

SUGGESTED READING LIST

K-12



SUMMER 2007

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BOOKS FOR INDEPENDENT READING



The books contained in these lists have been chosen with the belief that good books belong in students' hands. The intent is that they will help shape the literary experiences of our students. Review the lists and help your child begin the journey to new worlds that will challenge thinking and stimulate the imagination!

KINDERGARTEN

CENDRILLON: A CARIBBEAN CINDERELLA

ROBERT D. SAN SOUCI

A Creole variant of the familiar Cinderella tale set in the Caribbean and narrated by the godmother who helps Cendrillon find true love.

CLAP YOUR HANDS

LORINDA BRYAN CAULEY

Rhyming text instructs the listener to find something yellow, roar like a lion, give a kiss, tell a secret, spin in a circle, and perform other playful activities along with the human and animal characters pictured.

CORDUROY

DON FREEMAN

A toy bear in a department store wants a number of things, but when a little girl finally buys him he finds what he has always wanted most of all.

FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS JUMPING ON THE BED

EILEEN CRISTELOW

A counting book in which one by one the little monkeys jump on the bed only to fall off and bump their heads.

HAND RHYMES

MARC TOLON BROWN

A collection of nursery rhymes with diagrams for accompanying finger plays.

IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE

LAURA JOFFE NUMEROFF

A young boy, having given a cookie to a bossy mouse, is run ragged by the energetic rodent's subsequent requests.

THE LITTLE RED HEN

BYRON BARTON

The little red hen finds none of her lazy friends willing to help her plant, harvest, or grind wheat into flour, but all are eager to eat the bread she makes from it.

MY NUMBERS = MIS NUMEROS

REBECCA EMBERLEY

A colorful guide to numbers one through ten in English and Spanish.

SWIMMY

LEO LIONNI

Swimmy, a small black fish, finds a way to protect a school of small red fish from their natural enemies.

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT

MICHAEL ROSEN

Brave bear hunters go through grass, a river, mud, and other obstacles before the inevitable encounter with the bear forces a headlong retreat.

WHO TOOK THE FARMER'S HAT?

JOAN L. NODSET

The wind blows away the farmer's hat and he finds it being used in a most surprising way.

WHERE FIREFLIES DANCE

LUCHA CORPI

A girl and her brother spend their childhood in a small town on the Caribbean coast of Mexico.

GRADE 1

ARROZ CON LECHE: POPULAR SONGS AND RHYMES FROM LATIN AMERICA

LULU DELACRE

A collection of traditional Latin American songs and rhymes, in Spanish and English, with the music included.

BIGGEST, STRONGEST, FASTEST

STEVE JENKINS

Presents 14 animals that are record holders in such areas as size, strength, speed, and age.

BOUKI DANCES THE KOKIOKO: A COMICAL TALE FROM HAITI

DIANE WOLKSTEIN

After much coaching, Bouki wins the prize for dancing the king's secret dance but is then outwitted by his sneaky friend.

CAN YOU SEE THE WIND?

ALLAN FOWLER

This book discusses the wind, the causes of air movements, and the uses of wind power.

THE HELLO, GOODBYE WINDOW

NORTON JUSTER

A little girl tells about the special kitchen window at her beloved Nanny and Poppy's house from which a person can see anyone or anything coming and going.

I AIN'T GONNA PAINT NO MORE!

KAREN BEAUMONT

In the rhythm of the folk song "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," a child who loves to paint the walls and everything else sees that he cannot resist adding one more dab of paint to some surprising places.

KITTEN'S FIRST FULL MOO

KEVIN HENKES

When Kitten mistakes the full moon for a bowl of milk, she ends up tired, wet, and hungry trying to reach it.

LITTLE DOG POEMS

KRISTINE O'CONNELL GEORGE

Short poems present a day in the life of a little dog and its owner.

NORMA JEAN, JUMPING BEAN

JOANNA COLE

Norma Jean, whose love of jumping might be a bit excessive, stops her favorite activity after her friend's complain, but participation in the school Olympics proves there is a time and place for jumping.

OLD BLACK FLY

JIM AYLESWORTH

Rhyming text and illustrations follow a mischievous old black fly through the alphabet as he has a very busy bad day landing where he should not be.

THE POT THAT JUAN BUILT

NANCY ANDREWS-GOEBEL

A cumulative rhyme summarizes the life's work of renowned Mexican potter, Juan Quezada. Additional information describes the process he uses to create his pots after the style of the Casas Grandes people.

RAP A TAP TAP: HERE'S BOJANGLES-- THINK OF THAT!

LEO DILLON

Rhyming text and illustrations describe the dancing of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, one of the most famous tap dancers of all time.

GRADE 2

AMELIA BEDELIA

PEGGY PARISH

A literal-minded housekeeper causes a ruckus in the household when she attempts to make sense of some instructions.

BASEBALL

MIKE KENNEDY

Presents the history, rules, equipment, and positions of baseball, as well as a list of some of the best players of all time.

THE BAT BOY & HIS VIOLIN

GAVIN CURTIS

Reginald is more interested in practicing his violin than in his father's job managing the worst team in the Negro Leagues, but when Papa makes him the bat boy and his music begins to lead the team to victory, Papa realizes the value of his son's passion.

BEAUTIFUL BLACKBIRD

ASHLEY BRYAN

In a story of the Ila people, the colorful birds of Africa ask Blackbird, whom they think is the most beautiful of birds, to decorate them with some of his "blackening brew."

BREAKOUT AT THE BUG LAB

RUTH HOROWITZ

When a giant cockroach named Max escapes from their mother's bug laboratory, Leo and his brother receive help from a mysterious stranger who advises them to think like a bug in order to recapture the runaway roach.

DIARY OF A WORM

DOREEN CRONIN

A young worm discovers, day by day, that there are some very good and some not so good things about being a worm in this great big world.

HARVESTING HOPE: THE STORY OF CESAR CHAVEZ

KATHLEEN KRULL

A biography of Cesar Chavez, from age ten when he and his family lived happily on their Arizona ranch, to age thirty-eight when he led a peaceful protest against California migrant workers' miserable working conditions.

MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE

MARIE BRADBY

Nine-year-old Booker works with his father and brother at the saltworks but dreams of the day when he'll be able to read.

MUD

MARY LYN RAY

As winter melts into spring, the frozen earth turns into magnificent mud.

SPINNING SPIDERS

MELVIN BERGER

Describes the characteristics of spiders and the methods they use to trap their prey in webs.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A TAIL LIKE THIS?

STEVE JENKINS

Looks at the ways in which different animals use their ears, eyes, mouths, noses, feet, and tails.

TOUCH THE POEM

ARNOLD ADOFF

A collection of poems about the sense of touch including a baby's foot in one's palm, peach fuzz on the lip, and the forehead against a cold window.

GRADE 3

AMBER BROWN IS NOT A CRAYON

PAULA DANZIGER

Her third grade year is a sad time for Amber, because her best friend Justin is getting ready to move to a distant state.

BROTHER ANANSI AND THE CATTLE RANCH

JAMES DE SAUZA

A bilingual folk tale in which Brother Anansi persuades Brother Tiger to go into the cattle-raising business.

COOL CRAZY CRICKETS

DAVID ELLIOTT

Follows the humorous activities of four friends and a dog as they find a name, meeting place, mascot, and purpose for their new club.

DANDELIONS

EVE BUNTING

Zoe and her family find strength in each other as they make a new home in the Nebraska territory.

THE GADGET WAR

BETSY DUFFEY

Kelly is an ingenious inventor with 43 inventions to her credit and she is only in third grade. Then she meets Albert and he is determined to prove that he is the real gadget wiz.

HOT DAY ON ABBOTT AVENUE

KAREN ENGLISH

After having a fight, two friends spend the day ignoring each other, until the lure of a game of jump rope helps them to forget about being mad.

I WAS A THIRD GRADE SCIENCE PROJECT

MARY JANE AUCH

While trying to hypnotize his dog for the third grade science fair, Brian accidentally makes his best friend Josh think he's a cat.

LEONARDO'S HORSE

JEAN FRITZ

Examines the life of Leonardo da Vinci, focusing on his unfinished sculpture of a huge horse he was commissioned to create for the Duke of Milan in the late 1400s, and discusses how the project was taken up by pilot Charlie Dent in 1977 and, after several setbacks, completed and presented as a gift to Milan in 1999.

OUR WET WORLD

SNEED B. COLLARD

Describes the lives and interaction of animals and plants that inhabit the many worlds of water.

ROSA

NIKKI GIOVANNI

Presents an illustrated account of Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955, and the subsequent bus boycott by the black community.

STANLEY, FLAT AGAIN!

JEFF BROWN

After Stanley Lambchop goes flat once again, he uses his flatness to help win a sailboat race and to rescue a classmate from a collapsed building.

THE STORIES JULIAN TELLS

ANN CAMERON

Relates episodes in seven-year-old Julian's life which include getting into trouble with his younger brother Huey, planting a garden, what he did to try to grow taller, losing a tooth, and finding a new friend.

GRADE 4

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

RONALD DAHL

Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.

A FINE, FINE SCHOOL

SHARON CREECH

When a principal loves his school so much that he wants the children to attend classes every day of the year, it's up to his students to show him free time is a good thing, too.

FRINDLE

ANDREW CLEMENTS

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

JUST LIKE JOSH GIBSON

ANGELA JOHNSON

A young girl's grandmother tells her of her love for baseball and the day they let her play in the game even though she was a girl.

THE PEOPLE COULD FLY THE PICTURE BOOK

VIRGINIA HAMILTON

Retold African-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom, born of the sorrow of the slaves, but passed on in hope.

SAFARI

ROBERT BATEMAN

Did you know that the rhinoceros has poor eyesight or that a herd of elephants can travel 40 miles in one night? Learn more interesting facts about the animals on a safari while enjoying the incredible paintings of the author, Robert Bateman.

THE SEARCH FOR DELICIOUS

NATALIE BABBITT

The Prime Minister is compiling a dictionary and when no one at court can agree on the meaning of delicious, the King sends his twelve-year-old messenger to poll the country.

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX: BEING THE STORY OF A MOUSE, A PRINCESS, SOME SOUP, AND A SPOOL OF THREAD

KATE DICAMILLO

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.

WHEN JESSIE CAME ACROSS THE SEA

AMY HEST

A thirteen-year-old Jewish orphan reluctantly leaves her grandmother and immigrates to New York City, where she works for three years sewing lace and earning money to bring Grandmother to the United States, too.

THE WHIPPING BOY

SID FLEISCHMAN

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & THE GLOBE

ALIKI

Tells the story of the well-known playwright, William Shakespeare, and of the famous Globe Theatre in which many of his works were performed.

YESTERDAY I HAD THE BLUES

JEROME FRAME

A young boy ponders a variety of emotions and how different members of his family experience them, from his own blues to his father's grays and his grandmother's yellows.

GRADE 5**DEAR MR. HENSHAW**

BEVERLY CLEARLY

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER

E.L. KONIGSBURG

Two suburban children run away from their Connecticut home and go to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, where their ingenuity enables them to live in luxury.

JOYFUL NOISE: POEMS FOR TWO VOICES

PAUL FLEISCHMAN

A collection of poems describing the characteristics and activities of a variety of insects.

ON MY HONOR

MARION DANE BAUER

When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

PORTRAITS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HEROES

TONYA BOLDEN

Presents biographical profiles of twenty African-American men and women whose accomplishments have made a significant impact on their communities and their country, each accompanied by a portrait created by artist Ansel Pitcairn.

RABBIT HILL

ROBERT LAWSON

New folks are coming to live in the Big House. The animals of Rabbit Hill wonder if they will plant a garden and thus be good providers

RUSHMORE

LYNN CURLEE

This well-illustrated book describes the trials and tribulations of how America gained one of its greatest national monuments

SQUAREHEAD

HARRIET ZIEFERT

Young George has a square head. He is a squarehead, and, being so, prefers square to any other shape. He particularly can't seem to get his mind around the idea of shapes without right angles — circles, ovals, and spheres....

THROUGH MY EYES

RUBY BRIDGES

Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.

TUCK EVERLASTING

NATALIE BABBITT

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

WHALES ON STILTS

M.T. ANDERSON

Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.

WHEN BUGS WERE BIG, PLANTS WERE STRANGE, AND TETRAPODS STALKED THE EARTH : A CARTOON PREHISTORY OF LIFE BEFORE DINOSAURS

HANNAH BONNER

Takes a tour of the Earth three hundred and twenty million years ago, during the Paleozoic Era, and investigates the plants and animals found there.

GRADE 6

ANGELFISH

LAWRENCE YEP

Sequel to: The cook's family. Robin, a young ballet dancer who is half Chinese and half white, works in a fish store for Mr. Tsow, a brusque Chinese who accuses her of being a half-person and who harbors a bitter secret.

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE

KATE DICAMILLO

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.

DIVE!: MY ADVENTURES IN THE DEEP FRONTIER

SYLVIA EARLE

The author relates some of her adventures studying and exploring the world's oceans, including tracking whales, living in an underwater laboratory, and helping to design a deep water submarine.

HEARTBEAT

SHARON CREECH

Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

MANIAC MAGEE

JERRY SPINELLI

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

SILENT TO THE BONE

E.L. KONIGSBURG

Thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech after being wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what happened.

SING DOWN THE MOON

SCOTT O'DELL

A young Navajo girl recounts the events of 1864 when her tribe was forced to march to Fort Sumner as prisoners of the white soldiers.

WENNY HAS WINGS

JANET LEE CAREY

Having had a near-death experience in the accident that killed his younger sister, eleven-year-old Will tries to cope with the situation by writing her letters.

WHITTINGTON

ALAN ARMSTRONG

Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.

YOLONDA'S GENIUS

CAROL FENNER

After moving from Chicago to Grand River, Michigan, fifth grader Yolonda, big and strong for her age, determines to prove that her younger brother is not a slow learner but a true musical genius.

GRADE 7

ADAM CANFIELD OF THE SLASH

MICHAEL WINERIP

Cub reporters hungry for a byline; editors fending off the intrusions of a powerful publisher: just another gritty newsroom drama, right? Sort of. With other media outlets in town run by an unethical tycoon, Harris Elementary/Middle School's student monthly the Slash is the last bastion of journalistic integrity. So it's up to scrappy Adam and his coeditor Jennifer to expose injustice, whether in city hall or the suspiciously spiffy renovation of the school principal's office.

THE BOOK WITHOUT WORDS: A FABLE OF MEDIEVAL MAGIC

AVI

Thorston, an alchemist who has spent his life trying to decipher the secret to immortality contained in the Book Without Words, is on the brink of realizing his dream when he drops dead, leaving Odo, a talking raven, and Sybil, a servant who was about to be sacrificed to Thorston's plan, to reap the rewards of his work.

THE BROKEN BLADE

WILLIAM DURBIN

When an injury prevents his father from going into northern Canada with fur traders, thirteen-year-old Pierre decides to take his father's place as a voyageur.

FLUSH

CARL HIAASEN

In his second children's book, Hiaasen offers a great action adventure without any of the didacticism that crept into Hoot. He sets this eco-mystery in Florida and peoples it with crooks, idealists, everyday heroes, and oddball characters. While the plot offers enough twists and turns to satisfy even the most serious adventure junkies, it's the multidimensional characters who give the novel vitality.

KIRA-KIRA

CYNTHIA KADOHATA

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

KNOTS IN MY YO-YO STRING: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A KID

JERRY SPINELLI

This Italian-American Newbery Medalist presents a humorous account of his childhood and youth in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

THE OUTCASTS OF 19 SCHUYLER PLACE

E. L. KONIGSBURG

Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.

TANGERINE

EDWARD BLOOR

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

THE TEARS OF THE SALAMANDER

PETER DICKINSON

When Alfredo, a twelve-year-old choir boy in eighteenth-century Italy, loses his family in a fire, he goes to live with Uncle Giorgio, who he discovers is a sorcerer in control of the fires of Mt. Etna with sinister plans for his nephew.

UNDER THE ROYAL PALMS: A CHILDHOOD IN CUBA

ALMA FLOR ADA

The author recalls her life and impressions growing up in Cuba.

GRADE 8**CROSSING THE WIRE**

WILL HOBBS

Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores journeys north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico.

CUBA 15: A NOVEL

NANCY OSA

Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming "quince," a Spanish nickname for the celebration of a Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday.

THE FACE ON THE MILK CARTON

CAROLINE B. COONEY

A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.

FEVER, 1793

LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON

Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793.

GOOD NIGHT, MAMAN

NORMA FOX MAZER

After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.

HER STORIES: AFRICAN AMERICAN FOLKTALES, FAIRY TALES, AND TRUE TALES

VIRGINIA HAMILTON

A collection of tales about the supernatural and animals, fairy tales, folk tales and legends, by and about African American women.

THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION

NANCY FARMER

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

MAYA RUNNING

ANJALI BANERJEE

Maya, a Canadian of East Indian descent, struggles with her ethnic identity, infatuation with a classmate, and the presence of her beautiful Bengali cousin, Pinky, who comes for a visit bearing a powerful statue of the god Ganesh, the Hindu elephant boy.

MORTAL ENGINES: A NOVEL

PHILIP REEVE

Tom, a third class apprentice in a distant future in which technology has been lost and tiered cities move about the Earth on caterpillar tracks, often absorbing smaller locales, has many dangerous adventures after being pushed off London by Thaddeus Valentine, a historian who is trying to resurrect an ancient atomic weapon.

TRUESIGHT

DAVID STAHLER

In a distant frontier world, thirteen-year-old Jacob is uncertain of his future in a community that considers blindness a virtue and "Seers" as aberrations.

The titles contained in these recommended reading lists reflect diverse cultures and perspectives. While the titles have been arranged by grade level for easier identification of age appropriate reading level and content; parents are most familiar with their child's reading skills, maturity, and interests. Parents are encouraged to help their child make a selection by previewing the titles. Consideration should be given to the difficulty of the text, subject matter, and content of the book.

GRADE 9**AFTER THE FIRST DEATH**

ROBERT CORMIER

The hijacking of a bus of children by terrorists is described from the perspectives of a hostage, a terrorist, an Army general involved in the rescue operation, and the general's son who has been chosen as the go-between.

THE DAY THEY CAME TO ARREST THE BOOK

NAT HENTOFF

Students and faculty at a high school became embroiled in a censorship case over "Huckleberry Finn."

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LARRY

JANET TASHJIAN

Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

HIT THE ROAD

CAROLINE COONEY

Sixteen-year-old Brittany acts as chauffeur for her grandmother and three other eighty-plus-year-old women going to what is supposedly their college reunion, on a long drive that involves lies, theft, and kidnappings.

I, JUAN DE PAREJA

ELIZABETH BORTEN DE TREVINO

Juan de Pareja, a slave, and his master, Velazquez, the seventeenth century Spanish court painter, develop a relationship of friendship and equality.

I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

MAYA ANGELOU

Poet Maya Angelou chronicles her early life, focusing on her childhood in 1930s rural Arkansas, including her rape at the age of five, her subsequent years of muteness, and the strength she gained from her grandmother and Mrs. Bertha Flowers, a respected African-American woman in her town.

MAMA DAY

GLORIA NAYLOR

Mama Day uses her ancient knowledge of herbal medicine and pits herself in mortal combat with dark forces that threaten the body and soul of her niece, Cocoa.

MAUS: A SURVIVOR'S TALE

ART SPIGELMAN

My father bleeds history -- And here my troubles began. Memoir about Vladek Spiegleman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself. Cartoon format portrays Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

NEMESIS

ISAAC ASIMOV

Marlene, a fifteen-year-old Rotorian girl, learns of the threat Nemesis poses to the Earth and its people. She is stopped from warning Earth, but when she discovers Rotor is also in danger she knows she must save both Earth and Rotor from the death star, Nemesis.

TONIGHT, BY SEA

FRANCES TEMPLE

As governmental brutality and poverty become unbearable, Paulie joins with others in her small Haitian village to help her uncle secretly build a boat they will use to try to escape to the United States.

GRADE 10**BIKO**

DONALD WOODS

Details the arrest, torture, and killing of Steve Biko, a black South African leader, and the persecution of his white journalist friend, Donald Woods.

ELLEN FOSTER

KAYE GIBBONS

Having suffered abuse and misfortune for much of her life, a young child searches for a better life and finally gets a break in the home of a loving woman with several foster children.

ENDER'S GAME

ORSON SCOTT CARD

Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

A GATHERING OF OLD MEN

ERNEST GAINES

When Beau Boutan, a Cajun farmer, is found shot on a Louisiana plantation, the claimants to the killing form a wall of protection around the real murderer.

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

DOUGLAS ADAMS

Presents the story of a young man who is rescued by an alien friend seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway.

HOW THE GARCIA GIRLS LOST THEIR ACCENTS

JULIA ALVAREZ

This rollicking, highly original first novel tells the story (in reverse chronological order) of four sisters and their family, as they become Americanized after fleeing the Dominican Republic in the 1960s. A family of privilege in the police state they leave, the Garcias experience understandable readjustment problems in the United States, particularly old world patriarch Papi. The sisters fare better but grow up conscious, like all immigrants, of living in two worlds.

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE BIKE

LANCE ARMSTRONG

Champion cyclist Lance Armstrong describes his triumph over cancer.

MONSTER

WALTER DEAN MYERS

Tells the story of the efforts by Colorado detective Scott Richardson to catch Tom Luther, an ex-convict who was released after ten years in prison for sexual assault, only to murder twenty-year-old Cher Elder.

OBASAN

JOY KOGAWA

Naomi Nakane, a child of Japanese immigrant parents, is interned by the Canadians at the beginning of World War II when she is five years old.

13 LITTLE BLUE ENVELOPES

MAUREEN JOHNSON

When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.

Grade 11

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X

ALEX HALEY

Originally published: New York: Grove Press, 1965. Malcolm X, the Black Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells his life story to veteran writer and journalist Alex Haley.

THE BEAN TREES

BARBARA KINGSOLVER

Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places.

CEREMONY

LESLIE SILKO

Follows Tayo, a young Native American, after his release from a veteran's hospital following World War II as he searches for meaning and sanity in his life.

THE COLOR OF WATER

JAMES MCBRIDE

An African-American male tells of his mother, a white woman, who refused to admit her true identity.

IN COLD BLOOD

TRUMAN CAPOTE

Recreates the slaying of the Clutter family of Kansas, and the capture, trial, and execution of their murderers.

JUBILEE

MARGARET WALKER

Fact-based novel that chronicles the experiences of Vvry, the child of a white plantation owner and his slave mistress, discussing her life as slave during the Civil War, and as a woman freed by the Emancipation Proclamation.

KINDRED

OCTAVIA BUTLER

Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE

KURT VONNEGUT

A fourth-generation German-American now living in easy circumstances on Cape Cod (and smoking too much) is tortured by his memories of the firebombing of Dresden in 1944 which he witnessed while a prisoner of war.

THE THINGS THEY CARRIED

TIM O'BRIEN

Contains a collection related fiction short stories with recurring characters, interwoven plot and themes told by a foot soldier retelling his experiences in the Vietnam War.

WOMAN HOLLERING CREEK

SANDRA CISNEROS

A collection of short stories giving voice to the vigorous and varied life on both sides of the United States-Mexican border.

GRADE 12**BELOVED**

TONI MORRISON

Sethe, an escaped slave living in post-Civil War Ohio, struggles to keep Beloved, an intruder, from gaining possession of her present while throwing off the legacy of her past.

BREATH, EYES, MEMORY

EDWIDGE DANTICAT

Sophie Caco, a child who was born of rape, leaves Haiti at the age of twelve to join her mother in New York City, where they both battle with the results of sexual abuse.

CHRONICLE OF A DEATH FORETOLD

GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ

Studies a murder which takes place shortly after a wedding and explores the mass community complicity that allowed it to happen.

THE HANDMAID'S TALE

MARGARET ATWOOD

Set in the near future, America has become a puritanical theocracy. Offred tells her story as a Handmaid under the new social order whose function is to breed.

The titles contained in these recommended reading lists reflect diverse cultures and perspectives. While the titles have been arranged by grade level for easier identification of age appropriate reading level and content; parents are most familiar with their child's reading skills, maturity, and interests. Parents are encouraged to help their child make a selection by previewing the titles. Consideration should be given to the difficulty of the text, subject matter, and content of the book.

INTO THIN AIR

JOHN KRAKAUER

The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

THE JOY LUCK CLUB

AMY TAN

In 1949 four Chinese women began meeting in San Francisco to play mah jong. They called their gathering the Joy Luck Club. Forty years later they look back and remember.

THE POISONWOOD BIBLE

BARBARA KINGSOLVER

Nathan Price and his family move to the Belgian Congo in 1959, and the experiences they have while living in Africa affect each member of the family in a different way.

SUGAR CAGE

CONNIE MAE FOWLER

Inez Temple realizes she can intuit the future when she offers a glass of sugar water to honeymooner Rose Looney and sees her destiny in the dregs: a pattern of bars, a cage drawn in sugar. Sure enough, Rose finds herself living in Tiama, "Prison Capital of the World," held captive by her love for her unfaithful, violent husband. Their troubles interface with their neighbors, the Jewels, and Soleil Marie Beauvoir, a mambo of Haitian and Seminole descent with a sensual brand of mystical power.

THE SUN ALSO RISES

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Focuses on a "lost generation" of Americans who fought in France during World War I and who expatriated themselves from America after the war.

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

MITCH ALBOM

The author, an alumnus of Brandeis University, tells of his meetings with a former professor suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease and of the lessons he learned about life and death from his college mentor.