

High School Summer Reading 2009 (Annotated)*

1. Abeel, Samantha. **MY THIRTEENTH WINTER**. Orchard Books, 2003. (nonfiction, 9-12)
A memoir in which Samantha Abeel discusses her life before and after being diagnosed with the math-related learning disability discalculia in seventh grade.
2. Anderson, Laurie Halse. **CATALYST**. Viking, 2002. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.
3. Archer, Lily. **THE POISON APPLES**. Feiwel and Friends, 2007. (humor, 9-12)
Three girls at a posh boarding school plot revenge against their evil stepmothers.
4. Armstrong, Kelley. **THE SUMMONING**. Harper, 2008. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
Chloe Saunders is haunted by a particularly violent ghost and is sent to Lyle House, a center for disturbed teens, where she finds herself investigating a series of other paranormal happenings.
5. Asher, Jay. **THIRTEEN REASONS WHY**. Razorbill, 2007. (realistic fiction, 10-12)
High school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.
6. Atkins, Catherine. **ALT ED**. Putnam, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Participating in a special after-school counseling class with other troubled students, including a sensitive classmate, helps Susan, an overweight tenth grader, develop a better sense of herself.
7. Bradbury, Jennifer. **SHIFT**. Atheneum, 2008. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.
8. Bradley, Alex. **HOT LUNCH**. Dutton, 2007. (humor, 9-12)
After getting in a food fight with her classmate, Cassie Birchmeyer, Molly Ollinger is forced to work with her in the cafeteria; and the two have to find a way to get along.

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9. Brooks, Kevin. **BLACK RABBIT SUMMER**. Chicken House, 2008. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 10-12)

When two of sixteen-year-old Pete's childhood classmates disappear from a carnival the same night, he is a suspect, but his own investigation implicates other old friends he was with that evening--and a tough, knife-wielding enemy determined to keep him quiet.

10. Brooks, Martha. **TRUE CONFESSIONS OF A HEARTLESS GIRL**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)

A confused seventeen-year-old girl, a single mother and her young son, two elderly women, and a sad and lonely man, with their own individual tragedies to bear, come together in a small Manitoba town and find a way to a better future.

11. Caletti, Deb. **FORTUNES OF INDIGO SKYE**. Simon & Schuster, 2008. (realistic fiction, 10-12)

Eighteen-year-old Indigo is looking forward to becoming a full-time waitress after high school graduation, but her life is turned upside down by a large check given to her by a customer who appreciates that she cares enough to scold him about smoking.

12. Cather, Willa. **DEATH COMES FOR THE ARCHBISHOP**. Knopf, 1927. (classic, 9-12)

The literal and spiritual journey of two French priests who come to the American Southwest as missionaries in the mid-1800s.

13. Clare, Cassandra. **CITY OF BONES: THE MORTAL INSTRUMENTS**. McElderry Books, 2007. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)

Suddenly able to see demons and the Darkhunters who are dedicated to returning them to their own dimension, fifteen-year-old Clary Fray is drawn into this bizzare world when her mother disappears and Clary herself is almost killed by a monster.

14. Clark, Catherine. **FROZEN RODEO**. HarperCollins, 2003. (humor, 9-12)

High-school junior Peggy Fleming Farrell finds herself without a car, working at the Gas 'n Git, and fantasizing about a boyfriend during the hot summer her distracted parents are expecting yet another baby to join their ice-skating family.

15. Collins, Suzanne. **HUNGER GAMES**. Scholastic, 2008. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

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16. Cross, Shauna. **DERBY GIRL**. Henry Holt & Company, 2007. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Sixteen-year-old rebel Bliss Cavendar, miserable living in a small Texas town with her beauty pageant-obsessed mother, secretly joins a roller derby team under the name "Babe Ruthless," and her life gets better, although infinitely more confusing.
17. Crowe, Chris. **GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER: THE TRUE STORY OF THE EMMETT TILL CASE**. P. Fogelman Books, 2003. (nonfiction, 9-12)
Presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old, Emmett Till, in Mississippi, in 1955.
18. Crutcher, Chris. **KING OF THE MILD FRONTIER: AN ILL-ADVISED AUTOBIOGRAPHY**. Greenwillow Books, 2003. (nonfiction, 9-12)
Chris Crutcher, author of young adult novels such as "Ironman" and "Whale Talk," as well as short stories, tells of growing up in Cascade, Idaho, and becoming a writer.
19. De La Pena, Matt. **MEXICAN WHITEBOY**. Delacorte Books, 2008. (sports fiction, 9-12)
Sixteen-year-old Danny searches for his identity amidst the confusion of being half-Mexican and half-white while spending a summer with his cousin and new friends on the baseball fields and back alleys of San Diego County, California.
20. DeLint, Charles. **DINGO**. Firebird, 2008. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
Seventeen-year-old Miguel Schreiber and a long-term enemy are drawn into a strange dream world when they fall in love with shape shifting sisters from Australia--twins hiding from a cursed ancestor who can only be freed with the girls' cooperation.
21. Deuker, Carl. **GYM CANDY**. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. (sports fiction, 9-12)
Groomed by his father to be a star player, football is the only thing that has ever really mattered to Mick Johnson, who works hard for a spot on the varsity team his freshman year, then tries to hold onto his edge by using steroids, despite the consequences to his health and social life.
22. Doctorow, Cory. **LITTLE BROTHER**. Tor, 2008. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 11-12)
Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.
23. Donnelly, Jennifer. **A NORTHERN LIGHT**. Harcourt, 2003. (historical fiction, 9-12)
In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story.

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24. Draper, Sharon. **THE BATTLE OF JERICHO**. Atheneum Books, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
A high school junior and his cousin suffer the ramifications of joining what seems to be a "reputable" school club.
25. Fletcher, Christine. **TEN CENTS A DANCE**. Bloomsbury, 2008. (historical fiction, 9-12)
In 1941 Chicago, fifteen-year-old Ruby, a Polish-American girl from the slums, leaves her meat-packing plant job to be a "taxi" dancer, paid a dime apiece to dance with men in a dance hall, and becomes entangled with the mob.
26. Friedman, Aimee. **BREAKING UP**. Graphix, 2007. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Four best friends begin to experience some changes in their lives that challenge their relationship as they go into their junior year of high school.
27. Gaiman, Neil and Reaves, Michael. **INTERWORLD**. HarperCollins, 2007. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
At nearly fifteen years of age, Joey Harker learns that he is a Walker, able to travel between dimensions, and soon joins a team of different versions of himself, each from another dimension, to fight the evil forces striving to conquer all the worlds.
28. Gallagher, Liz. **THE OPPOSITE OF INVISIBLE**. Wendy Lamb, 2008. (romance, 9-12)
Artistic Seattle high school sophomore Alice decides to emerge from her cocoon and date a football player, which causes a rift between her and her best friend, a boy who wants to be more than just friends.
29. Gardner, Sally. **THE RED NECKLACE**. Penguin, 2008. (historical fiction, 9-12)
In the late eighteenth-century, Sido, the twelve-year-old daughter of a self-indulgent marquis, and Yann, a fourteen-year-old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.
30. Giles, Gail. **DEAD GIRLS DON'T WRITE LETTERS**. Roaring Brook Press, 2003.
(mystery/suspense/adventure, 10-12)
Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a letter arrives in the mail from her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire months earlier.
31. Giles, Gale. **RIGHT BEHIND YOU**. Little, Brown, 2007. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
After spending over four years in a mental institution for murdering a friend in Alaska, fourteen-year-old Kip begins a completely new life in Indiana with his father and stepmother under a different name, but has trouble fitting in and finds there are still problems to deal with from his childhood.

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32. Going, K.L. **FAT KID RULES THE WORLD**. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly 300 pounds, gets a new perspective on life when a homeless teenager who is a genius on guitar wants Troy to be the drummer in his rock band.
33. Green, John. **PAPER TOWNS**. Dutton Books, 2008. (humor, 11-12)
One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.
34. Hale, Shannon. **BOOK OF A THOUSAND DAYS**. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2007. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids.
35. Halliday, John. **SHOOTING MONARCHS**. McElderry Books, 2003. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
Macy and Danny, two teenage boys who have both grown up under difficult circumstances, turn out very differently--one becomes a hero, the other a murderer.
36. Halpern, Julie. **GET WELL SOON**. Feiwel and Friends, 2007. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Anna Bloom, confined to a mental hospital by her parents who do not know how to deal with her depression and panic attacks, writes letters to her best friend Tracy sharing the funny details of her life and the people she is getting to know at Lakeland.
37. Halvorson, Marilyn. **BULL RIDER**. Orca Books, 2003. (sports fiction, 9-12)
Layne, desperate to follow in his late father's footsteps, wants nothing more than to become a bull rider, even with his mother's lack of support.
38. Harmon, Michael. **LAST EXIT TO NORMAL**. Knopf, 2008. (realistic fiction, 10-12)
Yanked out of his city life and plunked down in a small Montana town with his newly outed father and his father's boyfriend, seventeen-year-old Ben, angry and resentful about the changed circumstances of his life, begins to notice something is not quite right with the little boy next door and determines to figure out what is going on.

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39. Hemingway, Ernest. **FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS**. C. Scribner's, 1940. (classic, 9-12)
In 1937 Ernest Hemingway traveled to Spain to cover the civil war there for the North American Newspaper Alliance. Three years later he completed For Whom the Bell Tolls, the story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades attached to an antifascist guerilla unit in the mountains of Spain. The story tells of loyalty and courage, love and defeat, and the tragic death of an ideal.
40. Henderson, Lauren. **KISS ME KILL ME**. Delacorte, 2008. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
Longing to be part of the in-crowd at her exclusive London school, orphaned, sixteen-year-old Scarlett, a trained gymnast, eagerly accepts an invitation to a party whose disastrous outcome changes her life forever.
41. Hoffman, Mary. **FALCONER'S KNOT: FRIARS, FLIRTATION AND FOUL PLAY**. Bloomsbury, 2007. (romance, 9-12)
Silvano and Chiara, teens sent to live in a friary and a nunnery in Renaissance Italy, are drawn to one another and dream of a future together, but when murders are committed in the friary, they must discover who is behind the crimes before they can realize their love.
42. Hornby, Nick. **SLAM**. Putnam's Sons, 2007. (realistic fiction, 11-12)
At the age of fifteen, Sam Jones's girlfriend gets pregnant and Sam's life of skateboarding and daydreaming about Tony Hawk changes drastically.
43. Jocelyn, Marthe. **WOULD YOU**. Wendy Lamb, 2008. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Nat's summer of work and hanging out with friends is suddenly changed when her sister, Claire, is hit by a car and ends up in a coma.
44. Johnson, Angela. **THE FIRST PART LAST**. Simon & Schuster, 2003. (realistic fiction, 10-12)
Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.
45. Johnson, Maureen. **SUITE SCARLETT**. Scholastic, 2008. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Fifteen-year-old Scarlett Marvin is stuck in New York City for the summer working at her quirky family's historic hotel, but her brother's attractive new friend and a seasonal guest who offers her an intriguing and challenging writing project improve her outlook.
46. Johnson, Varian. **MY LIFE AS A RHOMBUS**. Flux, 2007. (realistic fiction, 11-12)
When the classmate she is tutoring in trigonometry admits she is pregnant, high school junior Rhonda must finally come to terms with the abortion her father insisted she undergo three years earlier and examine how it has changed her life.

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47. Juby, Susan. **ANOTHER KIND OF COWBOY**. HarperTeen, 2008. (sports fiction, 9-12)
In Vancouver, British Columbia, two teenage dressage riders, one a spoiled rich girl and the other a sixteen-year-old boy, come to terms with their identities and learn to accept themselves.
48. Kephart, Beth. **UNDERCOVER**. HarperTeen, 2007. (romance, 9-12)
High school sophomore Elisa is used to observing and going unnoticed except when classmates ask her to write love notes for them, but a teacher's recognition of her talent, a "client's" desire for her friendship, a love of ice skating, and her parents' marital problems draw her out of herself.
49. Kim, Derek Kirk. **GOOD AS LILY**. Minx, 2007. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 10-12)
On her eighteenth birthday Grace Kwon is visited by herself from three periods in her life and worries that her other selves will hurt her chances of saving the school play.
50. Klass, David. **HOME OF THE BRAVES**. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2002. (sports fiction, 9-12)
Eighteen-year-old Joe, captain of the soccer team, is dismayed when a hotshot player shows up from Brazil and threatens to take over both the team and the girl whom Joe hopes to date.
51. Kuklin, Susan. **NO CHOIRBOY – MURDER, VIOLENCE, AND TEENAGERS ON DEATH ROW**. Henry Holt, 2008. (nonfiction, 11-12)
A collection of essays in which inmates at American prisons who were sentenced to death while still in their teens share their thoughts and feelings about how they ended up in prison and how they feel about capital punishment.
52. Lockhart, E. **THE DISREPUTABLE HISTORY OF FRANKIE LANDAU-BANKS**. Hyperion, 2008. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.
53. Malley, Gemma. **THE DECLARATION**. Bloomsbury, 2007. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
In 2140 England, where drugs enable people to live forever and children are illegal, teenaged Anna, an obedient "Surplus" training to become a house servant, discovers that her birth parents are trying to find her.
54. Marillier, Julie. **WILDWOOD DANCING**. Knopf, 2007. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
Five sisters who live with their merchant father in Transylvania use a hidden portal in their home to cross over into a magical world, the Wildwood.

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55. Mazer, Norma Fox. **THE MISSING GIRL**. HarperTeen, 2008. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 10-12)
In Mallory, New York, as five sisters, aged eleven to seventeen, deal with assorted problems, conflicts, fears, and yearnings, a mysterious middle-aged man watches them, fascinated, deciding which one he likes the best.
56. McNeal, Laura and Tom. **ZIPPED**. Knopf, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
At the end of their sophomore year in high school, the lives of four teenagers are woven together as they start a tough new job, face family problems, deal with changing friendships, and find love.
57. Mitchell, Margaret. **GONE WITH THE WIND**. McMillan, 1936. (classic, 9-12)
Willful and pampered Scarlett O'Hara's strength of character carries her through the deprivations of the Civil War, but her infatuation with Ashley Wilkes keeps her from recognizing her true love until it is too late.
58. Murphy, Jim. **INSIDE THE ALAMO**. Delacorte Press, 2003. (nonfiction, 9-12)
An overview of the struggle between the Texan settlers and Mexico's General Santa Anna for control of Texas, with a detailed description of the 1836 siege of the Alamo. Includes biographical sketches and quotations of some of those involved.
59. Myers, Walter Dean. **SUNRISE OVER FALLUJAH**. Scholastic, 2008. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.
60. Napoli, Donna Jo. **HUSH: AN IRISH PRINCESS' TALE**. Atheneum, 2007. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
Fifteen-year-old Melkorka, an Irish princess, is kidnapped by Russian slave traders and not only learns how to survive but to challenge some of the brutality of her captors, who are fascinated by her apparent muteness and the possibility that she is enchanted.
61. Nelson, Pete. **LEFT FOR DEAD**. Delacorte Press, 2002. (nonfiction, 9-12)
Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.
62. Nelson, R.A. **BREATHE MY NAME**. Razorbill, 2007. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
Since her adoption, seventeen-year-old Frances has lived a quiet suburban life, but soon after she begins falling for the new boy at school, she receives a summons from her mentally ill birth mother, who has just been released after serving eleven years for smothering Frances's younger sisters and still wants to kill Frances.

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63. Ness, Patrick. **KNIFE OF NEVER LETTING GO**. Candlewick Press, 2008. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
Todd, one month away from an important birthday, learns all the tough lessons of adulthood when he is forced to flee after discovering a secret near the town where he lives.
64. Nixon, Joan Lowery. **NIGHTMARE**. Delacorte Press, 2003. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
Emily is sent to a camp for underachievers where she discovers a murderer on the staff who might provide an explanation for her recurring nightmares.
65. Osa, Nancy. **CUBA 15**. Delacorte Press, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming "quince," a Spanish nickname for the celebration of an Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday.
66. Paolini, Christopher. **ERAGON**. Knopf, 2003. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.
67. Paton, Alan. **CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY**. Scribner, 1948. (classic, 9-12)
Paton's story of Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom, set against the backdrop of a land and people driven by racial inequality and injustice, remains the most famous and important novel in South Africa's history.
68. Pearson, Mary E. **THE ADORATION OF JENNA FOX**. Henry Holt, 2008. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.
69. Petrucha, Stefan. **TEEN INC.** Walker Books, 2007. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Fourteen-year-old Jaiden has been raised by NECorp. since his parents were killed when he was a baby, so when he discovers that the corporation has been lying about producing illegal levels of mercury emissions, he and his two friends decide to try to do something about it.
70. Pierce, Tamora. **TRICKSTER'S CHOICE**. Random House, 2003. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
Alianne must call forth her mother's courage and her father's wit in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy.

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71. Platt, Richard. **CRIME SCENE: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO FORENSIC SCIENCE**. DK, 2003. (nonfiction, 9-12)
Provides information about the major forensic disciplines, looking at procedures, tools, and techniques used to gather evidence at the crime scene and from the body of the victim, and to analyze evidence, identify a suspect, or solve a crime without a corpse.
72. Plum-Ucci, Caro. **THE SHE**. Harcourt, 2003. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
After his parents are lost at sea, Evan Barrett and his older brother leave their seaside home in West Hook to escape bad memories, but years later even worse questions emerge when Evan is asked to help a fellow student deal with another sea-related tragedy.
73. Prose, Francine. **AFTER**. Joanna Cotler Books, 2003. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
In the aftermath of a nearby school shooting, a grief and crisis counselor takes over Central High School and enacts increasingly harsh measures to control students, while those who do not comply disappear.
74. Randle, Kristen. **SLUMMING**. HarperTempest, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
In their senior year of high school, three best friends, Nikki, Alicia, and Sam, attempt an "experiment" in which they each befriend a classmate they think needs attention and try to improve that person's life.
75. Reinhardt, Dana. **HOW TO BUILD A HOUSE**. Wendy Lamb, 2008. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Seventeen-year-old Harper Evans hopes to escape the effects of her father's divorce on her family and friendships by volunteering her summer to build a house in a small Tennessee town devastated by a tornado.
76. Scott, Elizabeth. **STEALING HEAVEN**. HarperCollins, 2008. (realistic fiction, 10-12)
Eighteen-year-old Dani grows weary of her life as a thief when she and her mother move to a town where Dani feels like she can put down roots.
77. Sedgwick, Marcus. **THE DARK HORSE**. Wendy Lamb Books, 2003. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
Having risen to power as chief of his people, the Storn, sixteen-year-old Sigurd leads them as they try to resist the bloodthirsty invaders known as the Dark Horse and makes a shocking discovery about his foster sister Mouse.
78. Shanahan, Lisa. **SWEET, TERRIBLE, GLORIOUS YEAR I TRULY, COMPLETELY LOST IT**. Delacorte, 2007. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Fourteen-year-old Gemma Stone struggles to understand her shifting emotions as her older sister plans her wedding, she overcomes her nerves and tries out for the school play, and she gets to know one of the most notorious boys in her class.

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79. Shaw, Tucker. **FLAVOR OF THE WEEK**. Hyperion, 2003. (humor, 9-12)
Cyril, an overweight boy who is good friends with Rose but wishes he could be more, helps his best friend Nick woo her with culinary masterpieces which Cyril himself secretly creates. Includes recipes from the story.
80. Shusterman, Neal. **UNWIND**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen.
81. Simmons, Michael. **POOL BOY**. Roaring Brook Press, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
When his father is arrested for insider trading and his family loses all their money, Brett Gerson takes a job as an assistant to a 70-something pool cleaner in his former wealthy California neighborhood and learns some valuable life lessons.
82. Soto, Gary. **THE AFTERLIFE**. Harcourt, 2003. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance.
83. Spinelli, Jerry. **MILKWEED**. Knopf, 2003. (historical fiction, 9-12)
A street child, known to himself only as Stophief, finds community when he is taken in by a band of orphans in a Warsaw ghetto which helps him weather the horrors of the Nazi regime.
84. Trueman, Terry. **INSIDE OUT**. HarperTempest, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
A sixteen-year-old with schizophrenia is caught up in the events surrounding an attempted robbery by two other teens who eventually hold him hostage.
85. Valentine, Jenny. **ME, THE MISSING, AND THE DEAD**. HarperTeen, 2008.
(mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
Sixteen-year-old Londoner Lucas Swain, left in possession of the ashes of Violet Park, becomes convinced that Violet is communicating with him, initiating a voyage of self-discovery that forces him to finally confront the events surrounding his father's sudden disappearance.
86. Vance, Susanna. **DEEP**. Delacorte, 2003. (mystery/suspense/adventure, 9-12)
Somewhere in the Caribbean, seventeen-year-old Morgan and thirteen-year-old Birdie, two girls whose lives are worlds apart, are brought together by the maniacal Nicholas.

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87. Vaught, Susan. **BIG FAT MANIFESTO**. Bloomsbury, 2008. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
High school senior Jamie Carcaterra tries to win a scholarship by sharing her experiences as a fat girl in today's appearance-obsessed high school culture, but as she opens her life up to the criticism of her classmates and the media, she begins to wonder if she is being truly honest with herself.
88. Vincent, Erin. **GRIEF GIRL**. Delacorte, 2007. (nonfiction, 9-12)
Author Erin Vincent describes her life after her parents were both killed in a car accident, leaving her parentless at the age of fourteen with a seventeen-year-old sister and a three-year-old brother; and gives a description of the stages of grief she experienced.
89. Voorhees, Coert. **THE BROTHERS TORRES**. Hyperion, 2008. (realistic fiction, 11-12)
Sophomore Frankie finally finds the courage to ask his long-term friend, Julianne, to the Homecoming dance, which ultimately leads to a face-off between a tough senior whose family owns most of their small, New Mexico town, and Frankie's soccer-star older brother and his gang-member friends.
90. Weaver, Will. **CLAWS: A NOVEL**. HarperTempest, 2003. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Jed and Laura, two popular Minnesota high school students, find their seemingly perfect lives suddenly in chaos when they discover that each has a parent who is having an affair with the other.
91. Werlin, Nancy. **IMPOSSIBLE**. Dial, 2008. (fantasy/sci-fi/horror, 9-12)
When seventeen-year-old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes to break the curse she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born in order to save them both.
92. Zarr, Sara. **SWEETHEARTS**. Little, Brown & Company, 2008. (realistic fiction, 9-12)
Jennifer Harris, years after being the tormented outsider on the playground, has reinvented herself into Jenna Vaughn, a popular girl with what seems to be the perfect life, but when a childhood friend re-enters her life, she is forced to confront the most traumatic event of her past and question who she really is.

*For more information, visit the RISD library website at <http://libraries.risd.org>. Suggested grade levels are based on professional review sources. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.