



Dear VMS Students and Parents,

Reading is a cornerstone of education and we hope to cultivate a love of books in all Vail Mountain School students. In support of this goal, each division has created a summer reading program that is age-appropriate and designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests. Information about each division's summer reading program can be found in the attached PDF, which can also be accessed by going to the "My VMS" section on www.vms.edu. We ask that you please read over the sections relevant to your child and help support them in accomplishing the outlined goals.

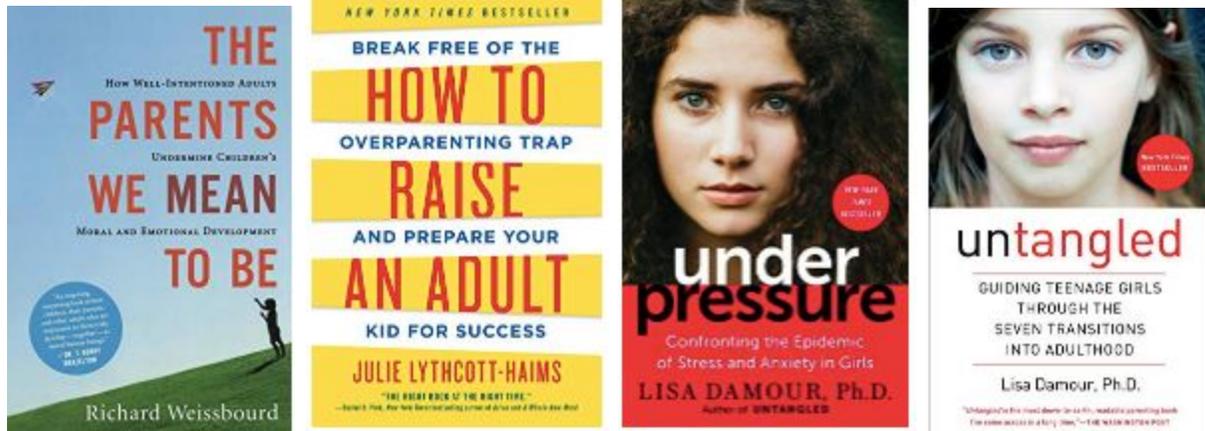
In preparation for the 2019-2020 academic year visiting speakers and programs, we also invite parents to read a few titles.

Next year both middle school and upper school will be joining Harvard's Graduate School of Education's program, Making Caring Common, to further build empathy, gratitude, and grit in our advisory program. In support of this program, during the fall, Kate Drescher and Maggie Pavlik will host a book discussion on Richard Weissbourd's, *The Parents We Mean To Be: How Well Intentioned Adults Undermine Children's Moral and Emotional Development*. Weissbourd is a senior lecturer at Harvard's Graduate School of Education and at the Kennedy School of Government. He is also the faculty director of Making Caring Common and the director of the Human Development and Psychology Program. We hope parents of K-12 students will join us in discussing Weissbourd's book.

Additionally, in the 2019-2020 academic year, Vail Mountain School will host two nationally acclaimed authors as a part of the school's speaker series. In October, Julie Lythcott-Haims will be on campus to work with students, faculty, and parents. Ms. Lythcott-Haims is the author of *How to Raise an Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare your Kid for Success*. As a former Stanford Dean of Freshman, she writes about how the roles of parents have morphed over time and how the rise of the helicopter parent has changed the landscape of childhood. We hope you will read Ms. Lythcott-Haims' New York Times Best Seller and join us for her presentation to parents.

In March of 2020, Lisa Damour will visit VMS to work with faculty, parents and students. Dr. Damour is an internationally recognized psychologist and author, and the executive director of Laurel School's Center for Research on Girls. Her books *Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls*

Through the Seven Transitions into Adulthood and her more recent book, *Under Pressure: Confronting the Epidemic of Stress and Anxiety in Girls* have gained renown and helped parents to raise happy and healthy daughters. Dr. Damour's visit will dovetail with Dr. Michael Thompson's visit this past year that focused on the emotional lives of boys. Please be on the lookout for invitations to each speaker's visit as dates are set, and feel free to reach out with any questions.



Happy reading and enjoy the summer break!

Kristin Douthitt

Lower School Division Director

Kabe ErkenBrack

Middle School Division Director

Maggie Pavlik

Upper School Division Director



LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2019

Summer is right around the corner and much excitement abounds. The following book list will offer your child exposure to many different styles of writing, as well as flexibility in choosing books for a variety of interests and reading levels. We hope this offers you more breadth and depth in the selections of books for enjoyable summer reading.

It is recommended that students read approximately 20-40 minutes each day throughout the summer vacation from school. While children need time to unwind and relax, studies have shown that without summer reading, children's reading skills recede.

As parents, look for ways to incorporate reading into your child's summer vacation in a way that is fun and pleasurable. What can you do?

- Don't rule out comic books, magazines, and storybooks. Allow your child the freedom to break up his/her book reading with a shorter, easier "read."
- Help your child find a book on a subject that interests them. Sit down with your child and make a list of possible topics. Then visit the local library. Librarians are wonderful resources and can easily point out books for your child.
- Encourage your child to register for your local library's summer reading program for kids.
- Make sure that you are reading during the summer. Children need to see that reading is a lifelong activity even his/her parents enjoy. Show your children the pleasure you derive from reading by talking about the books you read.
- Get a second copy of your child's book and read along with him/her. This way you can discuss the book together. You might also take turns reading aloud to each other.
- Since reading and writing go hand and hand, encourage your child to keep a reading journal. Help your child think of topics for their entries. Your child might write a letter to the author as an entry or retell a book chapter from the perspective of a different character.
- Plan a summer trip around a book your child is reading. Historical fiction lends itself particularly well to this approach and there are plenty of places nearby to visit.
- Most importantly, schedule reading into the day. Set aside at least twenty minutes each day that your child will devote to reading, and do your best to help your child stick to the plan.
- If your child reads 200+ minutes a week, and you are inclined, go out for an ice cream cone, and spend extra time at the local library or bookstore.

2019 LOWER SCHOOL FAMILY SUMMER READ

This year we will head back to World War I where we will discover the true story behind the world's most famous bear, Winnie the Pooh. Author Lindsay Matlack is the great-granddaughter of Harry Colebourn, who first discovered and purchased an orphaned bear at a train station on his way to war. Whether you decided to read the picture book or chapter book, this story will captivate your interest as it starts with a bear in the fields of Canada and leads all the way to the relationship between Christopher Robin and "Winnie" at the London Zoo. Enjoy!

When we return in the fall, homebases will be discussing this remarkable tale and will be providing developmentally appropriate activities to both extend the understanding of the story and pull out relevant topics of research and discussion.

*Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there someday.
—Winnie the Pooh*



TOP 10 SUGGESTIONS

for LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER READING

Books Appropriate for Students Before Entering Kindergarten Recommended by Mrs. Blumenreich and Mrs. Szmyd

- *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing
- *Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes
- *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate
- *Timothy Goes to School* by Rosemary Wells
- *How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?* By Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney
- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr.
- *Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.

Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Kindergarten Level Recommended by Mrs. Blumenreich and Mrs. Szmyd

- *First Grade, Here I Come!* By Nancy Carlson
- *Piggie and Elephant* series by Mo Willems
- *Bedtime Math* by Laura Overdeck
- *Now I'm Reading!* Series
- *If You Take a Mouse to School* by Laura Numeroff
- *Pete the Cat Rocking in My School Shoes* by Eric Litwin
- *David Goes to School* by David Shannon
- *Penguins Love Their ABCs* by Sarah Aspinall
- *Sometimes I Feel Sunny* by Georgie Birkett
- Recommended Authors: Mo Willems, Doreen Cronin, Pat Hutchins, Mercer Mayer, Eric Carle, Bill Martin, Kevin Henkes, Dr. Seuss

Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a First Grade Level Recommended by Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Weller

- *Frog and Toad* series by Arnold Lobel
- *Nate the Great* series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- *Henry and Mudge* series by Cynthia Rylant
- *Cam Jansen* series by David Adler
- *Little Bear* series by Else Holmelund Minarik
- *Magic Tree House* series by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Franklin* series by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark
- *Fly Guy* series by Ted Arnold
- *Poppleton* series by Cynthia Rylant
- Recommended Authors: Ted Arnold, Cynthia Rylant, Gail Gibbons, Jan Brett, Mo Williams, and Dr. Suess

***Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Second Grade Level
Recommended by Mrs. Enright***

- *Mercy Watson* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Stink the Incredible Shrinking Kid* by Megan McDonald
- *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown
- *Ivy & Bean* by Annie Barrows
- *Katie Kazoo Switcheroo* by Nancy Krulik
- *Olive & Beatrix* by Amy Marie Stadelmann
- *Owl Diaries* by Rebecca Elliott
- *Secrets of Droon* by Tony Abbott
- *A to Z Mysteries* by Ron Roy
- *Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot* by Dav Pilkey

***Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Third Grade Level
Recommended by Mrs. Enright***

- *Who Was...?* series by Jess Brallier, Stephanie Spinner, Dennis Brindell Fradin, et al
- *The Boxcar Children Mysteries* series by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *Geronimo Stilton* series by Geronimo Stilton
- *Roald Dahl Classics* by Roald Dahl
- *Warriors: A Vision of Shadows* series by Erin Hunter
- *39 Clues* series by Jude Watson
- *Amber Brown* series by Paula Danziger
- *Humphrey* series by Betty G. Birney
- *Goosebumps* series by R. L. Stein
- *Notebook of Doom* series by Troy Cumming

***Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Fourth Grade Level
Recommended by Mrs. Stavisky***

- *Moo* by Sharon Creech
- *Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard & Florence Atwater
- *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien
- *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies
- *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
- *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang
- *Mr. Lemoncello's Library* series by Chris Grabenstein
- *Code 7* by Bryan Johnson
- *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

***Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Fifth Grade Level
Recommended by Mrs. Stavisky***

- *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
- *Raymie Nightingale* and *Louisiana's Way Home* by Kate DiCamillo
- *The Honest Truth* and/or *Good Dog* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper
- *The War I Finally Won* and *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Wishtree* and/or *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate
- *Savvy* by Ingrid Law
- *Mercy Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft



MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2019

Summer vacation is for spending quality time with family and friends and enjoying less structure and routine in your lives. However, it is imperative to read as much and as often as you can. The intent of VMS's Middle School Summer Reading is to integrate books into your normal summer life in a natural and fun way that is not stressful.

Over the summer, all incoming middle school students should have an active reading life. Summer is a perfect time to develop *personal* reading interests that maintain and enrich literacy skills. You are expected to read *at least three (3) books over the summer months and track the books you read on the attached Summer Reading Log.*

Two of the three books may be of your choice. The third must be one of the following book-club selections:

- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *24 Hours in Nowhere* by Dusti Bowling
- *First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez
- *Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Edition)* by Daniel James Brown
- *Strange the Dreamer* by Laini Taylor
- *The Science of Breakable Things* by Tae Keller

Upon returning to school, you will participate in a cross-grade discussion based on the book club book you read.

In addition to reading, choose one book you would like to share with your classmates when school begins and write a one paragraph reflection based on the attached prompt.

The *Summer Reading Log* and reflection, signed by a parent or guardian, will be your first Humanities (6th)/ English (7th and 8th) grade of 2019-2020.

SUMMER READING LOG

Name:	Grade (2019-20):
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Date (started and finished)	Title of Book	Author	Genre	My Reaction
(Example) June 1 - June 24	(Example) <i>Echo</i>	(Example) Pam Muñoz Ryan	(Example) Historical Fiction	(Example) This book really challenged me, but I liked how the three stories weaved together in the end. Makes me want to play the harmonica!

REFLECTION PROMPT

After you complete your summer reading, choose one book that you would like to present to your class during the first weeks of school. Respond to the following prompt in *at least* one full paragraph using complete sentences.

Please write a critique of the book you chose to present to your classmates. To help with your critique, respond to the following questions:

- Why did you like the story?
- Why should others be interested in the story?
- What was a scene/moment that was memorable to you, and why?

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Please find a list of recommendations for 6th-8th graders to read over the summer. Note that because this list is intended for all middle schoolers, some books may be more appropriate for older students vs. younger students and vice versa. Parents are encouraged to research and/or preview books if concerned about maturity. *We have labeled some books with asterisks to indicate known mature content due to language, violence, topic, etc.*

Realistic Fiction

- *Anderson, Laurie H. *Twisted*
- Applegate, Katherine. *Crenshaw* and *The One and Only Ivan*
- Bauer, Joan. *Almost Home*
- Bell, Cece. *El Deafo*
- Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine*
- Benjamin, Ali. *The Thing About Jellyfish*
- Cormier, Robert. *The Rag and Bone Shop*
- Cormier, Robert. *I Am the Cheese*
- Dessen, Sarah. *Just Listen*
- Draper, Sharon. *Copper Sun* and *Out of My Mind*
- Erskine, Kathryn. *Mockingbird*
- Forman, Gayle. *If I Stay*
- Geimenhart, Dan. *The Honest Truth*
- Gipson, Fred. *Old Yeller*
- Goldblatt, Mark. *Twerp*
- Graff, Lisa. *Lost in the Sun, Tangle of Knots*
- * Green, John. *The Fault in Our Stars, Paper Towns, and Looking for Alaska*
- Harrington, Karen. *Courage for Beginners*
- Hiassen, Carl. *Flush* and *Hoot*
- Hinton, S.E. *That Was Then, This is Now*
- Howe, James. *The Misfits, Addie on the Inside, and Totally Joe*
- Holm, Jennifer. *The Fourteenth Goldfish*
- Hunt, Linda Mullaly. *Fish in a Tree*
- Kelly, Jacqueline. *Curious World of Calpurnia Tate*
- Korman, Gordon. *Schooled, Son of the Mob, Ungifted, Born to Rock, Pop, and Swindle.*
- LaFleur, Suzanne. *Love, Aubrey, and Eight Keys*
- Littlewood, Kathryn. *Bliss*
- Mass, Wendy. *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life, A Mango-Shaped Space (review), Finally, 11 Birthdays, The Candymakers, Leap Day, Heaven Looks a Lot Like the Mall, The Last Present, and 13 Gifts*
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*
- Nowra, Louis. *Into That Forest*
- Palacio, R.J. *Wonder* and *Auggie & Me*
- * Rowell, Rainbow. *Eleanor & Park*
- Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Echo, Becoming Naomi Leon, The Dreamer, and Esperanza Rising*
- * Scheider, Robin. *The Beginning of Everything*
- Scieszka, Jon. *Guys Write for Guys Read*

- Shusterman, Neal. *Downsiders*
- Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Counting by 7s*
- Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl, Milkweed*
- *Stead, Rebecca. *Goodbye Stranger*
- Stockett, Kathryn. *The Help*
- Telgemeir, Raina. *Smile, Sisters, and Drama*
- Watson, Jude. *Loot*
- Weeks, Sarah. *So B. It*
- * Whaley, John Corey. *Noggin*

Adventure/Action/Thriller

- Barraclough, Lindsey. *Long Lankin*
- Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*
- *Cooney, Caroline B. *Flight #116 is Down*
- Dashner, James. *The Maze Runner* trilogy and *Eye of Minds*
- Farmer, Nancy. *A Girl Named Disaster*
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *The Shadow Children* series
- Horowitz, Anthony. *Alex Rider* series (*Stormbreaker, Point Blank, etc.*)
- Hirsch, Jeff. *The Eleventh Plague*
- Lore, Pittacus. *The I Am Number Four* series
- Lu, Marie. *Legend* series
- Patterson, James. *Maximum Ride* series
- Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet* series & *Woods Runner*
- Roth, Veronica. *Divergent* and *Insurgent*
- Stewart, Trenton Lee, *The Mysterious Benedict Society*
- *Yancey, Rick. *The 5th Wave*
- *Martel, Yann. *The Life of Pi*

Sports

- Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover* and *Booked*
- Green, Tim. *Football Genius* series and *Baseball Great*
- Lupica, Mike. *QB1, True Legend, and Fantasy League*
- Deuker, Carl. *High Heat*

Fantasy/Science Fiction/Dystopian

- *Adams, Douglas. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*
- *Anderson, M. T. *Feed*
- Bergin, Virginia. *H2O, The Storm*
- Cameron, Bruce. *A Dog's Journey*
- Cass, Kiera. *The Selection* series
- Clarke, Arthur C. *2001: A Space Odyssey*
- Collins, Suzanne. *Gregor the Overlander* series and *The Hunger Games* series
- Colfer, Chris. *The Land of Stories* series
- Condie, Ally. *The Matched* series
- Duprau, Jeanne. *City of Ember*
- Farmer, Nancy. *House of the Scorpion*
- Fisher, Catherine. *Incarceron*

- Grabenstein, Chris. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*
- *Grant, Michael. *Gone* series
- Hautman, Pete. *Godless*
- Hunter, Erin. *Seekers* series
- Juster, Norton. *The Phantom Tollbooth*
- Kessler, Liz. *Emily Windsnap* series
- Lewis, C.S. *Chronicles of Narnia*
- Lore, Patticus. *Lorien Legacies* series
- Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*, *Gathering Blue*, and *The Silent Boy*
- McKenzie, Paige. *The Haunting of Sunshine Girl*
- Meyer, Stephenie. *The Twilight Saga* series
- Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief*, *Sea of Monsters*, *Titan's Curse*, *The Lost Hero*, *The Son of Neptune*, *The Mark of Athena*, *The Kane Chronicles*, *Magnus Chase*, & the *Percy Jackson* series
- Mull, Brandon. *Fablehaven* series and *Beyonders* series
- Sanders, Ted. *The Keepers* series
- Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, *The Marvels*, and *Wonderstruck*
- Sutherland, Tui. *The Wings of Fire* series
- Tolkien, J.R.R. *Lord of the Rings* series
- Yancey, Rick. *The 5th Wave*

Historical Fiction

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains* and *Fever* 1973
- Bradley, Kim. *The War that Saved My Life*
- Boyne, John. *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy*, and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*
- Doyle, Arthur. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*
- Hilton, K.C. *The Magic of Finkleton*
- Knowles, John. *A Separate Peace*
- Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out and Back Again*
- Maclean, Norman. *A River Runs Through It*
- Nielson, Jennifer. *A Night Divided*.
- Park, Linda Sue. *A Long Walk to Water*
- Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Sugar*
- Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Echo* and *Esperanza Rising*
- Sepetys, Ruta. *Between Shades of Gray*
- Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming*
- Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*

Non-Fiction

- Armstrong, Jennifer. *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and The Endurance*
- Blumenthal, Karen. *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different*
- Brown, Daniel James. *The Boys in the Boat (Young Reader's Edition): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics*
- Fleischman, John. *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science*

- Hillenbrand, Laura. *Unbroken (Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive*
- Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air*
- Mortenson, Greg. *Three Cups of Tea*
- Romero, John. *No Summit out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits*
- Webb, Brandon and John David Mann. *The Making of a Navy Seal: My Story of Surviving the Toughest Challenge and Training the Best*
- Yousafzai, Malala. *I Am Malala (Young Reader's Edition)*



UPPER SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2019

REQUIREMENTS

VMS hopes to inspire all of its students to love to read. To that end, we provide a structured summer reading program that will allow students to enjoy a variety of books based on personal choice, grade level preparation, and Upper School divisional expectations. Any or all of these books can be read either in book, electronic, or audio format. Please read EACH of the following directives.

- 1) We encourage, though do not require, you to read a book of your own choosing. To that end, we have provided you with a list of faculty recommendations as well as some general “good books” to guide your choices.
- 2) Please read the book that is specific to your grade level. This book has been selected for its relevance to your study in English for the upcoming year. You should read with a pen, and have a clear understanding of themes and specific events. You will be required to complete an in-class assessment on this book within the first few days of English class.
 - Entering 9th Grade: ***Lord of the Flies*, William Golding**
 - Entering 10th Grade: ***About a Boy*, Nick Hornby**
 - Entering 11th Grade: ***Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls**
 - Entering 12th Grade: ***The Things They Carried*, Tim O’Brien**
- 3) US Book Club: This summer’s book is ***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah**. Please see the description below. You will take a reading quiz in English class on the first or second day of school that will allow you to receive a free reading quiz pass if you can adequately demonstrate a thorough understanding of the book. You will all attend a “book club” held at school during 7th period on the Friday after orientation trips in which you will discuss the book in small groups. This book will be referenced throughout the year in all of your English classes.

UPPER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB: *Born A Crime*, by Trevor Noah

Although this book comes in both a young adult and an adult form, we ask that students read the adult version unless they have a learning difference that might necessitate a young adult text. We also suggest listening to this book in audio format as Trevor Noah himself reads it, providing nuances that only an author could communicate.

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.



Vail Mountain School would like to thank The Bookworm in Edwards for offering a 20% discount to VMS students who choose them for their summer reading needs when purchasing books. Bring your VMS student ID card to take advantage of this offer.

FACULTY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPPER SCHOOL

Andrew Behrendt, US Spanish Teacher

- Gaarder, Jostein. *Sophie's World*. An Introduction to Philosophy for young readers
- Stein, Garth. *Art of Racing in the Rain*. Written from the dog's point of view, sad but amazing.

Carson Blumenreich, Kindergarten teacher

- Michener, James. *Centennial*. *Centennial* is an historical fiction novel set in the Western United States about how everything came to be, including the land, animals, and people. In *Centennial*, trappers, traders, homesteaders, gold seekers, ranchers, and hunters are brought together in the dramatic conflicts that shape the destiny of the legendary West—and the entire country. *I loved this novel when I read it in my high school A.P. History class.*
- Spellman, Cathy Cash. *Paint the Wind*. A plot teeming with outsize characters and melodramatic incident propels this gaudy Western extravaganza that sweeps from a Louisiana plantation during the Civil War to a wide-open Colorado mining town. *This is one of my favorite historical fiction books, and although long, is an easy read.*

Anders Fogel, US English Teacher

- Barrett, Andrea. *The Voyage of the Narwhal*. Barrett's ability to combine her love of history, science and adventure makes this novel a compelling read. A group of researchers travel to the Arctic circle in search of a missing crew.
- Keegan, Marina. *The Opposite of Loneliness*. We will never know the potential of this amazing writer due to her passing in a car accident when she was in her early twenties. A graduate of Yale with a knack for understanding the basic human condition, Keegan's short stories and nonfiction in this collection celebrate the work of a young writer.
- Kushner, Rachel. *The Mars Room*. This was recommended to me by a Middlebury professor. This book is phenomenal. A woman with a turbulent past goes to prison. Read the rest...
- Harrison, Jim. *In Search of Small Gods*. Jim Harrison passed away recently and as always, his work lives on! For people who love the natural world and the mysteries that surround it, Harrison provides a voice for the aimless wanderer of the fields, woods and mountains.

Steve Gordon, US Spanish Teacher

- Nichols, John. *The Milagro Beanfield War*. A farmer in New Mexico battles a large landowner over water rights to his bean field. I liked all of the cultural references and Spanish sprinkled throughout the book.

Steph Lewis, US & MS Science Teacher

- Owens, Delia. *Where the Crawdads Sing*. This tale follows Kya, a young woman who lives alone in the marshes of North Carolina, with only her observations of the local flora and fauna to keep her company. But when a local man dies suspiciously, the nearby town fixates on Kya as a suspect. This novel is a wonderful mix of an ode to the natural world, a coming of age story, and a murder mystery.
- Kean, Sam. *The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons*. "Early studies of the functions of the human brain used a simple method: wait for misfortune to strike—strokes, seizures, infectious diseases, lobotomies, horrendous accidents—and see how the victim coped" (Goodreads). A fascinating history of how we learned about the functions of different parts of the brain.
- Plotkin, Mark. *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice*. An ethnobotanist (a scientist who studies how cultures use plants) travels through the remote Amazon jungles to learn how isolated tribes use plants for medicines, holy experiences, and everyday life. A rare look into "ancient" cultures who potentially hold the key to many modern afflictions and diseases.

- **Roach, Mary. *Gulp*.** In her book, Roach explores the history and culture behind how we understand our digestive tract. From stories about the origin of taste (our nose!) to how Elvis died (constipation), she takes us through the world of our alimentary canal and its misadventures through time.

Julia Littman, US English Teacher

- **Cline, Ernest. *Ready Player One*.** In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenager Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize.
- **Kotlowitz, Alex. *There Are No Children Here*.** This is an inside look at an America that we never see. The kids are lovable yet tough, and the things that they experience are unfathomable. I like this book because it introduced me to a world within our own country of which I was not previously aware.
- **See, Lisa. *Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*.** A thrilling new novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Lisa See explores the lives of a Chinese mother and her daughter who has been adopted by an American couple. Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. There is ritual and routine, and it has been ever thus for generations. Then one day a jeep appears at the village gate—the first automobile any of them have seen—and a stranger arrives.
- **Westover, Tara. *Educated*.** An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.
- **Whitehead, Colson. *The Underground Railroad*.** Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, the #1 New York Times bestseller from Colson Whitehead, a magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South.

Laurie Mortensen, US English Teacher

- **Duncan, David James. *The River Why*.** This book is ostensibly about fly-fishing but really more of a philosophical exploration into love, journeys, water, humor, war, and one man's quest to figure out why it's all worth it. This is one of the funniest and also most moving books I have read.
- **Heller, Peter. *The River*.** From the best-selling author of *The Dog Stars*, the story of two college students on a wilderness canoe trip—a gripping tale of a friendship tested by fire, white water, and violence.
- **Houston, Pamela. *Cowboys Are My Weakness*.** This collection of short stories about strong women, the natural world, and the men they love is a 2nd person narrative about the things that make sense even when they are completely illogical, as many of our decisions can be.
- **Barbery, Muriel. *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*.** This book is a philosophical tour de force with 2 narrators: a Parisian autodidactic apartment concierge and a 12 year old girl contemplating suicide because she is a nihilist. These two characters come together to find meaning in life in unexpected and profound ways.

Maggie Pavlik, US Division Director

- **Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*.** A beautifully written tale of the friendship of two young boys growing up in pre-Russian Afghanistan and how their lives take a traumatic turn.
- **McBride, Laura. *We are Called to Rise*.** 2016's One Book One Valley read is a contemporary novel that details the real life issues of divorce, police violence, immigration, PTSD, and generations in families—all which intersect in city of Las Vegas.
- **Moriarty, Liane. *Big Little Lies*.** A novel set in an Australian seaside suburb where women who are looked at as regular soccer moms all have buried secrets from their past.
- **Obama, Michelle. *Becoming*.** Michelle Obama's biography about her childhood and her years in the white house as the FLOTUS.
- **Owens, Delia. *Where the Crawdads Sing*.** Set in the marshlands of the Carolinas, this moving novel serves as both a love story and a mystery. A young girl, somewhat abandoned by her family finds a way to live and be part of the land.
- **Ollestad, Norman. *Crazy for the Storm: A Memoir of Survival*.** An autobiographical story that begins with a plane crash and moves on to detail the life of a boy growing up in the southern California surf culture with his unpredictable father.
- **Vance, J.D. *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*.** This autobiographical read tells Vance's story of growing up in Southern Ohio with family in Appalachia and the challenges and crises he faced.

Lizzy Reed, Ski Tutorial Program & US History Teacher

- **Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*.** An oldie but a goodie. I promise it's not just my favorite book because the protagonist and I share a name! This book will challenge you and your notions on class, society, and love.
- **Backman, Fredrik. *A Man Called Ove*.** A novel about the angry old man next door. The book will have you laughing and crying through a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others. Sweet and well-written, this Scandinavian author will have you thinking deeply about why people act the way they do.
- **Finnegan, William. *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life*.** An autobiography with incredibly compelling descriptions of the water. You will travel to the shores of Samoa and San Francisco and surf alongside Finnegan as he learns what it means to "grow up".
- **McDougall, Christopher. *Natural Born Heroes: Mastering the Lost Secrets of Strength and Endurance*.** Written by the author of *Born to Run*, the little-known story of the Crete resistance during WWII is intertwined with modern day fitness fads and examines the potential of humans to accomplish "impossible" feats. A good read for athletes, survivalists, and historians alike.
- **Sloan, Robin. *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*.** This is a super weird novel but once you start reading, you won't be able to put it down. If you like puzzles and conspiracy theories, read about a young man who lost his entrepreneur job in San Francisco during the Great Recession and goes to work at a mysterious book store.

Anne Verratti, Student Support Services

- **Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give*.** *The Hate U Give* is a young adult novel by Angie Thomas. It follows events in the life of a 16-year-old black girl, Starr Carter, who is drawn to activism after she witnesses a police officer shooting her childhood friend. This book was important to me because I had never before heard this protagonist's voice represented in literature. I recommend you listen to this 11-hour story on audible.com.
- **Westover, Tara. *Educated*.** Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, the family was isolated from mainstream society so Tara began to educate herself, learning enough to be admitted to Brigham Young University. Her quest for knowledge took her to Harvard and to Cambridge. This

is a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it. For me, this book is another survivor story, but one that shows escape from ignorance. I recommend you listen to this 12-hour story on audible.com.

- **Hannah, Kristen.** *The Nightingale* is a historical fiction novel, written by Kristin Hannah and published in 2015. It tells the story of two sisters in France during World War II, and their struggle to survive and resist the Germans. For me, it captures the depths of personal sacrifice by the French during the occupation.
- **Junger, Sebastian.** *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging*. From the author of *The Perfect Storm* and *War* comes a book about why men miss war, why Londoners missed the Blitz, and what we can all learn from American Indian captives who refused to go home. *Tribe* is a look at post-traumatic stress disorder and the challenges veterans face returning to society. For me, this book exposes why people identify with groups and labels even when it doesn't serve us. I recommend you listen to this 3-hour nonfiction text narrated by the author on audible.com.

Noel Falk, US History Teacher

- **Thomas, Angie.** *The Hate U Give*. A fiction novel that not only mirrors the economic and racial disparity in the US today but delves into the many themes young adults and adults alike experience on a daily basis: love, community, friendships, self-awareness and self-acceptance.
- **Towles, Amore.** *A Gentleman in Moscow*. This is the quiet but beautifully written fiction novel of Count Alexander Rostov, an aristocrat arrested by the Soviets and sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol Hotel in Moscow in 1922 for revolutionary writings in 1913. The novel spans the 30 years of his house arrest in the hotel, the relationships he forms with the staff and guests, and how he deals with the twists and turns of his fate. So eloquently written you will be consequently drawn into the count's world and will miss it when the novels ends.

Andrew Hustad, MS / US Mandarin Teacher

- **McCarthy, Cormac.** *The Road*
- **Kalanithi, Paul.** *When Breath Becomes Air*
- **Laozi (Lao Tzu).** *Dao De Jing*
- **Blackburn, Simon.** *Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy*
- **Calvino, Italo.** *Cosmicomics*

OTHER GREAT UPPER SCHOOL SUMMER READS

- **Adams, Douglas and Mark Carwardine.** *Last Chance to See*. A noted science fiction writer examines the plight of many of the earth's endangered species.
- **Allende, Isabel.** *Paula*. At the bedside of her dying daughter, Allende spins tales of childhood, of ancestors, and of becoming a novelist.
- **Angelou, Maya.** *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. An African American writer, poet, and actress traces her coming of age.
- **Benford, Gregory.** *The Eater*. The Eater, a mysterious and vastly intelligent entity from outer space, offers the people of Earth knowledge but holds a frightening secret.
- **Bennett, James W.** *Blue Star Rapture*. While attending a basketball camp, T.J. reconsiders his motivations for guiding his star athletic friend, Tyron, through the college recruitment process.
- **Bragg, Rick.** *All Over But the Shoutin'*. Pulitzer-prize winning reporter Rick Bragg remembers his years of growing up in poverty-stricken Alabama and how football became the vehicle for his success.

- **Branford, Henrietta. *The Fated Sky*.** Ran, a sixteen-year-old Viking girl, struggles to control the events of her life and escape from the death that is supposed to be her destiny.
- **Brokaw, Tom. *The Greatest Generation*.** The stories of individual men and women who came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War, then went on to build modern America.
- **Bryson, Bill. *A Walk in The Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*.** An autobiographical adventure on the Appalachian Trail that will make you laugh out loud.
- **Courtenay, Bryce. *The Power of One*.** No stranger to the injustice of racial hatred, five-year-old Peekay learns the hard way the first secret of survival and self-preservation—the power of one.
- **Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences*.** The shocking story of the murder of a family by two psychotic young men.
- **Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game series*.** Bean begins life as an illegal experiment and ends up a disciple and safety net for Ender Wiggins in the battle to save Earth from the Buggers.
- **Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*.** Sixteen-year-old Griet is hired to work as a maid in the home of the renowned painter Johannes Vermeer in 17th-century Delft.
- **Chbosky, Stephen. *Perks of Being a Wallflower*.** Charlie, a freshman in high school, explores the dilemmas of growing up through a collection of letters he sends to an unknown receiver.
- **Copley, Robert E. *The Tall Mexican: The Life of Hank Aguirre, All-star Pitcher, Businessman, Humanitarian*.** A biography of the Hispanic all-star pitcher who founded Mexican Industries to provide economic opportunities to inner-city Detroit.
- **Delany, Sarah and Elizabeth A. Delany. *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*.** Two African-American sisters recount their battles against racism and sexism.
- **Denenberg, Barry. *Voices from Vietnam*.** Personal narratives, letters, and other quotations tell the story of Americans' struggle to make sense of the war years.
- **Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies*.** In this Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Diamond argues that both geography and the environment played major roles in determining the shape of the modern world, an argument that runs counter to the usual theories that cite biology as a crucial factor.
- **Dillard, Annie. *Mornings Like This: Found Poems*.** Unique poems of love, death, nostalgia, and nature--both serious and light.
- **Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*.** Former slave and famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass describes the horrors of his enslavement and eventual escape.
- **Dove, Rita. *On the Bus with Rosa Parks*.** Rhythmic, open lines about personal life and politics told by an inspiring master storyteller and poet.
- **Du Maurier, Daphne. *Rebecca*.** The timid new mistress of Manderley is haunted by her predecessor. A suspense story.
- **Eliot, T. S. *Murder in the Cathedral*.** The story of the murder of Thomas Becket is seen through the eyes of the great poet.
- **Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*.** This is an account of one black man's fervent search for his own identity. National Book Award.
- **Ford, Jamie. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*.** A story of commitment and enduring hope, this novel is set in Seattle during one of the most conflicted and volatile times in American history. Henry, a Chinese American, raised by a fiercely nationalistic father, and Keiko, a young Japanese American, develop a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcends time and the long-standing prejudices of their Old World ancestors.
- **Frazier, Charles. *Cold Mountain*.** A wounded Confederate soldier makes a perilous journey toward home, where he hopes to be reunited with his pre-war sweetheart. National Book Award.

- **Gaiman, Neil. *Neverwhere*.** Richard Mayhew helps an injured girl and finds his life changed when he leaves the reality of present-day London and enters the city's underground world of sewers and abandoned subway stations.
- **Galloway, Scott. *The Four: The Hidden DNA of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google*.** Instead of buying the myths these companies broadcast, Galloway asks fundamental questions. How did the Four infiltrate our lives so completely that they're almost impossible to avoid (or boycott)? Why does the stock market forgive them for sins that would destroy other firms? And as they race to become the world's first trillion-dollar company, can anyone challenge them?
- **Garcia, Christina. *The Aguero Sisters*.** The story of two sisters: Reina, an electrician living in Havana, and Constancia, a cosmetician living in New York, reveals the impact of Castro's revolution on one family.
- **Garner, Eleanor Ramrath. *Eleanor's Story: An American Girl in Hitler's Germany*.** Eleanor and her family sail from America in 1939 just as war is declared, forcing them to remain in Germany.
- **Gibbons, Kaye. *Ellen Foster*.** The unforgettable story of Ellen who loses her mother, lives briefly with a series of relatives and finally finds a home where she is loved.
- **Gladwell, Malcolm. *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*.** How do we make decisions—good and bad—and why are some people so much better at it than others? Utilizing case studies, Gladwell reveals that what we think of as decisions made in the blink of an eye are much more complicated than assumed.
- **Golden, Arthur. *Memoirs of a Geisha: A Novel*.** This is a captivating tale of the making of a geisha from young innocent to powerful courtesan.
- **Guterson, David. *Snow Falling on Cedars*.** A murder trial, forbidden love, and prejudice against Japanese-Americans in post-World War II Puget Sound. PEN-Faulkner Award.
- **Grennan, Connor. *Little Princes*.** A remarkable tale of corruption, child trafficking and civil war and one man's extraordinary quest to reunite lost Nepalese children with their parents
- **Gyatso, Palden. *The Autobiography of a Tibetan Monk*.** Palden Gyatso was born in a Tibetan village in 1933 and became an ordained Buddhist.
- **Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.** An autistic boy keeps a diary of his efforts to solve the mystery of who killed his neighbor's dog. This funny, touching novel is a revealing look into the mind of an autistic person.
- **Hansen, Ron. *Atticus: A Novel*.** An adult who was responsible for the death of his mother searches for meaning in the death of his son
- **Haruf, Kent. *Plainsong*.** The story of family and the romance, tribulation and tenacity of four generations, set on the High Plains east of Denver.
- **Hawking, Stephen. *A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes*.** Hawking explains his theory of nature and the creation of the universe.
- **Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The House of the Seven Gables*.** Hepzibah tries to shelter her brother from the evil of Judge Pyncheon in 19th century Massachusetts.
- **Heinlein, Robert. *Stranger in a Strange Land*.** The ways of Earth are strange to the young man from Mars. Hugo Award, 1962.
- **Heller, Joseph. *Catch-22*.** A wildly surreal novel describes a group of American servicemen in the Mediterranean during World War II.
- **Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms*.** A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.
- **Herbert, Frank. *Dune*.** The Atreides family is banished to planet Dune, where the ferocious Fremen live.

- **Hillerman, Tony. *Thief of Time*.** Navajo tribal policemen Lt. Joe Leaphorn and Officer Jim Chee plunge into the past to unearth the truth behind two murders at a sacred Indian ruin.
- **Hockenberry, John. *Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs, and Declarations of Independence*.** Journalist Hockenberry is fearless and funny as he relates the personal and professional experiences he encounters from his wheelchair.
- **Hoffman, Alice. *Local Girls*.** Gretel navigates life with the help of her best friend Jill, her romance-addicted cousin Margot, and her mother Fanny whose spiritual journey affects them all.
- **Huyler, Frank. *The Blood of Strangers: Stories from Emergency Medicine*.** Real-life tales from the ER will keep you on the edge of your seat!
- **Jiang, Ji-li. *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution*.** Ji-li Jiang. A young Chinese girl must make difficult choices when the government urges her to repudiate her ancestors and inform on her own parents.
- **Jordan, Robert. *Eye of the World*.** During the Third Age, the Age of Prophecy, the world and time hang in the balance, in peril of falling under the Shadow. (Book 1 of The Wheel of Time series)
- **Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Poisonwood Bible*.** The missionary zeal of an overbearing preacher, his wife and four daughters is tested by primitive, dangerous realities of life in 1959 Belgian Congo.
- **Kincaid, Jamaica. *Annie John*.** Seven years of joys and sorrows are related in the life story of a young girl growing up in the Caribbean.
- **Klass, David. *You Don't Know Me*.** Fourteen-year-old John creates alternative realities in his mind as he tries to deal with his mother's abusive boyfriend, his crush on a beautiful but shallow classmate, and other problems at school.
- **Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air: a Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster*.** A riveting account of the 1996 expedition to Mt. Everest that took several lives also raises questions about the accountability of those using the mountain.
- **Krakauer, Jon. *Into The Wild*.** In April, 1992, a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley.
- **Lansdale, Joe R. *The Bottoms*.** An old man narrates a riveting, poignant, and suspenseful tale of the events surrounding a series of savage murders that occurred when he was a boy in Depression-era East Texas.
- **Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*.** The authors show that economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want, or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing.
- **Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*.** Utopia turned dystopia. A young boy grapples with the complexity of a “perfect” society.
- **Luttrell, Marcus. *Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10*.** Marcus Luttrell was the only survivor of a mission with three American Navy SEALs in the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border. It is a question of which part is more compelling to read: the stories of the brutal Navy and SEAL boot camps or the account of Luttrell's team fighting on the Afghan border.
- **Mah, Adeline Yen. *Chinese Cinderella*.** The author describes how she suffered cruelty from her stepmother and callous indifference from her well-to-do father while growing up in China at the end of World War II.

- **Mahfouz, Naguib. *Palace Walk*.** The Nobel Prize-winning author's novel describes the severe and alluring world of a Muslim family living in Cairo during Egypt's occupation by British forces in the early 1900s.
- **Marchetta, Melina. *Looking for Alibrandi*.** During her senior year in a Catholic school in Sydney, Australia, seventeen-year-old Josie finally meets the father she has never known.
- **Markandaya, Kamala. *Nectar in a Sieve*.** A realistic novel about a life of terrible hardships and disasters lived out in India with unflagging optimism and courage by a peasant woman and her family.
- **Markham, Beryl. *West with the Night*.** These memoirs describe the pilot's childhood in British East Africa and her unconventional life.
- **Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*.** The story of young man on a lifeboat stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with a hyena, an orangutan, a zebra, and a Bengal tiger. The truth is all relative.
- **Marti, Jose. *Versos Sencillos/Simple Verses*.** Heartfelt poems in Spanish/English reflect life experiences of Cuba's 19th century literary leader and patriot.
- **Massie, Robert K. *Nicholas and Alexandra*.** At the brink of revolution, the last Tsar of Russia and his family become victims of their own mismanagement and personal problems.
- **Mathabane, Mark. *Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa*.** Growing up under the brutalities of apartheid South Africa, Mathabane describes the growing unrest in his country and his eventual escape through his ties to the tennis community.
- **McBride, James. *The Color of Water*.** A Black man's tribute to his eccentric, determined white mother.
- **McCourt, Frank. *Angela's Ashes*.** Sensitive, humorous memoirs of the author's poverty-stricken childhood in Ireland culminate with the promise of a new life in America. Pulitzer Prize Winner.
- **McCullers, Carson. *The Member of the Wedding*.** A lonely young girl decides to accompany her brother and his wife on their honeymoon.
- **McDonald, Joyce. *Swallowing Stones*.** Seventeen-year-old Michael copes with having discharged an antique rifle and unknowingly killing the father of high school classmate Jenna.
- **McMurtry, Larry. *Lonesome Dove*.** This Pulitzer Prize-winning epic masterpiece is set in the American West. It's even better than the TV miniseries!
- **Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*.** Young American soldiers are soon disillusioned and challenged by the realities of the war in Vietnam. Coretta Scott King Award 1989.
- **Naslund, Sena Jeter. *Ahab's Wife or The Star-Gazer*.** "Captain Ahab was neither my first husband or my last." so begins the magnificent retelling of Melville's masterpiece from the female point of view.
- **Ng, Celeste. *Little Fires Everywhere*.** In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is meticulously planned, and no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.
- **Nordan, Lewis. *Wolf Whistle: A Novel*.** A lyrical, tragic and comic novel based on the 1955 lynching of black teenager Emmett Till in Mississippi near the author's hometown.
- **Norman, Elizabeth. *We Band of Angels: the Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese*.** The harrowing story of nurses held captive in the jungles of the Philippines during World War II.
- **Nye, Naomi Shihab and Paul B. Janeczko, compilers. *I Feel a Little Jumpy Around You: A Book of Her Poems and His Poems Collected in Pairs*.** Gender attitudes and differences are explored through poetry pairs.
- **Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country*.** A black minister in South Africa tries to save his son, who has been accused of murder.

- **Philbrick, Nathaniel.** *In the Heart of the Sea.* The whaling ship, Essex, is rammed and sunk by a whale, leaving its crew to navigate the Pacific in three small boats.
- **Plath, Sylvia.** *The Bell Jar.* This autobiographical novel describes an ambitious and brilliant young woman's search for values and her eventual breakdown.
- **Proulx, E. Annie.** *The Shipping News.* Big-hearted Quoye starts over with an elderly aunt, two daughters, and a toothless dog in remote Newfoundland. National Book Award/Fiction; Pulitzer Prize.
- **Rinaldi, Ann.** *The Second Bend in the River.* A pioneer girl in Ohio territory tutors Shawnee chief Tecumseh in English and must choose between the life she knows and the man she loves.
- **Rosenberg, Liz.** *Light-Gathering Poems.* Using light as a metaphor, this collection of poems brings images of light and hope into focus.
- **Santiago, Esmeralda.** *Almost a Woman.* Ambitious and determined teenager overcomes the challenges of language barriers, cultural stereotypes, poverty, and a fiercely protective mother.
- **Senzai, N. H.** *Shooting Kabul.* Twelve-year-old Fadi's parents make the difficult decision to illegally leave Afghanistan and move the family to the United States. In the process, Fadi becomes separated from her younger sister.
- **Siegel, Jan.** *Prospero's Children.* Fern, a 16-year-old British girl who discovers she has special powers, obtains a magical key that will open the door to fabled Atlantis.
- **Silverberg, Robert (editor).** *Legends: Short Novels by the Masters of Modern Fantasy.* Original short novels by best-selling modern creators of fantasy fiction.
- **Skloot, Rebecca.** *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.* Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine.
- **Smith, Betty.** *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.* An American classic and coming-of-age story of a girl growing up in Brooklyn during the first two decades of the twentieth century.
- **Steinbeck, John.** *The Grapes of Wrath.* The hardships of a family caught in the Oklahoma dust bowl in the 1930s are the subject of this classic story.
- **Strayed, Cheryl.** *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail.* A real and hilarious memoir of a woman trying to find herself on the PCT.
- **Verghese, Abraham.** *Cutting for Stone.* An enthralling family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home.
- **Vonnegut, Kurt.** *Slaughterhouse Five.* After surviving the bombing of Dresden in World War II, Billy Pilgrim spends time on the planet Tralfamadore.
- **Wells, Ken.** *Meely LaBauve: A Novel.* An evocative coming-of-age story, reminiscent of Huck Finn and full of Cajun culture. This novel ambles along, stopping on the way to meet alligators, flying ants and even an unidentified body.
- **Werlin, Nancy.** *The Killer's Cousin.* Seventeen-year-old David, recently acquitted of murder, must face his past as he learns more about his strange cousin Lily.
- **Wharton, Edith.** *The Age of Innocence.* In New York City society in the 1870s, money counted for less than manners and morals.
- **White, T. H.** *The Once and Future King.* The chivalry and romance of medieval England are transported to the modern world.
- **Wilson, August.** *Fences.* Troy Maxson, a strong, hard man who has learned how to be black and proud in the 1950s, finds the changing spirit of the 1960s hard to deal with. Pulitzer Prize Winner (Drama).
- **Wright, Richard.** *Black Boy (American Hunger): A Record of Childhood and Youth.* This classic autobiography gives the moving and harrowing account of growing up in the racist pre-World War II South.

- **Zemser, Amy Bronwen. *Dear Julia*.** Shy sixteen-year-old Elaine Hamilton wants to be a chef like her hero Julia Child, but her bossy and flamboyant best friend, Lucida Sans, is about to make life much more interesting.
- **Zusak, Marcus. *The Book Thief*.** Set in Nazi Germany, this is the story young girl who has a love affair with books and words.