

High School Summer Reading 2007 (Annotated)*

Allende, Isabel. PORTRAIT IN SEPIA. HarperCollins, 2001. (Historical Fiction, 10-12)

Allende, Isabel. RETRATO EN SEPIA: UNA NOVELA. Rayo, 2001. (Spanish, Historical Fiction, 10-12)

This exotic saga, framed by the histories of Santiago, Chile and San Francisco, California presents the memoir of Aurora del Valle in a sequel of Daughter of Fortune which began the story of her grandmother, Eliza Sommers.

Alten, Steve. THE LOCH. Tsunami Books, 2005. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror ,11-12)

When his estranged father Angus is put on trial for murdering his business partner, marine biologist Zach Wallace returns to the Scotland he left as a boy to help prove that “something” in Loch Ness was the real cause of the man’s death.

Anaya, Rudolfo. ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF CESAR CHAVEZ; illustrated by Gaspar Enríquez. Cinco Puntos, 2000. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Photography and watercolor collage frame this poem, a hymn to a hero in the struggles for social justice.

Atwater-Rhodes, Amelia. SHATTERED MIRROR. Delacorte, 2001. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

Sarah is a witch whose mission in life is to rid the world of vampires but this becomes difficult when she meets vampire Christopher who wins her over with gentleness and loyalty.

Beard, Philip. DEAR ZOE: A NOVEL. Viking, 2005. (Realistic Fiction, 11-12)

Fifteen-year-old Tess De Nunzio attempts to work through her guilt and grief over the death of her three-year-old sister Zoe by writing letters to the child who was struck and killed by a car on September 11, 2001, while Tess was supposed to be watching her.

Bennett, James W. PLUNKING REGGIE JACKSON. Simon & Schuster, 2001. (Sports, 9-12)

Coley is not as tough as his late older brother, although he is captain of the baseball team, making-out with the most gorgeous girl in school, and headed for the major leagues. A sprained ankle, pregnant girl friend, and an English course he can’t pass converge to teach Coley more about the value of his brother’s kind of toughness.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Bondoux, Anne-Laure. THE KILLER'S TEARS. Delacorte Press, 2006. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

A young boy, Paolo, and the man who murdered his parents, Angel, gradually become like father and son as they live and work together on the remote Chilean farm where Paolo was born.

Bradley, James. FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS: HEROES OF IWO JIMA. Adapted by Michael French. Delacorte, 2001. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Six American Marines raise a flag on a tiny island in World War II and become national heroes. Three die within days and the others have to live with that commemorated event for the rest of their lives, coping in varying ways with their fame and the guilt of being survivors. What does it really mean to be a hero?

Bradshaw, Gillian. THE SAND-RECKONER. Forge, 2000. (Historical Fiction, 10-12)

The King of Syracuse asks young Archimedes to use his mathematical skill to design machines to defend the city while the king's sister only wants Archimedes to fall in love with her.

Brashares, Ann. THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS. Delacorte, 2001. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

During summer break, longtime friends Lena, Tibby, Carmen, and Bridget each embark on adventures that they share with each other through a pair of jeans that they have decided will be worn by all and so will absorb all of their stories.

Broach, Elise. DESERT CROSSING. Henry Holt, 2006. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

A summer trip across the New Mexico desert turns nightmarish for fourteen-year-old Lucy, her older brother Jamie, and his best friend Kit, as they become involved in the suspicious death of a young girl.

Brooks, Kevin. THE ROAD OF THE DEAD. The Chicken House, 2006. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

Two brothers, sons of an incarcerated gypsy, leave London for an isolated and desolate village, in search of the brutal killer of their sister.

Bunting, Eve. DOLL BABY. Clarion, 2000. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

The hardships of teen parenthood are told in an honest and straightforward way, with watercolor and pencil pictures portraying the conflicts of this complex human issue.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Caprara, Giovanni. LIVING IN SPACE: FROM SCIENCE FICTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION. Firefly, 2000. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

From early space pioneers to present day space stations, with lively text and incredible photographs and other illustrations, readers are taken to life in space, incorporating fact, as well as a sprinkling of science fiction and bits from popular films.

Chester, Jonathan. THE NATURE OF PENGUINS. Celestial Arts, 2001. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Polar adventure and photographer, Chester provides a beautiful and amazingly insightful journey through the Arctic world of the comic and adorable penguin.

Chevalier, Tracy. GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING. Dutton, 1999. (Historical Fiction, 10-12)

When the sixteen-year-old maid, Griet, enters the household of the seventeenth century Dutch painter Vermeer, she becomes his inspiration for painting, which attracts the jealousy of Vermeer's wife and results in a scandal.

Codell, Esmé. EDUCATING ESME: DIARY OF A TEACHER'S FIRST YEAR. Algonquin, 1999. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 10-12)

Enthusiastic, out-spoken, and determined to reach her students, talented young Esme rises to meet the challenges of her first year of teaching in an inner-city school.

Coleman, Evelyn. BORN IN SIN . Atheneum, 2001. (Sports, 9-12)

Fourteen-year-old Keisha is strong in her own convictions, has the support of a loving mother, and as a result is able to find the courage to confront racial prejudice and to succeed in the competitive world of olympic swimming.

THE COLOR OF ABSENCE: 12 STORIES ABOUT LOSS AND HOPE; edited by James Howe. Atheneum, 2001. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Stories by such young adult authors as Annette Curtis Klause, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Walter Dean Myers focus on different aspects of loss, but reveal growth and hope as teens confront their experiences.

Coman, Carolyn. MANY STONES. Front Street, 2000. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

After her sister is murdered, Berry places as many stones as she can tolerate on her chest as a way of coping with her grief. She goes to South Africa with her emotionally distant father to attend a memorial for her sister, hoping she will find peace.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Connelly, Michael. *THE CLOSERS: A NOVEL*. Little, Brown, 2005.
(Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 11-12)

Detective Harry Bosch discovers new DNA evidence that may help him solve the case of a teenaged girl who was murdered almost two decades ago.

Cormier, Robert. *THE RAG AND BONE SHOP*. Delacorte, 2001.
(Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

When a seven-year-old little girl is murdered, Jason, the last person to see her alive, is suspected of being the killer. But could this gentle mannered boy really be capable of such a terrible crime? Can we trust an expert interrogator to find out the truth?

Coy, John. *CRACKBACK*. Scholastic, 2005. (Sports, 9-12)

Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.

Crew, Linda. *BRIDES OF EDEN: A TRUE STORY IMAGINED*. HarperCollins, 2001.
(Historical Fiction, 9-12)

In 1903 handsome and charismatic young preacher, Joshua Creffield, enters Corvallis, Oregon, and easily enthralles and captures the minds of the women of town. Most of them become members of his Brides of Eden.

Crutcher, Chris. *WHALE TALK*. Greenwillow, 2001. (Sports, 9-12)

Tri-racial T.J. is the captain of a swim team for a school with no swimming pool where the "real" jocks in the school don't want the sacred letter jackets to be worn by any "unworthy" athletes.

De La Cruz, Melissa. *BLUE BLOODS*. Hyperion, 2006. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

Schuyler, Van Alen and her friends Oliver and Dylan are spurned by the popular clique led by Mimi Force and her twin brother. None of the teens realize they are vampires who will develop blue veins, crave raw meat, and have strange nightmares upon turning fifteen.

Dessen, Sarah. *DREAMLAND*. Viking, 2000. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Caitlin goes through much of the day in a dream-like state and wants to remain that way because if she becomes fully awake, she will have to deal with the abusive relationship she has with her boyfriend.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Dessen, Sarah. JUST LISTEN. Viking, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

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

Dotz, Warren, Jack Mingo, and George Moyer. FIRECRACKERS: THE ART AND HISTORY. Ten Speed, 2000. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Covering the history, development, production, and mythology of fireworks, with a profusion of color illustrations, including advertisements, posters, labels, and packaging, this is a fascinating look at a colorful art and American icon.

Draper, Sharon. COPPER SUN. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006. (Historical Fiction, 9-12)

Two fifteen-year-old girls, one a black slave and the other a white indentured servant, escape the cruelties of their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Mose, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

Draper, Sharon. DARKNESS BEFORE DAWN. Atheneum, 2001. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

An ex-boyfriend's suicide, parental problems, and attempted rape threaten to destroy Keisha's senior year.

Ferguson, Alane. THE CHRISTOPHER KILLER. Sleuth Viking, 2006. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.

Ferris, Jean. OF SOUND MIND . Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2002. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Tired of interpreting for his deaf family and resentful of their reliance on him, Theo tries not to get involved with Ivy because her father is also deaf. However, food and hormones keep dragging Theo back to Ivy through a tumultuous senior year.

Flake, Sharon. BANG! Hyperion, 2005. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

After his younger brother is shot, Mann and his best friend Kee-lee are abandoned by Mann's father, so the boys will learn to survive and become men.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Fletcher, Christine. TALLULAH FALLS. Bloomsbury, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Having run away from her Oregon home to meet a troubled friend in Florida, high school senior Tallulah finds herself stranded in Tennessee and taken in by the employees of a veterinary clinic.

Flinn, Alex. BREATHING UNDERWATER. HarperCollins, 2001. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

In his journal Nick writes that going through life is like breathing underwater or so it seems after he beats his girlfriend, is sentenced to attend an anger management class, and, faces up to his abusive father.

Fredericks, Mariah. CRUNCH TIME. Simon & Schuster, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Four students who have formed a weekly study group to prep for the SAT, sustain each other through the emotional highs and lows of their junior year, only to find themselves under suspicion when the high school counselor learns that someone cheated on test day.

Freyman-Weyr, Garret. STAY WITH ME. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 11-12)

When her much older sister kills herself, sixteen-year-old Leila goes looking for a reason, and instead discovers a great love, her family's history, and her own place in it.

Gallo, Don, ed. WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? Stories About Phobias. Candlewick, 2006. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Ten short stories by well-known young adult authors feature teenagers with phobias, including fear of clowns, fear of cats, and fear of gaining weight.

Gálvez, José. VATOS; poem by Luis Alberto Urrea; introduction by Benjamín Alire Sáenz. Cinco Puntos, 2000. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Photographer and poet collaborate with realistic black and white images and the lines from a powerful poem to reveal the rich complexity of the lives of Latino men.

GAME FACE: WHAT DOES A FEMALE ATHLETE LOOK LIKE?; edited by Jane Gottesman. Random House, 2001. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Inspiring and captivating black and white photographs take readers on a journey through the world of women in sports, including ordinary as well as famous athletes, and depicting the joys and sorrows of winning, losing, and playing the games they love.

Geras, Adele. TROY. Harcourt, 2001. (Historical Fiction, 10-12)

During the Trojan War, mischievous Eros plays a trick on two sisters, Marpessa and Xanthe, causing them to fall in love with the same wounded soldier, Alastor.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Giblin, James Cross. GOOD BROTHER, BAD BROTHER: THE STORY OF EDWIN BOOTH & JOHN WILKES. Booth. Clarion, 2005. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

History has recorded John Wilkes Booth as the most notorious of assassins. This book takes a look at his brother, famed actor Edwin Booth, and how Lincoln's assassination affected his career and the lives of the Booth family.

Giles, Gail. WHAT HAPPENED TO CASS MCBRIDE? Little, Brown & Co., 2006. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 10-12)

Kyle Kirby takes cruel and unusual revenge on the girl he believes to be responsible for his younger brother's suicide.

Green, John. AN ABUNDANCE OF KATHERINES. Penguin Young Readers, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 11-12)

After being dumped by his 19th girlfriend, all of which have been named Katherine, Colin and his best friend Hassan take off on a road trip which leads them to Gutshot, Tennessee, a job at a factory which produces tampon strings and the beginnings of a mathematical theorem which explains why Colin keeps getting dumped.

Greenberg, Jan and Jordan. FRANK O. GEHRY: OUSTIDE IN. DK, 2000. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

The text and color photographs which illustrate this beautiful and creative book capture the joyful, innovative spirit of architect Frank O. Gehry.

Grogan, John. MARLEY & ME: LIFE AND LOVE WITH THE WORLD'S WORST DOG. Morrow, 2005. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

The author presents the tender story of his family's love for Marley, their golden retriever, and recalls how he grew from a mischievous puppy into a nearly impossible adult that no amount of obedience-school training could correct.

Halam, Ann. SIBERIA. Wendy Lamb, 2005. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

Sent to prison camp in Siberia, Rosita returns as a hardened teenager to an empty house, pursued by her enemies on a long journey, carrying the living treasure that she knows is the hope of the world.

Hart, Elva Trevino. BAREFOOT HEART: STORIES OF A MIGRANT CHILD. Bilingual, 1999. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 10-12)

The rhythm of family life may be interrupted when they must relocate often, following crops to be harvested, but the solid circle of love and sensible guidance remains tight in this memoir of hopeful children and resolute adults.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Hautman, Pete. HOLE IN THE SKY. Simon & Schuster, 2001. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

After a virulent flu devastates the world in 2038, the emotionally and physically damaged survivors face danger and death as they seek the world of the sacred or “the hole in the sky” in the area of the Grand Canyon.

Hautman, Pete. RASH. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

In a future society that has decided it would “rather be safe than free,” sixteen-year-old Bo’s anger management problems land him in a tundra jail where he survives with the help of his running skills and an artificial intelligence program named Bork.

HEART TO HEART: NEW POEMS INSPIRED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICAN ART; edited by Jan and Jordan Greenberg. Abrams, 2001. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Art appreciation reaches new heights as well-known poets are inspired by impeccably reproduced 20th century American art, with each writer creating an original poetic response.

Henry, April. SHOCK POINT. G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 2006. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

Fifteen-year-old Cassie Streng is determined to expose her stepfather after learning that he is giving a dangerous experimental drug to his teenaged psychiatric patients, but he sends her to a boot camp for troubled teens in Mexico in order to keep her quiet.

Hopkins, Ellen. BURNED. Margaret McElderry Books, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 10-12)

Pattyn, raised in a religious yet abusive family, has questions about God, a woman’s role, sex, and love. After being suspended from school and sent to live with an aunt she doesn’t know, Pattyn finds love, only to end up in a living hell.

Hyde, Katherine Ryan. BECOMING CHLOE. Random House, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 11-12)

Jordy and Chloe, two homeless teens, meet while living on the streets of New York City and decide to take a cross-country journey to find the beauty in life.

Isaacs, Anne. TORN THREAD . Scholastic, 2000. (Historical Fiction, 9-12)

Despite starvation, fear and forced labor, Polish sisters Eva and Rachel survive World War II in a Nazi work camp in Czechoslovakia.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Jordan, Sherryl. SECRET SACRAMENT . HarperCollins, 2000. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

When talented young Gabriel becomes "Elected One" to train as a healer, he must play a role in making a more peaceful future for two contrasting civilizations, Navoraian and Shinali.

Kantor, Melissa. IF I HAVE A WICKED STEPMOTHER, WHERE'S MY PRINCE? Hyperion, 2005. (Humor, 9-12)

High school sophomore Lucy Norton sees her life turned upside down when her father remarries and moves her to Long Island where she finds herself trapped in a Cinderella story with a wicked stepmother, two evil stepsisters, and a dashing prince.

Kelton, Elmer. BADGER BOY. Forge, 2001. (Historical Fiction, 10-12)

Returning home at the end of the Civil War, Texas Ranger Rusty Shannon captures Badger Boy, a white child who was taken from his murdered parents to live with the Comanche, just as had been Rusty himself. Gunsmoke, honor, dust, and uncertainty as the Confederacy collapses.

Kidd, Ronald. MONKEY TOWN: THE SUMMER OF THE SCOPES TRIAL. Simon & Schuster, 2006. (Historical Fiction, 9-12)

When her father hatches a plan to bring publicity to their small Tennessee town by arresting a local high school teacher for teaching evolution, the resulting 1925 Scopes trial prompts fifteen year-old Frances to rethink many of her beliefs about religion and truth, as well as her relationship with her father.

Korman, Gordon. BORN TO ROCK. Hyperion, 2006. (Humor, 9-12)

High school senior Leo Caraway, a conservative Republican, learns that his biological father is a punk rock legend.

Lawrence, Iain. GHOST BOY. Delacorte, 2000. (Historical Fiction, 9-12)

Running away from home seeking solace, Ghost, white as chalk and wearing dark glasses, joins the circus and finds a home at last among others considered misfits and freaks in the years after WWII.

Lehman, Carolyn. STRONG AT THE HEART: HOW IT FEELS TO HEAL FROM SEXUAL Abuse. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2005. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Survivors of sexual abuse describe their abuse, their emotions, and their healing process.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Les Becquets, Diane. LOVE, CAJUN STYLE. Bloomsbury, 2005. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

A trio of high school girls cope with the tensions of sexuality in their small Louisiana town.

Lester, Julius. WHEN DAD KILLED MOM. Harcourt, 2001. (Realistic Fiction, 11-12)

Uncovering secrets about the violent death of their artistic mother and tragic events of their father's previous life help Jenna and Jeremy cope with the loss of one parent and the struggle to understand the other.

LOVE & SEX: TEN STORIES OF TRUTH; edited by Michael Cart. Simon & Schuster, 2001. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 10-12)

Contributions by popular authors such as Chris Lynch, Joan Bauer, and Shelley Stoehr deal honestly with relationships, love and heartbreak.

Lynch, Chris. INEXCUSABLE. Simon & Shuster, 2005. (Realistic Fiction, 11-12)

High school senior and star football player Keir sets out to enjoy himself on graduation night. When he attempts to comfort a friend whose date has left her stranded, things go terribly wrong.

Lynn, Tracy. RX. Simon Pulse, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Thyme Gilcrest is an honors student, popular, and on Student Council. Thyme Gilcrest is also a drug dealer.

Marillier, Juliet. DAUGHTER OF THE FOREST. Tor, 2000. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

Faced with almost insurmountable obstacles, young Irish healer Sorcha must try to break the spell placed on her six brothers, even after being captured by her enemy.

Marino, Peter. DOUGH BOY. Holiday House, 2005. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Overweight Tristan, who lives happily with his divorced mother and her boyfriend Frank, suddenly finds that he must deal with intensified criticism about his weight when Frank's popular, nutrition-obsessed daughter moves in.

Mazer, Harry. A BOY AT WAR: A NOVEL OF PEARL HARBOR. Simon & Schuster, 2001. (Historical Fiction, 9-12)

On a fateful day in Honolulu, young Adam Pelko defies his father's rule to stay away from his Japanese friend Davi Mori. From a fishing boat the two boys witness the horrific bombing and later come to know of Lieutenant Pelko's fate.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

McCormick, Patricia. *SOLD*. Hyperion, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Naïve Lakshmi, raised in a poor mountain village in Nepal, thinks she'll be working as a maid when her stepfather trades her for 800 rupees, only to learn she's been sold into prostitution with a cruel madam.

McDonald, Janet. *SPELLBOUND*. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2001. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Intelligent and gutsy, Raven will not let the fact of her being stuck at home right now with a baby in the harsh city projects dictate the rest of her life .

McDonald, Joyce. *SHADES OF SIMON GRAY*. Delacorte, 2001.
(Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

His car slipping on frog guts, Simon crashes into the Liberty Tree where the town had summarily hanged a murderer 100 years before. In his coma, Simon meets the ghost of the hanged man while, back in the real world, his friends sweat it out because Simon had been hacking into the school's computers to help them cheat on exams.

McDonald, Joyce. *SHADOW PEOPLE*. Delacorte, 2000. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

The Lords of Destruction, a group of four angry teenagers, begin doing minor act of vandalism but these troublesome acts quickly spiral into their more dangerous crimes.

Miller, Mary Beth. *ON THE HEAD OF A PIN*. Dutton, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 10-12)

Helen, Michael, Josh, Andy, and Victor's lives are torn apart after a fatal shooting at a party. The killers have to live with their consequences, including their own guilty conscience, which ultimately rips apart friendships, loyalty, and self-preservation.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. *DAIRY QUEEN*. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. (Humor, 9-12)

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to try out for football herself, not anticipating the reaction from family and friends.

Myers, Walter Dean. *THE GREATEST: MUHAMMED ALI*. Scholastic, 2001.
(Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Ali's childhood, the segregated '50s, the Olympic triumph of the '60s, the world of professional boxing, his discipline and charisma are vividly chronicled. The most popular black man in America takes on the world and triumphs because he "has always done what he believed to be the right thing."

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Nazario, Sonia. ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY. Random House, Inc.
(Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 10-12)

Enrique, a Honduran boy, braves unimaginable hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States.

Nicholson, William. SEEKER. Harcourt, 2006. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

This first novel in the Noble Warrior sequence begins when sixteen-year-old Seeker's older brother is publicly humiliated and, with no explanation, exiled from the Nomana, a revered order of warrior monks.

Opdyke, Irene Gut. IN MY HANDS: MEMORIES OF A HOLOCAUST RESCUER. Knopf, 1999.
(Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Although separated from her own family, Polish teenager Irene defied the Nazis and helped Jewish people survive the Holocaust.

Owen, David. HIDDEN EVIDENCE: 40 TRUE CRIMES AND HOW FORENSIC SCIENCE HELPED SOLVE THEM. Firefly, 2000. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

The development of forensic science is presented in lively fashion, including the use of fingerprints, dental records, bloodstains, fiber analysis, and advanced technologies, with riveting, sometimes graphic, photographs and illustrations.

Parker, Steve and Jane. THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SHARKS. Firefly, 1999.
(Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Shark! The popular image of the menacing, cold-blooded killer of the deep is balanced with the reality of the life and biology of these misunderstood creatures, incorporating exceptional underwater photography and especially commissioned charts, graphs, and illustrations.

Pearson, Mary. SCRIBBLER OF DREAMS. Harcourt, 2001. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

When Kaitlin falls in with the son of her family's archenemy, it forces her to lead a double life so that her parents don't find out. But she just cannot let hatred that began in the past rule her future.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. LIFE AS WE KNEW IT. Harcourt, 2006. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

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

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Price, Charlie. DEAD CONNECTION. Roaring Brook Press, 2006.
(Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

A clairvoyant teenager who communes with the dead in the town cemetery hears the voice of a missing cheerleader and tries to convince adults that he knows what happened to her.

Reinhardt, Dana. A BRIEF CHAPTER IN MY IMPOSSIBLE LIFE. Wendy Lamb Books, 2006.
(Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Sixteen-year-old atheist Simone Turner-Bloom's life changes in unexpected ways when her parents convince her to contact her biological mother, an agnostic from a Jewish family who is losing her battle with cancer.

Rottman, S.L. STETSON. Viking, 2002. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Before Kayla, seventeen-year-old Stetson cared only about the art he created with airbrushed T-shirts and the old Honda Civic to rebuild. Here is a kid who values hard work and a straight life more than has his dead-beat parents.

Schlosser, Eric. FAST FOOD NATION: THE DARK SIDE OF THE ALL-AMERICAN DREAM. Houghton Mifflin, 2001. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Do you want fries with that order? Beginning with the golden arches, the impact of fast food on the life, health, economic, social and humanitarian aspects of life in America is examined.

Sherwood, Ben. THE MAN WHO ATE THE 747. Bantam, 2000. (Realistic Fiction, 10-12)

Out in the mid-West Wally Chubb really is eating a 747 that has landed in his cornfield to prove his undying love for lovely Willa. The Book of World Records sends John Smith to record the event. John, who thinks love is just a chemical reaction, discovers a record-breaking love himself while Wally grinds up the plane and eats it with Spaghetti-Os.

Shinn, Sharon. THE TRUTH-TELLER'S TALE. Viking, 2005. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

Twins Eleda, who can tell only the truth, and Adele, who cannot reveal others' secrets, are tested by the arrival of handsome, mysterious dance instructors. Their complementary gifts prove useful as they stumble through adolescence.

Sorrells, Walter. CLUB DREAD. Dutton, 2006. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

When sixteen-year-old Chass witnesses the murder of a pop star, her hopes of settling down with her mother in San Francisco seem to disappear.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Soto, Gary. JESSIE DE LA CRUZ: A PROFILE OF A UNITED FARM WORKER. Persea, 2000. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

As the first female organizer in the organization, De La Cruz had the courage to put her intelligence and energy into joining with César Chávez and others to create legal and social justice for farm workers in the twentieth century.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. UNDER THE PERSIMMON TREE. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2005. (Historical Fiction, 9-12)

Najmah, a young Afghan girl, finds herself alone when her father and brother are taken by the Taliban and her mother and infant brother are killed in an air raid. She meets an American-Muslim teacher in Pakistan who is waiting for her doctor husband to return from the war-torn area.

Stone, Tanya Lee. A BAD BOY CAN BE GOOD FOR A GIRL. Wendy Lamb, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 11-12)

Scribbled notes in the back of a copy of Judy Blume's Forever start a chain reaction of understanding and sisterhood for three girls who all fall for the same sexy high school senior who uses each of them for one thing only.

Stratton, Allan. LESLIE'S JOURNAL: A NOVEL. Firefly, 2000. (Realistic Fiction, 10-12)

Leslie's 10th grade teacher promises to keep her journal in a locked cabinet and not read it, but how can she ignore the need to know more about the abusive threats from Leslie's boyfriend, Jason?

Sweeney, Joyce. HEADLOCK. Henry Holt & Company, 2006. (Sports, 9-12)

Endangering his health, his high class rank, and his pizza delivery job, high school senior Kyle secretly enters a rigorous training program for pro wrestlers and earns a chance at his first professional match.

Tullson, Diane. RED SEA. Orca, 2005. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

During an around-the-world voyage, Libby's boat is attacked by pirates who kill her stepfather. Fourteen-year-old Libby must then fend for both herself and her grievously injured mother.

Turner, Ann. LEARNING TO SWIM: A MEMOIR. Scholastic, 2000. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Annie, using swimming metaphors with each one-page, free verse poem, recalls the summer she was six which was filled not just with routine activities, but also with sexual abuse.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Vaught, Susan. TRIGGER. Bloomsbury, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 10-12)

Jersey Hatch can't remember why his best friend won't speak to him. He can't remember the right words to have a real conversation. And he can't remember why he tried to shoot himself.

Volponi, Paul. ROOFTOP. Viking, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 10-12)

Still reeling from seeing police shoot his unarmed cousin to death on the roof of a New York City housing project, seventeen-year-old Clay is dragged into the whirlwind of political manipulation that follows.

Waltman, Kevin. LEARNING THE GAME. Scholastic, 2005. (Sports, 9-12)

When he and his high school basketball teammates steal from a fraternity house in their small town, Nate contends with this guilt, his loyalty to his friends, and his desire to help his older brother who comes under suspicion for the crime.

Weaver, Will. FULL SERVICE. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2005. (Historical Fiction, 9-12)

In the summer of 1965, Paul Sutton, a Minnesota farm boy, takes a job at a gas station in town, where his strict religious upbringing is challenged by new people and experiences.

Weaver, Will. MEMORY BOY. Harper Collins, 2001. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

Two years after Mt. Rainier has erupted and left the USA a gray world of crop failures, looting and violence, 16-year-old Miles helps his family escape by creating a vehicle that runs on wind-power. However, perhaps their destination is as dangerous as the city left behind and wise-cracking Miles has to reach for ever more inventive schemes before there can be hopes for survival.

Werlin, Nancy. BLACK MIRROR. Dial, 2001. (Mystery/Suspense/Adventure, 9-12)

This suspenseful story of Frances, a teen of Japanese-Jewish descent, reveals both her internal struggle with grief over her brother David's suicide and the expectations of others to continue the charitable work for which he was respected.

Werlin, Nancy. THE RULES OF SURVIVAL. Dial, 2006. (Realistic Fiction, 9-12)

Seventeen-year-old Matt records his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

Westerfeld, Scott. PEEPS. Razorbill, 2005. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

Cal, bitten by a peep but immune to its vampire-like effects, belongs to the Night Watch, a secret organization that tracks peeps in order to prevent their harmful effects on society. When forces from far underground surface, catching peeps becomes the least of Cal's problems.

Williams-García, Rita. EVERY TIME A RAINBOW DIES. HarperCollins, 2001. (Realistic Fiction, 10-12)

Shy and withdrawn, Thulani raises pigeons on the roof of a Brooklyn brownstone, where he witnesses the brutal rape of Ysa. His obsessive concern for her welfare nearly overwhelms his life but with understanding and forgiveness, they both emerge as survivors.

Wooding, Chris. POISON. Orchard Books, 2005. (Fantasy/Science Fiction/Horror, 9-12)

When Poison leaves her marsh home to retrieve the infant sister who was snatched by the fairies, she survives encounters with the inhabitants of various Realms and confronts a surprising destiny.

Wulffson, Don. SOLDIER X. Viking, 2001. (Historical Fiction, 9-12)

Amidst the horrors of the Russian front in 1944, a wounded sixteen-year-old old German soldier assumes the identity of a dead Russian and is transported to a hospital where a lovely nurse's aide, Tamara, discovers the secret of "X" while falling in love with him.

YOU HEAR ME?: POEMS AND WRITINGS BY TEENAGE BOYS; edited by Betsy Franco. Candlewick, 2000. (Nonfiction/Biography/Poetry/Short Stories, 9-12)

Teens speak realistically of family, loneliness, conformity, drugs and sex in voices born of real experience.

Zusak, Marcus. THE BOOK THIEF. Knopf, 2006. (Historical Fiction, 9-12)

Liesel and her foster parents scratch out a meager existence in World War II Germany. When she encounters something she can't resist, books, Liesel learns to read and shares her stolen books with neighbors and with the Jewish man taking refuge in her basement.

**Suggested grade levels are based on professional reviews sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*