



2022-2023 SUMMER READING Expectations and Book Titles

WHAT:

Pottsgrove High School Summer Reading Program

WHEN:

Summer Reading is rewarding. Projects due by Monday, September 12, 2022

WHO = TYPE OF PROJECT:

ALL summer reading projects must be SUBMITTED DIGITALLY 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders: minimum 1 minute video book talk including information about book summary, reflection, symbolism, moral/theme, etc.

WHY:

Pottsgrove High School Library's main purposes are to entice students to read and to understand that reading is imperative to learning. The library media program promotes the right to intellectual freedom and the values of lifelong learning. This summer reading list was put together by educators, administrators, and the library media specialist, all of whom felt each title was unique and reflective of the students' interests. Our mission is to have students read for pleasure and to learn. It is our duty to sustain this learning, even over the summer. We believe that every child, whether continuing their education or joining the workforce or military, needs to be able to read and write effectively.

HOW:

Students can use any video creation software or application to create. They can use iPhone or other cameras, QuickTime video, Zoom, Clips, etc. to capture their video and share it with library media specialist. (details below)

There are at least nine (9) researched reasons why students should read:

1. Reading is rewarding.
2. Reading builds a mature vocabulary.
3. Reading makes you a better writer.
4. Reading is hard, and "hard" is necessary.
5. Reading makes you smarter.
6. Reading prepares you for the world of work.
7. Reading is financially rewarding.
8. Reading opens the door to college and success.
9. Reading relieves stress.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To sustain students' reading
- To maintain reading skills learned prior to summer
- To encourage students to *read closely* and take notes effectively
- To help students form thematic connections between texts

ALIGNMENT TO COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS:

- Reading Standards for Literature #2 and #10
- Reading Standards for Informational Text #4
- Writing Standards
- DiLE (Digital Learning Environment) Performance Task

To assist with choosing your books, I have listed a brief synopsis under each book title. These reviews are taken from a variety of sources including Follett Alliance, Kirkus Review, Booklist, Amazon.com, School Library Journal, and Voice of Youth Advocates. Reading level is typically expressed as the grade of education a reader needs in order to understand the information. Numerous formulas measure reading level. All readability formulas are based on the average number of syllables per word and words per sentence. Interest level is primarily used to target a specific audience or grade level.

RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING
Promoting Reading as a Culture in Pottsgrove

Danielle Small
Library Media Specialist

☀️☀️2022-23 RECOMMENDED LIST BUT FEEL FREE TO PICK YOUR OWN BOOK ☀️☀️

1. Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*. (Call #REAL F AND and ebook)
2. Avasthi, Swati. *Split* (Call #REAL F AVA)
3. Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker*. (Call #SERIES F BAC)
4. Backderf, Derf. *My Friend Dahmer: A Graphic Novel*. (Call #364.152 BAC)
5. Bognanni, Peter. *The House of Tomorrow*. (Call #F BOG and ebook)
6. Boo, Katherine. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*. (Call # 305.5 and ebook)
7. Boylan, Jennifer Finney *I'm Looking Through You: Growing up Haunted*. (Call #921 BOY)
8. Brooks, David. *The Road to Character*. (Call # 170.44 BRO)
9. Brown, Mike. *How I Killed Pluto and Why it Had it Coming*. (Call #523.49 BRO)
10. Card, Orson Scott. *Speaker for the Dead*. (SCIENCE FICTION F CAR)
11. Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. (Call #F CHB)
12. Childs, Tera Lynn. *Oh, My, Gods* (Call #SERIES F CHI)
13. Christie, Agatha. *Murder on the Orient Express* (MYSTERY F CHR)
14. Christopher, Lucy. *Stolen*. (Call #ADVENTURE F CHR)
15. Cline, Ernest. *Ready Player One*. (Call # FANTASY F CLI and ebook)
16. Dawkins, Richard. *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution*. (Call #576.8 DAW)
17. Demas, Corinne. *Everything I Was*. (Call #F DEM and ebook)
18. Doerr, Anthony. *All the Light We Cannot See*. (Call # HISTORICAL FICTION F DOE)
19. Dogar, Sharon. *Annexed*. (Call #HISTORICAL FICTION F DOG and ebook)
20. Donoghue, Emma. *Room*. (Call #F DON)
21. Faulkner, William. *The Sound and the Fury*. (Call #F FAU and ebook)
22. Gladwell, Malcolm. *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make A Big Difference*. (Call #302 TI)
23. Green, John *Looking for Alaska*. (Call #F GRE and ebook)
24. Gruen, Sara. *Water for Elephants*. (Call #HISTORICAL FICTION F GRU)
25. Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. (Call #F HAD)
26. Hannah, Kristen. *Winter Garden*. (Call #F HAN)
27. Hosseini, Khaled. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. (Call #F HOS, audio and ebook)
28. Howe, Katherine. *The Physick Book of Deliverance: a novel*. (Call #HISTORICAL FICTION F HOW and ebook)
29. Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*. (Call #HISTORICAL FICTION F KID and ebook)
30. King, Stephen. *Everything's Eventual: 14 Dark Tales*. (Call #SC KING)
31. Krakauer, John. *Into the Wild* (Call #917.9804 KR)
32. Kwok, Jean. *Girl in Translation* (Call #F KWO)
33. Link, Kelly and Gavin J. Grant. *Steampunk! An Anthology of Fantastically Rich and Strange Stories*. (#SC STE/ebook)
34. Luttrell, Marcus. *Lone Survivor: Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing...Lost Heroes...Seal Team 10* (#958.104 LUT)
35. Manchester, William *A World Lit Only By Fire: the Medieval Minds and the Renaissance: (#940.2/ebook)*
36. Marx, Jeffrey *Season of Life: A Football Star, a Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood* (Call# 796.332 MA)
37. McBride, James. *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother* (Call # 974.7 COL and ebook)
38. McCullough, David. *1776* (Call #973.3 MCC)
39. McManus, Karen M. *One of Us is Lying*. (MYSTERY F MCM)
40. Meloy, Maile. *The Apothecary*. (Call #ADVENTURE F MEL)
41. Monk, Sue. *The Invention of Wings*. (HISTORICAL F KID)
42. Moore, Alan. *Watchmen*. (Call #741.5 MOO)
43. Na, An. *A Step from Heaven* (REAL F NA)
44. O'Reilly, Bill and Martin Dugard *Killing Lincoln: Assassination That Changed America Forever* (973.7 KIL)
45. Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life As We Knew It*. (F PFE)
46. Revoyr, Nina. *Wingshooters*. (Call #F REV)
47. Rowell, Rainbow. *Fangirl*. (Call #F ROW and 12 month access ebook)
48. Saenz, Benjamin Alire. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*. (Call # F SAE/12 month access ebook)
49. Sheff, David. *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through his Son's Addiction*. (PSYCHO F SHE)
50. Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give* (Call # REAL F THO)
51. Weir, Andy. *The Martian: a novel* (F WEI)
52. Westover, Tara. *Educated: A Memoir* (921 WES)
53. Yang, Kao Kalia. *The Latecomer: a Hmong Family Memoir* (Call # 959.704 and ebook)
54. Yoon, Nicola. *The Sun is Also a Star*. (Call # F YOO)
55. ***Student Choice (must email DSMALL@pgsd.org for approval **BEFORE** doing project. This email is to open up a line of communication with the library media specialist and start a conversation. Also, I love hearing from parents; however, I would like my students to email me using their PG email to request the book title and reason why they are choosing said book. (Please use [proper etiquette](#) when emailing.)

9-12th GRADE SUMMER READING PROJECT

TO RECEIVE POINTS YOU MUST:

- ✓ Read one (1) book from the Pottsgrove Summer Reading Book List (or choose your own).
- ✓ Design a 1-minute book talk and share w library media specialist. This MUST be a video of you speaking in front of the camera. The camera must be focused on you in the center of the screen dressed appropriately. I will not grade videos that are just audio. This is a video of you talking about a book, your feelings...your ideas. * What is not appropriate? You would think I wouldn't have to say this, but you must be wearing a shirt in your video, and should not be wearing a hat or hood.

BOOK TALK VIDEO MUST INCLUDE:

- Introduce yourself. You must state your name and grade.
- Give the title and author of the book you are sharing.
- When discussing book:
Discuss and explain a quick summary of the book, along with the setting.
What is your reflection and opinion of the book? Do you recommend this book?
Dig deeper than summary! Is there symbolism in the book? Literary devices that strengthen the book?
What is the moral/theme? I care about what you think...not if you can read a summary and regurgitate it!

You can find examples of such videos on the @PottsgroveHSLib Instagram and Twitter pages.

Rubric:

- This project will be graded using the rubric attached.
- You may earn a total of 20 points for this project
- **THIS WILL BE YOUR FIRST DEMONSTRATING KNOWLEDGE (DK) GRADE IN ENGLISH CLASS.**

Due Date & Submission:

- Students MUST SHARE their videos to DSMALL@pgsd.org using their Google Drive or Schoology before Monday, September 12, 2022 11:59 pm. DO NOT EMAIL IT. Utilize Google Drive!

SUMMER READING INFORMATION:

- * Group book discussions will be offered, but are NOT mandatory. Students can sign up at their leisure in the library.
- * Books found within the school curriculum can NOT be used for summer reading. (For instance, Of Mice and Men is read in 9th grade English class, you can NOT choose it for summer reading.
- * Upperclassmen - you can NOT use the same title you read previously; you must read a new title.
- * Summer Reading titles may be found at the Pottsgrove High School Library and the Pottstown Public Library. You can review our [online catalog](#).

Exceptions:

- 9th graders taking Honors will be reading [The Alchemist](#). (contact your teacher for more information).
- 10th graders taking Honors and AP English ONLY are EXEMPT from this assignment.
- Honors 10 will be reading *Catcher in the Rye* and *The House on Mango Street*. (contact your teacher for more information)
- 11th graders taking AP English ONLY are EXEMPT from this assignment. (contact your teacher for more information)
- AP READING: *The Red Badge of Courage*, *The Jungle*, *Cat's Cradle*
- 12th graders taking AP English Literature ONLY are EXEMPT from this assignment.
- AP ENGLISH READING: McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, Huxley's *Brave New World*, Golding's *Lord of the Flies*.
- Students taking English courses at Montgomery County Community College are exempt.

SUMMER READING PROJECT RUBRIC FOR BOOK TALK VIDEO

STUDENT NAME: _____ **Title Chosen:** _____

	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
Introduction of self with author and title information (volume)	Student can effectively communicate to the camera and introduce themselves, book title and author. Volume of audio is loud enough to be heard with no outstanding distractions.	Student communicates to the camera and introduces self, the book title and author. Volume of audio is loud enough to be heard with no outstanding distractions.	Student introduce themselves, book title and author. Volume of audio is not loud enough to be heard.	Student does not introduce self, but the book title and author is present. Volume of audio is not loud enough to be heard with no outstanding distractions..	Student does not introduce self, book title or author. Volume of audio is unclear with major distractions.
Book Information	Video includes remarkable effort with all required elements: setting, characters, summary of plot...	Video includes required elements: setting, characters, summary of plot...	Video includes most of the required elements: setting, characters, summary of plot...	Video is missing most of the required elements: setting, characters, summary of plot....	Video does not include any of the required elements: setting, characters, summary of plot.
Personal Interest What is your opinion? What is your connection to the book? What have you learned?	States ideas, opinions of title succinctly.	States ideas, opinions of title effectively.	States ideas, opinions of title.	States ideas, opinions of title weakly or ineffectively.	Does not state ideas, opinions of title.
Hook / Recommendation	Video is extremely informative and the ending leaves audience wanting to read the book (or not).	Video is informational and the ending leaves the audience wanting to read the book (or not).	Video is not informational, but a recommendation is given.	Video is not informational, and recommendation is given.	Video ends abruptly with no closing or recommendation.

2022-2023 SUMMER READING BOOK LIST BY GENRE

ACTION & ADVENTURE:

ADVENTURE = **Bacigalupi, Paolo**. *Ship Breaker*.

SCI-FI ACTION = **Card, Orson Scott**. *Speaker for the Dead*.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL / BIOGRAPHY:

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE = **Runyan, Brent**. *The Burn Journals*.

HOMESCHOOLING: **Westover, Tara**. *Educated: A Memoir* (921 WES)

HMONG AMERICANS / VIETNAM WAR / REFUGEES THAILAND = **Yang, Kao Kalia** *The Latehomecomer: a Hmong Family Memoir*.

NAVY SEALS = **Luttrell, Marcus**. *Lone Survivor: Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing*.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN = **Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard** *Killing Lincoln* (973.7 KIL)

WILDERNESS = **Krakauer, John**. *Into the Wild*.

FANTASY:

FANTASY = **Link, Kelly and Gavin J. Grant, eds.** *Steampunk! Anthology of ... Strange Stories*.

HISTORICAL/FANTASY = **Meloy, Maile**. *The Apothecary*.

VIRTUAL REALITY / PUZZLES / SCI-FI = **Cline, Ernest**. *Ready Player One*.

FICTION:

ABDUCTION = **Donoghue, Emma**. *Room*.

ABDUCTION = **Christopher, Lucy**. *Stolen*.

ABUSE / VIOLENCE = **Avasthi, Swati**. *Split*

ADVENTURE = **Bacigalupi, Paolo**. *Ship Breaker*.

AFGHAN SOCIETY = **Hosseini, Khaled**. *A Thousand Splendid Sons*.

ASTRONAUT = **Weir, Andy**. *The Martian: A Novel*.

BOYS GROWING UP = **Chbosky, Stephen**. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.

COMING OF AGE = **Bognanni, Peter**. *The House of Tomorrow*.

COMING OF AGE = **Kidd, Sue Monk**. *The Secret Life of Bees*.

DEATH = **Green, John**. *Looking for Alaska*.

EATING DISORDER = **Anderson, Laurie Halse**. *Wintergirls*.

FAMILY DRAMA = **Demas, Corinne**. *Everything I Was*.

GROWING UP = **Bognanni, Peter**. *The House of Tomorrow*.

IMMIGRANTS = **Kwok, Jean**. *Girl in Translation*

LOVE STORY / BOOKS = **Rowell, Rainbow**. *Fangirl*

MYSTERY = **Christie, Agatha**. *Murder on the Orient Express*.

REALISTIC FICTION / ASIAN AMERICAN = **An, Na**. *A Step From Heaven*.

A TEARJERKER = **Hannah, Kristen**. *Winter Garden*

TRACK and RUNNING = **Childs, Tera Lynn**. *Oh, My, Gods*

WITCHCRAFT / SALEM / HISTORICAL FICTION = **Howe, Katherine**. *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane: A Novel*.

GRAPHIC NOVEL:

KILLER = **Backderf, Derf**. *My Friend Dahmer*.

SUPERHERO = **Moore, Alan** *Watchmen*.

HISTORICAL FICTION:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN - O'Reilly, Bill. *Killing Lincoln*.

COMING OF AGE = **Kidd, Sue Monk**. *The Secret Life of Bees*.

HOLOCAUST = **Dogar, Sharon**. *Annexed*

CIRCUS = **Gruen, Sara**. *Water for Elephants*.

HISTORICAL/FANTASY = **Meloy, Maile**. *The Apothecary*.

RACE RELATIONS = **Revoyr, Nina**. *Wingshooters*.

WITCHCRAFT / SALEM / HISTORICAL FICTION = **Howe, Katherine**. *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane: A Novel*.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS = **Monk, Sue**. *The Invention of Wings*.

WORLD WAR II = **Doerr, Anthony**. *All the Light We Cannot See*.

HORROR/GHOSTS:

SHORT STORY = **King, Stephen**. *Everything's Eventual: 14 Dark Tales*.

MATH AND PHILOSOPHY:

PHILOSOPHY / PERSONALITY / PSYCHOLOGY = **Brooks, David**. *The Road to Character*.

MYSTERY

HOMICIDE = **McManus, Karen**. *One of Us is Lying*.

NON-FICTION:

BUSINESS = **Gladwell, Malcolm**. *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make A Big Difference*.

GHOSTS = **Boylan, Jennifer Finney** *I'm Looking Through You: Growing up Haunted*

HONG KONG AMERICANS / VIETNAM WAR / REFUGEES THAILAND = **Yang, Kao Kalia** *The Latecomer: a Hmong Family Memoir*

INDIA & SOUTH ASIA / POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS = **Boo, Katherine**. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*.

EVOLUTION = **Dawkins, Richard**. *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution*

KILLER = **Backderf, Derf**. *My Friend Dahmer*.

MENTALLY HANDICAPPED = **Faulkner, William** *The Sound and the Fury*.

MIDDLE AGES (500-1500 A.D) / RENAISSANCE = **Manchester, William** *A World Lit Only By Fire: the Medieval Minds and the Renaissance: Portrait of an age*

NAVY SEALS = **Luttrell, Marcus**. *Lone Survivor: Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing...*

PHILOSOPHY / PERSONALITY / PSYCHOLOGY = **Brooks, David**. *The Road to Character*.

SOLAR SYSTEM = **Brown, Mike**. *How I Killed Pluto and Why it Had it Coming*.

WAR = **McCullough, David** *1776*.

WILDERNESS = **Krakauer, John**. *Into the Wild*.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION:

MENTALLY HANDICAPPED = **Faulkner, William** *The Sound and the Fury*.

DRUG ADDICTION = **Sheff, David**. *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through his Son's Addiction*.

REALISTIC FICTION:

ABUSE / VIOLENCE = **Avasthi, Swati.** *Split*

AUTISM = **Haddon, Mark.** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.*

BOYS GROWING UP = **Chbosky, Stephen.** *The Perks of Being a Wallflower.*

ABDUCTION = **Christopher, Lucy.** *Stolen.*

ABDUCTION = **Donoghue, Emma.** *Room.*

EATING DISORDER = **Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Wintergirls.*

IDENTITY / GLBTQ = **Saenz, Benjamin Alire.** *Aristotle and Dante Discover the secrets of the Universe.*

IMMIGRANTS = **Kwok, Jean.** *Girl in Translation*

GROWING UP = **Bognanni, Peter.** *The House of Tomorrow.*

RACISM = **Thomas, Angie.** *The Hate U Give.*

ROMANCE:

LOVE STORY / BOOKS = **Rowell, Rainbow.** *Fangirl.*

TRACK and RUNNING = **Childs, Tera Lynn.** *Oh. My. Gods*

ABDUCTION = **Christopher, Lucy.** *Stolen.*

SCIENCE / SCI-FI:

ADVENTURE = **Bacigalupi, Paolo.** *Ship Breaker.*

ASTRONAUT = **Weir, Andy.** *The Martian: a novel.*

EVOLUTION = **Dawkins, Richard.** *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution.*

LIFE ON PLANETS = **Card, Orson Scott.** *Speaker for the Dead.*

NATURAL DISASTERS = **Pfeffer, Susan Beth.** *Life As We Knew It.*

SOLAR SYSTEM = **Brown, Mike.** *How I Killed Pluto and Why it Had it Coming.*

VIRTUAL REALITY / PUZZLES / SCI-FI = **Cline, Ernest.** *Ready Player One.*

SCI-FI ACTION = **Card, Orson Scott.** *Speaker for the Dead.*

STEAMPUNK = **Link, Kelly and Gavin J. Grant, eds.** *Steampunk! An Anthology of Fantastically Rich and Strange Stories.*

SHORT STORY:

King, Stephen. *Everything's Eventual: 14 Dark Tales.*

Link, Kelly and Gavin J. Grant, eds. *Steampunk! An Anthology of Fantastically Rich and Strange Stories.*

SPORTS:

FOOTBALL = **Marx, Jeffrey** *Season of Life: A Football Star, a Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood* (4 on order)

TRACK and RUNNING = **Childs, Tera Lynn.** *Oh. My. Gods*

2022-2023 SUMMER READING BOOK LIST: SUMMARIES

1. **Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Wintergirls*. (Call #REAL F AND and ebook)
Starred Review. The intensity of emotion and vivid language here are more reminiscent of Anderson's *Speak* (Farrar, 1999) than any of her other works. Lia and Cassie had been best friends since elementary school, and each developed her own style of eating disorder that leads to disaster. Now 18, they are no longer friends. Despite their estrangement, Cassie calls Lia 33 times on the night of her death, and Lia never answers. As events play out, Lia's guilt, her need to be thin, and her fight for acceptance unravel in an almost poetic stream of consciousness in this startlingly crisp and pitch-perfect first-person narrative. The text is rich with words still legible but crossed out, the judicious use of italics, and tiny font-size refrains reflecting her distorted internal logic. All of the usual answers of specialized treatment centers, therapy, and monitoring of weight and food fail to prevail while Lia's cleverness holds sway. What happens to her in the end is much less the point than traveling with her on her agonizing journey of inexplicable pain and her attempt to make some sense of her life.
EATING DISORDERS (Anorexia) / DEATH / 1st PERSON POINT OF VIEW / REALISTIC FICTION
2. **Avasthi, Swati.** *Split*. (Call #REAL F AVA)
Gr. 9-12. *Split* is a taut, psychological thriller for young adults about two brothers abused at the hands of their father who is a respected judge. Older brother Christian escapes to a new life with the help of a neighborhood family and leaves a much younger Jace behind to bear the beatings meant for his mother. But after years of enduring psychological torment and physical abuse, during which Jace lives a lie, the final straw is reached. Jace discovers his father has beaten his mother yet again and in his frenzied anger, Jace punches his father knowing he will be kicked out. With Christian's address given to him by his mother, Jace flees to a brother he has not seen or heard from in years. *Split* is such a great title on so many levels about the brothers' past and present and how they feel -split- not whole. Teens will be lining up for this drama filled book about the all too real issue of abuse in families. - J Neary – Abington Senior High
ABUSE / FICTION / FAMILY VIOLENCE / REALISTIC FICTION
3. **Bacigalupi, Paolo.** *Ship Breaker*. (Call #SERIES F BAC)
Gr. 9-12. Wow, what a compelling terrific read! Nailer Lopez is a young teen who toils daily on the light crew stripping wires and fittings from the bowels of abandoned cargo and oil tankers in a post-apocalyptic America. He lives on the American Gulf Coast beach with his very frightening father; an alcoholic, addicted to glass sliders who kills and tortures anyone who gets in his way. The other members of Nailer's light crew (his REAL family) know their lives will be short, filled with hard work, and constant hunger. But there is another world beyond the hydro-powered, sleek, beautiful clipper ships traveling in the seas beyond. After a terrible storm kills many, Nailer finds a boat stranded with a swank (rich) girl whom he initially believes is dead. When Nailer decides to help her, he turns his back on his family, and begins an odyssey that is scary and adventurous. He is aided by Tool the half man (genetically engineered half dog) determined to return Lucky Girl to her father and the swank world. Teen readers will really enjoy the danger that lurks everywhere, Nailer's belief in fate and luck as determining one's future and the meaning of family in this raw, uncertain future world. - BJ Neary – Abington Senior High School
SCIENCE- FICTION / ADVENTURE / RECYCLING WASTE / DYSTOPIAN
4. **Backderf, Derf.** *My Friend Dahmer: A Graphic Novel* (Call #364.152 BAC)
You only think you know this story. In 1991, Jeffrey Dahmer—the most notorious serial killer since Jack the Ripper—seared himself into the American consciousness. To the public, Dahmer was a monster who committed unthinkable atrocities. To Derf Backderf, "Jeff" was a much more complex figure: a high school friend with whom he had shared classrooms, hallways, and car rides. In *My Friend Dahmer*, a haunting and original graphic novel, writer-artist Backderf creates a surprisingly sympathetic portrait of a disturbed young man struggling against the morbid urges emanating from the deep recesses of his psyche—a shy kid, a teenage alcoholic, and a goofball who never quite fit in with his classmates. With

profound insight, what emerges is a Jeffrey Dahmer that few ever really knew, and one readers will never forget. (Alex Award 2013, YALSA Popular PB's for YA Narrative Non-Fiction, Actual Events, YALSA Top Top 10 Paperbacks for Young Adults 2015)

GRAPHIC NOVEL / SERIAL KILLER / NON-FICTION

5. **Bognanni, Peter.** *The House of Tomorrow.* (Call #F BOG and ebook)

Gr. 9-12. Sebastian is a quirky, socially awkward teenager who resides in a geodesic dome with his eccentric grandmother, Nana. Jared is a punk-rock-loving, sardonic sixteen-year-old who recently had a heart transplant and causes his mother constant anxiety. These two misfits connect when Jared and his mother take a tour of the dome and Nana promptly suffers from a stroke. From there, Sebastian is brought into the dysfunctional home of Jared, his overly anxious mother, and his mysteriously seductive sister. Among many things, Sebastian is introduced to grilled cheese & grape soda, young lust and the independent philosophy of punk rock. Though there is strong language, the offbeat humor, intriguing characters and tender message of this novel make it a true delight and very worthy of the Alex Award. - Mary Schwander – New

Hope-Solebury High School

COMING-OF-AGE FICTION / YOUNG MEN / GRANDMOTHERS / BILDUNGSROMAN / LONELINESS

6. **Boo, Katherine** *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity.* (Call # 305.5 and ebook)

From the Publisher: In this brilliant, breathtaking book by Pulitzer Prize winner Katherine Boo, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. As India starts to prosper, the residents of Annawadi are electric with hope. Abdul, an enterprising teenager, sees "a fortune beyond counting" in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Meanwhile Asha, a woman of formidable ambition, has identified a shadier route to the middle class. With a little luck, her beautiful daughter, Annawadi's "most-everything girl," might become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest children, like the young thief Kalu, feel themselves inching closer to their dreams. But then Abdul is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power, and economic envy turn brutal. With intelligence, humor, and deep insight into what connects people to one another in an era of tumultuous change, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, based on years of uncompromising reporting, carries the reader headlong into one of the twenty-first century's hidden worlds--and into the hearts of families impossible to forget. Winner of the National Book Award | The PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award | The Los Angeles Times Book Prize | The American Academy of Arts and Letters Award | The New York Public Library's Helen Bernstein Book Award. NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times * The Washington Post * O: The Oprah Magazine * USA Today * New York * The Miami Herald * San Francisco Chronicle * Newsday NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New Yorker * People * Entertainment Weekly * The Wall Street Journal * The Boston Globe * The Economist * Financial Times * Newsweek/The Daily Beast * Foreign Policy * The Seattle Times * The Nation * St. Louis Post-Dispatch * The Denver Post * Minneapolis Star Tribune * Salon * The Plain Dealer * The Week * Kansas City Star * Slate * Time Out New York * Publishers Weekly

NON-FICTION / INDIA & SOUTH ASIA / POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS / URBAN POVERTY

7. **Boylan, Jennifer Finney** *I'm Looking Through You: Growing up Haunted* (Call #921 BOY)

A memoir in which the author recalls her childhood growing up in a reportedly haunted house in Pennsylvania, discusses how the situation reflected her own feelings of alienation, and tells about coming back to the house with a team of local ghostbusters as an adult, years after the surgery that changed her from male to female. About growing up in a haunted house...and making peace with the ghosts that dwell in our hearts.

NON-FICTION / GHOSTS / AUTOBIOGRAPHY / NON-FICTION

8. **Brooks, David.** *The Road to Character.*

From Follett: Includes bibliographical references (pages 275-284) and index. "Looks at how our culture has lost sight of the value of humility - defined as the opposite of self-preoccupation - and why only an engaged inner life can yield true meaning and fulfillment."

From the Publisher: *#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER * In a timely graduation gift, David Brooks challenges us to rebalance the scales between the focus on external success--"resume virtues"--and our core principles.*

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE ECONOMIST With the wisdom, humor, curiosity, and sharp insights that have brought millions of readers to his New York Times column and his previous bestsellers, David Brooks has consistently illuminated our daily lives in surprising and original ways. In *The Social Animal*, he explored the neuroscience of human connection and how we can flourish together. Now, in *The Road to Character*, he focuses on the deeper values that should inform our lives.

Looking at some of the world's greatest thinkers and inspiring leaders, Brooks explores how, through internal struggle and a sense of their own limitations, they have built a strong inner character. Labor activist Frances Perkins understood the need to suppress parts of herself so that she could be an instrument in a larger cause. Dwight Eisenhower organized his life not around impulsive self-expression but considered self-restraint. Dorothy Day, a devout Catholic convert and champion of the poor, learned as a young woman the vocabulary of simplicity and surrender. Civil rights pioneers A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin learned reticence and the logic of self-discipline, the need to distrust oneself even while waging a noble crusade.

Blending psychology, politics, spirituality, and confessionals, *The Road to Character* provides an opportunity for us to rethink our priorities, and strive to build rich inner lives marked by humility and moral depth.

PHILOSOPHY / PERSONALITY / PSYCHOLOGY

9. **Brown, Mike.** *How I Killed Pluto and Why it Had it Coming.* (Call #523.49 BRO)

Booklist: Solar system astronomer Brown charted a career course to discover Kuiper Belt Objects (KBOs), which in the 1990s were only theorized to exist beyond Pluto. Ultimately discovering several such frigid spheres, Brown embeds the science of his search strategies into the project's personal importance in securing his academic future at Cal Tech and, incidentally, in meeting his future wife. In wry, self-deprecating tones, he writes of science, vocation, romance, and fatherhood, with science as the selling point for readers because Brown's success in discovering KBOs set the stage for Pluto's recent reclassification as a mere KBO. Accounts of finding specific KBOs culminate in an acrimonious engagement Brown had with a Spanish astronomer, whom Brown suspected of stealing data in order to claim priority in discovering one KBO. Scandal! Touching on how the media refract such scientific conflicts to the public, Brown concludes with the professional astronomers' vote to expel Pluto from the club of planets, a decision that has already inspired several other titles (e.g., Barrie Jones' *Pluto*, 2010).

NON-FICTION / SCIENCE / SOLAR SYSTEM

10. **Card, Orson Scott.** *Speaker for the Dead.* (SCIENCE FICTION F CAR)

Kirkus Review: A superficial, intermittently absorbing alien-contact puzzler--and long-range sequel to Card's child-soldier yam *Ender's Game* (1984). Three thousand years after "Ender" Wiggin destroyed the alien "buggers," another intelligent alien species turns up: the "piggies" of Lusitania--a planet already colonized by various Portuguese-speaking religious sects. So, to prevent the destruction of the technologically primitive but socially complex piggies, Starways Congress declares them off-limits to all but a few specialists: biologist Pipe, his son Libo, and Libo's emotionally crippled girlfriend Novinha. The scientists circumspectly investigate the baffling Lusitanian ecology and the piggies' place in it, making little progress--until Pipo has a brain. storm one night and rushes out into the rain to confront the piggies. . .who promptly murder him as part of a weird ritual. Novinha, terrified, destroys her records and retreats into a

shell. Later, Libo finds out what Pipe discovered--and the piggies deal with him in the same way. Years pass before Novinha's children summon a Speaker for the Dead--a sort of wandering oral confessor-biographer--to uncover the truth about Pipe and Libo and why the piggies killed them. The Speaker turns out to be Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, still alive thanks to the time-dilation effects of light-speed travel; he soon sorts out the tangled family relationships and learns to communicate with the piggies (they turn out to be more intelligent than humans!). The alien biology here is particularly well worked-out--in a narrative unfortunately overburdened with adolescent agonizing and the highly developed but irrelevant religious-linguistic backdrop. Card's YA appeal is undeniable, but thoughtful readers will be frustrated by his inability to explore the wider implications of his own ideas.

SCIENCE FICTION / ACTION & ADVENTURE / LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS

11. Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. (Call #F CHB)

A trite coming-of-age novel that could easily appeal to a YA readership, filmmaker Chbosky's debut broadcasts its intentions with the publisher's announcement that ads will run on MTV. Charlie, the wallflower of the title, goes through a veritable bath of bathos in his 10th grade year, 1991. The novel is formatted as a series of letters to an unnamed "friend," the first of which reveals the suicide of Charlie's pal Michael. Charlie's response--valid enough--is to cry. The crying soon gets out of hand, though--in subsequent letters, his father, his aunt, his sister and his sister's boyfriend all become lachrymose. Charlie has the usual dire adolescent problems--sex, drugs, the thuggish football team--and they perplex him in the usual teen TV ways. [...] Into these standard teenage issues Chbosky infuses a droning insistence on Charlie's super sensitive disposition. Charlie's English teacher and others have a disconcerting tendency to rhapsodize over Charlie's giftedness, which seems to consist of Charlie's unquestioning assimilation of the teacher's taste in books. In the end we learn the root of Charlie's psychological problems, and we confront, with him, the coming rigors of 11th grade, ever hopeful that he'll find a suitable girlfriend and increase his vocabulary.

TEENAGERS / FICTION / LETTER / BILDUNGSROMAN

12. Childs, Tera Lynn. *Oh, My, Gods*. (Call #F CHI)

Gr. 8-12. Phoebe is eager to finish her senior year and go to USC on scholarship for her fantastic running abilities. Things take a drastic change for the worse when her mother announces that she is remarrying and they are moving to a Greek island. Besides having to get used to a new stepfather, a new place, and a new track team, Phoebe has to deal with arrogant students at her new school, who are almost all descendants of the ancient Greek gods, and who hate her for not being "one of them." Still, Phoebe perseveres with her running, finds a few true friends, a hot boyfriend, and ultimately, she finds out some surprising things about herself as she overcomes the obstacles that are thrown in her path. A fun read and a good romance. - Nancy Chrismer - Juniata

ROMANCE FICTION / MYTHOLOGY / STEPFAMILIES / RUNNING / GREECE

13. Christie, Agatha. *Murder on the Orient Express* (Call # MYSTERY F CHR)

Belgian detective Hercule Poirot investigates the curious murder of millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett in a locked compartment aboard the Orient Express while the train is stranded by a snowdrift. He must find the murderer before he decides to strike again.

DETECTIVE AND MYSTERY FICTION / HOMICIDE

14. Christopher, Lucy. *Stolen*. (Call #F CHR)

Gr. 9+. While traveling with her parents on a vacation to Vietnam, 16-year-old Gemma is drugged and kidnapped at a layover at the Bangkok airport. She awakens from her drugged fuzziness in a house in the remote Australian outback and discovers she is the captive of 25-year-old Ty. As the full story unravels, Gemma learns that Ty has been stalking her in London for years, working on a plan to abduct and keep her. After a nearly tragic failed attempt, Gemma soon comes to recognize that escape is impossible. Ty, a complicated and handsome character, nearly wins us (and Gemma) over with his sad childhood, his gentle treatment of his captive, his practical capabilities, his art, and his appreciation of the landscape and the creatures that populate the outback. Christopher plays with the story of Eden and uses the capture and taming of a female camel to echo Gemma's own captivity. In the end, we discover that the book is composed in the

form of a letter to Ty, now facing trial for his crimes. The letter format allows us to observe as Gemma grapples with the complicated nature of good and bad, as she deconstructs what she experienced. This complex, eerie, and lyrical debut novel will immediately grab your girl readers, especially those for whom bad boys have appeal. - Joyce Valenza - Springfield Township High School

REALISTIC / ROMANCE / FICTION / KIDNAPPING / ADVENTURE

15. **Cline, Ernest.** *Ready Player One.* (Call #F CLI and ebook)

At once wildly original and stuffed with irresistible nostalgia, READY PLAYER ONE is a spectacularly genre-busting, ambitious, and charming debut--part quest novel, part love story, and part virtual space opera set in a universe where spell-slinging mages battle giant Japanese robots, entire planets are inspired by *Blade Runner*, and flying DeLoreans achieve light speed.

It's the year 2044, and the real world is an ugly place.

Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes his grim surroundings by spending his waking hours jacked into the OASIS, a sprawling virtual utopia that lets you be anything you want to be, a place where you can live and play and fall in love on any of ten thousand planets.

And like most of humanity, Wade dreams of being the one to discover the ultimate lottery ticket that lies concealed within this virtual world. For somewhere inside this giant networked playground, OASIS creator James Halliday has hidden a series of fiendish puzzles that will yield massive fortune--and remarkable power--to whoever can unlock them.

For years, millions have struggled fruitlessly to attain this prize, knowing only that Halliday's riddles are based in the pop culture he loved--that of the late twentieth century. And for years, millions have found in this quest another means of escape, retreating into happy, obsessive study of Halliday's icons. Like many of his contemporaries, Wade is as comfortable debating the finer points of John Hughes's oeuvre, playing Pac-Man, or reciting Devo lyrics as he is scrounging power to run his OASIS rig.

And then Wade stumbles upon the first puzzle.

Suddenly the whole world is watching, and thousands of competitors join the hunt--among them certain powerful players who are willing to commit very real murder to beat Wade to this prize. Now the only way for Wade to survive and preserve everything he knows is to *win*. But to do so, he may have to leave behind his oh-so-perfect virtual existence and face up to life--and love--in the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

A world at stake.

A quest for the ultimate prize.

Are you ready?

VIRTUAL REALITY / PUZZLES / SCI-FI

16. **Dawkins, Richard.** *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution* (Call #576.8 DAW)

The Greatest Show on Earth is very well written; extremely clear and a seamless flow. He also uses excellent examples to get his point across, many of them so interesting I have to repeat them to anyone who will listen. That breeding silver foxes for tameness would be accompanied by changing coat color and ear morphology, in just a few generations? I couldn't get enough. I find he does a great job of presenting the facts and describing how they support the theorem (a word he uses to get away from the hang-ups of using theory but avoid the mathematicians' stringency of theorem) of evolution. Dawkins even goes one step further, explaining the science behind the facts and explaining how the knowledge is collected, but in a clear, succinct and direct way that will be understood even by non-science lovers - more science writers should strive to achieve what Dawkins has done with this book.

NON-FICTION / EVOLUTION / SCIENCE

17. **Demas, Corinne.** *Everything I Was.* (Call #F DEM and ebook)

Gr. 7 +. 13-year-old Irene is losing everything she has: her dad lost his high powered job, they lose their penthouse on Manhattan's East Upper Side, all her treasured belongings are put in storage, and it's uncertain if she'll be able to return to her prep school in the fall. She and her parents are taken in by her paternal grandfather on his farm and nursery in upstate NY, taking Irene away from her two best friends for the summer. Then she discovers a new life and friends far removed from her affluent upbringing and everything

changes in ways that her blue-blood mother cannot appreciate. Irene narrates her life changes and family crises with a heart-rending teenage voice that's sensitive and unaffected by her wealth. Author Dumas gives us fully fleshed out characters whom we know dearly by the end of this exquisitely written book. Highly recommended, one of the 10 best Young Adult books I've read this year. – Kathy Johnson, teacher at Springfield Township HS

FAMILY DRAMA / NEW YORK / FIRST LOVE / FRIENDSHIP

18. **Doerr, Anthony.** *All the Light We Cannot See.* (Call # HISTORICAL FICTION F DOE)

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, a New York Times Book Review Top Ten Book, National Book Award finalist, more than two and a half years on the New York Times bestseller list...From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined.

Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

Doerr's "stunning sense of physical detail and gorgeous metaphors" (San Francisco Chronicle) are dazzling. Ten years in the writing, a National Book Award finalist, *All the Light We Cannot See* is a magnificent, deeply moving novel from a writer "whose sentences never fail to thrill" (Los Angeles Times).

HISTORICAL FICTION / WORLD WAR II

19. **Dogar, Sharon.** *Annexed.* (Call #HISTORICAL F DOG and ebook)

Gr. 7-12. Reader familiar with *The Diary of a Young Girl* will be fascinated to consider an alternative point of view to Anne Frank's account of life in hiding during the Holocaust. Dogar has imagined a different perspective in *Annexed*. What would 16-year-old Peter van Pels, who, with his parents, shared the now-famous Secret Annex with the Franks, think and feel about war and fear, daily irritations of living in close quarters, religion and faith, love and, most of all, Anne? Peter's first-person account parallels Anne's diary, but additionally the reader glimpses Peter in the Mauthausen concentration camp as he relays its horrors from his deathbed. Dogar's story is perfectly detailed and compels the reader to stop and remember that Peter's account is fiction. This book is a "must-purchase" for Holocaust literature collections. - Ro Becker - Springfield Township Middle School

HISTORICAL FICTION / HOLOCAUST / ANNE FRANK

20. **Donoghue, Emma.** *Room.* (Call #F DON)

Gr. 9-12. *Room* is the story of a mother and son living in captivity in an 11x11 foot shed. The mother had been abducted seven years prior and the story begins on the boy's fifth birthday. The room is the only life the little boy has ever known and he has had the company of his mother 24/7. The days they spend together are very detailed and presented solely from the little boy's perspective. While there is immense love, the suspense builds as the reader comes to understand that the life that has been working for them is likely to come crashing down at any moment: the boy is beginning to become more curious about the man who visits almost nightly as he hides away in "Wardrobe". Ma decides that they must escape and develops a plan. The book takes us on a journey, not only physical but also highly emotional. The author presents a very realistic view of struggles both mother and child must face upon entering the real world. Buy multiple copies. - Karen Hornberger- Palisades High School.

ABDUCTION / MOTHER CHILD RELATIONSHIP

21. **Faulkner, William.** *The Sound and the Fury.* (Call #F FAU and ebook)

The Sound and the Fury, first published in 1929, is perhaps William Faulkner's greatest book. It was immediately praised for its innovative narrative technique, and comparisons were made with Joyce and Dostoevsky, but it did not receive popular acclaim until the late 1940s, shortly before Faulkner received the Nobel Prize for Literature. The novel reveals the story of the disintegration of the Compson family, doomed inhabitants of Faulkner's mythical Yoknapatawpha County, through the interior monologues of the idiot Benjy and his brothers, Quentin and Jason. Featuring a new Foreword by Marilynne Robinson, this edition follows the text corrected in 1984 by Faulkner expert Noel Polk and corresponds as closely as possible to the author's original intentions. Included also is the Appendix that Faulkner wrote for *The Portable Faulkner* in 1946, which he called the "key to the whole book."

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION / DESIRE FOR POWER / MENTALLY HANDICAPPED / MASTER SERVANT / ILLEGITIMACY / NON-FICTION

22. **Gladwell, Malcolm.** *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make A Big Difference.* (Call #302 TI)
Interest Level: Adult (non-fiction: business). "The best way to understand the dramatic transformation of unknown books into bestsellers, or the rise of teenage smoking, or the phenomena of word of mouth or any number of the other mysterious changes that mark everyday life," writes Malcolm Gladwell, "is to think of them as epidemics. Ideas and products and messages and behaviors spread just like viruses do." Although anyone familiar with the theory of memetics will recognize this concept, Gladwell's *The Tipping Point* has quite a few interesting twists on the subject. For example, Paul Revere was able to galvanize the forces of resistance so effectively in part because he was what Gladwell calls a "Connector": he knew just about everybody, particularly the revolutionary leaders in each of the towns that he rode through. But Revere "wasn't just the man with the biggest Rolodex in colonial Boston," he was also a "Maven" who gathered extensive information about the British. He knew what was going on and he knew exactly whom to tell. The phenomenon continues to this day--think of how often you've received information in an e-mail message that had been forwarded at least half a dozen times before reaching you. Gladwell develops these and other concepts (such as the "stickiness" of ideas or the effect of population size on information dispersal) through simple, clear explanations and entertainingly illustrative anecdotes, such as comparing the pedagogical methods of Sesame Street and Blue's Clues, or explaining why it would be even easier to play Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon with the actor Rod Steiger. It seems inevitable that "tipping point," like "future shock" or "chaos theory," will soon become one of those ideas that everybody knows--or at least knows by name. --Ron Hogan

NON-FICTION / BUSINESS / SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

23. **Green, John.** *Looking for Alaska.* (Call #F GRE and ebook)
Grade 9 Up. Sixteen-year-old Miles Halter's adolescence has been one long non event - 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. She is literate, articulate, and beautiful, and she exhibits a reckless combination of adventurous and self-destructive behavior. She and Chip teach Miles to drink, smoke, and plot elaborate pranks. Alaska's story unfolds in all-night bull sessions, and the depth of her unhappiness becomes obvious. Green's dialogue is crisp, especially between Miles and Chip. His descriptions and Miles's inner monologues can be philosophically dense, but are well within the comprehension of sensitive teen readers. The chapters of the novel are headed by a number of days "before" and "after" what readers surmise is Alaska's suicide. These placeholders sustain the mood of possibility and foreboding, and the story moves methodically to its ambiguous climax. The language and sexual situations are aptly and realistically drawn, but sophisticated in nature. Miles's narration is alive with sweet, self-deprecating humor, and his obvious struggle to tell the story truthfully adds to his believability. Like Phineas in John Knowles's *A Separate Peace* (S & S, 1960), Green draws Alaska so lovingly, in self-loathing darkness as well as energetic light, that readers mourn her loss along with her friends. - Johanna Lewis, *New York Public Library*

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS FICTION / BOARDING SCHOOLS / DEATH

24. **Gruen, Sara.** *Water for Elephants.* (Call #F GRU)

Interest Level: Adult. With its spotlight on elephants, Gruen's romantic page-turner hinges on the human-animal bonds that drove her debut and its sequel (*Riding Lessons* and *Flying Changes*)—but without the mass appeal that horses hold. The novel, told in flashback by nonagenarian Jacob Jankowski, recounts the wild and wonderful period he spent with the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth, a traveling circus he joined during the Great Depression. When 23-year-old Jankowski learns that his parents have been killed in a car crash, leaving him penniless, he drops out of Cornell veterinary school and parlays his expertise with animals into a job with the circus, where he cares for a menagerie of exotic creatures[...] He also falls in love with Marlena, one of the show's star performers—a romance complicated by Marlena's husband, the unbalanced, sadistic circus boss who beats both his wife and the animals Jankowski cares for. Despite her often clichéd prose and the predictability of the story's ending, Gruen skillfully humanizes the midgets, drunks, rubes and freaks who populate her book.

HISTORICAL FICTION /CIRCUS / ROMANCE STORIES / GREAT DEPRESSION

25. **Haddon, Mark.** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.* (Call #F HAD)

Interest Level: Adult (found on the Reading Olympics Book List 2009) Christopher Boone, the autistic 15-year-old narrator of this revelatory novel, relaxes by groaning and doing math problems in his head, eats red-but not yellow or brown-foods and screams when he is touched. Strange as he may seem, other people are far more of a conundrum to him, for he lacks the intuitive "theory of mind" by which most of us sense what's going on in other people's heads. When his neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes (one of his favorite characters) and track down the killer. As the mystery leads him to the secrets of his parents' broken marriage and then into an odyssey to find his place in the world, he must fall back on deductive logic to navigate the emotional complexities of a social world that remains a closed book to him. In the hands of first-time novelist Haddon, Christopher is a fascinating case study and, above all, a sympathetic boy: not closed off, as the stereotype would have it, but too open-overwhelmed by sensations, bereft of the filters through which normal people screen their surroundings. Christopher can only make sense of the chaos of stimuli by imposing arbitrary patterns ("4 yellow cars in a row made it a Black Day, which is a day when I don't speak to anyone and sit on my own reading books and don't eat my lunch and Take No Risks"). His literal-minded observations make for a kind of poetic sensibility and a poignant evocation of character. Though Christopher insists, "This will not be a funny book. I cannot tell jokes because I do not understand them," the novel brims with touching, ironic humor. The result is an eye-opening work in a unique and compelling literary voice.

FICTION / AUTISTIC YOUTH / ASPERGER'S SYNDROME / ENGLAND

26. **Hannah, Kristen.** *Winter Garden.* (Call #F HAN)

The Whitson family is rocked by the sudden death of patriarch Evan, a warm, loving man who doted on his two adult daughters, Meredith and Nina, and his reserved Russian wife, Anya. Meredith, who runs the family business, and Nina, a photojournalist whose job takes her to war zones around the world, have never been able to connect with their cold, forbidding mother. When Anya begins to act strangely, Meredith thinks she belongs in a nursing home, but Nina decides to try to fulfill her father's dying wish and get her mother to tell her and Meredith the elaborate fairy tales she used to share with them. Anya is initially reluctant, but once she begins, Nina realizes these tales are actually the story of Anya's life in Stalinist Leningrad. Meredith and Nina decide to attempt to uncover the truth about their mother's tragic past in the hope of understanding her, and themselves. Though the novel starts off fairly maudlin, it evolves into a gripping read, although it's a tearjerker.

MOTHER DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP / DOMESTIC FICTION / PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION / RUSSIAN-AMERICANS

27. **Hosseini, Khaled.** *A Thousand Splendid Suns.* (Call #F HOS, audio and ebook)

Altossa Leoni, who is German-born of Afghan ancestry, was clearly chosen because she can pronounce all the Afghan words—a big plus, but it's the only plus in this bad reading. Dropping her voice on the last word of every sentence, her phrasing is regularly rendered ungrammatical by breaks at the wrong points. Her

narrow vocal range makes for a dull and often difficult listening experience. Despite the reader, the book holds the listener thanks to Hosseini's riveting story—an in-depth exploration of Afghan society in the three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war and Taliban cruelty. He impels us to empathize with and admire those most victimized by Afghan history and culture—women. Mariam, a 15-year-old bastard whose mother commits suicide, is married off to 40-year-old Rasheed, who abuses her brutally, especially after she has several miscarriages. At 60, Rasheed takes in 14-year-old Laila, whose parents were blown up by stray bombs. He soon turns violent with her. Although Laila is united with her childhood beloved, the potential return of the Taliban always shadows their happiness.

FAMILY LIFE / WOMEN / AFGHANISTAN

28. **Howe, Katherine.** *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane: a Novel.* (Call #F HOW and ebook)

Harvard graduate student Connie Goodwin, having agreed to handle the sale of her grandmother's abandoned home near Salem, Massachusetts, comes across an ancient key while going through the house which holds a piece of parchment with the name Deliverance Dane written on it, and in her efforts to discover more about the mysterious Deliverance, Connie soon finds herself having visions of the Salem witch trials and wondering about the extent of her family's connection to history.

From the Publisher: A crime lost to time. A secret buried deep. One book unlocks an unimaginable truth. Salem, Massachusetts, 1681. Fear and suspicion lead a small town to unspeakable acts. Marblehead, Massachusetts, 1991. A young woman is about to discover that she is tied to Salem in ways she never imagined. Booklist starred May 1, 2009 (Vol. 105, No. 17) Harvard graduate student Connie Godwin is determined personified. She will get her doctorate and find success as a historian, whether her aura-reading mother understands her bookishness or not. But first she has to contend with her tweedy adviser's oddly urgent demands and her late grandmother's incredibly old, long-abandoned house in Marblehead, Massachusetts. The house is cloaked in vines and stuffed with dusty old bottles and books, but it's clutter yields a tantalizing scrap of paper carrying the words "Deliverance Dane." Connie hasn't a clue, but the reader knows, thanks to alternating chapters set in the late-seventeenth century, that Deliverance was a good woman accused of being a witch during the infamous Salem witch hysteria. Soon Connie, admirably sensible in the face of mystifying, even terrifying occurrences, zealously searches archives and libraries for healing Deliverance's "shadow book," while struggling to understand her own weird, new powers. Historian Howe's spellbinding, vividly detailed, witty, and astutely plotted debut is deeply rooted in her family connection to accused seventeenth-century witches Elizabeth Howe and Elizabeth Proctor and propelled by an illuminating view of witchcraft. In all a keen and magical historical mystery laced with romance and sly digs at society's persistent underestimation of women.

WITCHCRAFT / SALEM / HISTORICAL FICTION

29. **Kidd, Sue Monk.** *The Secret Life of Bees.* (Call #F KID and ebook)

Interest Level: Adult. In Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*, 14-year-old Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their South Carolina peach farm, spends hours imagining a blissful infancy when she was loved and nurtured by her mother, Deborah, whom she barely remembers. These consoling fantasies are her heart's answer to the family story that as a child, in unclear circumstances, Lily accidentally shot and killed her mother. All Lily has left of Deborah is a strange image of a Black Madonna, with the words "Tiburon, South Carolina" scrawled on the back. The search for a mother, and the need to mother oneself, are crucial elements in this well-written coming-of-age story set in the early 1960s against a background of racial violence and unrest. When Lily's beloved nanny, Rosaleen, manages to insult a group of angry white men on her way to register to vote and has to skip town, Lily takes the opportunity to go with her, fleeing to the only place she can think of--Tiburon, South Carolina--determined to find out more about her dead mother. Although the plot threads are too neatly trimmed, *The Secret Life of Bees* is a carefully crafted novel with an inspired depiction of character. The legend of the Black Madonna and the brave, kind, peculiar women who perpetuate Lily's story dominate the second half of the book, placing Kidd's debut novel squarely in the honored tradition of the Southern Gothic.

HISTORICAL FICTION / TEENAGERS / SOUTH CAROLINA / RACISM / BEEKEEPING / BILDUNGSROMAN

30. **King, Stephen.** *Everything's Eventual: 14 Dark Tales.* (Call #SC KING)

The first collection of stories Stephen King has published since *Nightmares & Dreamscapes* nine years ago, *Everything's Eventual* includes one O. Henry Prize winner, two other award winners, four stories published by *The New Yorker*, and "Riding the Bullet," King's original e-book, which attracted over half a million online readers and became the most famous short story of the decade. "Riding the Bullet," published here on paper for the first time, is the story of Alan Parker, who's hitchhiking to see his dying mother but takes the wrong ride, farther than he ever intended. In "Lunch at the Gotham Cafe," a sparring couple's contentious lunch turns very, very bloody when the maitre d' gets out of sorts. "1408," the audio story in print for the first time, is about a successful writer whose specialty is "Ten Nights in Ten Haunted Graveyards" or "Ten Nights in Ten Haunted Houses," and though Room 1408 at the Dolphin Hotel doesn't kill him, he won't be writing about ghosts anymore. And in "That Feeling, You Can Only Say What It Is In French," terror is *deja vu* at 16,000 feet. Whether writing about encounters with the dead, the near dead, or about the mundane dreads of life, from quitting smoking to yard sales, Stephen King is at the top of his form in the fourteen dark tales assembled in *Everything's Eventual*. Intense, eerie, and instantly compelling, they announce the stunningly fertile imagination of perhaps the greatest storyteller of our time.

HORROR / SHORT STORIES

31. **Krakauer, John.** *Into the Wild* (Call #917.9804 KR)

Interest Level: Adult. After graduating from Emory University in Atlanta in 1992, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandoned his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska, where he went to live in the wilderness. Four months later, he turned up dead. His diary, letters and two notes found at a remote campsite tell of his desperate effort to survive, apparently stranded by an injury and slowly starving. They also reflect the posturing of a confused young man, raised in affluent Annandale, Va., who self-consciously adopted a Tolstoyan renunciation of wealth and return to nature. Krakauer, a contributing editor to *Outside* and *Men's Journal*, retraces McCandless's ill-fated antagonism toward his father, Walt, an eminent aerospace engineer. Krakauer also draws parallels to his own reckless youthful exploits in 1977 when he climbed Devil's Thumb, a mountain on the Alaska-British Columbia border, partly as a symbolic act of rebellion against his autocratic father. In a moving narrative, Krakauer probes the mystery of McCandless's death, which he attributes to logistical blunders and to accidental poisoning from eating toxic seed pods.

NON-FICTION / ADVENTURE / OUTDOOR LIFE / ALASKA / BIOGRAPHY

32. **Kwok, Jean.** *Girl in Translation.* (Call #F KWO)

Gr. 9+. At the age of eleven, Kimberly emigrated with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, New York. With enormous pressures to fit in at school, perform well in classes, and help her mother at the sweatshop, Kimberly's translation into a young American woman does not happen without tears, pain, and hardship. This new author, a Hong Kong emigrant herself, tells a powerful coming-of-age story with an emotional and unexpected ending. This stirring novel is very deserving of ALA's Alex Award. - Mary Schwander - New Hope-Solebury High School

COMING OF AGE / IMMIGRANTS / CHINESE WOMEN / MOTHER DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP

33. **Link, Kelly and Gavin J. Grant, eds.** *Steampunk! An Anthology of Fantastically Rich and Strange Stories.* (#SC STE and ebook)

Booklist starred Review. Grades 8-12. Steampunk is hot right now, as evidenced by the rush of titles featuring goggle-wearing heroines on their covers. Happily, there are gems to be found within the flood, and editors Link and Gavin treat fans, old and new, to an array of "fantastically rich" stories in this polished, outstanding collection. Skillful organization slots entries by authors less well known to YA readers between those by stars, including Libba Bray and Cory Doctorow, and the result is an anthology that is almost impossible to put down. The gears, goggles, automatons, and dirigibles are all here, but these gifted writers have used the steampunk trappings as a launchpad, leaping into their own unique explorations of what it is to be human in a world influenced by technology. Settings range from Appalachia to a Pacific island to an

alternate Wales— everything but Victorian London. M. T. Anderson reveals an engineer's cunning revenge in ancient Rome; Delia Sherman explores what happens when a ghost inhabits a machine; Link blends faerie tropes with clockwork tinkering; and Shawn Cheng and Kathleen Jennings present stories in a comic-style format. From rebellious motorists to girl bandits, the characters in this imaginative collection shine, and there isn't a weak story in the mix; each one offers depth and delight.

FICTION / STORY COLLECTION / SCIENCE FICTION / SHORT STORY

34. **Luttrell, Marcus.** *Lone Survivor: Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of Seal Team 10* (#958.104 LUT)
Four US Navy SEALs departed one clear night in early July 2005 for the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border for a reconnaissance mission. Their task was to document the activity of an al Qaeda leader rumored to be very close to Bin Laden with a small army in a Taliban stronghold. Five days later, only one of those Navy SEALs made it out alive.
This is the story of the only survivor of Operation Redwing, SEAL fire team leader Marcus Luttrell, and the extraordinary firefight that led to the largest loss of life in American Navy SEAL history. His squadmates fought valiantly beside him until he was the only one left alive, blasted by an RPG into a place where his pursuers could not find him. Over the next four days, terribly injured and presumed dead, Luttrell crawled for miles through the mountains and was taken in by sympathetic villagers who risked their lives to keep him safe from surrounding Taliban warriors. A born and raised Texan, Marcus Luttrell takes us from the rigors of SEAL training, where he and his fellow SEALs discovered what it took to join the most elite of the American special forces, to a fight in the desolate hills of Afghanistan for which they never could have been prepared. His account of his squadmates' heroism and mutual support renders an experience that is both heart-rending and life-affirming. In this rich chronicle of courage and sacrifice, honor and patriotism, Marcus Luttrell delivers a powerful narrative of modern war.
NON-FICTION / AFGHAN WAR / NAVY / SEALS

35. **Manchester, William.** *A World Lit Only By Fire: the Medieval Minds and the Renaissance: Portrait of an Age.* (#940.2 + ebook)
From tales of chivalrous knights to the barbarity of trial by ordeal, no era has been a greater source of awe, horror, and wonder than the Middle Ages. In handsomely crafted prose, and with the grace and authority of his extraordinary gift for narrative history, William Manchester leads us from a civilization tottering on the brink of collapse to the grandeur of its rebirth—the dense explosion of energy that spawned some of history's greatest poets, philosophers, painters, adventurers, and reformers, as well as some of its most spectacular villains— the Renaissance.
NON-FICTION / EDUCATION / RENAISSANCE / MEDIEVAL/ MIDDLE AGES

36. **Marx, Jeffrey** *Season of Life: A Football Star, a Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood* (4 on order)
From the Publisher: The best selling inspirational book in which the author reunites with a childhood football hero, now a minister and coach, and witnesses a revelatory demonstration of the true meaning of manhood.
Joe Ehrmann, a former NFL football star and volunteer coach for the Gilman high school football team, teaches his players the keys to successful defense: penetrate, pursue, punish, love. Love? A former captain of the Baltimore Colts and now an ordained minister, Ehrmann is serious about the game of football but even more serious about the purpose of life. *Season of Life* is his inspirational story as told by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jeffrey Marx, who was a ballboy for the Colts when he first met Ehrmann. Ehrmann now devotes his life to teaching young men a whole new meaning of masculinity. He teaches the boys at Gilman the precepts of his Building Men for Others program: Being a man means emphasizing relationships and having a cause bigger than yourself. It means accepting responsibility and leading courageously. It means that empathy, integrity, and living a life of service to others are more important than points on a scoreboard.

Decades after he first met Ehrmann, Jeffrey Marx renewed their friendship and watched his childhood hero putting his principles into action. While chronicling a season with the Gilman Greyhounds, Marx witnessed the most extraordinary sports program he'd ever seen, where players say "I love you" to each other and coaches profess their love for their players. Off the field Marx sat with Ehrmann and absorbed life lessons that led him to reexamine his own unresolved relationship with his father.

Season of Life is a book about what it means to be a man of substance and impact. It is a moving story that will resonate with athletes, coaches, parents—anyone struggling to make the right choices in life.

ADULT / FOOTBALL / COACHES

37. **McBride, James.** *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother* (Call # 974.7 COL)

James McBride shares the story of his mother's life and complicated racial identity which he only learned after becoming an adult. He tells of her infancy in Poland as the daughter of an Orthodox Jewish rabbi, her childhood in small-town Virginia, her move to Harlem at the age of eighteen, her marriage to an African-American man, her achievements as a wife and mother to twelve children, and her refusal to ever admit she is white.

BIOGRAPHY / AFRICAN AMERICAN / FAMILY / IDENTITY / RACE RELATIONS

38. **McCullough, David.** *1776*. (Call #973.3 MCC)

Twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize for "Truman" and "John Adams," David McCullough returns with the story of the Revolutionary War--a book certain to be another landmark in the literature of American history.

NON-FICTION / REVOLUTIONARY WAR

39. **McManus, Karen.** *One of Us is Lying* (Call # MYSTERY F MCM)

When the creator of a high school gossip app mysteriously dies in front of four high-profile students all four become suspects. It's up to them to solve the case." (Award winner)

MURDER / HOMICIDE / MYSTERY / SCHOOL STORIES

40. **Meloy, Maile.** *The Apothecary*. (Call #F MEL)

Booklist. Grades 6-9. Janie, 14, has been living happily with her screenwriter parents in Hollywood. But it's 1952, and blacklisting makes it imperative that the family moves to London, where a TV job awaits. Janie is not happy about this, but a startling adventure opens to her as she becomes friends with Benjamin Burrows, whose father is an apothecary, and not just any apothecary. Mr. Burrows is part of a small, international group of scientists who are trying to contain the destructive results of the atomic bomb, including a weapon that is being tested off the coast of Russia. Those who know little about blacklisting, the Cold War, and European life after WWII will just have to dive into the fantasy-adventure pool, which runs long and deep. Magic elixirs, transformational disguises, and everyday cunning help Janie, Benjamin, and several scientists elude capture and defeat the desperate cabal that supports the Soviet Union. Readers must be willing to traverse a complicated tale and avoid stepping in a few plot holes, but Meloy offers a strong narrator in Janie and an intriguing mix of history and mystery.

HISTORICAL / FANTASY/ COLD WAR / LONDON / GREAT BRITAIN 1952- / ADVENTURE

41. **Monk, Sue.** *The Invention of Wings*. (HISTORICAL F KID)

The story follows Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid and follows the next thirty-five years of their lives"

HISTORICAL FICTION / ANTISLAVERY / FEMINIST / WOMEN'S RIGHTS

42. **Moore, Alan.** *Watchmen*. (Call #741.5 MOO)

Considered the greatest graphic novel in the history of the medium, the Hugo Award-winning story chronicles the fall from grace of a group of super-heroes plagued by all-too-human failings. Along the way, the concept of the superhero is dissected as the heroes are stalked by an unknown assassin.

43. **Na, An.** *A Step from Heaven*. (Call # REAL F NA)

From master storyteller An Na comes the Printz Award-winning novel about a Korean girl who tells her firsthand account of trying to find her place and identity in America from the day she leaves Korea as a child to her rocky journey through the teenage years.

At age four, Young Ju moved with her parents from Korea to Southern California. She has always imagined America would be like heaven: easy, blissful, and full of riches. But when her family arrives, she finds it to be the opposite. With a stubborn language barrier and cultural dissimilarities, not only is it impossible to make friends, but even her family's internal bonds are wavering. Her parents' finances are strained, yet her father's stomach is full of booze.

As Young Ju's once solid and reliable family starts tearing apart, her younger brother begins to gain more freedom and respect simply because of his gender. Young Ju begins to lose all hope in the dream she once held--the heaven she longs for. Even as she begins to finally fit in, a cataclysmic family event will change her idea of heaven forever. But it also helps her to recognize the strength she holds, and envision the future she desires, and deserves.

REALISTIC FICTION / ASIAN AMERICAN / IMMIGRATION

44. **O'Reilly, Bill and Martin Dugard** *Killing Lincoln* (Call #973.7 KIL)

Provides an account of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, discussing how actor John Wilkes Booth and his fellow Confederate sympathizers hatched their murderous plot, and following the ensuing manhunt, trials, and executions of the conspirators.

PRESIDENT / ASSASSINATION / ABRAHAM LINCOLN

45. **Pfeffer, Susan Beth.** *Life As We Knew It*. (F PFE)

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

SCIENCE FICTION / DIARIES / FAMILY / NATURAL DISASTER

46. **Revoyr, Nina.** *Wingshooters*. (Call #F REV)

Booklist starred (February 15, 2011 (Vol. 107, No. 12). Revoyr continues her unique and affecting exploration of American racism in a concentrated novel that draws breathtaking contrasts between all that is beautiful in life and the malignancy of hate. Charlie, an alpha blue-collar male and a bigot like his buddies, is horrified when his son marries a Japanese exchange student. Yet when nine-year-old Michelle, his only grandchild, is abandoned by her estranged and feckless parents and left with her grandparents in their small, xenophobic Wisconsin town, Charlie loves her without restraint. As Deerhorn's first and only person of color, Michelle is subjected to constant insults and assaults, so Charlie teaches her to fight and shoot a gun, as well as to appreciate nature and play baseball. He calls her Mike, and she is beyond tomboyish, roaming the countryside with her only friend, her dog. Then the Garretts, an African American couple—she's a nurse; he's a teacher—arrive and ignite the town's worst fears and fury. Revoyr writes rhapsodically of a young girl's enthrallment to the natural world and charts, with rising intensity, her resilient narrator's painful awakening to human failings and senseless violence. In this shattering northern variation on *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Revoyr drives to the very heart of tragic ignorance, unreason, and savagery.

HISTORICAL FICTION/ JAPANESE AMERICAN / RACE RELATIONS

47. **Rowell, Rainbow.** *Fangirl*. (Call #F ROW and 12 month access ebook)

Feeling cast off when her twin sister outgrows their shared love for a favorite fictional character, Cath, a dedicated fan-fiction writer, struggles to survive on her own in her first year of college while avoiding a surly roommate, bonding with a handsome classmate who only wants to talk about words, and worrying about her fragile father.

LOVE STORY/ GROUPIE FAN FICTION / BOOKS / LIBRARIES / SCHOOL & EDUCATION

48. **Saenz, Benjamin Alire.** *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe.* Call # F SAE and 12 month access ebook)
 Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before. Booklist January 1, 2012 (Vol. 108, No. 9) Grades 9-12. When Aristotle and Dante meet, in the summer of 1987, they are 15-year-olds existing in “the universe between boys and men.” The two are opposites in most ways: Dante is sure of his place in the world, while Ari feels he may never know who he is or what he wants. But both are thoughtful about their feelings and interactions with others, and this title is primarily focused on the back-and-forth in their relationship over the course of a year. Family issues take center stage, as well as issues of Mexican identity, but the heart of the novel is Dante’s openness about his homosexuality and Ari’s suppression of his. Sáenz (Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood, 2004) writes toward the end of the novel that “to be careful with people and words was a rare and beautiful thing.” And that’s exactly what Sáenz does—he treats his characters carefully, giving them space and time to find their place in the world, and to find each other. This moves at a slower pace than many YA novels, but patient readers, and those struggling with their own sexuality, may find it to be a thought-provoking read.
COMING OF AGE / FAMILY / LGBTQ / IDENTITY / REALISTIC FICTION
49. **Sheff, David.** *Beautiful Boy: A Father’s Journey Through his Son’s Addiction.* (PSYCHO F SHE)
 Journalist David Sheff tells the story of his son Nic’s happy early childhood, the transformation wrought by Nic’s addiction to methamphetamine, and his own obsession with Nic’s well-being.
DRUG ABUSE / DIVORCED PARENTS / PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION
50. **Thomas, Angie.** *The Hate U Give.* (REAL F THO)
 16-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death became a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil’s name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. What does this do to the community? The family? Her life?
REALISTIC FICTION / RACE RELATIONS / RACISM / POLICE SHOOTINGS
51. **Weir, Andy.** *The Martian: a novel* (F WEI)
 Astronaut Mark Watney is stranded and completely alone on Mars, with no way to even signal Earth that he’s alive, but Mark isn’t ready to give up and draw on his engineering skills and determination, he faces each obstacle with resourcefulness, but will it be enough for him to survive? (ADULT Level Book...some expletives throughout)
SCIENCE FICTION / ACTION & ADVENTURE / MARS / ASTRONAUTS FICTION / ADULT
52. **Westover, Tara.** *Educated: A Memoir.* (921 WES)
 Educated is a memoir by the American author Tara Westover. Westover recounts overcoming her survivalist Mormon family in order to go to college, and emphasizes the importance of education in enlarging her world.
BIOGRAPHY / HOMESCHOOLING / SUBCULTURE / IDAHO
53. **Yang, Kao Kalia.** *The Latehomecomer: a Hmong Family Memoir* (Call # 959.704 and ebook)
 In search of a place to call home, thousands of Hmong families made the journey from the war-torn jungles of Laos to the overcrowded refugee camps of Thailand and onward to America. But lacking a written language of their own, the Hmong experience has been primarily recorded by others. Driven to tell her family’s story after her grandmother’s death, *The Latehomecomer* is Kao Kalia Yang’s tribute to the

remarkable woman whose spirit held them all together. It is also an eloquent, firsthand account of a people who have worked hard to make their voices heard. Beginning in the 1970s, as the Hmong were being massacred for their collaboration with the United States during the Vietnam War, Yang recounts the harrowing story of her family's captivity, the daring rescue undertaken by her father and uncles, and their narrow escape into Thailand where Yang was born in the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp. When she was six years old, Yang's family immigrated to America, and she evocatively captures the challenges of adapting to a new place and a new language. Through her words, the dreams, wisdom, and traditions passed down from her grandmother and shared by an entire community have finally found a voice. Together with her sister, **Kao Kalia Yang** is the founder of a company dedicated to helping immigrants with writing, translating, and business services. A graduate of Carleton College and Columbia University, Yang has recently screened *The Place Where We Were Born*, a film documenting the experiences of Hmong American refugees. Visit her website at www.kaokaliayang.com.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY / FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS / VIETNAM WAR / THAILAND REFUGEE

54. **Yoon, Nicola.** *The Sun is Also a Star.* (Call #F YOO)

The Instant New York Times Bestseller! Soon to be a Major Motion Picture! Natasha: I'm a girl who believes in science and facts. Not fate. Not destiny. Or dreams that will never come true. I'm definitely not the kind of girl who meets a cute boy on a crowded New York City street and falls in love with him. Not when my family is twelve hours away from being deported to Jamaica. Falling in love with him won't be my story. Daniel: I've always been the good son, the good student, living up to my parents' high expectations. Never the poet. Or the dreamer. But when I see her, I forget about all that. Something about Natasha makes me think that fate has something much more extraordinary in store--for both of us. The Universe: Every moment in our lives has brought us to this single moment. A million futures lie before us. Which one will come true? A 2016 National Book Award Finalist, A New York Times Notable Book, A BuzzFeed Best YA Book of the Year, A POPSUGAR Best Book of the Year, A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year, A Booklist Editor's Choice, A New York Public Library Best Book for Teens, An Amazon Best Book of the Year, "Beautifully crafted."--People Magazine

"A book that is very much about the many factors that affect falling in love, as much as it is about the very act itself. . . fans of Yoon's first novel, *Everything Everything*, will find much to love--if not, more--in what is easily an even stronger follow up." --Entertainment Weekly

ASIAN AMERICAN / DATING & RELATIONSHIPS / IMMIGRATION / DEPORTATION / FATE

55. ****** Student choice** If you have another book that you would like to read and focus your project on, simply email DSMALL@PGSD.ORG for approval. The students should enjoy reading and find something that interests them for this project. (Most of every book brought to my attention was approved if grading/reading level appropriate). **PLEASE EMAIL for approval BEFORE doing the project.** *This email is to open up a line of communication with the library media specialist and start a conversation.* Also, I love hearing from parents; however, I would like my students to email me using their PG email to request the book title and reason why they are choosing said book. (*Please use [proper etiquette](#) when emailing.*)