

Portland High School / Portland Library
2010 Suggested Summer Reading List for Grades 11 & 12

***Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* by Dee Brown**

Beginning with the Long Walk of the Navajos in 1860 and ending 30 years later with the massacre of Sioux men, women, and children at Wounded Knee in South Dakota, it tells how the American Indians lost their land and lives.

***Crank* by Ellen Hopkins**

This is a story about a monster. Not a dragon or mythological beast, but a very real, very destructive monster--crystal meth--that takes hold of 17-year-old Kristina Snow and transforms her into her reckless alter-ego Bree. Based on her own daughter's addiction to crystal meth, Ellen Hopkins' novel-in-verse is a vivid, transfixing look into teenage drug use.

***Circus Fire: A True Story of an American Tragedy* by Stewart O'Nan**

On July 6, 1944, the big top of the Ringling Brothers' circus caught fire during an afternoon performance in Hartford, Connecticut and quickly burned to the ground. At the heart of the narrative is O'Nan's harrowing, minute-by-minute account of the actual burning.

***Deep End of the Ocean* by Jacquelyn Mitchard**

In a few short minutes in a crowded hotel lobby, Beth's world changes forever. Her two-year-old son, Ben, left in the care of older brother Vincent, disappears. Despite the efforts of police and friends, the search for Ben fails, and Beth retreats into grief.

***Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier**

The girl in Dutch artist Vermeer's painting is Griet, the 16-year-old servant of his household. Is she more than his model?

***The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls**

Not the easiest of childhoods, the Walls children learned to support themselves, eat out of trashcans, and paint their skin so the holes in their clothing didn't show.

***Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer**

Accepting an assignment from *Outside* magazine to investigate whether it was safe for wealthy amateur climbers to tackle the mountain, Krakauer joined an expedition. However, Krakauer got more than he bargained for when a blinding snowstorm hits the mountain's peaks.

***Marley and Me* by John Grogan**

John and Jenny fall in love with a Labrador retriever puppy, just a cute, tiny bundle of fur. Marley soon grows to mammoth proportions and brings with him slobber and destruction.

***My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult**

Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. She has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow. Since she is being considered as a kidney donor, she files a medical emancipation suit to allow her to have control over her own body.

***The Necessary Beggar* by Susan Palwick**

Darroti and Gallicina fall in love. Darroti is accused of murdering her and is sentenced to exile in another dimension. The magic of Gandiffri isn't lost to them; it lives in a tiny pet beetle, in the unbreakable bond of love, and in a ghost seeking redemption.

***The Pelican Brief* by John Grisham**

Two Supreme Court justices have been assassinated, and in New Orleans, a young law student prepares a legal brief. Suddenly, Darby Shaw is witness to a murder and forced into hiding.

***Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky**

Charlie finds that he has drifted away from old friends and finds a new and satisfying social set of bright bohemians. These new friends make more sense to Charlie than his star football-playing older brother and very busy older sister.

***Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver**

In 1959, evangelical preacher Nathan Price moves his wife and four daughters from Georgia to a village in the Belgian Congo. The family is nearly destroyed from their dysfunction and cultural arrogance.

***The Road* by Cormac McCarthy**

A father and a son, walk down a road toward the sea in a destroyed world. With every scrap of food looted, many of the living have turned to cannibalism.

***Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd**

Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their Georgia peach farm, spends hours imagining when she was loved and nurtured by her mother. These fantasies are her heart's answer to the family story that Lily accidentally shot and killed her mother.

***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson**

On a 1993 expedition to climb K2, Mortenson stumbled upon a remote mountain village in Pakistan. Out of gratitude for the villagers' assistance when he was lost and near death, he vowed to build a school for the children who were scratching lessons in the dirt.

***Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom**

On a weekly basis, a former student visits Morrie Schwartz, a one of a kind professor who is dying of a terminal illness. Even on his deathbed, the man teaches us all about living robustly and fully.

***Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman**

Brent attends a party where he is rejected by the girl he's been lusting after. Drunk, furious, and humiliated, he tries to kill himself on the trip home, but his reckless driving kills a stranger instead.