of brothers Lafayette and Pharoah Rivers, ages 11 and 9 at the start, brings home the horror of trying to make it in a violence-ridden public housing project. The boys live in a gang-plagued war zone on Chicago's West Side, literally learning how to dodge bullets the way kids in the suburbs learn to chase baseballs.

***You Got This!* By Maya S. Penn:** Maya Penn isn't like other 16-year-olds. This teen has given a TED Talk (two, in fact), has been on "The View" with Whoopi Goldberg, has launched her own business, designed her own eco-friendly clothing, and been name-checked by bestselling authors like Gabrielle Bernstein, Steve Harvey, and Eve Ensler. All while still in middle school! But while Maya is extraordinary in so many ways, what she has accomplished isn't miraculous or unique. Instead, her success is a testament to her own creativity, passion, and fearlessness...traits that, Maya says, can be cultivated in all of us, too. *YOU GOT THIS!* offers a creative blueprint for young adults (and others seeking their way in the world), showing them the tools Maya herself used to build an authentic, exciting, and connected life for herself ... and offering her readers ideas to help them do the same.

***Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers:** Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home.