

FICTION

A Step from Heaven by An Na

Korean-born Young Ju tells her story from the age of four, when her family immigrates to the United States, through her teenage years, as she adapts to life as an American.

Gym Candy by Carl Deuker

Groomed by his father to be a star player, football is the only thing that ever mattered to Mick. He works hard to qualify for the varsity team his freshman year and tries to hold onto his edge by using steroids, with disastrous results.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Haunted by memories of her late mother, 14-year-old Lily lives alone with her father, a peach farmer. Lily decides to run away with her friend and caregiver Rosaleen to the South Carolina town that holds the key to her mother's past.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

A Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork of honor and injustice in the deep South – and the heroism of one man in the face of blind and violent hatred. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and remarkable coming-of-age tale.

Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury

The summer of 1928 was a vintage season for a growing boy. A summer of green apple trees, mowed lawns, new sneakers and half-burnt firecrackers. It was a summer of sorrows and marvels - a magical summer in the life of Douglas Spaulding—remembered forever .

Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield

On a dark midwinter's night in an ancient inn on the river Thames, an extraordinary event takes place. The regulars are telling stories, when the door bursts open on a grievously wounded stranger. In his arms is the lifeless body of a small child. Hours later, the girl stirs, takes a breath and returns to life. Is it a miracle? Is it magic? Or can science provide an explanation?

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

A powerful tale of war, redemption, and a hero's journey. In 1914, Joey, a beautiful bay-red foal, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of war. With his officer, he charges toward the enemy, witnessing the horror of the battles in France. Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him and he is able to find warmth and hope. But his heart aches for Albert, the farmer's son he left behind. Will he ever see his true master again?

NATURE AND SURVIVAL STORIES

Far North by Will Hobbs

After the destruction of their floatplane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his friend, Raymond, struggle to survive winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories.

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson

The Appalachian Trail stretches from Georgia to Maine and covers some of the most breathtaking terrain in America—majestic mountains, silent forests, sparking lakes. Author Bill Bryson introduces us to the history and ecology of the trail and to some of the other hardy (or just foolhardy) folks he meets along the way.

NONFICTION

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brow

It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain - or the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler! So how did they?

The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben

The author shares his deep love of the woods and forests and explains the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed. Much like human families, tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, and support them as they grow, sharing nutrients with those who are sick or struggling and creating an ecosystem that mitigates the impact of extremes of heat and cold for the whole group. As a result, trees in a family or community are protected and can live to be very old.

Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand

The book tells the true story of Seabiscuit, possibly the most famous American racehorse of all time, with special emphasis on the people who discovered him, trained him, and risked both their lives and their money on him.

Seabiscuit captured the nation's imagination at the height of the Great Depression. A classic underdog, the little horse with a big heart came back from what could have been a career ending injury to an amazing win at the Santa Anita Handicap race in 1940.

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor. Together, this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by a galaxyful of fellow travelers: Zaphod Beeblebrox—the two-headed, three-armed ex-hippie and president of the galaxy; Trillian (formerly Tricia McMillan), Zaphod's girlfriend; Marvin, a brilliant and chronically depressed robot; and Veet Voojagig, a former graduate student.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

This Pulitzer Prize winning novel tells the story of the Battle of Gettysburg, the largest battle of the American Civil War. When the battle ended, 51,000 men were dead, wounded, or missing. All the characters in the novel are based on real historical figures, including General Robert E. Lee.

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

A young adult historical fiction novel that focuses on the friendship between two young British women in World War II – a spy captured by the Nazis in German-occupied France and the pilot who brought her there

Red Scarf Girl by Ji-li Jiang

Ji-li-Jiang was an outstanding student and leader of her class. But everything changed with the start of the Cultural Revolution in China, when intelligence became a crime and a wealthy family background invited persecution. Ji-li and her family were betrayed by former friends and neighbors. At last, with the detention of her father, Ji-li was faced with the most difficult decision of her life: denounce him and break with her family, or not testify and sacrifice her future.

CLASSICS

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

The story starts in the final years of the rule of King Uther Pendragon and chronicles the young King Arthur's upbringing by his foster father Sir Ector, and his initial training by Merlyn, a wizard who lives through time backwards. Merlyn teaches Arthur what it means to be a good king by turning him into various kinds of animals: fish, hawk, ant, goose. Each of the transformations is meant to teach Arthur a lesson, which will prepare him for his future life.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

One of the most popular pirate stories of all time, it tells the story of Jim Hawkins, a young boy who lives at the Admiral Benbow Inn with his parents. A new guest at the inn, an old sea captain, terrifies everyone and Jim soon finds himself drawn into the search for buried treasure on a distant island.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

This classic story follows an 1800's English family with five daughters, all unwed and all in need of wedding! Of the five daughters, Elizabeth is the focus of the novel, though her sisters are carefully woven into the story. While marriage is one of the central ideas in the novel, there are many other ideas to explore, including pride, love, misunderstanding, and manipulation.

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

This timeless story for horse lovers of all ages is narrated in the first person as an autobiographical memoir told by **Black Beauty** himself—beginning with his carefree days as a colt on an English farm with his mother, to his difficult life pulling cabs in London, to his happy retirement in the country.

* *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck

The Good Earth celebrates the importance of the land. Throughout the novel, a connection to the land is associated with moral goodness, respect for nature, and a strong work ethic, while alienation from the land is associated with decadence and corruption. This acclaimed novel dramatizes family life in a Chinese village in the early 20th century and chronicles the life of the farmer Wang Lung whose desire for wealth and status clashes with his adherence to Chinese traditions.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn is the inspirational coming-of-age story of Francie Nolan, whose family struggles with poverty in early twentieth-century Brooklyn, New York. Like the Tree of Heaven that grows amidst the tenement houses, Brooklyn's inhabitants fight for the sun and air necessary to their survival. This endearing classic has been loved by generations of readers.

MYSTERY

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

A trip through Europe quickly unfolds into a race against time to solve a murder aboard the world-famous, luxury train. When an avalanche stops the Orient Express dead in its tracks, one of the world's greatest detectives -- Hercule Poirot -- arrives to interrogate all passengers and search for clues before the killer can strike again.

Eye of the Crow by Shane Peacock
(The Boy Sherlock Holmes #1)

Sherlock Holmes, just 13, is a misfit. Friendless, bullied at school, he belongs nowhere and has only his wits to help him make his way. But what wits he has! His keen powers of observation are already apparent. Partly for fun, he focuses his attention on a sensational murder to see if he can solve it. But his game turns deadly serious when he finds himself the accused, and... in London, they hang boys of thirteen.

* Suitable for rising 10th grade only