

## Grade Nine/Ten Suggested Reading List

**Authors:**

**Titles:**

**Summaries:**

Aker, Don	<i>The First Stone</i>	Reef is an embittered young offender, hardly able to contain his anger at the world over the death of his grandmother, the only person who had shown him any love. Seventeen-year-old Leeza is mourning the death of her older sister. A stone hurled in rage shatters both their lives and throws them together in the most unexpected way— and offers them a chance at healing.
	<i>Running on Empty</i>	All Ethan Palmer wants is wheels of his own, and he's finally saved enough money to buy his dream car... when he accidentally rams his dad's Volvo into their garage. Now he has to pay for repairs. He thinks he's found a way to make some easy money, and suddenly nothing is more important. Not school, not the girl he loves, not even the secrets that divide his family. For Ethan, it's all about payback. But he has no idea what his choices will cost him.
Aarons, Leroy	<i>Prayers for Bobby</i>	When 17-year-old Bobby confides to older brother Ed that he is gay, the family's life changes. His mother convinces him to pray that God will cure him and to seek solace in church activities. Bobby does it all, but the church's hatred of homosexuality and the obvious pain his gayness is causing his family leads him increasingly to loathe himself.
Alexie, Sherman	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>	A bright 14-year-old aboriginal protagonist, who was born with water on the brain, is regularly the target of bullies and loves to draw. He expects disaster when he transfers from the reservation school to the rich, white school in Reardan, but soon finds himself making friends with both geeky and popular students and starting on the basketball team.
Almond, David	<i>Skellig</i>	Michael's new house is a mess, his parents are distracted, and his baby sister is seriously ill. Then, he meets Skellig, a mysterious man-owl-angel, in the abandoned garage behind his house. The novel examines the large issues of death, life, friendship, love, and the breathtaking connections between all things.
Anderson, Laurie Halse	<i>Speak</i>	A traumatic event in the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year of high school. She is raped at a summer party but chooses not to tell anyone, bottling everything up inside.
	<i>Twisted</i>	Tyler Miller is socially invisible before he sprays some attention-getting graffiti and becomes a legend. Sentenced to a summer of physical labor, he enters his senior year with new muscles that attract popular Bethany Millbury and a slew of social problems.

Anderson, Laurie Halse	<i>Catalyst</i>	Popular 18-year-old Kate Malone is a type-A student who faces multiple tragic situations ranging from rejection by MIT to a house fire that results in her outcast neighbour Terri Litch moving in with her at the end of her senior year. All these become catalysts leading to a shocking ending that makes Kate and the reader re-evaluate their preconceptions about others and what is important in life.
	<i>Fever 1793</i>	Based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever that hit Philadelphia and wiped out 5000 people in three months, this is the story of 16-year-old Mattie Cook, who loses her mother to the fever and must flee with her grandfather and fight for survival.
	<i>Chains</i>	Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, slaves Isabel and Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate, become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.
Bascomb, Neal	<i>The Nazi Hunters</i>	In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis' Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century's most important trials -- one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination. Survivor Simon Wiesenthal opened Eichmann's case; a blind Argentinean and his teenage daughter provided crucial information. Finally, the Israeli spies -- many of whom lost family in the Holocaust -- embarked on their daring mission, recounted here in full.
Bell, William	<i>Stones</i>	Garnet Havelock knows what it's like to be on the outside, not one of the crowd. Now, in his final year of high school, he's just marking time, waiting to get out into the real world. Then a mysterious girl transfers to his school and Garnet thinks he might have found the woman of his dreams—if only he could get her to talk to him. At the same time, Garnet becomes caught up in a mystery centered in his community which uncovers a horrifying chapter in the town's history.
	<i>The Blue Helmet</i>	Lee wants to be a Tarantula – a member of the biggest, most powerful gang in his neighbourhood. But when his initiation goes wrong and the police catch him robbing an auto supply store, Lee's father sends him to live with his aunt in New Toronto.
Bissinger, H. G.	<i>Friday Night Lights</i>	Odessa is city in decline in the Texas desert. Yet the Permian High School Panthers football team has managed to compile the winningest record in state history. The book chronicles the 1988 football season and the explosive effects that the game has on the players and on the community.
Bloor, Edward	<i>Tangerine</i>	Paul Fisher plays soccer even though he is legally blind. He can also see the lies his parents and brother live out. Then his family moves to Tangerine, where strange things happen all the time and where Paul discovers secrets about his brother and his own dangerous past.

Boyne, John	<i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>	When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.
	<i>Stay Where You Are and Then Leave</i>	The day the First World War broke out, Alfie Summerfield's father promised he wouldn't go away to fight - but he broke that promise the following day. Four years later, Alfie doesn't know where his father might be, other than that he's away on a special, secret mission. Alfie unexpectedly sees his father's name - on a sheaf of papers belonging to a military doctor. Alfie realises his father is in a hospital close by - a hospital treating soldiers with an unusual condition.
	<i>The Boy at the Top of the Mountain</i>	When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his Aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy household at the top of the German mountains. But this is no ordinary time, for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler. Quickly, Pierrot is taken under Hitler's wing, and is thrown into an increasingly dangerous new world: a world of terror, secrets and betrayal, from which he may never be able to escape.
Brooks, Geraldine	<i>People of the Book</i>	In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. Hanna discovers a series of tiny artifacts in its ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair and begins to unlock the book's mysteries. The book's journey through time is documented through several stories.
Brubaker Bradley, Kimberly	<i>The War that Saved My Life</i>	Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in.
Cabot, Meg	<i>Teen Idol</i>	When teenage heartthrob Luke Stryker shows up at a small-town Indiana high school to do research for a movie role, he persuades junior Jenny Greenley to use her considerable talents to try to change things at school for the better.
Chambers, Aidan	<i>Postcards from No Man's Land</i>	Visiting his grandfather's grave during the annual commemoration of the Battle of Arnhem, Jacob Todd finds his views of himself, his country and his place in the world are overturned when he starts chatting to a very special elderly Dutch woman.
Chan, Gillian	<i>A Foreign Field</i>	During the Second World War, two young teenagers, Ellen Logan and pilot Stephen Dearborn, become friends as they write to each other of their experiences in the war and fall in love during the process.
Chatwin, Bruce	<i>The Songlines</i>	This novel journeys into the darkest regions of Australia, following the invisible traces of the Aboriginal peoples across the outback.

Chbosky, Stephen	<i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i>	This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. More intimate than a diary, Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating. We may not know where he lives. We may not know to whom he is writing. All we know is the world he shares. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it puts him on a strange course through uncharted territory. The world of first dates and mixed tapes, family dramas and new friends. The world of sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show, when all one requires is that perfect song on that perfect drive to feel infinite.
Choy, Wayson	<i>The Jade Peony</i>	Chinatown, Vancouver, in the late 1930s and '40s provides the backdrop for this novel told through the vivid reminiscences of the three younger children of an immigrant Chinese family. The siblings grapple with their individual identities in a changing world, wresting autonomy from the strictures of history, family, and poverty. Sister Jook-Liang dreams of becoming Shirley Temple and escaping the rigid, old ways of China. Adopted Second Brother Jung-Sum, struggling with his sexuality and the trauma of his childhood in China, finds his way through boxing. Third Brother Sekky, who never feels comfortable with the multitude of Chinese dialects swirling around him, becomes obsessed with war games, and learns a devastating lesson about what war really means when his 17-year-old babysitter dates a Japanese man.
Conklin, Tara	<i>The House Girl</i>	Virginia, 1852. Seventeen-year-old Josephine Bell decides to run from the failing tobacco farm where she is a slave and nurse to her ailing mistress, the aspiring artist Lu Anne Bell. New York City, 2004. Lina Sparrow, an ambitious first-year associate in an elite law firm, is given a difficult, highly sensitive assignment that could make her career: she must find the "perfect plaintiff" to lead a historic class-action lawsuit worth trillions of dollars in reparations for descendants of American slaves.
Corrigan, Eireann	<i>Ordinary Ghosts</i>	Sixteen-year-old Emil lives alone with his militaristic father after his mother dies and his charismatic older brother, Ethan, disappears. One day, Emil discovers that Ethan had the master key to their elite boys' school. He sneaks into the school at night and finds a girl, Jade. Their evolving relationship leads to shocking discoveries about Emil's family history.
Crane, Stephen	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	In the spring of 1863, while engaged in the fierce battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.
Creech, Sharon	<i>Walk Two Moons</i>	After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.
De Oliveira, Eddie	<i>Lucky</i>	A coming-of-age tale about a student in England trying to deal with his feelings of attraction to both girls and boys while dealing with a new friendship that has the possibility of turning into something more.
De Rosnay, Tatiana	<i>Sarah's Key</i>	Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten-year-old girl, is taken with her parents by the French police as they go door to door arresting Jewish families in the middle of the night. Desperate to protect her younger brother, Sarah locks him in a bedroom cupboard—their secret hiding place—and promises to come back for him as soon as they are released.

Deuker, Carl	<i>On the Devil's Court</i>	Joe Faust, 17, who has always lived in the shadow of his scientist father, suffers a slump when everything in his life goes wrong. While practising alone on an abandoned basketball court, Joe agrees to sell his soul to the devil in exchange for a perfect season.
	<i>Heart of a Champion</i>	Narrator Seth, who lost his father at age seven, becomes a baseball fanatic five years later. The book chronicles three years of his life, including playing on his varsity baseball team, and explores characters' struggles with alcohol abuse and the importance of fathers – or the lack of them.
Draper, Sharon	<i>Copper Sun</i>	Amari's life was once perfect. But then slave traders invade her village and murder her entire family. Amari is dragged away to a slave ship headed to the Carolinas, where she is bought by a plantation owner and given to his son as a birthday present. Survival seems all that Amari can hope for. But then an act of unimaginable cruelty provides her with an opportunity to escape, and with an indentured servant named Polly she flees to Fort Mose, Florida, in search of sanctuary at the Spanish colony.
Edwards, Kim	<i>The Memory Keeper's Daughter</i>	In a tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twins during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from their baby daughter's affliction with Down Syndrome, turns her over to a nurse, who secretly raises the child.
Eskens, Allen	<i>The Life We Bury</i>	College student Joe Talbert needs to interview a stranger for an English assignment. He interviews Carl Iverson, a dying Vietnam War veteran who has served 30 years in prison for rape and murder. As Joe writes about Carl's life, especially Carl's valour in Vietnam, he cannot reconcile the heroism of the soldier with the despicable acts of the convict. Joe and his neighbour throw themselves into discovering the truth about Carl Iverson.
Farmer, Nancy	<i>A Girl Named Disaster</i>	When 11-year-old Nhamo learns that she is decreed to marry a horrible man, she runs away to try to find her father's family in Zimbabwe. The boat trip turns into a months-long ordeal that takes Nhamo through the human and the spirit world.
	<i>House of the Scorpion</i>	Matteo Alacran was not born; he was harvested with the DNA from El Patron, lord of a country called Opium. Can a boy who was bred to guarantee another's survival find his own purpose in life? And can he ever be free?
Flinn, Alex	<i>Breathing Underwater</i>	After Nick hits his girlfriend Caitlin, he is subjected to a restraining order and anger management classes. In alternating chapters, readers follow his experiences dealing with anger management and his version of the progression of his relationship with Caitlin through a journal he writes.
Genova, Lisa	<i>Every Note Played</i>	Richard is an accomplished concert pianist. Then he is diagnosed with ALS. When Richard becomes increasingly paralyzed and is no longer able to live on his own, his ex-wife, Karina, becomes his reluctant caretaker. As Richard's muscles, voice, and breath fade, both he and Karina try to reconcile their past before it's too late.
George, Jean	<i>My Side of the Mountain</i>	A boy's experiences living by himself in a remote area of the Catskill Mountains.

Giles, Gail	<i>Shattering Glass</i>	Fat, clumsy Simon Glass is a textbook geek. Rob and his power-hungry friends decree that they will take on the task of making Simon popular. Soon Simon is on his reluctant way to becoming Class Favorite, but then he begins to show a dark, cruel side, and an ability to do what the others can't--defy Rob.
Gowda, Shilpi Somaya	<i>Secret Daughter</i>	Set in India, in a culture that favours sons, the only way for Kavita to save her newborn daughter's life is to give her away. It is a decision that will haunt her and her husband for the rest of their lives, even after the arrival of their cherished son. Halfway around the globe, Somer, an American doctor, decides to adopt a child after making the wrenching discovery that she will never have one of her own. Interweaving the stories of Kavita, and Somer, and the daughter Asha, the novel explores issues of culture and belonging.
Gowda, Shilpi Somaya	<i>The Golden Son</i>	Anil is the cherished son of a large family in rural India. As the eldest boy, he is expected to inherit the role of leader of his clan and arbiter of its disputes, dispensing wisdom and good advice. Leena is his closest companion, a fiercely brave girl who loves nothing more than the wild terrain they inhabit and her close-knit family. As childhood friends, they are inseparable—but as adulthood approaches, they grow apart.
Green, John	<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i>	Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.
	<i>Looking for Alaska</i>	Sixteen-year-old Miles Halter is bored, lonely, and unchallenged, so he decides to leave his family home to attend boarding school. There he finds his math-genius roommate, Chip, and the vivacious, but already taken Alabama Young, whose troubled past is causing her to be self-destructive. The author captures the angst of teen life, especially when a life ends unexpectedly.
	<i>Will Grayson, Will Grayson</i>	One cold night, in a most unlikely corner of Chicago, Will Grayson crosses paths with . . . Will Grayson. Two teens with the same name, running in two very different circles, suddenly find their lives going in new and unexpected directions, and culminating in epic turns-of-heart and the most fabulous musical ever to grace the high school stage. Told in alternating voices from two YA superstars, this collaborative novel features a double helping of the heart and humor that have won them both legions of fans.
	<i>Paper Towns</i>	Quentin Jacobsen has spent a lifetime loving the magnificently adventurous Margo Roth Spiegelman from afar. So when she cracks open a window and climbs into his life—dressed like a ninja and summoning him for an ingenious campaign of revenge—he follows. Urged down a disconnected path, the closer he gets, the less Q sees the girl he thought he knew...
	<i>An Abundance of Katherines</i>	On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has ten thousand dollars in his pocket, a bloodthirsty feral hog on his trail, and an overweight, Judge Judy-loving best friend riding shotgun--but no Katherines.

Grisham, John	<i>Playing For Pizza</i>	Rick Dockery is the third-string quarterback for the Cleveland Browns. In the AFC Championship game, to the surprise and dismay of virtually everyone, Rick actually gets into the game. With a seventeen-point lead and just minutes to go, Rick provides what is arguably the worst single performance in the history of the NFL. Overnight, he becomes a national laughingstock—and is immediately cut by the Browns and shunned by all other teams. But all Rick knows is football, and he insists that his agent find a team that needs him.
Grisham, John	<i>Calico Joe</i>	In the summer of 1973 Joe Castle was the boy wonder of baseball, the greatest rookie anyone had ever seen. He hit home run after home run, politely tipping his hat to the crowd as he shattered all rookie records. Calico Joe quickly became the idol of every baseball fan in America, including Paul Tracey, the young son of a hard-partying and hard-throwing Mets pitcher. On the day that Warren Tracey finally faced Calico Joe, Paul was in the stands, rooting for his idol but also for his Dad. Then Warren threw a fastball that would change their lives forever...
Gruen, Sara	<i>Water for Elephants</i>	Jacob Jankowski, an elderly man in a nursing home, uses flashbacks to reveal this story. During the Great Depression, his parents are killed in a car crash, leaving him penniless. He drops out of veterinary school and gets a job with the circus. There, he falls in love with the performer Marlena, who is married to the circus' psychotic animal trainer. He also grows to love Rosie the elephant.
	<i>At the Water's Edge</i>	After embarrassing themselves at the social event of the year in high society Philadelphia on New Year's Eve of 1942, Maddie and Ellis Hyde are cut off financially
		by Ellis's father. Ellis decides that the only way to regain his father's favor is to hunt the famous Loch Ness monster. Maddie, now alone in a foreign country, must begin to figure out who she is and what she wants. The novel tells of Maddie's social awakening: to the harsh realities of life, to the beauties of nature, to a connection with forces larger than herself, to female friendship, and finally, to love.
Guest, Judith	<i>Ordinary People</i>	This is the story of a young, male athlete who is coming to terms with grief after losing his brother.
Haddon, Mark	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. Although gifted with a logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday social interactions have little meaning. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed. Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favourite detective, Sherlock Holmes.
Hansberry, Lorraine	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	This play shows the strength of an African-American family's values and ability to stick together. They face many hard things that shock the reader and the audience including an accidental pregnancy. They battle against harsh prejudice and a system that attempts to keep them from having good opportunities to improve their life.
Harrison, Charles Yale	<i>Generals Die in Bed</i>	This chilling first-hand account brings readers face to face with the brutal, ugly realities of life in the trenches. Often compared to All Quiet on the Western Front and A Farewell to Arms, Generals Die in Bed was described by the New York Times as "a burning, breathing, historic document." With veterans of WWI no longer here to tell their tales, this book stands as a lasting monument to the horror of war.

Hautman, Pete	<i>Mr. Was</i>	To escape his violent, alcoholic father, Jack Lund and his mother move into his late grandfather's house. There, he discovers a door that allows him to travel back 50 years into the past. Jack plans to stay in the past long enough to prevent the crime; however, unbeknownst to him, he is becoming entangled in his family's ugly history.
Hawkins, Paula	<i>The Girl on the Train</i>	Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. "Jess and Jason," she calls them. Their life—as she sees it—is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel offers what she knows to the police.
Hillenbrand, Laura	<i>Unbroken (abridged version)</i>	On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a young lieutenant, appears as a survivor. The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood, he'd been a cunning delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, which eventually carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile. But when war came, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown.
Hobbs, Will	<i>Downriver</i>	Eight problem kids sent to a camp called Discovery Unlimited decide to ditch their camp instructor and raft down the Colorado River.
Hornby, Nick	<i>Slam</i>	For 16-year-old Sam, life is about to get extremely complicated. He and his girlfriend—make that ex-girlfriend— Alicia have gotten themselves into a bit of trouble. Sam is suddenly forced to grow up and struggle with the familiar fears and inclinations that haunt us all.
	<i>High Fidelity</i>	Rob is a pop music junkie who runs his own semi-failing record store. His girlfriend, Laura, has just left him for the guy upstairs, and Rob is both miserable and relieved. After all, could he have spent his life with someone who has a bad record collection? He seeks refuge in the company of the offbeat clerks at his store. Then he sees Laura again and begins to think that life as an episode of <i>thirtysomething</i> , with all the kids and marriages and barbecues, might not be so bad.
	<i>A Long Way Down</i>	Meet Martin, JJ, Jess, and Maureen. Four people who come together on New Year's Eve: a former TV talk show host, a musician, a teenage girl, and a mother. Three are British, one is American. They encounter one another on the roof of Topper's House, a London destination famous as the last stop for those ready to end their lives. The four individuals confront the limits of choice, circumstance, and their own mortality. This is a tale of connections made and missed, punishing regrets, and the grace of second chances.
Hrdlichka, Shelley	<i>Dancing Naked</i>	After Kia discovers that she is pregnant and that the father wants her to have an abortion, she must make some difficult decisions, aided by her youth counselor Justin and Grace, a woman she meets while volunteering at a senior's home.
Hubert, Cam	<i>Dreamspeaker</i>	A young male native comes to terms with his culture and the oppressive cycle of alcoholism.
Jackson, Tiffany D.	<i>Monday's Not Coming</i>	Monday Charles is missing, and only her best friend Claudia seems to notice. Claudia knows that something is wrong. Monday wouldn't just leave her to endure tests and

		bullies alone. Not after last year's rumors and not with her grades on the line. Now Claudia needs her best—and only—friend more than ever. But Monday's mother refuses to give Claudia a straight answer, and Monday's sister April is even less help. As Claudia digs deeper into her friend's disappearance, she discovers that no one seems to remember the last time they saw Monday. How can a teenage girl just vanish without anyone noticing that she's gone?
Kerr, M.E.	<i>Gentlehands</i>	To impress his rich girlfriend, Buddy Boyle takes her to visit his estranged grandfather. But he discovers that his grandfather's culture and sophistication hide a long-buried secret reaching back to Auschwitz.
Kowgawa, Joy	<i>Obsan</i>	This novel explores the Canadian government's deplorable treatment of Japanese Canadians during World War II, which included the suspension of all rights, forced internment and forced labour, and the fracturing of families. Written in 1972 as the memoir of schoolteacher Naomi Nakane, the novel contrasts her current condition with her painful past.
	<i>Istuka</i>	In Obsan, Naomi's childhood was torn apart by Canada's betrayal of Japanese Canadian citizens during the 1940s. Years later, living quietly as a schoolteacher in the prairies, Naomi suffers the passing of the dear aunt and uncle who raised her, and her wounds are reopened. But Naomi's other aunt—the feisty Emily Kato—convinces her to move to Toronto and encourages her to become involved in the Japanese Canadian fight for redress.
Lahiri, Jhumpa	<i>The Namesake</i>	The Ganguli family is transformed from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle
		together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd name.
Laidlaw, S. J.	<i>Fifteen Lanes</i>	Noor has lived all of her fourteen years in the fifteen lanes of Mumbai's red light district. Born into a brothel, she is destined for the same fate as her mother: a desperate life trapped in the city's sex trade. Across the sprawling city, fifteen-year-old Grace enjoys a life of privilege. But Grace's seemingly perfect life is shattered when she becomes a victim of a cruel online attack. When their paths intersect, Noor and Grace will be changed forever. Can two girls living in vastly different worlds find a common path?
Lansens, Lori	<i>Rush Home Road</i>	Addy Shadd, an elderly neighbor agrees to look after 5-year old Sharla. Although Sharla is a handful, the two soon forge a deep bond. Sharla's presence brings back memories of her own childhood in Rusholme, a town settled by fugitive slaves in the mid-1800s. She reminisces about her family, her first love, and the painful experience that drove her away from home.

	<i>The Girls</i>	Rose and Ruby are twenty-nine-year-old conjoined twins. Joined to Ruby at the head, Rose's face is pulled to one side, but she has full use of her limbs. Ruby has a beautiful face, but her body is tiny and she is unable to walk. As they describe their relatively sheltered childhood, rocky adolescence, and tentative experiments with love, the interplay between these two distinct voices heightens the dramatic tension of what's to come.
Lansens, Lori	<i>The Mountain Story</i>	On his 18th birthday, Wolf Truly takes the tramway to the top of the mountain that looms over Palm Springs, intending to jump to his death. Instead he encounters strangers wandering in the mountain wilderness, three women who will change the course of his life. Through a series of missteps he and the women wind up stranded, in view of the city below, but without a way down. They endure five days in freezing temperatures without food or water or shelter, and somehow find the courage to carry on.
Lee, Harper	<i>Go Set a Watchman</i>	Maycomb, Alabama. Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch--"Scout"--returns home from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town and the people dearest to her. Memories from her childhood flood back, and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt.
Letts, Billie	<i>Where the Heart Is</i>	A woman who is 9 months pregnant is abandoned at Walmart by her abusive boyfriend. She gives birth to a baby girl and gets support from some close friends.
Lipsyte, Robert	<i>The Contender</i>	Against great odds, a black high school drop-out trains to become a championship boxer.
Mafi, Tahereh	<i>A Very Large Expanse of Sea</i>	It's 2002, a year after 9/11. Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl, is beaten down by rude stares, degrading comments, and even physical violence she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears. So she refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. Instead, she drowns her frustrations in music and break-dancing with her brother. But then she meets Ocean James. He's the first person who really seems to want to get to know Shirin. It terrifies her—they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds—and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she's not sure she'll ever be able to let it down.
Morris, Heather	<i>The Tattooist of Auschwitz</i>	In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work tattooing his fellow prisoners. Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. One day, Lale comforts a trembling young woman waiting in line to have a number tattooed onto her arm. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her.
Lynch, Chris	<i>Inexcusable</i>	When high school senior Keir tackles and cripples a member of an opposing football team, it's determined to be an accident—one that earns him the good-humored nickname, Killer. But when he date rapes the girl he thinks he loves, at first he convinces himself that the way it looks is not the way it is.
Marsden, John	<i>Tomorrow, When the War Began</i>	Australian teenager Ellie and six of her friends return from a winter break camping trip to find their homes burned or deserted, their families imprisoned, and their country occupied by a foreign military force in league with a band of disaffected Australians. They must stick together and fight a guerilla war against the invaders if they are to survive.

McNamee, Graham	<i>Acceleration</i>	It's a hot summer and in the depths of the Toronto Transit Authority's lost and found, 17-year-old Duncan is cataloging misplaced belongings. And between Jacob, the cranky old man who runs the place, and the endless dusty boxes overflowing with stuff no one will ever claim, Duncan has just about had enough. Then he finds a little leather book filled with the dark and dirty secrets of a twisted mind, a serial killer stalking his prey in the subway. And Duncan can't stop reading. What would you do with a book like that? How far would you go to catch a madman?
Morrison, Toni	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	A young, black girl longs to have blue eyes and to be accepted as she believes white people are.
Monk-Kidd, Sue	<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.
Monk-Kidd, Sue	<i>The Invention of Wings</i>	Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will leave Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements.
Myers, Walter Dean	<i>Fallen Angels</i>	After graduating from high school, Richie Perry signs up for the army and gets shipped off to Vietnam. In a battlefield jungle where every move can mean the difference between death and survival, Richie meets Peewee, Lobel, Johnson, and Brunner. They all came there for different reasons, but now they share a single dream - getting out alive.
	<i>All the Right Stuff</i>	After his father is shot and killed, Paul Dupree finds a summer job at a Harlem soup kitchen. Elijah, the soup man, questions Paul about tough life choices, even though Paul would rather be playing basketball. Over the summer, Paul begins to understand the importance of taking control of your life.
	<i>Slam</i>	Seventeen-year-old Greg "Slam" Harris can do it all on the basketball court. He's seen ballplayers come and go, and he knows he could be one of the lucky ones. Maybe he'll make it to the top. Or maybe he'll stumble along the way. Slam's grades aren't that hot. And when his teachers jam his troubles in his face, he blows up. Slam never doubted himself on the court until he found himself going one-on-one with his own future, and he didn't have the ball.
Myers, Walter Dean and Workman, Ross	<i>Kick</i>	Kevin Johnson is thirteen years old. And heading for juvie. He's a good kid, a great friend, and a star striker for his Highland, New Jersey, soccer team. His team is competing for the State Cup, and he wants to prove he has more than just star-player potential. Kevin's never been in any serious trouble . . . until the night he ends up in

		jail. Enter Sergeant Brown, a cop assigned to be Kevin's mentor. If Kevin and Brown can learn to trust each other, they might be able to turn things around before it's too late.
Nazer, Mende	<i>Slave</i>	Mende Nazer's happy childhood was cut short at the age of twelve when the Mujahidin rode in to her village in the Nuba mountains of Sudan. She was abducted and sold to an Arab woman in Khartoum. For seven long years she was kept as a domestic slave, an 'abid', without any pay or a single day off. Passed on by her master, like a parcel, to a relative in London where she managed to escape to freedom.
Paley, Sasha	<i>Huge</i>	Wil is an overweight girl whose wealthy parents own a chain of fitness centers. April is an overweight girl who has saved money to go to Wellness Canyon Camp, where an unwilling Wil is being sent by her parents. Upbeat April and sarcastic, unhappy Wil meet as roommates, two girls with very different ideas about body image.
Picoult, Jodi	<i>19 Minutes</i>	Peter Houghton, an alienated teen, commits a school shooting that kills ten people. Flashbacks reveal how years of bullying caused Peter to retreat into a world of violent computer games. The judge assigned to the case struggles to main objective, since her daughter is one of the surviving witnesses of the shooting.
	<i>My Sister's Keeper</i>	Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Throughout her life, she has had to donate platelets, blood, and bone marrow in procedures that become increasingly invasive. When, at age 16, Anna is considered as a kidney donor, she hires a lawyer to fight for medical emancipation.
Picoult, Jodi	<i>The Storyteller</i>	Sage Singer befriends an old man who's particularly beloved in her community. Josef Weber is everyone's favorite retired teacher and Little League coach. They strike up a friendship at the bakery where Sage works. One day he asks Sage for a favor: to kill him. Shocked, Sage refuses... and then he confesses his darkest secret—he deserves to die, because he was a Nazi SS guard. Complicating the matter? Sage's grandmother is a Holocaust survivor.
	<i>Handle With Care</i>	When Willow is born with brittle bone disease, her parents are devastated-she will suffer hundreds of broken bones as she grows, a lifetime of pain. Her parents' lives are made up of sleepless nights, mounting bills, and the pitying stares of "luckier" parents. But it's all worth it because Willow is, funny, smart as a whip, brave, and for a five-year-old an unexpectedly deep source of wisdom. Everything changes, though, after Willow's mother launches a wrongful birth lawsuit against the doctor who failed to inform her of Willow's disease during her pregnancy.
Reilly, Patricia Giff	<i>Pictures of Hollis Woods</i>	A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.
Retzlaff, Mandy	<i>One Hundred and Four Horses</i>	It is no longer safe in Zimbabwe for settlers. When their neighbours flee to New Zealand, the Retzlaffs promise to look after their horses, and making similar promises to other farmers along their journey, not knowing whether they will be able to feed or save them, they amass an astonishing herd of over 300 animals. But the final journey to freedom will be arduous, and they can take only 104 horses.
Rubio, Gwyn Hyman	<i>Icy Sparks</i>	A young girl deals with the isolating qualities of Tourette's Syndrome.

Sharenow, Robert	<i>The Berlin Boxing Club</i>	Karl Stern has never thought of himself as a Jew. But the bullies at his school in Nazi-era Berlin, don't care that Karl has never been in a synagogue or that his family doesn't practice religion. Demoralized by attacks on a heritage he doesn't accept as his own, Karl longs to prove his worth. So when Max Schmeling, champion boxer and German national hero, makes a deal with Karl's father to give Karl boxing lessons, A skilled cartoonist, Karl has never had an interest in boxing, but now it seems like the perfect chance to reinvent himself.
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Sheth, Kashmira	<i>Boys Without Names</i>	For eleven-year-old Gopal and his family, life in their rural Indian village is over: We stay, we starve, his baba has warned. So they must flee to the big city of Mumbai in hopes of finding work and a brighter future. Gopal is eager to help support his struggling family until school starts, so when a stranger approaches him with the promise of a factory job, he jumps at the offer. But Gopal has been deceived. There is no factory but, instead, a small, stuffy sweatshop, where he and five other boys are forced to make beaded frames for no money and little food.
See, Lisa	<i>Snow Flower and the Secret Fan</i>	In nineteenth-century China, in a remote Hunan county, a girl named Lily, at the tender age of seven, is paired with a laotong, "old same," in an emotional match that will last a lifetime. The laotong, Snow Flower, introduces herself by sending Lily a silk fan on which she's painted a poem in nu shu, a unique language that Chinese women created in order to communicate in secret, away from the influence of men. As the years pass, Lily and Snow Flower send messages on fans, compose stories on handkerchiefs, reaching out of isolation to share their hopes, dreams, and accomplishments. Together, they endure the agony of foot-binding, and reflect upon their arranged marriages, shared loneliness, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood. But when a misunderstanding arises, their deep friendship suddenly threatens to tear apart.
	<i>Peony in Love</i>	In seventeenth-century China, Peony, a sheltered and obedient young girl, is allowed to see the controversial opera The Peony Pavilion as part of her sixteenth-birthday celebration. During the performance, which takes three evenings to complete, she meets and falls in love with a mysterious young man. Already promised in marriage, she mourns for the love she cannot have, only to discover as she is dying that her stranger is her betrothed, Wu Ren. After her death, the burial rituals are unfinished, and she cannot go to her ancestors. Instead, she haunts her lover and uses Ren's new wife to write commentary on the opera to try to reach him, beginning a long and harrowing journey toward fulfillment and eternal rest.
	<i>Shanghai Girls</i>	In 1937 Shanghai—the Paris of Asia—twenty-one-year-old Pearl Chin and her younger sister, May, are having the time of their lives. Both are beautiful, modern, and carefree—until the day their father tells them that he has gambled away their wealth. To repay his debts, he must sell the girls as wives to suitors who have traveled from Los Angeles to find Chinese brides. As Japanese bombs fall on their beloved city, Pearl and May set out on the journey of a lifetime, from the Chinese countryside to the shores of America. Though inseparable best friends, the sisters also harbor petty jealousies and rivalries. Along the way they make terrible sacrifices, face impossible choices, and confront a devastating, life-changing secret, but through it all the two heroines of this astounding new novel hold fast to who they are—Shanghai girls.
	<i>Dreams of Joy</i>	Reeling from newly uncovered family secrets, Joy runs away to Shanghai in early 1957 to find her birth father—the artist Z.G. Li, with whom both May and Pearl were once in love. Dazzled by him, and blinded by idealism and defiance, Joy throws herself into the New Society of Red China, heedless of the dangers in the Communist regime. Devastated by Joy's flight and terrified for her safety, Pearl is determined to save her daughter, no matter the personal cost. From the crowded city to remote villages,

		Pearl confronts old demons and almost insurmountable challenges as she follows Joy, hoping for reconciliation. Yet even as Joy's and Pearl's separate journeys converge, one of the most tragic episodes in China's history threatens their very lives.
Sepetys, Ruta	<i>Out of the Easy</i>	In 1950, the French Quarter of New Orleans simmers with secrets. Seventeen-year-old Josie Moraine is the daughter of a brothel prostitute, but she wants more out of life than the Big Easy has to offer. She devises a plan to get out, but a mysterious death in the Quarter leaves Josie tangled in an investigation that will challenge her allegiance to her mother and her conscience.
Sullivan, Tara	<i>Golden Boy</i>	Thirteen-year-old Habo has always been different. He is an albino. When his family is forced from their small Tanzanian village, Habo knows he is to blame. Seeking refuge in Mwanza, Habo and his family journey across the Serengeti. But they hunt Albinos in Mwanza because Albino body parts are thought to bring good luck. And soon Habo is all alone, being hunted by a fearsome man with a machete. To survive, Habo must not only run but find a way to love and accept himself.
Taylor, Drew Hayden	<i>Motorcycles and Sweetgrass</i>	Otter Lake is a sleepy Anishnawbe community where little happens. Until the day a handsome stranger pulls up astride a 1953 Indian Chief motorcycle – and turns Otter Lake completely upside down. Maggie, the Reserve's chief, is swept off her feet, but Virgil, her teenage son, is less than enchanted. Suspicious of the stranger's intentions, he teams up with his uncle Wayne – a master of aboriginal martial arts – to drive the stranger from the Reserve. And it turns out that the raccoons are willing to lend a hand.

Scott, Mary Ann	<i>New Girl</i>	Kat feels like the "small-town girl who hits the big-city school and goes splat." A new girl emerges as she figures out new friendships, learns unpleasant truths about friends back home and faces the persuasive advances of a boy named Alexei. It's tough being the new girl, but this new girl wouldn't go back, even if she could.
Sebold, Alice	<i>The Lovely Bones</i>	The main character is raped and killed by a neighbour. After her death, from heaven, she tells the story of how her family copes with her death.
Sepetys, Ruta	<i>Between Shades of Gray</i>	Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life--until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives.
Sheth, Kashmira	<i>Boys Without Names</i>	Eleven-year-old Gopal and his family flee from their rural Indian village to the big city of Mumbai in hopes of finding work and a brighter future. When a stranger approaches Gopal with the promise of a factory job, he jumps at the offer. But there is no factory, just a stuffy sweatshop where he and five other boys are forced to work for no money and little food. The boys are forbidden to talk or even to call one another by their real names. Locked away in a rundown building, Gopal despairs of ever seeing his family again.

Soto, Gary	Buried Onions	Set in a gang-infested section of Fresno, California, this novel captures the cyclical despair of 19-year-old protagonist, Eddie. When Eddie's cousin is killed, his aunt urges him to seek out and punish the murderer. In the end, with his money gone and a dangerous gang member stalking him, Eddie's only choice is to join the military and hope that they can give him a better future than the one Fresno seems to offer.
Sparks, Beatrice	Jay's Journal	Written by Beatrice Sparks, a psychologist and youth counselor, this novel is allegedly the diary of a boy who committed suicide after becoming involved with the occult. Sparks claims to have based it on the diary of a patient. However, the family of the boy in question, Alden Barrett, disowned the book, claiming that much of the story was invented.
Thomas, Rob	Rats Saw God	In order to pass English class and graduate, 18-year-old Steve York has to write a 100- page essay about his life. What sounds like a run-of-the-mill writing assignment, however, becomes an excuse for Steve to reflect on the last four years.
Tokio, Marnelle	More Than You Can Chew	Marty Black, a high school senior, finds herself in a psychiatric institution where she is being treated for her eating disorder, and soon recognizes that her need for help is only the first tenuous step on a long road to recovery.
Walker, Kate	Peter	When 15-year-old Peter Dawson meets his older brother's friend David, suddenly nothing is simple any longer. For David is gay and Peter gradually realizes that his strong attraction to the college student means that he, himself, might be gayest in an Australian society that defines sexuality only in terms of ignorant and mean-spirited stereotypes, Peter must struggle to find his identity.

Walters, Eric	End of Days	It's 2012 and the world's most renowned astrophysicists, astronomers, and theoretical mathematicians have all died within the same 12-month period. But as these scientists discover, none of them are really dead after all. They have been taken hostage by alien forces. And while their family and friends are mourning their passing, and with the help of a 16-year-old with rare gifts, they face the ultimate struggle of prevailing over evil and returning themselves--and the earth--to safety.
	Walking Home	Only weeks ago, 13-year-old Muchoki and his younger sister Jata lived in a bustling Kenyan village, going to school, playing soccer with friends, and helping at their parents' store. But sudden political violence has killed their father and destroyed their home. Now, Muchoki, Jata, and their ailing mother live in a tent in an overcrowded refugee camp. Driven by both hope and desperation, Muchoki and Jata set off on what seems like an impossible journey: to walk hundreds of kilometers to find their last remaining family.
	Shaken	This novel is set in Port-au-Prince, Haiti during the January 2009 earthquake, follows the struggle of Joshua, a Canadian boy at the centre of the tragedy. Fifteen-year-old Joshua travels from Toronto to Port-au-Prince, Haiti in order to help with a charity mission. Poverty and and injustice surrounds him, and Joshua struggles to find meaning in the cruelty of the world. And then devastation hits — and Joshua finds himself at the very centre of a catastrophic earthquake.

	Sketches	Dana met Brent and Ashley when she first arrived in town, a scared runaway with nowhere to go. The three of them are like family; they take care of each other; they share the money they beg, borrow, and steal; and they protect each other from the more ruthless street people they come upon. Still, life is lived day-to-day. It's hard to think about tomorrow when you've got no money, no food, and no place to live. And as for the past ... well, that's what they ran away from. It's what all of them—and especially Dana—are trying hard to forget.
Wells, Rebecca	The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood	A daughter is disowned by her mother after a local newspaper quotes her making negative comments about her family.
White, Susan Rebecca	A Place at the Table	Three richly nuanced characters cross paths in a chic Manhattan café: Bobby, a gay Southern boy who has been ostracized by his family; Amelia, a wealthy Connecticut woman whose life is upended when a family secret finally comes to light; and Alice, an African-American chef whose heritage is the basis of a famous cookbook but whose past is a mystery to those who know her. The healing power of food and the magic of New York in the understanding that when you embrace the thing that makes you different, you become whole.
Wiesel, Elie	Night (Trilogy)	This is a true story based on Wiesel's experiences in a concentration camp.
Wooten, Jim	We Are All the Same	This is the true story of Nkosi, an African boy who is born with AIDS. His poverty-stricken mother fights to ensure that he will be provided for after her death, and agrees to his adoption, at age three, to a white South African. The book is a scathing criticism at African leader Nelson Mandela's refusal to deal with the AIDS crisis because he was embarrassed to speak publicly about sex.
Wright, Richard	Native Son	Right from the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it was for murder and rape. <i>Native Son</i> tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, this novel is a reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.
Wyndham, John	The Chrysalids	The terrifying story of a world paralyzed by genetic mutation. In a community where deviations are rooted out as abominations, David's ability to communicate by "thought shapes" is a dangerous secret. When his ability is discovered, the results are horrific.
Zailckas, Koren	Smashed: Story of a Drunken Girlhood	By the time Koren Zailckas enters Syracuse University, she has already been hospitalized for alcohol poisoning, and her binge drinking through college, wholly supported by the Greek system, contributes to heartbreaking, empty sexual encounters and difficulty relating to anyone without "the third wheel" of alcohol. Zailckas muses about the societal factors that contribute to the astonishing rise in women's drinking.
Zarr, Sara	Story of a Girl	When Deanna's father catches her having sex in a car when she is 13, her life is drastically changed. Two years later, he still can't look her in the eye, and though Tommy is the only boy she's been with, she is branded as being promiscuous. Deanna longs to escape a life defined by her past.

Zuska, Markus	The Messenger	Ed Kennedy is an underage cabdriver without much of a future. He's pathetic at playing cards, hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey, and utterly devoted to his coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first ace arrives in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger.
	The Book Thief	Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.