

# Read

Portland High School ~ 2011

## Trying to find a REALLY GOOD book?!?

Look at our **Suggested Summer Reading List**... spend more time reading and less time looking. But remember this list is simply a starting point. You might want to try reading book reviews. Reviewers give the essence of the story without giving the whole story away. Sometimes reviewers end their reviews with a comment on whether it's worth your time to read the book.

Look here for some interesting websites with **reviews** to help you find the right book.

[Novelist](#) - if link is broken, access it from the [Portland Library site](#) - go to **Databases**

This amazing database provides you with reviews, summaries, and so much more about both fiction and nonfiction books. To login you need your Portland Library card number or our generic # - just ask for it...

[kradziejwiz@portlandct.us](mailto:kradziejwiz@portlandct.us)

### [Teens Read Too](#)

Click on a book to learn more about

### [Teen Reads](#)

Authors, reviews, podcasts, series and more

### [Flamingnet](#)

Young Adult Book Reviewers - Teenagers give their opinions about the books that teenagers want to read

### [Reading Rants! Out of the Ordinary Teen Booklists!](#)

Great source for information about books teens are **interested** in reading

### [PHS Library](#)

Lots more resources here=)

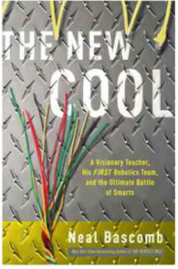
### [Portland Library](#)

From their website, check out the selection of downloadable **audio books** and **eBooks** for your iPod, iPad, Smartphone, Nook, Sony Reader & more.

The Portland Library has dozens of books on display for your reading pleasure ~ stop by frequently this summer!!

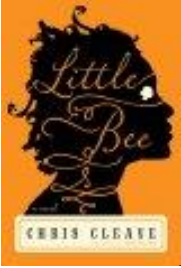
# Suggested Summer Reading

## PHS 2011



***The New Cool*** by Neal Bascomb

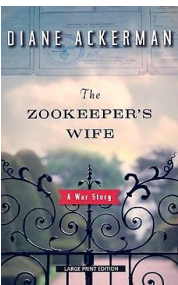
The astonishing story of a team of high school seniors and their remarkable mentor, who come together not to play a sport or exercise their athletic prowess but rather to build a machine that will battle in the most heated, sophisticated robotics contest in the world. The FIRST competition, sponsored by genius inventor Dean Kamen, is jumpstarting American innovation for the next generation and beyond. [Book Trailer](#)



***Little Bee*** by Chris Cleave

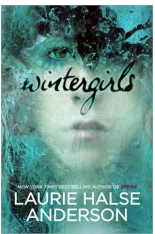
Little Bee is a 16-year old refugee from Nigeria who is always looking for a suicidal option for "when the men come". Her character provides a unique and captivating narrative; by page three you will care about her, by page nine you'll know she has a terrible story to tell you. Read on and you'll find a precarious friendship between an illegal Nigerian refugee and a recent widow from suburban London, a story told from the alternating and disparate perspectives of both women.

[Little Bee / Author Trailer](#)



***The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story*** by Diane Ackerman

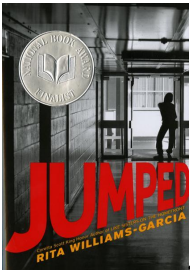
A dramatic true story based on a little-known chapter from Nazi Poland, Ackerman works from the diary of Antonina Zabinski. Not only was Hitler interested in human genetics but also the purity of animal breeds. At the Warsaw Zoo, Antonina and her director husband struggle with wartime shortages, care for the animals, their own family, and hundreds of Jews hidden at the zoo from the occupying Nazis.



***Wintergirls*** by Laurie Halse Anderson

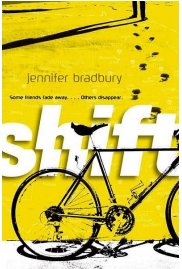
Anderson has taken us into the mind of a rape victim in *Speak* and now takes us into the mind of an anorexic. This is a haunting story about Lia's desire to be the thinnest girl in school, her struggle with anorexia, and her path to recovery.

[Wintergirls](#)



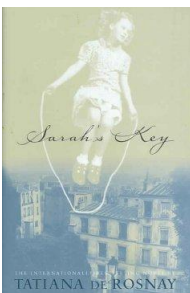
***Jumped*** by Rita Williams Garcia

The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved.



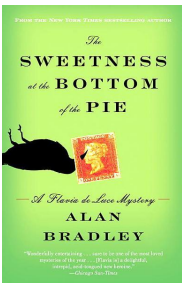
***Shift*** by Jennifer Bradbury

The summer before they begin college, Chris and Win bike from West Virginia to Seattle. After a fight, and fifty miles from their goal, Win rides off while Chris changes a flat tire and simply disappears. Win's manipulative father enlists the FBI to question Chris. [Book Trailer](#)



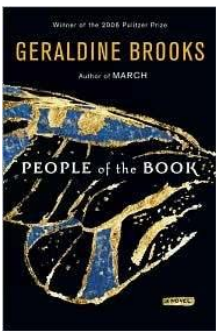
***Sarah's Key*** by Tatiana deRosnay

Pivotal to this novel is the key in ten-year-old Sarah's pocket. It opens the cupboard in which she has hidden her younger brother from the French police, who are rounding up Jews in Paris. It is July 16, 1942, and Sarah, along with her parents and hundreds more people, are brought to the stadium Vélodrome d'Hiver, where they spend several days without food or water before being sent to French camps en route to Auschwitz.



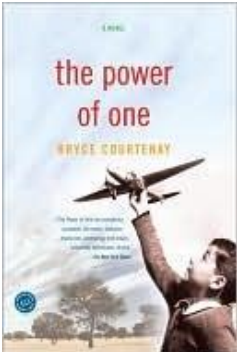
***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*** by Alan C. Bradley

A dead bird on a doorstep with a stamp stuck on its beak and a delicious trick on an older sister launch this funny and clever mystery. Flavia is isolated in the English countryside, busy practicing chemistry in her deceased mother's lab. Strange things begin to happen and Flavia is just smart enough to figure them out, but only after a host of strange characters, literary allusions, and unexpected happenings. Series



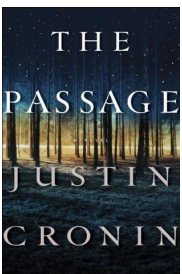
***People of the Book: A Novel*** by Geraldine Brooks

While working on an ancient manuscript, Hanna Heath, a conservationist, traces its path through the ages and discovers her own contemporary life.



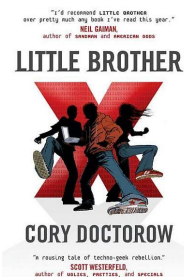
***The Power of One: A Novel*** by Bryce Courtenay

A weak, friendless English boy grows up in South Africa during World War II where he learns to box and finds the courage to champion the cause of injustice using the force of the Power of One.



***The Passage*** Justin Cronin

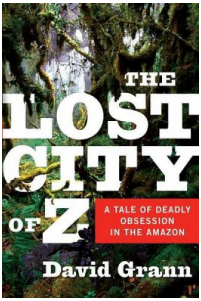
In a dystopian future, a virus found in a South American jungle has been used to create a super soldier with great strength and healing abilities. The virus causes an epidemic, and infected people become bloodthirsty monsters. Normal humans are hiding in fortresses trying to survive.



***Little Brother*** by Cory Doctorow

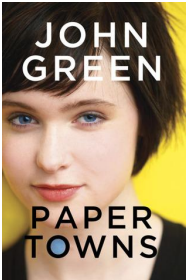
Surrounded by terrorism plots and lots of electronic gadgets, resistant hacker students are picked up after an attack. Their experience reflects today's fears and concerns regarding government control and the Department of Homeland Security.

[Little Brother Teen Trailer](#)



***The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon*** by David Grann

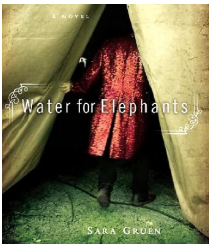
In 1925, Percy Fawcett, eccentric member of the Royal Geographical Society, sets out to find the treasure of El Dorado deep in the Amazon jungle where he mysteriously disappears. This story contains fascinating facts of Fawcett's quest and tells of the attempts of explorers through the years who have returned to the Amazon to solve the mystery of his disappearance and discover the elusive treasure.



***Paper Towns*** by John Green

Quentin idolizes his next door neighbor, Margo Roth Spiegelman. When she includes him in a wild night of revenge and then disappears, Quentin must follow the clues she has left in order to find her.

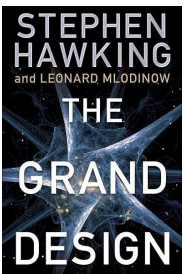
[Trailer - Author](#)



***Water For Elephants: A Novel.*** by Sara Gruen

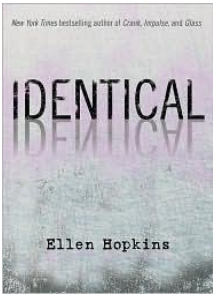
Jacob Jankowski, a penniless orphan forced to drop out of veterinary school during the Great Depression, joins a traveling circus. He forges a bond with Rosie the elephant and Marlena, the beautiful star of an equestrian act, whose husband is a handsome circus boss with a violent temper.

[Movie Trailer](#)



***The Grand Design*** by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow

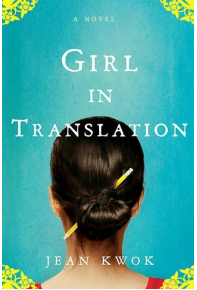
The authors present a new discussion of the laws of the universe and the nature of reality. The journey includes thoughts of the great philosophers and scientists over the centuries as well as questions such as "Are the laws of nature suspended when miracles occur?" The well-placed, clever cartoons provide balance to the weighty discussions.



***Identical*** by Ellen Hopkins

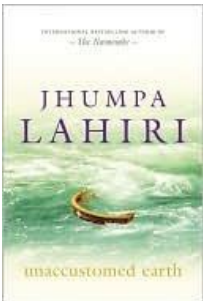
Identical twins Kaeleigh and Raeanne keep dark secrets. Their politician mother is emotionally remote, and their district court judge father is abusive. This novel in verse alternates first person descriptions of abuse, alcoholism, bulimia, drugs and mental illness. Be ready for a revelation at the end of this disturbing and insightful book.

[Trailer](#)



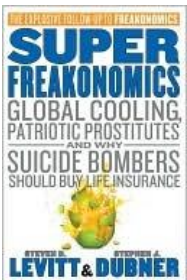
***Girl in Translation*** by Jean Kwok

When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, Kimberly quickly begins a secret double life -- exceptional schoolgirl by day, Chinatown sweatshop worker by night ó and she learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles.



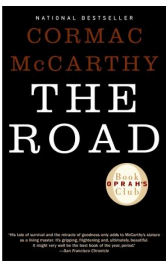
***Unaccustomed Earth*** by Jhumpa Lahiri

Lahiri's emotionally and culturally astute short stories (ideal for people with limited time for pleasure reading and a hunger for serious literature) are surprising, aesthetically marvelous, and shaped by a sure and provocative sense of inevitability. Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Interpreter of Maladies*



***Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance*** by Stephen D. Levitt

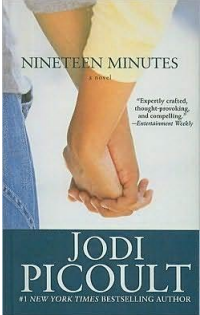
This book combines storytelling with behavioral economics, explaining many modern phenomena. It encourages readers to think about the reasons behind many of the events going on around us.



***The Road* by Cormac McCarthy**

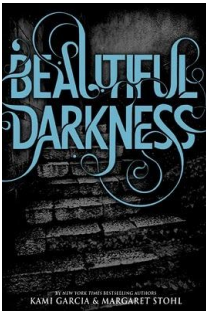
In a post-apocalyptic landscape, a man and a boy struggle toward the unknown. This dark and doomed quest offers a spiritual sense of soul and humanity. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 2007

[Trailer ~ Audio Book excerpt](#)



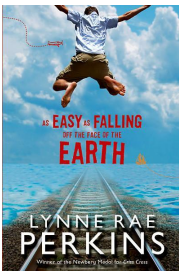
***Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult**

The residents of a small, ordinary New Hampshire town seek justice in the aftermath of a shocking school shooting carried out by a teenage boy who had been bullied since kindergarten



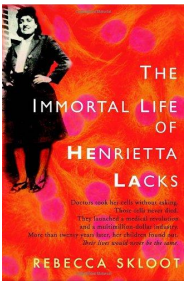
***Beautiful Darkness* by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl**

Sequel to *Beautiful Creatures*. In a small southern town with a secret world hidden in plain sight, 16-year-old Lena, who possesses supernatural powers and faces a life-altering decision, draws away from her true love, Ethan, a mortal with frightening visions. Atmospheric, romantic, funny, and creepy at the same time! [Trailer](#)



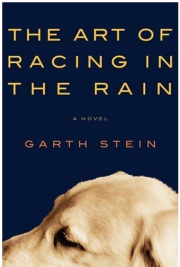
***As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth* by Lynn Rae Perkins**

It's summertime and the living should be easy....but 15-year-old Ry finds himself stranded in Montana on his way to camp. Bad luck piles up -- his cell phone is dead, his grandfather doesn't answer the phone, his parents are sailing around the Caribbean -- and he doesn't know what to think about the eccentric good samaritan who offers to help him get home. Ry encounters one comedic calamity after anotherí everything comes down to luck.



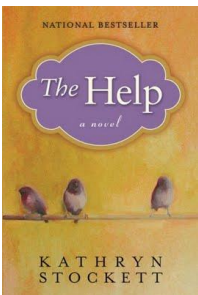
***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*** by Rebecca Skloot

"HeLa" cells, named after Henrietta Lacks, a poor African American woman born in 1920, were taken from a tumor removed during Lacks' treatment for cervical cancer. While she died from the disease, her cancer cells proved uncommonly robust, reproducing at a rapid rate. Years later, billions of these cells are used in laboratories around the world. A complex and fascinating drama -- a mixture of science and biography with profound themes of racism, ethics, and scientific illiteracy.



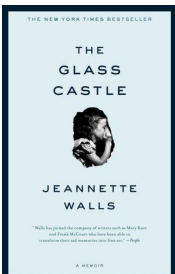
***The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel*** by Garth Stein

Enzo is an old soul who just happens to be a dog. He is devoted to Denny who is a race car driver. The reader will be captivated as Enzo tells his master's story and prepares for his next life -- as a human.



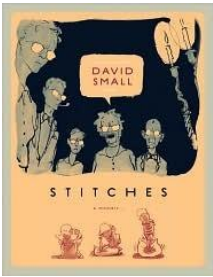
***The Help*** by Kathryn Stockett

College graduate Skeeter Phelan, a white twenty-four-year-old social misfit and an aspiring writer, decides to secretly compile the untold stories of black domestic workers in her hometown of Jackson, Mississippi. Her fellow conspirators, two black women, Aibileen and Minny, risk their lives and livelihoods in the racially charged South of the 1960s to help collect the interviews she seeks.



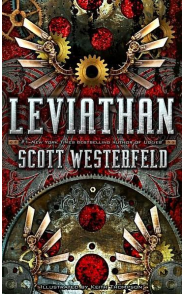
***The Glass Castle: A Memoir*** by Jeannette Walls

This successful gossip columnist, who made it against all odds, shares her astonishing memoir of a childhood lived in a seriously dysfunctional, but uniquely vibrant, family.



***Stitches: A Memoir*** by David Small

David Small grew up in the 1950s in a dysfunctional family with an angry mother and an emotionally distant father. This graphic novel by Small, a Caldecott winning illustrator, about the redemptive value of art, is filled with sadness and dark humor.



***Leviathan*** by Scott Westerfeld

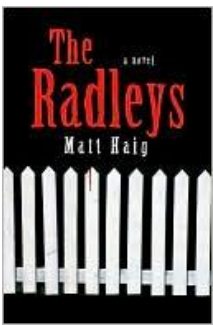
Awakened in the middle of the night, fifteen-year-old Prince Aleksandar, at first thinks he is headed out for some night training in one of the family's Stormwalker war machines. His teachers, however, have entirely different motives for getting the Prince out of the castle. Alek's parents have been assassinated, and his life is in danger. Meanwhile fifteen-year-old Deryn Sharp, who studied flight with her now dead father, is so desperate to continue her studies that she has convinced her brother to help her pass as "Dylan" and join the British Air Service. On a short trip up in a hydrogen-breathing, balloon-like Huxley, Deryn flies off course and ends up joining the crew of the whale ship Leviathan. Through battle and circumstance, the two end up becoming friends and find their missions and their lives entwined in this first volume of a new series.

[Author Book Trailer](#)



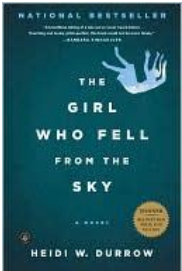
***The Last Good Place of Lily Odilon*** by Sara Beitia

Albert wakes up in his girlfriend's bed alone. Abducted? Runaway? Murder victim? Lily Odilon, a local wild child from a middle-of-nowhere town has vanished after spending the night with her boyfriend, new kid Albert Morales. Suspected in her disappearance, Albert sets out with Lily's prickly younger sister, Olivia, to discover what really happened to Lily - and to keep the promise he made to her late one night.



***The Radley's*** by Matt Haig

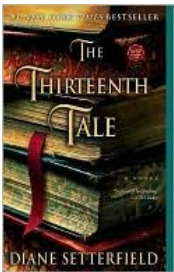
Just about everyone knows a family like the Radleys. They are typical, that is, save for one devastating exception: Peter and Helen are vampires and haveô for seventeen yearsô been abstaining by choice from a life of chasing blood in the hope that their children could live normal lives. One night, 17 year old Clara finds herself driven to commit a shockingô and disturbingly satisfyingô act of violence, and her parents are forced to explain their history of shadows and lies. A police investigation is launched that uncovers a richness of vampire history heretofore unknown to the general public. And when the malevolent and alluring Uncle Will, a practicing vampire, arrives to throw the police off Clara's trail, he winds up throwing the whole house into temptation and turmoil and unleashing a host of dark secrets that threaten the Radleys' marriage.



***The Girl Who Fell From The Sky*** by Heidi Durrow

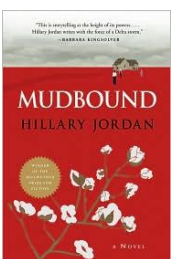
Rachel, the daughter of a danish mother and a black G.I., becomes the sole survivor of a family tragedy after a fateful morning on their Chicago rooftop. Forced to move to a new city, with her strict African American grandmother as her guardian, Rachel is thrust for the first time into a mostly black community, where her light brown skin, blue eyes, and beauty bring a constant stream of attention her way. It's there, as she grows up and tries to swallow her grief, that she comes to understand how the mystery and tragedy of her mother might be connected to her own uncertain identity.

[Author Site](#)



***The Thirteenth Tale*** by Diane Setterfield

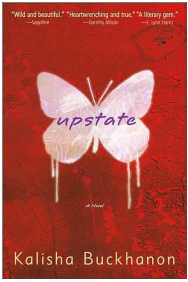
Reclusive author Vida Winter, famous for her collection of twelve enchanting stories, has spent the past six decades penning a series of alternate lives for herself. Now old and ailing, she is ready to reveal the truth about her extraordinary existence and the violent and tragic past she has kept secret for so long.



***Mudbound*** by Hilary Jordan

It is 1946, and city-bred Laura McAllan is trying to raise her children on her husband's Mississippi Delta farmô a place she finds foreign and frightening. In the midst of the family's struggles, two young men return from the war to work the land. Jamie McAllan, Laura's brother-in-law, is everything her husband is notô charming, handsome, and haunted by his memories of combat. Ronsel Jackson, eldest son of the black sharecroppers who live on the McAllan farm, has come home with the shine of a war hero. But no matter his bravery in defense of his country, he is still considered less than a

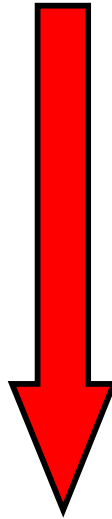
man in the Jim Crow South. It is the unlikely friendship of these brothers-in-arms that drives this powerful novel to its inexorable conclusion.



***Upstate*** by Kalisha Buckhanon

A powerful story told through letters between seventeen-year-old Antonio and his sixteen-year-old girlfriend, Natasha, set in the 1990's in New York. Antonio and Natasha's world is turned upside down, and their young love is put to the test, when Antonio finds himself in jail, accused of a shocking crime. Antonio fights to stay alive on the inside, while on the outside, Natasha faces choices that will change her life. Over the course of a decade, they share a desperate correspondence. Often, they have only each other to turn to as life takes them down separate paths and leaves them wondering if they will ever find their way back together.

**LOOK Below for MORE**



# Magazines & Newspapers



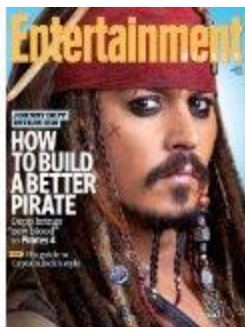
[Hot Rod](#)



[Alternative Press](#)



[J-14](#)



[Weekly](#)

[Entertainment](#)



[PC Gamer](#)



[ESPN](#)



[People](#)



[GamePro](#)



[Popular Photography](#)



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[Seventeen](#)



[Spin](#)



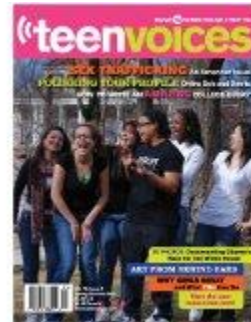
[Sports Illustrated](#)



[Teen Ink](#)



[Teen Vogue](#)



[Teen Voices](#)



[Skateboarding](#)

[Transworld](#)

# THE MIDDLETOWN PRESS

Hartford Courant.  
**courant.com**



[USA Today](#)

**Most of the following  
are on display at  
Portland Library!**

## More Suggested Summer Reading

***Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel** Taking place in a future where airships and blimps travel across the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, cabin boy Matt Cruse, on board the *Aurora*, battles pirates and prehistoric cloudcats.

***Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt** This is the story of the Lakota visionary and healer Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950) and his people during the momentous twilight years of the nineteenth century. Black Elk met John G. Neihardt (1881-1973) in 1930 on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and chose Neihardt to tell his story.

***Book Thief* by Markus Zusak** Death narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger. Liesel collects stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: Rudy, the refugee Max, the mayor's reclusive wife, and her foster parents.

***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.

***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.

***Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska* by Michael D'Orso**

Eight miles above the Arctic Circle, there's a village with a basketball tradition that lights up winter's darkness and a team of native Alaskan boys.

***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.

***Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen**

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and to share what really happened at a party that changed her life.

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

Amir and Hassan play together daily in Kabul, and when Amir wins the annual kite contest, Hassan offers to track down the opponent's kite as a prize. When he finds it, bullies trap and rape him as Amir stands by too terrified to help.

***Lone Survivor* by Marcus Luttrell**

In June of 2005, Luttrell led a four-man team of Navy SEALs into the mountains of Afghanistan on a mission to kill a Taliban leader. The team encountered two adult men and a teenage boy. About an hour later, the Taliban launched an attack that claimed the lives of all the SEALs except Luttrell.

***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.

***Midnight at the Dragon Café* by Judy Fong Bates**

Su-Jen Chou meets her elderly father for the first time when she and her mother leave China to join him in a small Ontario town. Family secrets make this novel a breathless read.

***My Jim* by Nancy Rawles**

This is the story of Sadie Watson, the wife Jim left behind when he joined Huck Finn on his adventures down the Mississippi River.

***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.

***Praying for Gil Hodges* by Thomas Oliphant**

When driving over an Indiana bridge named after Hodges, memories are set off about the Brooklyn Dodgers' World Series victory. This isn't just a book about baseball, but it's about a family that finds comfort in the sport and life in post World War II New York City.

***Riding the Bus with My Sister: A True Life Journey* by Rachel Simon**

When she received an invitation to her mentally retarded sister's annual Plan of Care review, Simon realized that this was Beth's way of attempting to bring her back into her life. Beth challenged the author to give a year of her life to riding "her" buses with her.

***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.

***Snow in August* by Pet Hamill**

In 1947 Brooklyn, Michael Devlin, an 11-year-old Irish kid who spends his days reading Captain Marvel and anticipating the arrival of Jackie Robinson, makes the acquaintance of a recently emigrated Orthodox rabbi. In exchange for lessons in English and baseball, Rabbi Hirsch teaches him Yiddish and tells him of Jewish life in old Prague and of the mysteries of the Kabbalah.

***Soldier's Heart : Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers* by Gary Paulsen**

Charley Goddard, a hard-working, sweet-tempered Minnesota farm boy, can't wait to sign up to defend the Union. The devoted son is not prepared for the inedible food, ill-fitting uniform, and the carnage on the battlefields.

***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.

***Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher**

Despite his natural ability, T.J. has steered away from organized sports until he's asked to help form a swim team.

***Where I'm Bound* by Allen B. Ballard**

Joe Duckett, whose father was African and whose mother was "part colored, part Choctaw," escaped from the Mississippi plantation where he and his family were enslaved. He joins the Union army and the man moves up the ranks of the Third United States Colored Cavalry. All the while, he sorely misses his wife and their three children and holds on to the dream of reuniting with them.

***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.

***The Boxer* by Kathleen Karr** In the tenements of Manhattan, there is mostly sweatshop labor for the city's immigrant population. Since Johnny Woods is desperate to find enough work to support his fatherless family, he investigates boxing.

***Car Trouble* by Jeanne Duprau** Recent high-school grad and computer-whiz, Duff Pringle is on a cross-country road trip, headed from home in Virginia to a California job. Alas, life on the road doesn't run as smoothly as a computer.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night* by Mark Haddon** When Christopher discovers his neighbor's dog savagely stabbed to death, he decides to use the deductive reasoning to solve the crime. Using the logic of Sherlock Holmes is not easy, and in his case, it is particularly daunting.

***Feed* by M.T. Anderson** Until he meets Violet, Titus had never questioned his world in which parents select their babies' attributes in the conceptionarium, corporations dominate the information stream, and kids learn to employ the feed more efficiently in school.

***The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom** Eddie, the head maintenance person at an amusement park, dies in a tragic accident. He learns that heaven is a place where five people explain his earthly life to him.

***Heaven* by Angela Johnson** What makes a person who she is? Is it her name, the people she lives with, or is blood the only link to identity? Marley suddenly plunges head first into these complex questions when she discovers that she's not living with her real parents.

***The Knife of Never Letting Go (Chaos Walking Series #1)* by Patrick Ness** Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, and he knows that the town is hiding something from him — something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog, whose simple, loyal voice he hears too. With hostile men from the town in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Who is she? Why wasn't she killed by the germ like all the females on New World?

***Leaving Protection* by Will Hobbs** Having grown up in Port Protection on Prince of Wales Island in southeastern Alaska, Robbie is no stranger to fishing. Now that he's old enough to work as a deckhand, he tries to pursue his dream on a commercial trawler.

***The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexie** With wrenching pain and wry humor, the talented Alexie, a Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian presents contemporary life on the Spokane Indian Reservation through 22 linked stories.

***Make Lemonade (Make Lemonade Trilogy #1)* by Virginia Euwer Wolff** LaVaughn needed a part-time job. What she got was a baby-sitting gig with Jolly, an unwed teen mother. With two kids hanging in the balance, they need to make the best out of life -- and they can only do it for themselves and each other.

***Somewhere in the Darkness* by Walter Dean Myers** Jimmy Little's convict father takes him on a search for truth, identity, and family. Whisked away from his devoted grandmother, Jimmy confronts the harsh realities of his father's life on the run.

***Summer of '49* by David Halberstram** Baseball came of age during the summer of 1949 and the pennant race was between the Yankees and Red Sox. Post World War II America looked to baseball for a sense of normalcy in its life, television began to have an impact on the sport, and Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier.

***Unwind* by Neal Shusterman** In this futuristic novel, set after the Second Civil War (Between the Pro-Life and Pro-Choice armies), three teens are trying to escape the Harvest Camp in which teens can be "unwound" and used for transplants and plastic surgery upgrades.