

Literature Circles and Summer Reading 2011

Literature for Discussion Circles List

All members of the BAA community must read at least one of these books this summer.

BAA/Fenway Library Web Page <http://baafhslib.org>

Please remember that summer reading is an important part of the school year. Summer reading essays are due at the beginning of seminar on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. Students who do not turn in their summer reading assignments then will be required to attend the following Saturday sessions:

1. Saturday, September 17 from 9-12 AND
2. Saturday, September 24 from 9-12

Literature Circle Choices – 2011 – All the reviews are from Publisher's Weekly or the Library of Congress record attached to the Book.

Anderson, M.T. ***The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation. Vol. 1, The Pox Party.*** Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

Butler, Octavia. ***Parable of the Sower***

Diary of teenager Lauren Olamina, 2024-27, as she struggles to survive the collapse of civilization and formulate a new religion that spells out her notion of God as change. Only walled enclaves like Robledo, California, stand against total descent into barbarism, criminality, and madness; even so, one by one the enclaves are being overrun by drug-crazed "Paints." Olamina's younger brother Keith, tiring of his father's strictures and determined to make a life for himself outside, runs away, to live by robbery, murder, and drug-dealing—and quickly ends up horribly dead.

Cashore, Kristin. ***Graceling***.

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her Grace of killing, and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

Collins, Suzanne. ***Hunger Games***.

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through a televised survival competition pitting young people against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Danticat, Edwidge. ***Krik? Krak!***

The nine interconnected tales of *Krik? Krak!* follow the inhabitants of the Haitian town Ville Rose across several generations, from the woman imprisoned and starved during a witch hunt in "Nineteen Thirty-Seven" to the young man scribbling his plight on scraps of paper in a refugee boat in "Children of the Sea" to the Brooklyn-raised daughters that suffer their mother's intolerable Old World superstitions in "Caroline's Wedding."

Dorris, Michael. ***Yellow Raft in Blue Water***.

Starting in the present day and moving backward, the novel is told in the voices of the three women: fifteen-year-old part-black Rayona; her American Indian mother, Christine, consumed by tenderness and resentment toward those she loves; and the fierce and mysterious Ida, mother and grandmother whose haunting secrets, betrayals, and dreams echo through the years, braiding together the strands of the shared past.

Flake, Sharon. ***You Don't Even Know Me***. This collection of nine poems and 13 stories is about African-American teens, from a 17-year-old who's marrying his pregnant girlfriend, to a teen's tour of his North Philadelphia neighborhood on a sweltering Fourth of July. Hilarious and anguished they speak with rare truth about family, friends and school.

Frost, Helen. ***Keesha's House***.

Written in the traditional poetic forms of sestina and sonnet, this novel tells the story of seven teenagers who face problems such as pregnancy, disclosing homosexuality, and abuse and who find Keesha's **house** a safe place as they struggle to overcome their difficulties.

Kamkwamba, William. ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope***

A true story of tenacity and imagination describes how an African teenager built a windmill from scraps to create electricity for his home and his village, improving life for himself and his neighbors.

Larsson, Steig. ***The Girl Who Played with Fire.***

When the reporters to a sex-trafficking exposé are murdered and computer hacker Lisbeth Salander is targeted as the killer, Mikael Blomkvist, the publisher of the exposé, investigates to clear Lisbeth's name.

Myer, Walter Dean. ***Dope Stick.***

Using both harsh realism and a dose of the fantastic, Myers (*Game*) introduces an inner-city teen in the jaws of a crisis: 17-year-old Lil J is holed up in an abandoned building, believed to have shot an undercover cop in a drug bust, while police officers assemble in the street below. As he searches for a way out, Lil J is stopped by Kelly, an eerily calm vagrant who invites him to 'cop a squat and check yourself out on the tube.' Kelly's TV not only plays scenes from Lil J's life but projects what will happen if he sticks with his current plan. Shocked, Lil J considers Kelly's question, 'If you could take back one thing you did... what would it be?' A didn't-see-that-coming ending wraps up the story on a note of well-earned hope and will leave readers with plenty to think about.

Nelson, George. ***City Kid.***

In his vivid and charming memoir, novelist and screenwriter George (Hip Hop America) recounts incidents from an eventful life that has ranged from a tough upbringing by his single mother in Brooklyn in the 1960s to a career of assorted writing gigs in music journalism, television and film. He captures the anxieties of an intelligent child in a dangerous neighborhood, finding solace in his mother's soul records, screenings of Planet of the Apes and Hemingway and Fitzgerald novels. Slowly, the mature writer and tastemaker emerges, witnessing and shepherding hip-hop's sometimes rocky transition into the mainstream pop-music world which includes his work with as exemplified the Commodores, Bob Marley and Kurtis Blow, Russell Simmons and Chris Rock.

Picoult, Jodi. ***House Rules.***

Having clear house rules has proven to be the most effective way for single mother Emma Hunt to raise her two sons: brilliant 18-year-old Jacob, who has Asperger's syndrome, and 15-year-old Theo. Jacob's obsession with criminal forensics has brought him to the notice of local law enforcement, and when a murder is committed, Jacob becomes a suspect. Gripping suspense, sensitive treatment of Asperger's, and brilliant characterizations make for an exciting read.

RZA. ***Tao of Wu.***

This memoir, spiritual advice and poetry is a sincere attempt by the RZA, Wu Tang Clan founder and producer, to impart his accumulated life wisdom through the lens of hip-hop and idiosyncratic personal religion. The book opens with a series of paragraphs defining wisdom ("Wisdom is woman," "Woman is the word"). There are interesting stories of the RZA's early days such as saving Method Man's life at the scene of a drug deal gone bad. There are emotional connections shared in the projects over viewings of kung-fu movies and the marathon home production sessions during which he created the backing tracks for years' worth of albums. The spiritual message of the book includes "Don't hate the player; hate the game." Chess tips and a case for vegetarianism also factor into this singular work.

Scieszka, Jon. ***Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka.***

Discusses how factors such as growing up as one of six brothers, a Catholic education, comic books, summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner all contributed toward making the author a comic writer.

See, Lisa. ***Peony in Love.***

Teenaged Peony lives in late 16th-century China, protected by her wealthy family, her entire life arranged for marriage. Prior to her marriage, she overhears passages from the opera The Peony Pavilion and has a brief but life-altering conversation with a very handsome man--both strictly forbidden to an unmarried maiden. The "love-sickness" brought on by these secrets leads to Peony's death. After her death, owing to a lapse in protocol, Peony is condemned to wander the earth as a "hungry ghost." The descriptions of her ghostly existence over the decades are interwoven with her devotion to the poet she could have married, the women he later marries, other wanderers, and The Peony Pavilion itself. The writing is compellingly exotic and vivid.

Senna, Danzy. ***Caucasia.***

Set in 1970s Boston, this impressively assured debut avoids the usual extremes in its depiction of racial tension. As children, Birdie and her sister, Cole, create their own secret language--Elemeno--to ward off the growing tension between their black father and their white mother. Cole, whose complexion is darker than her sister's, gets caught up in her new, black nationalist Nkrumah School in Roxbury. Birdie, pale enough to be mistaken for white, stays close to Mom, mourning her estrangement from Dad and especially Cole--her mirror, protector and secret sharer. Senna's observations about the racial divide in America are often fierce but always complex and humane.

Shafak, Elif. ***Bastard of Istanbul***

In a novel that overflows with a kitchen sink's worth of zany characters, women are front and center: Asya Kazanci, an angst-ridden 19-year-old Istanbulite; her beautiful, rebellious mother, Zeliha, has raised Asya among three generations of complicated and colorful female relations. Mustafa's Armenian-American stepdaughter, Armanoush, who grew up on her family's stories of the 1915 genocide, shows up in Istanbul looking for her roots and for vindication from her new Turkish family. The Kazanci women lament Armanoush's family's suffering, but have no sense of Turkish responsibility for it; Asya's boho cohorts insist there was no genocide at all. As the debate escalates, Mustafa arrives in Istanbul, and a long-hidden secret connecting the histories of the two families is revealed.

Skloot, Rebecca. ***Immortal life of Henrietta Lacks***.

Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization, and gene mapping. The characters are richly described and the story is fascinating.

Stockett, Kate. ***The Help***.

A captivating debut novel, damp with the scent of magnolias in the air, that delves into the shared history of children and the maids who raise them. The writing is such that one can see these people, hear their voices and smell their anxiety. Intense and real.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Peace, Locomotion***.

Following the character introduced in *Locomotion*, Woodson switches from poetry to letters to show how Lonnie Collins Motion, aka Locomotion, maintains a bond with his younger sister, Lili. In his letters, Lonnie shares the big and small details of his days, works through philosophical struggles and includes some of the tender poems he composes. Woodson creates a full-bodied character in kind, sensitive Lonnie. Readers will understand his quest for peace, and appreciate the hard work he does to find it.

Yang, Gene Luen. ***American Born Chinese (Asian American Club Recommendation)***. A balance between a classic fable and realistic fiction, this wholly original graphic comprises three tales: the story of Jin Wang--an alienated Chinese-born teen in an all-White school; high school jock Danny and his embarrassing cousin Chin Lee; and Monkey King--a trickster from a Chinese fable. Separately, these are interesting stories. Woven together, they form a brilliant tale about finding one's place in the world. Additionally, this is the first graphic novel to ever be nominated for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

Incoming Freshmen

The theme for incoming Freshmen is DISCOVERIES.

GROUP DISCUSSION BOOK: Read one book from the Literature Discussion list above.

SECOND BOOK: Read a second book of your choice from books from the online list, books by authors from the list, or from the 2011 Summer Book List from Boston Public Library and BPS.

CHALLENGE: Read an additional two books from the online list, books by authors from this list, or from the 2011 Summer Book List from Boston Public Library and BPS.

PRODUCT DUE Tuesday, SEPT 13, 2011 in Seminar.

Write one essay (2-3pages, typed, double-spaced) that uses examples from **all** books answering these questions: What discoveries do the characters in these two books make? What discoveries about yourself have you made while reading these books? In other words, what thoughts or feelings do you "discover" yourself having as you read these two/four books? (Discoveries about yourself can include thoughts or feelings you have while reading, connections between you and the characters or events in the books, observations you make about your reading habits, likes/dislikes, etc.)

Summer Writing Visual Aid: Incoming Freshmen

1 Essay, 2 pages long

Creative Title for Essay	Page 1	Page 2
Your Name Teachers Date		

Rising Sophomores

The theme for rising Sophomores is **JOURNEYS**

GROUP DISCUSSION BOOK: Read one book from the Literature Discussion list above.

SECOND BOOK: Read up to four more books from the online list, books by authors from the list, or from the 2011 Summer Book List from Boston Public Library and BPS.

PRODUCTS DUE Tuesday, SEPT 13, 2011 in Seminar.

- Write **one** essay (2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced) addressing the theme of **JOURNEYS** in **all** of the books. Answer these questions: What journeys (to new places or through challenges) do the characters in these two/four books undertake? How can you connect your own personal journeys to those of the characters in these two/ four books?

Summer Writing Visual Aid: Rising Sophomores

1 Essay, 2 pages long

Creative Title for Essay	Page 1	Page 2
Your Name Teachers Date		

RISING JUNIORS

The theme for rising juniors is **AWAKENINGS**

GROUP DISCUSSION BOOK: Read one book from the Literature Discussion list above.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS: Read an additional two books from the online list, books by authors from this list, or from the 2011 Summer Book List from Boston Public Library and BPS.

CHALLENGE: Read an additional two books from the recommended lists for Open Honors credit.

PRODUCTS DUE Tuesday, SEPT 13, 2011 in Seminar.

- Write **one** essay (3 pages, typed, double-spaced) addressing the theme of **AWAKENINGS**

in all of the books. Answer these questions: What are the characters in these two/four books awakening to? What awakenings are taking place for you as you read?

- Choose one character from one of the books and create an "I AM" poem for that character.

Summer Writing Visual Aid: Rising Juniors

1 Essay, 3 pages long and 1 "I AM" Poem

Creative Title for Essay	Page 1	Page 2	Page 3	"I AM" Poem
Your Name Teachers Date				

Rising Seniors

The theme for rising seniors is **EPIPHANIES**

GROUP DISCUSSION BOOK: Read one book from the Literature Discussion list above.

READ AN ADDITIONAL **TWO** books from the online list or, books by authors from the list, or from the 2011 Summer Book List from Boston Public Library and BPS.

PRODUCT DUE Tuesday, SEPT 13, 2011 in Seminar.

BAA Rising Senior Summer Community Service Requirement

Objective

To prepare you for both senior grant and college applications. These are activities that many college-bound seniors in the U.S. do to prepare themselves for their senior year and college application process. The summer service requirement can also help you make connections with a collaborating organization for your senior grant project, which many BAA seniors find to be the most difficult aspect of the senior grant process.

Summer Reading:

- Read one literature circle book
- Read two additional books

Write a 5-page essay on the theme of epiphanies in all three books. Answer these questions: What is an epiphany? What epiphanies do the characters in your books have? What epiphanies are you having as you enter your final year of high school?

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Summer Service

- Do a minimum of one day of service, preferably with a community organization connected to the issue you want to address in your senior grant project

- ❑ Take a photograph of yourself at your service site
- ❑ Be prepared to present on your community service experience on Friday, September 9. Include the image of yourself.

RECOMMENDED activities to be ready for senior year:

- ❑ Go on college tours, reflect on what you liked and didn't like. Most colleges have information about scheduled, weekly tours and group information sessions on their website, under the "admissions" section.
- ❑ Research colleges you are interested in applying to
- ❑ Work with your teacher, private teacher, or mentor to come up with your audition repertoire or plan your VA portfolio
- ❑ Write a draft of your college essay
- ❑ Take an SAT course (see attached)
- ❑ Make a list of scholarships that you qualify for
- ❑ Fill out the common application
- ❑ If you are applying to very competitive colleges (BU, NYU, Ivy League), sign up for and study for SAT II's, which are exams in specific subjects like Biology, History, Spanish Literature, etc. We suggest you take this test in October. The deadline for registering for the October exam is Friday, September 9, the third day of school. Fee waivers from BAA will not be available until September.

Summer Writing Visual Aid: Rising Seniors

1 Essay, 5 pages long

Creative Title for Essay	Page 1	Page 2	Page 3	Page 4	Page 5
Your Name Teachers Date					

The following are recommended for your second, third or 4th book.

Fiction

*Akpan, Uwem. **Say You're One of Them**. In this collection of short stories, readers see a varied picture of African countries torn apart by war. In *Ex-mas Feast*, eight-year-old Jigana, a Kenyan boy's sister, Maisha, works as a prostitute to support her family. Jigana's mother quells the children's hunger by having them sniff glue. In *Luxurious Hearses*, Jubril, a teenage Muslim, flees the violence in northern Nigeria. Attacked by his own Muslim neighbors, his only way out is on a bus transporting Christians to the south. In *Fattening for Gabon*, 10-year-old Kotchikpa and his younger sister are sent by their sick parents to live with their uncle, Fofu Kpee, who in turn explains to the children that they are going to live with their prosperous godparents, who, as Kotchikpa pieces together, are actually human traffickers.

*Alexie, Sherman. **The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven**. Victor is strongly aware of Native American traditions but wonders whether his ancestors view today's Indians--mired in alcohol, violence, and an almost palpable sense of despair--with sympathy or disgust. In spite of the bleakness of reservation life, Victor still glimpses humor and passion as ancient customs and contemporary artifacts like electric guitars and diet Pepsi are juxtaposed throughout the story.

*Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Chains**. When her former owner breaks his promise to set her free and ends up sending her to live with a cruel loyalist family at the start of the Revolutionary War, Isabel is heartbroken and so becomes determined to do whatever is necessary to win her freedom, including spying on her family to help the rebels win the war. Any others by this author.

*Asher, Jay. **Thirteen Reasons Why**. When Clay Jenkins receives a box containing **thirteen** cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends the night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

*Brooks, Geraldine. **March**. As the North reels under a series of unexpected defeats during the dark first year of the war, one man leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs. Riveting and elegant as it is meticulously researched, **March** is an extraordinary novel woven out of the lore of American history.

*Comeau, Joey. **One Bloody Thing After Another**. Jackie is infatuated with her best friend, Ann, but hides her feelings rather than risk rejection. Ann has more dramatic problems: her mother, an increasingly ravenous and highly infectious supernatural creature, demands that Ann supply her with live prey. Distracted by their personal obsessions, Ann and Jackie very nearly occupy different novels despite their frequent physical proximity; Jackie wanders through a tale of teen lesbian romance, while Ann struggles to survive the dark horror of monstrous transformation.

*Courtenay, Bryce. **The Power of One**. The story of one young man's search for the love that binds friends, the passion that binds lovers, and the realization that it takes only one to change the world. A weak and friendless boy growing up in South Africa during World War II, Peekay turns to two older men, one black and one white, to show him how to find the courage to dream, to succeed, to triumph over a world when all seems lost, and to inspire him to summon up the most irresistible force of all: the Power of One.

*Crutcher, Chris. **Deadline**. Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide, "Hey-Soos."

*Diaz, Junot. **The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao**. The titular Oscar is a 300-pound-plus "lovesick ghetto nerd" with zero game (except for Dungeons & Dragons) who cranks out pages of fantasy fiction with the hopes of becoming a Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien. The book is also the story of a multi-generational family curse that courses through the book, leaving troubles and tragedy in its wake. This was the most dynamic, entertaining, and achingly heartfelt novel I've read in a long time. My head is still buzzing with the memory of dozens of killer passages that I dog-eared throughout the book. The rope-a-dope narrative is funny, hip, tragic, soulful, and bursting with desire. Others by this Author.

*Draper, Sharon M. **Fire from the Rock**. In 1957, Sylvia Patterson's life--that of a normal African American teenager--is disrupted by the impending integration of Little Rock's Central High when she is selected to be one of the first black students to attend the previously all white school.

*Ellison, Ralph. **The Invisible Man**. The Invisible Man chronicles the travels of its narrator, a young, nameless black man, as he moves through the hellish levels of American intolerance and cultural blindness. Searching for a context in which to know himself, he exists in a very peculiar state.

*Ernessa T. Carter. **32 Candles: A Novel.** A Cinderella rags-to-riches story about a loveable, spunky heroine named Davie. Growing up in poverty in rural Mississippi, Davie moves to L.A. where she blossoms into a nightclub singer with a powerful singing voice.

*Faqr, Fadia. **The Cry of the Dove.** Salma, a member of a Bedouin tribe in Hima, the Levant, at 16 becomes pregnant out of wedlock—considered by her tribe a crime punishable by death. Imprisoned for her own safety, she gives birth five months later; her daughter is spirited away, and Salma is imprisoned eight more years before being secretly released and sent to Southampton, England. There she works as a seamstress and barmaid, removes her veil and cautiously gains her independence. When her daughter is 16, Salma can no longer resist trying to find her, and in so doing risks everything she has become.

*Flake, Sharon. **Bang!** A teenage boy must face the harsh realities of inner city life, a disintegrating family, and destructive temptations as he struggles to find his identity as a young man.

*Fletcher, Susan. **Alphabet of Dreams.** Mitra comes from Persian royalty, but most of her family is dead. Now disguised as a boy, she steals food and shelters in burial caves with her younger brother, Babak. Political enemies of their father pursue them, as does the magus Melchior, who has heard of Babak's gift for dreaming others' dreams. The complications facing a pubescent girl living as a boy and the rhythms of desert life form one intriguing dimension to the novel; another is the journey set in motion when Babak dreams of a portentous star, and the siblings follow Melchior and his two magi companions as they seek the king it represents.

*Flynn, Michael. **In the Country of the Blind.** A small group of American idealists have managed to build the Analytical Engine designed by Charles Babbage and use it to develop mathematical models that could chart the likely course of the future.

*Gargash, Maha. **The Sand Fish: A Novel from Dubai.** Dubai native Gargash weaves an enticing tale of a fiery, independent woman struggling to live the life she has been assigned in the 1950s in the area outside modern Dubai. Noora Al-Salmi is 17. Her mother has died, her father has since gone mad, and her brother, Sager, is trying to provide for her. When Sager hears of a rich pearl merchant looking for a new wife, Noora, unhappy with this plan, escapes to a nearby village where she quickly becomes involved with a man who, unbeknownst to her, is promised to another woman. An exciting, passion-filled read that illuminates an intriguing culture through the eyes and experience of a feisty heroine.

*Grimes, Nikki **Dark Sons.** Alternating poems compare and contrast the conflicted feelings of Ishmael, son of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, and Sam, a teenager in New York City, as they try to come to terms with being abandoned by their fathers and with the love they feel for their younger stepbrothers.

*Harvey, Kenneth J. **The Town That Forgot How to Breathe.** It's a creepy horror story: menacing sea creatures and the eerily unsullied bodies of long-dead seafarers are bobbing to the surface of the waters around the picturesque Newfoundland fishing community of Bareneed, as the villagers are gripped by a mysterious epidemic that causes its victims to forget how to breathe.

*Hill, Lawrence. **Someone Knows My Name.** In 1802, Aminata is in London and convinced to join the cause of British abolitionists, and begins reflecting on her life. Aminata was born in Bayo, West Africa, but was kidnapped at the age of 11 by British slavers. She later survives the Middle Passage and is reunited in South Carolina with Chekura, a boy from a village near hers. Her story gets entwined with his, and with those of her owners. During her long life of struggle, she does what she can to free herself and others from slavery, including learning to read and teaching others to, and befriending anyone who can help her, black or white.

*Hillsbery, Thorn Kief. **What We Do Is Secret.** Rockets, a street kid and hustler, finds a home among the misfits at a Hollywood basement club, but after Darby Crash, leader of the punk band The Germs, commits suicide, the scene begins to fragment.

*Hinds, Gareth. **The Odessey: A Graphic Novel.** Retells, in graphic novel format, Homer's epic tale of Odysseus, the ancient Greek hero who encounters witches and other obstacles on his journey home after fighting in the Trojan War.

*Hosseini, Khaled. **A Thousand Splendid Suns.** "A Thousand Splendid Suns", is about two women, born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family. They are brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation.

*Hornby, Nick. **Slam.** When it came to his life, Sam was pretty easy going—like his idol, skateboarding legend Tony Hawk. Basically, he intended to skateboard his way through high school, get into a good college and make his single mom proud. That was the plan

anyway. Until he got slammed. Sam's been slammed with the fact that his ex-girlfriend Alicia is pregnant. And no matter how much he'd like to run away Sam knows he has to do the right thing. But when one of your main coping strategies is to ask your poster of Tony Hawk for advice, you know you aren't ready for fatherhood.

*Hopkins, Ellen. **Crank**. Kristina Snow is the perfect daughter, but she meets a boy who introduces her to drugs and becomes a very different person, struggling to control her life and her mind. **Glass**. Cristina is determined to defeat her addiction to crack in order to keep her newborn child, but when she is unable to manage her use of the drug and the pull becomes too strong, her greatest fears are quickly realized

*Hurston, Zora Neale. **Their Eyes were Watching God**. An amazing heartfelt novel about a young black women attempting to find her herself growing up in the Deep South. This novel follows the life of Janie from a young girl to an elderly woman as she follows path after path down a journey of self-discovery.

*Hurwin, Davida Wills. **A Time for Dancing**. Juliana and Samantha have been inseparable since dancing-school days at age nine. They perform in a ballet company when not carrying on their ebulliently normal high-school lives. Then Julie is diagnosed with lymphoma, and normal becomes a thing of the past.

*Johnston, Tony. **Bone by Bone by Bone**. In 1950s Tennessee, ten-year-old David's racist father refuses to let him associate with his best friend Malcolm, an African American boy.

*Koja, Kathe. **Kissing the Bee**. Senior year is flying by, the prom is approaching, and Dana, her best friend, Avra, and Avra's boyfriend Emil, are about to encounter the pains and pleasures of that intricate beehive called adult life. While Dana plans on college, Avra plots escape once school is over and plans to take Emil along for the ride. Dana studies bees for a biology project, fascinated by their habits and their mythological imagery, but in real life, there is only one queen bee.

*Kesey, Ken. **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**. An insane asylum is turned upside down when a new patient challenges the head nurse's standards of sanity and justice.

*Kidd, Sue Monk. **The Secret Life of Bees**. After her "stand-in mother," a bold, black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three bee-keeping sisters. **Any others by this author.**

*Kingsolver, Barbara. **The Poisonwood Bible**. In 1959, Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist, takes his four young daughters, his wife, and his mission to the Belgian Congo -- a place, he is sure, where he can save needy souls. But the seeds they plant bloom in tragic ways. Set against one of the most dramatic political events of the twentieth century -- the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium and its devastating consequences. A beautiful, heartbreaking, and unforgettable epic that chronicles the disintegration of a family and a nation. **Any others by this author.**

*Levenkron, Steven. **Best Little Girl in the World**.

Anorexia nervosa. Is it possible to ever overcome such a disease Based of real life patients, the mind-boggling book, reveals the unexpected crooks of the character's traumas through anorexia nervosa.

*Lipsyte, Robert. **The Contender**. A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang into a boxing gym. He learns being a contender is hard and often discouraging work that can lead to deeper self-knowledge. **Any others by this author.**

*Marquez, Gabriel G. **One Hundred Years of Solitude**. One Hundred Years of Solitude is an enchanting and engaging read that chronicles the lives of the Buendia family. The lively and eccentric characters like Jose Arcadio Buendia, the patriarch of the family, whose pursuits include getting a daguerreotype of God will make you laugh and make you think. **Any others by this author.**

*Marshall, Paule. **Brown Girl, Brownstones**. Somewhat autobiographical, this groundbreaking work describes the coming of age of Selina Boyce, a Caribbean-American girl in New York City in the mid-20th century.

*McCann, Colum. **Zoli**. As fascism spreads across 1930s Europe, Zoli Novotna, a young Gypsy poet, and her grandfather seek refuge with a clan of Romani harpists. Her fame as a poet leads to a flight to the West, struggling where she truly belongs.

*McCormick, Patricia. **Sold**. When she is tricked by her stepfather and sold into prostitution, thirteen-year-old Lakshmi becomes submerged in a nightmare where her only comfort is the friendship she forms, which helps her eventually escape.

*Mehran, Marsha. **Pomegranate Soup**. Three Iranian sisters--Marjan, Layla, and Bahar Aminpour--flee the turmoil of the Islamic Revolution in their native country to seek refuge in Ireland, where they open the exotic Babylon Café.

*Mohr, Nicholasa. **El Bronx Remembered**. A marvel, a glorious collection of stories you will not forget. Brilliant ... tender ... if any author could make you hear pulses beating from the pages, Nicholasa Mohr is the one.

*Morrison, Tony. **The Bluest Eye**. An eleven-year-old African-American girl in Ohio, in the early 1940s, prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be beautiful. Any others by this author.

*Mukherjee, Bharati. **Jasmine**. The story of how a young Indian girl becomes an American is intriguing. The evolution of Jyoti into Jasmine into Jane is gripping. The reader is led through the tragedies of her early life. Her resolve is extraordinary. She has to overcome the murder of her husband, terrorism in her homeland, a rape and many other hardships along the way.

*Munoz, Manuel. **The Faith Healer of Olive Avenue**. A collection of interconnected short stories chronicles the world of the inhabitants of one Mexican-American neighborhood, whose diverse lives continue to cross paths in unexpected ways.

*Myers, Walter Dean. **Lockdown**. Teenage Reese, who is serving time at a juvenile detention facility, gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past. **Any others by this author.**

*Na, An. **A Step From Heaven**. In a series of simple but powerful vignettes, An Na manages to distill the entire early life journey of one little girl, Young Ju, as she moves from toddler-hood through to young adulthood in a strange country with odd customs, strange people, and a different language.

*Naidoo, Beverly. **The Other Side of Truth**. Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London when their uncle fails to meet them at the airport and they are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria. Any others by this author.

*O'Brien, Tim. **The Things They Carried**. In 1979, Tim O'Brien's is a novel about the Vietnam War—won the National Book Award. O'Brien's unique artistic vision is again clearly demonstrated.

*Ondaatje, Michael. **Anil's Ghost**. The protagonist, Anil Tissera, a native Sri Lankan, left her homeland at 18 and returns to it 15 years later only as part of an international human rights fact-finding mission. In the intervening years she has become a forensic anthropologist—a career that has landed her in the killing fields of Central America, digging up the victims of Guatemala's dirty war. Now she's come to Sri Lanka on a similar quest.

Orringer, Julie. *Invisible Bridge*. A novel set in 1937 Europe tells the story of three Hungarian Jewish brothers bound by history and love, of a marriage tested by disaster, of a Jewish family's struggle against annihilation by the Nazis, and of the dangerous power of art in the time of war.

*Park, Frances. **To Swim Across the World**. Two young Koreans--a young man from a poor family in the rural South, and the daughter of a prominent minister in the North--encounter one another during the 1941 Japanese occupation of Korea in a meeting that transforms both their lives.

*Pratchett, Terry. **Nation**. Worlds are destroyed and cultures collide when a tsunami hits islands in a vast ocean much like the Pacific. Mau, a boy on his way back home from his initiation period and ready for the ritual that will make him a man, is the only one of his people, the Nation, to survive. Ermintrude, a girl from somewhere like Britain in a time like the 19th century, is on her way to meet her father, the governor of the Mothering Sunday islands. She is the sole survivor of her ship (or so she thinks), which is wrecked on Mau's island. She reinvents herself as Daphne, and uses her wits and practical sense to help the straggling refugees from nearby islands who start arriving. When raiders land on the island, they are led by a mutineer from the wrecked ship, and Mau must use all of his ingenuity to outsmart him.

*Patchet, Ann. **Run**. Struggling with single parenthood and a scandal that cost him his political career, Bernard Doyle fights his disappointment with his adopted sons' career choices before a violent event forces the members of his family to reconsider their priorities.

* Quiñonez, Ernesto. **Chango's Fre**. Raised in pre-gentrification Spanish Harlem, Julio struggles to break free of his secret life as an arsonist, while Pastor Maritza sells illegal U.S. citizenships to undocumented immigrants.

Rainfield, C. A. *Scars*. Fifteen-year-old Kendra, a budding artist, has not felt safe since she began to recall devastating memories of childhood sexual abuse, especially since she cannot remember her abuser's identity, and she copes with the pressure by cutting herself.

Rock, Peter. *My Abandonment*. A thirteen-year-old girl and her father live in Forest Park, an enormous nature preserve in Portland, Oregon. They inhabit an elaborate cave shelter, wash in a nearby creek, store perishables at the water's edge, use a makeshift septic system, tend a garden, even keep a library of sorts. Once a week they go to the city to buy groceries and otherwise merge with the civilized world. But one small mistake allows a backcountry jogger to discover them, which derails their entire existence, ultimately provoking a deeper flight. Inspired by a true story and told through the startlingly sincere voice of its young narrator, Caroline.

*Roy, Arundhati. ***The God of Small Things*.** A story of forbidden identities, *God of Small Things* tells a bittersweet tale of two fraternal twins: Etha and Rahel. Through the clear eyes of these children with vague sense of themselves, Roy captures an India finally free from Britain's rule.

*Rubio, Gwyn Hyman. ***Icy Sparks*.** *Icy Sparks* has spent most of her life being ridiculed because she suffers from Tourette Syndrome, but as she grows older, she teaches those in her town how to accept people for who they are,

*Salinger, J.D. ***The Catcher in the Rye*.** Holden is an extraordinary character. His absolute terror of leaving the wonderful, innocent, carefree world of youth is something everyone can relate to. Any others by this author.

*Sani, Rajaa ***Girls of Riyadh*.** The tale of four young women university students from Riyadh follows their struggles to navigate the precarious paths between desire, fulfillment, and Islamic tradition while witnessing how the Arab world is being changed by new economic and political realities.

*Sebold, Alice. ***The Lovely Bones: a novel*.** Looking down from heaven, 14-year-old Susie Salmon recounts her rape and murder and watches her family as they cope with their grief and "the lovely bones" growing around her absence. Any others by this author.

*Shange, Ntozake. ***Betsey Brown: A novel*.** The portrait of an extended African-American family in which the thirteen-year-old daughter strives to be grown-up while facing prejudice and school busing pressures outside of the family. Any others by this author.

*Sinclair, April. ***Coffee will make you Black*.** The coming-of-age story of a black girl in 1960's Chicago. Jean "Stevie" Stevenson is a child of the working poor. Her dream is to be popular and her wish is granted when "all the way cool" Carla invites her to a party.

*Stassen, Jeanp-Phillipe. ***Déogratias: A Tale of Rwanda / Stassen; translated by Alex Siegel*.** Deogratias is just a teenager when he experiences genocide in Rwanda with the tale unfolding only before and after the massacre revealing the madness and horror of one young boy and his country.

*St. James, James. ***Freak Show*.** Teenage drag queen Billy Bloom explodes onto the conservative scene at Eisenhower Academy, where he finds love and a band of blond sadists. He, the outcast, also seeks the homecoming crown, only this time a queen wants to be Queen. Beneath the sequins, feathers, and foundation, Billy nurses an ardent desire for acceptance.

*Stork, Francis. ***Behind the Eyes*.** Sixteen-year-old Hector is the hope of his family, but when he seeks revenge after his brother's gang-related death and is sent to a San Antonio reform school, it takes an odd assortment of characters to help him see that hope is still alive.

*Strasser, Todd. ***Boot Camp*.** Abducted by transporters in the middle of the night, 15-year-old Garrett finds himself handcuffed in the back of a car trying to make sense of why he is being sent to a facility for troubled teens. Convinced that he does not belong in Lake Harmony, he has difficulty conforming to the camp's standards. As a result, he is subjected to continuous physical and mental abuse. Drawn in by two other students, Garrett takes part in an ambitious plot to escape this never-ending "behavior modification" camp. Any others by this author.

*Styron, William. ***Confessions of Nat Turner*.** This Pulitzer Prize winning novel tells the story of the short-lived, bloody rebellion of slaves in Southampton, Virginia, in August 1831, through the eyes of the instigator, Nat Turner. Any others by this author.

*Tan, Amy. ***The Kitchen God's Wife*.** A Chinese-American woman describes her life to her American-born daughter who has little understanding of her family's heritage. Any others by this author.

*Twain, Mark. **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**. Mark Twain's classic novel tells the story of a teenaged misfit who finds himself floating on a raft down the Mississippi River with an escaping slave, Jim. In the course of their perilous journey, Huck and Jim meet adventure, danger, and a cast of characters who are sometimes menacing and often hilarious. Any others by this author.

* Vizzini, Ned. **It's Kind of a Funny Story**. A humorous account of a New York City teenager's battle with depression and his time spent in a psychiatric hospital.

*Walker, Alice. **The Color Purple**. A feminist novel about an abused and uneducated black woman's struggle for empowerment, the novel was praised for the depth of its female characters and for its eloquent use of black English vernacular.

*Wittlinger, Ellen. **Parrotfish**. Grady, a transgendered high school student, yearns for acceptance by his classmates and family as he struggles to adjust to his new identity as a male.

Arts – Fiction

*Beaufrand, Mary Jane. **Primavera**. Growing up in Renaissance Italy, Flora sees her family's fortunes ebb, but encounters with the artist Botticelli and the guidance of her nurse teach her to look past the material world to the beauty already in her life.

*Bognanni, Peter. **The House of Tomorrow**. A paean to punk rock and how music saves lives, sixteen-year-old Sebastian Prendergast has grown up isolated, homeschooled, and, in of all places, a geodesic dome in Iowa with his grandmother, a fervent Buckminster Fuller fan. Her sudden illness brings Sebastian together with his first friend ever. Jarod Whitcomb is a moody, punk music fan who's known something of loneliness, too, and the two misfits form a punk band of their own. The characters are well drawn and sympathetic. The dialogue becomes laugh-out-loud funny and James's youthful voice keeps Sebastian's first-person narrative sounding genuine.

*Chabon, Michael. **The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay**. This is the story of two Jewish cousins, one American, one Czech. It's 1939 and Brooklynite Sammy Klayman dreams of making it big in the nascent world of comic books. Joseph Kavalier has never seen a comic book, but he is an accomplished artist versed in the "auto-liberation" techniques of his hero, Harry Houdini. Together, they rapidly create the Escapist, the first of many superheroes emblematic of their temperaments and predicaments, and attain phenomenal success. But Joe, tormented by guilt and grief for his lost family, abruptly joins the navy, abandoning Sammy, their work, and his lover, the marvelous artist and free spirit Rosa, who, unbeknownst to him, is carrying his child.

*Cooper, Elisha. **Ridiculous/hilarious/terrible/cool**. This book recounts the lives of eight students as they finish up their senior year at an alternative high school in Chicago. Readers see brief snippets of their lives, including their friendships and family dramas, struggles for passing grades, and the day-to-day things they do to stay on their individual college paths. All of them fit some sort of label: the jock, the slacker, the class president, etc., although one of them, a Muslim, stands out as somewhat distinctive.

*Golden, Arthur. **Memoirs of a Geisha**. Nine-year-old Chiyo, sold with her sister into slavery by their father after their mother's death, becomes Sayuri, the beautiful geisha accomplished in the art of entertaining men, is the focus of this s Narrating her life story from her elegant suite in the Waldorf Astoria, Sayuri tells of her traumatic arrival at the Nitta okiya (a geisha house), where she endures harsh treatment from Granny and Mother, the greedy owners, and from Hatsumomo, the sadistically cruel head geisha. But Sayuri's chance meeting with the Chairman, who shows her kindness, makes her determined to become a geisha.

Green, John. **Looking for Alaska**. Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

*Grey, Christopher. **Leonardo's Shadow**. A disoriented runaway boy is taken in by Leonardo da Vinci and grows up as the great man's servant, protecting him from his creditors as Leonardo is pressured to finish *The Last Supper*. Although part of Leonardo's life, Giacomo has dreams of his own: to be an artist and to find the secret of his parentage (which he hopes leads back to da Vinci).

*Herrera, Juan Felipe. **Skate Fate**. After a drag racing accident leaves him in a wheelchair, Lucky Z, a Chicano foster child, struggles to find his place in a new high school until he begins writing poetry and finds his voice.

* Heuston, Kimberly. **Dante's Daughter**. In fourteenth-century Italy, Antonia, the daughter of Dante Alighieri, longs for a stable family and home while developing her artistic talent and seeking a place for herself in a world with limited options for women.

*Joyce, James. **Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man**. A masterpiece of subjectivity, a fictionalized memoir, a coming-of-age prose-poem, this brilliant novella introduces Joyce's alter ego, Stephen Daedalus, the hero of *Ulysses*, and begins the narrative experimentation that would help change the concept of literary narrative forever.

- *Kaplow, Robert. **Me and Orson Welles: A Novel**. A coming-of-age novel about a seventeen-year-old New Jersey boy who falls in love and stumbles into a bit part in Orson Welles's debut production on Broadway, all in the same week
- *Lockart, E. **Fly on the Wall: How One Girl Saw Everything**. When Gretchen Yee, a student at the Manhattan School for Art and Music, wishes she were a fly on the wall of the boys' locker room, she never expects her wish to come true in such a dramatic way.
- *Quick, Barbara. **Vivaldi's Virgins**. A tale set in Vivaldi's decadent Venice in the eighteenth century finds elite Ospedale della Pietà musician Anna Maria dal Violin embarking on a quest of self-discovery in Venetian society and the Jewish Ghetto.
- *Potok, Chaim. **My Name Is Asher Lev**. Asher Lev is the artist who painted the sensational 'Brooklyn Crucifixion'. Into it, he poured all the anguish and torment a Jew can feel when torn between the faith of his fathers and the calling of his art. Here Asher Lev plunges back into his childhood and recounts the story of love and conflict which dragged him to this crossroads.
- *Salzman, Mark. **The soloist**. Thirty-four-year-old Renne Sundheimer, a cello teacher at UCLA, has been deprived of a normal youth due to his early promise as a musical prodigy and his close relationship with his instructor, but he is forced to finally engage with life when he is called to serve on the jury for the trial of a Zen student accused of killing his master, and he takes on a brilliant new pupil.
- *Teller, Astro. **Exegesis**. What if artificial intelligence (AI) gurus achieved their holy grail? What if machines that process our words and crunch our numbers began to talk back? The story is told through e-mails between Berkeley graduate student Alice Wu and "Edgar," a cyber pen pal seemingly "created" by Alice's AI doctoral research. Edgar is an entity consumed by an overwhelming need for information and is resistant to the efforts of both Alice and the National Security Agency operatives who are trying to take over Edgar.
- *Volponi, Paul. **Hurricane Song**. High school sophomore Miles Shaw goes to live with his father, a jazz musician, in New Orleans, and together they survive the horrors of Hurricane Katrina in the Superdome, learning about each other and growing closer through their painful experiences.

Arts – Nonfiction & Biography

- *Andoe, Joe. **Jubilee City: a Memoir at Full Speed**. A memoir by an internationally renowned artist whose work has appeared in such prestigious collections as the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston traces his childhood quest for the ultimate experience in the Midwest, an effort that gave way to his artistic expressions.
- *Aretha, David. **No Compromise: The Story of Harvey Milk**. Only after his assassination did America truly begin to understand Milk's impact on the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. From the opening of his Castro Street camera shop in 1973 to his death in 1978, Milk arguably did more for LGBT civil rights than any other individual in history. '
- *Begag, Azouz. **Gone du Chaâba. English Shantytown Kid translated by Naïma Wolf and Alec G. Hargreaves**. Begag narrates the story of his childhood in Le Chaaba, a shantytown suburb of Lyon in which poverty and poor sanitation exacerbate tensions between immigrants and nonimmigrants, as well as between Arab families. A talented student, young Begag learns quickly and speaks French well, which facilitates a relationship with a *pied-noir* teacher, who introduces him to Algeria and the Arabic language in a way Begag's parents cannot.
- *Boser, Alrich. **The Gardner Heist: The True Story of the World's Largest, Unsolved Art Theft**. In the early morning hours of March 18, 1990, thieves posing as cops entered Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and left with a haul unrivaled in the art world, including three Rembrandts and a Vermeer, valued today at \$600 million. Boser carried on renowned, but deceased detective's work, pursuing leads as varied as James Whitey Bulger's Boston mob and the IRA. Boser's rousing account of his years spent collecting clues large and small is entertaining enough to make readers almost forget that, after 18 years, the paintings have still not been found.
- *Bryson, Bill. **Shakespeare: The World as Stage**. A portrait of the Bard is presented in the style of a travelogue based on interviews with actors, the curator of Shakespeare's birthplace, and academics, in an account that also shares the author's recollections of his own adventures in Stratford-upon-Avon.

- *Clapton, Eric. **Clapton: the autobiography / Eric Clapton**. The legendary guitarist recounts the story of his life and career, recalling his work with the Yardbirds, Cream, and as a solo artist; years of drug and alcohol abuse; failed marriage to Patti Boyd; and the accidental death of his young son.
- *DeLeeuw, Ronald. **The Letters of Vincent Van Gogh**. Letter after letter sizzles with colorful, exacting descriptions of books and paintings, landscapes and people Vincent intended to paint.... This absorbing collection elaborates yet another side of this beguiling and brilliant artist.
- *Gelly, Dave. **Life and Music of Lester Young**. Showing how the music of the exceptionally sensitive man was shaped by his experiences, Gelly depicts Young as one of the great jazz masters who changed the way the saxophone was played.
- *Jay-Z. **Decoded**. The controversial hip-hop artist presents the story of his life and career through lyrics, images, and a personal narrative that also offers insight into his creative process.
- *Jones, Bill T. **Last Night on Earth**. The current baddest boy of postmodern dance offers a passionate, uneven as-told-to autobiography. Now at the center of an aesthetic/moral debate on the value of "victim art", the HIV-positive choreographer provides a fascinating, blow-by-blow account of Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin/The Promised Land, they're overly cerebral and awkwardly written. By contrast, his chronicle of caring for lover and artistic collaborator Zane, who died in 1988, is tenderly realistic. A courageous yet curiously incomplete self-examination.
- *Kambalu, Samson. **The Jive Talker: An Artist's Genesis**. A lesser one of the New American Cinema directors who surfaced in the 1970s, Demme proved to have staying power, though his most recent projects have been decidedly low-profile. The 23 interviews here hail from film journals, newspapers, alternative weeklies, and other sources including public broadcasting (conversations with Charlie Rose and Terry Gross) and an excessively condensed colloquy with critic Pauline Kael, an early champion of Demme's work. Demme's current feature, *Rachel Getting Married*, has been acclaimed his best work in a decade, which likely will boost interest in this first-person survey of his career.
- *Kurtz, Glenn. **Practicing: A Musician's Return to Music**. Guitar was the young Kurtz's passion. From lessons as a child, through summers at a guitar camp where he learned aspects of performance, on to the New England Conservatory of Music in preparation for a solo career, and actually pursuing that career in Vienna, he describes the journey that led to the recognition that he wasn't cut out to be a performer. Practice is putting love into the music, he sees, and performance is sending that love to the listener. Including discussion of the history of the guitar and of the composers of music for it, he traces an odyssey that turns full circle 10 years later when he resumes playing for his own enjoyment.
- *Small, David. **Stitches**. If you think your parents are awful, they are probably peaches compared to the folks that raised Caldecott award winning artist David Small. This graphic novel memoir chronicles his survival of his parents' loveless marriage, a botched surgery on his throat that left him scarred and voiceless, and the burning of all his favorite books by his vindictive mother. Through it all, Small maintained hope through his artwork. In spare prose and stark panels, employing images that are startling, dream-like and reminiscent of classic cinema, Small takes you on an insightful and poignant journey through his own personal hell and eventual redemption. In the end Small perseveres, becoming an artist against all odds and with no support from his family.
- *Hamilton, Linda H. **Advice for Dancers**. This book is an excellent guide that addresses the social, emotional and physical needs of the developing dancer. Recommended as a resource for students and parents.
- *Jasper, Kenji and Ytasha L. Womack, Eds. **Beats, rhymes, & life: what we love and hate about hip-hop**. Collects essays on modern hip-hop music and culture in which music journalists look at some of the most controversial ideas, symbols, and images in rap, and includes interviews with some of the genre's leading stars.
- *Jones, Quincy. **Q: The Autobiography of Quincy Jones**. Quincy Jones describes his life, from his childhood growing up in Chicago, to playing backup trumpet for Billie Holiday, to a career of recording his own music and producing the best-selling album of all time, Michael Jackson's "Thriller".
- *Kavanagh, Julie. **Nureyev: the life**. A portrait of the iconic ballet dancer describes Nureyev's Soviet youth, his dramatic 1961 defection to the West, the performances that transformed him into an international celebrity, his flamboyant lifestyle, and his major influence on dance.

*Lang Lang with Michael French. **Lang Lang: Playing with Flying Keys.** Provides a look at the life and accomplishments of the noted pianist through his views on the differences between the cultures of the East and West, the great changes in his homeland of China, and his love for classical music.

*Lee, Bruce. **Bruce Lee: Artist of Life.** A collection of Lee's writing, revealing that he was a man who was equal parts poet, philosopher, scientist, actor, producer, director, author, choreographer, martial artist, husband, father, and friend, dedicated to artistic expression with the goal of self-knowledge.

*Levitin, Daniel. **This Is Your Brain On Music: The Science of a Human Obsession.** An exploration of the relationship between the mind and music draws on recent findings in the fields of neuroscience and evolutionary psychology to discuss such topics as the sources of musical tastes, the brain's discernible responses to music, and the cultural origins of musical senses.

*Neimark, Anne. **Up Close: Johnny Cash.** Profiles the music icon who is the only musician ever to be inducted into three halls of fame (Country Music, Rock and Roll, and Songwriters), and whose work has influenced numerous performers, including Bob Dylan, U2, and Nine Inch Nails.

*Partridge, Elizabeth. **John Lennon: All I Want is the Truth.** If all you know about John Lennon is from your parents' Beatles collection, then are you going to be surprised about what you find between the pages of Elizabeth Partridge's stellar biography of the Fab Four's darkest member! Partridge examines Lennon's life from childhood, through angry adolescence and Beatle mania, to his quiet househusband days as the partner of avant-garde artist Yoko Ono.

*Smith, Anna Deveare. **Letters to a Young Artist: Straight-up Advice on Making a Life in the Arts - For Actors, Performers, Writers and Artists of Every Kind.**

*Tharp, Twyla. **The Creative Habit.** Dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp examines creativity, focusing on the role of routine and habit in the creative process, and presents over thirty exercises designed to help people develop their creative impulses.

*Wareham, Dean. **Black Postcards.** A founder of two moderately successful rock bands describes his coming-of-age as a cultural outsider, his observations about the music industry, and his witness to the emergence of the indie and alternative music genres.

*Weber, Nicholas Fox. **The Bauhaus Group: Six Masters of Modernism.** Features humorous, illustrated accounts of the major events and personalities that have shaped history throughout the past five centuries, from the arrival of Columbus in the New World through the establishment of the U.S. Constitution.

Mysteries

*Beaufraud, Mary Jane. **River.** Following her father's emotional breakdown, Veronica moves with her family from Portland to tiny Hoodoo, Oregon, where her parents open an inn. Her father's condition improves and her mother, a celebrity chef, is just fine, thank you. But Ronnie is bereft, unable to get over all the things she's left behind in the big city. And then the young girl she's been babysitting dies—an accidental drowning, the authorities think, but Ronnie's not so sure and sets out to investigate.

*Carriger, Gail. **Soulless.** Prickly, stubborn 25-year-old bluestocking Alexia Tarabotti is patently unmarriageable, and not just because she's large-nosed and swarthy. She's also soulless, an oddity and a secret even in a 19th-century London that mostly accepts and integrates werewolf packs, vampire hives and ghosts. The only man who notices her is brash Lord Conall Maccon, a Scottish Alpha werewolf and government official, and (of course) they dislike each other intensely. After Alexia kills a vampire with her parasol at a party—how vulgar!—she and Conall must work together to solve a supernatural mystery that grows quite steampunkishly gruesome.

*Carroll, Jenny. **Safe House.** Jessica Mastriani, 16, has been having psychic visions ever since she was struck by lightning, earning her the nickname Lightning Girl at school. When a cheerleader disappears and is found dead, Jessica reluctantly uses her psychic abilities to catch the culprits.

*Chabon, Michael. **The Yiddish Policemen's Union.** An epic-scale alternate-history saga of Jewish life since World War II, this book hinges on an obscure historical fact: FDR once proposed that Alaska, not Israel, become the homeland for Jews after the war. The U.S. government now has enacted a policy that will evict all Jews without proper papers from Sitka, the center of Jewish Alaska. In the midst of this nightmare, browbeaten police detective Meyer Landsman investigates the murder of a heroin-addicted chess prodigy who happens to be the disgraced son of Sitka's most powerful rabbi.

*Christie, Agatha. **The Murder of Roger Ackroid**. This novel, written in 1927, is considered the best and most successful of the early mysteries. It met with no small outrage when it appeared, as it uses a plot device many readers thought "unfair."

*Dunning, John. **The Bookman's Wake**. Cliff Janeway, Denver cop-turned-book-dealer, finds himself chasing down a charming young fugitive named Eleanor Rigby, who has stolen a rare copy of Poe's "The Raven" for reasons of her own. Trouble follows, and Eleanor disappears into a city filled with people who want the book, and don't care what they have to do to get it.

*Ferguson, Alane. **The Christopher Killer**. 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.

*Hillerman, Tony. **A Thief of Time**. Lt. Joe Leaphorn and Officer Jim Chee of the Navajo Tribal Police join forces in Hillerman's imaginative series on crimes occurring in or around the four corners country of the Southwest.

*Lindqvist, John. **Let the Right One In**. Set in a commonplace suburb of Stockholm, 12-year-old Oskar lives with his mother, is bullied at school, shoplifts, and keeps a scrapbook of notes and clippings about gruesome murders. Eli, apparently about his age, moves in next door but doesn't go to school, leaving the flat only at night. Shortly after, the killings start. At first more fascinated than sorry, since one victim had bullied him, Oskar eventually discovers that Eli is a vampire, stuck permanently in childhood. What should Oskar do, especially when Eli is his friend as much as anyone is?

*Parker, Robert. **The Boxer and the Spy**. 15-year-old Terry Novak is learning the ropes of boxing from a wizened ex-fighter — gruff but keenly understanding. At the same time, Terry's best friend, Abby, is becoming something closer to a girlfriend, though neither really know what to make of it. When a kid is found dead of an apparent suicide, murkily involving steroids, the duo make it their business to figure out what really happened. Any other book by this author.

*Portman, Frank. **King Dork** In Frank Portman's dazzling debut novel, frustrated song-writer and high school student Tom Henderson finds his dead father's copy of *The Catcher in the Rye*, and his life changes forever. Part social satire, part mystery, with a healthy dose of rock music (and angst), *King Dork* is one of our must-read favorites of the year.

*Vargas, Fred. **The Chalk Circle Man**. Adamsberg homes in on the seemingly insignificant phenomenon of chalk circles being drawn at random points around the city, each circle enclosing a piece of urban detritus (a Coke can, a single shoe). Adamsberg senses that the circles will soon surround dead bodies, and so they do.

*Werlin, Nancy. **The Killer's Cousin**. David Yaffe, 18, having recently been acquitted of murdering his girlfriend, is sent to live in Cambridge, MA, with his Aunt Julia, Uncle Vic, and cousin Lily to repeat his senior year of high school. Lily, 11, is resentful of his presence; she feels that her dead sister Kathy's room is rightfully hers, and that he should not be staying in it. Lily taunts and torments David until he begins to doubt his own sanity. His emotional fragility is compellingly revealed as he works through the loss of his girlfriend and the complicity he feels over her death. Readers see Lily through David's eyes; she is alternately depicted as the troubled child of dysfunctional parents, a spoiled brat, and a truly evil character. She plays on his fears and pushes David to the edge until he realizes what he has always known: Lily has a secret, too.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

*Anthony, Piers. **Demons Don't Dream**. Two young adventurers are drawn into the world of Xanth through a computer game and find themselves in a desperate race against time when treachery, danger, and deceit place Xanth itself in peril, as they learn that some things are more important than winning.

*Atwood, Margaret. **The Handmaid's Tale**. Offered (read Of Fred) is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets where signs are now in pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant because, in an age of declining births, Offered and other Handmaids are only valued if their ovaries are viable. Offered can remember the years before, when she lived and made love with her husband, Luke; when she played with and protected her daughter; when she had a job, money of her own, and access to knowledge. But all of that is gone now.

* Bacigalupi, Paolo. **Ship Breaker**. A fast-paced postapocalyptic adventure set on the American Gulf Coast. Nailer works light crew; his dirty, dangerous job is to crawl deep into the wrecks of the ancient oil tankers that line the beach, scavenging copper wire and

turning it over to his crew boss. After a brutal hurricane passes over, Nailer and his friend Pima stumble upon the wreck of a luxurious clipper ship. It's filled with valuable goods—a "Lucky Strike" that could make them rich, if only they can find a safe way to cash it in. Amid the wreckage, a girl barely clings to life. If they help her, she tells them, she can show them a world of privilege that they have never known. But can they trust her? And if so, can they keep the girl safe from Nailer's drug-addicted father?

*Bat, Francesca Lia. **Weetzie Bat**. Weetzie, now 23, is a child of Hollywood who hated high school but loves the memories of Marilyn Monroe and Charlie Chaplin, plastic palm-tree wallets, and the roller-skating waitresses at Tiny Naylor's. She wears a bleached-blond flattop and Harlequin sunglasses, covers her '50s taffeta dresses in glittery poetry, and sews fringe down the sides of her minis in sympathy with the plight of the Indian. Nobody understands her, least of all her divorced bicoastal parents, until she meets Dirk, who takes her slamdancing at the hot clubs in L.A. in his red '55 Pontiac. When he tells her he's gay, they decide to go "duck-hunting" together. He meets his ideal blond surfer, and Weetzie finds her Secret Agent Lover Man. They all move in together, make movies that become underground successes, and have a baby.

*Bell, Alden. **The Reapers are Angels**. In a fallen America infested with zombies, a young girl named Temple is on the run, haunted by her past and pursued by a killer, and she must decide where she can find the salvation she seeks--in the insulated remnants of society or on the bleak, brutal frontier.

*Bradbury, Ray. **Fahrenheit 451**. A classic, frightening vision of the future, where firemen don't put out fires—they start them in order to burn books. Bradbury's vividly painted society holds up the appearance of happiness as the highest goal— a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad.

*Dashner, James. **Maze Runner**. Thomas wakes up in an elevator, remembering nothing but his own name. He emerges into a world of about 60 teen boys who have learned to survive in a completely enclosed environment, subsisting on their own agriculture and supplies from below. A new boy arrives every 30 days. The original group has been in "the glade" for two years, trying to find a way to escape through a maze that surrounds their living space. They have begun to give up hope. Then a comatose girl arrives with a strange note, and their world begins to change. There are some great, fast-paced action scenes, particularly those involving the nightmarish Grievers who plague the boys. Thomas is a likable protagonist who uses the information available to him and his relationships (including his ties to the girl, Teresa) to lead the Gladers.

*Fisher, Catherine. **Incarceron**. Finn is a 17-year old prisoner of Incarceron. His memories begin and end there. He knows nothing about his heritage except for vague memories that tease at his mind. The teen is determined to escape the prison fashioned centuries ago as a solution to the chaos created by man. Now Incarceron is self-sustaining and self-perpetuating—prisoners are born there and they die there. Legend claims only one man has ever escaped, Sapphique, and Finn is determined to follow in his steps. Claudia, the warden's daughter, lives sequestered in a castle surrounded by servants. But she, too, longs for escape—from a father who frightens her and from betrothal to an insipid prince. Finn and Claudia each discover a crystal key and are amazed to find that they can communicate with each other. As their trust in one another builds, each pledges to help the other. The two stories emerge, intertwine and, by the end, unwind in startling twists that will astonish readers.

Grossman, Lev. **Magicians**. Quentin Coldwater lives in a state of perpetual melancholy, privately obsessed with his childhood books about the enchanted land of Fillory. When he's admitted to the surreptitious Brakebills Academy for an education in magic, Quentin finds mastering spells is tedious (and love is even more fraught). He also discovers his power has thrilling potential--though it's unclear what he should do with it once he's moved with his new magician cohorts to New York City. Then they discover the magical land of Fillory is real and launch an expedition to use their powers to set things right in the kingdom--which, naturally, turns out to be a much murkier proposition than expected

*LeGuin, Ursula. **A Wizard of Earthsea**. Ged was the greatest sorcerer in all Earthsea, but once he was called Sparrowhawk, a reckless youth, hungry for power and knowledge. A youth who tampered with long-held secrets and loosed a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tale of his testing, how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed an ancient dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance.

*Lo, Malinda. **Ash**. Described as "Cinderella...with a twist," *Ash* is in many ways the familiar fairy tale about a girl's move from comfort to despair to true love (with a little help from fairies and magic). However, while structural similarities exist, ideologically Lo's beautiful and dark tale takes the story to a new place. It is not about Ash being found and saved by a charming prince; instead, it is about her courtship with Kaisa, the King's huntress, a relationship that burgeons over time and is based on more than just initial attraction. *Ash* will appeal to readers looking for GLBTQ and fans of romance, fantasy, and strong female protagonists.

*Maguire, Gregory. **Wicked** and **Son of a Witch**. These companion novels take the story of "The Wizard of Oz" to political and satirical depths. If you like Baum's story or the movie, you will enjoy learning why things are the way they are in Oz such as like why the witch is green and her adventures in Oz's version of college. Lots of fun and food for thought.

*Ness, Patrick. **Knife of Never Letting Go**. Pursued by power-hungry Prentiss and mad minister Aaron, young Todd and Viola set out across New World searching for answers about his colony's true past and seeking a way to warn the ship bringing hopeful settlers from Old World.

*Pearson, Mary. **The Adoration of Jenna Fox**. Seventeen-year-old Jenna Fox awakens after more than a year in a coma to find herself in a life—and a body—that she doesn't quite recognize. Her parents tell her that she's been in an accident, but much of her past identity and current situation remain a mystery to her: Why has her family abruptly moved from Boston to California, leaving all of her personal belongings behind? Why does her grandmother react to her with such antipathy? Why have her parents instructed her to make sure not to tell anyone about the circumstances of their move? And why can Jenna recite whole passages of Thoreau's *Walden*, but remember next to nothing of her own past? As she watches family videos of her childhood, strange memories begin to surface, and she slowly realizes that a terrible secret is being kept from her.

*Priest, Cherie. **Boneshaker**. In an alternate 1880s America, mad inventor Leviticus Blue is blamed for destroying Civil War-era Seattle. When Zeke Wilkes, Blue's son, goes into the walled wreck of a city to clear his father's name, Zeke's mother, Briar Wilkes, follows him in an airship, determined to rescue her son from the toxic gas that turns people into zombies (called rotters and described in gut-churning detail). When Briar learns that Seattle still has a mad inventor, Dr. Minnericht, who eerily resembles her dead husband, a simple rescue quickly turns into a thrilling race to save Zeke from the man who may be his father. Intelligent, exceptionally well written and showcasing a phenomenal strong female protagonist who embodies the complexities inherent in motherhood, this yarn is a must-read for the discerning steampunk fan.

Ron, Currie Jr. **Everything Matters!** On the day that Junior Thibodeau is born, he learns the exact moment when the world will end: 36 years, 168 days, 14 hours, and 23 seconds into the future--pretty heavy news for a newborn. Knowledge of the pending apocalypse--revealed by an omniscient, unnamed "we"--colors Junior's existence from day one and leaves him wondering: "Does anything I do matter?" Ron Currie, Jr.'s terrific debut novel unfolds through the funny, poignant, and tragic stories told by Junior and his family, (each of them owning a chapter) including the all-knowing Greek chorus that gently, affectionately nudges Junior toward his destiny.

*Ryan, Carrie. **The Forest of Hands and Teeth**. Mary knows little about the past and why the world now contains two types of people: those in her village and the undead outside the fence, who prey upon the flesh of the living. The Sisters protect their village and provide for the continuance of the human race. After her mother is bitten and joins the Unconsecrated, Mary is sent to the Sisters to be prepared for marriage to her friend Harry. But then the fences are breached and the life she has known is gone forever. Mary; Harry; Travis, whom Mary loves but who is betrothed to her best friend; her brother and his wife; and an orphaned boy set out into the unknown to search for safety, answers to their questions, and a reason to go on living.

*Stephenson, Neal. **Snow Crash**. It is a world where the Mafia controls pizza delivery, the United States exists as a patchwork of corporate-franchise city-states, and the Internet—incarnate as the Metaverse—looks something like last year's hype would lead you to believe it should.

*Stroud, Jonathan. **The Amulet of Samarkind**. Dangerous adventures of Djinni Bartimaeus and his master, seventeen-year-old Nathaniel, a powerful magician who is apprenticed to a miserable, seemingly non-magic magician. Chaos and mayhem ensue when Nathaniel has Bartimaeus steal a very valuable amulet from a very real, and very magical magician.

*Uehashi, Nahoko. **Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit**. Watching a boy tumble from a bridge into the river in an apparent act of murder, Balsa comes to his aid and discovers that he is Prince Chagum, a child of royalty who carries a secret that can destroy the world, and so now must work to deliver him to the Water Spirit before his enemies track him down and complete their deadly task.

*Westerfeld, Scott. **Peeps**. Parasite positives, or "peeps," are maniacal cannibals that cause the spread of cannibalism. College freshman Cal was lucky: he contracted the sexually transmitted disease during a one-night stand, but it never developed into its full-blown form. Now he works for an underground bureau in Manhattan that tracks down peeps. Apart from the cravings for rare meat and enforced celibacy (turning lovers into monsters is "not an uplifting thing"), life is okay--until a hip, cute journalism student intensifies Cal's yearnings for companionship. Complicating matters are indications that peeps have an urgent evolutionary purpose.

*Wrede, Patricia. **The Thirteenth Child**. A magical barrier protects most people from the dangerous magical creatures of the Wild West. Eff is a 13th unlucky child who supposedly will cause doom and misfortune, and is twin sister to Lan, the lucky and extra-

magical 7th son of a 7th son. Eff's family moves to the Western frontier when Eff's magic-professor father and practical mother decide that the move will hide Eff and Lan's differences. Then Lan's potential is revealed after he causes an annoying classmate to float. When he leaves to go to school back East, Eff follows her own path to learning more about magic, including assisting in caring for the magical creatures at her father's college.

Biography & Memoir (by author)

*Angelou, Maya. **Wouldn't take Nothing for my Journey Now**. Offering gems of truth on every page, a treasure of a book from the beloved poet is down to earth, inspirational, and wise, offering thoughts on womanhood, spirituality, and the joy of living well.

*Arlen, Michael. **Passage to Ararat**. The book covers a great deal of accurate Armenian history, where both Turkish and Armenian views are considered. This is a great book to learn about Armenian history, culture, mentality and the Armenian Genocide.

*Ashe, Arthur. **Days of Grace**. A genuinely affecting testament from the quietly activist champion-athlete who died young. Ashe's shares life, his beliefs and his final thoughts on the world and his life. Ashe triumphed in sport to become wealthy and well known, but suffered from racial prejudice as a child and terrible diseases as an adult.

*Bailey John. **The Lost German Slave Girl: The Extraordinary True Story of Sally Miller and Her Fight for Freedom in Old New Orleans**. Who was Sally Miller: was she Salome Muller, a long-lost German immigrant girl enslaved by a Southern planter? Or was she really a light-skinned black woman, shrewd enough to exploit her only opportunity for freedom? Bailey keeps us guessing until the end in this page-turning true courtroom drama of 19th-century New Orleans.

*Barakat, Ibtisam. **Tasting the sky: a Palestinian childhood**. The author remembers her childhood in Ramallah and as a Palestinian refugee in the late 1960s.

*Beah, Ishmael. **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier**. In a heart-wrenching, candid autobiography, a human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army.

*Bernstein, Carl. **A Woman in Charge**. Drawing from hundreds of interviews with colleagues, friends and with unique access to campaign records, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Carl Bernstein offers a complex and nuanced portrait of one of the most controversial figures of our time: Hillary Clinton. He has given us a book that enables us, at last, to address these questions: What is her character? What is her political philosophy? Who is she? What can we expect from her?

*Bok, Francis. **Escape from Slavery**. A present-day escaped slave recounts his brutal capture and enslavement at the age of seven, his harrowing escape to a refugee camp and finally America, his education, and his ongoing work as an anti-slavery activist.

*Carroll, Cathryn and Catherine Hoffpauir Fisher. **Orchid of the Bayou: A Deaf Woman Faces Blindness**. Here Fisher presents a vivid portrait of Cajun culture and provides an even more arresting description of the Louisiana School for the Deaf, a residential institution she began attending in 1953 at the age of six.

*Chai, May-lee. **Hapa Girl: A Memoir**. A memoir of growing up in a rural South Dakota university town with a Chinese-American father and an Irish Catholic mother offers a portrait of a loving family who finds tension, fear, racial anxiety, and violence in their new hometown.

*Chen, Da. **China's Son: Growing up in the Cultural Revolution (Adaptation of Colors of the Mountain)**. In 1962, as millions of Chinese citizens were gripped by Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution and the Red Guards enforced a brutal regime of communism, a boy was born to a poor family in southern China. Da Chen seemed destined for a life of poverty, shame, and hunger. But winning humor and an indomitable spirit can be found in the most unexpected places.

*Clercq Zubli, Rita La Fontaine de. **Disguised: A War Memoir**. Details the author's experiences in a Japanese POW camp where she, disguised as a boy and outraged at the conditions, injustice, and torture, dared to speak up for her fellow prisoners of war.

*Colbert, David. **Michelle Obama: An American Story**. This look at Michelle Obama's life and the turning points that shaped her shows how a girl from a working class background rose to become one of the most influential women of her day. But this is more than a straight chronological retelling as her life story is told within the context of the larger movements in African American history: slavery, freedom, the Reconstruction era, the Civil Rights movement, and, her own era.

*Daniels, Eddie. **There and Back: Robben Island, 1964-1979**. Eddie Daniels was convicted of sabotage for the anti-apartheid activities he undertook while a member of the illegal African Resistance Movement, which he helped found. He was incarcerated with the future president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, in Robben Island Maximum Security Prison from 1964 to 1979. Daniels and Mandela developed a close friendship as they labored in the island's limestone quarry, grew weak on protein-deprived diets, hungered for communication with loved ones outside the prison's walls and shared dreams of a non-racial, democratic South African nation.

*Engle, Margarita. **The poet slave of Cuba: a biography of Juan Francisco Manzano. Art by Sean Qualls**. Born a slave, raised by a woman not his mother, and denied an education, Juan overcame all the personal obstacles he faced as a child in order to reach freedom, pursue his natural talents, and become the celebrated poet he was destined to be.

*Forbes, Flores A. **Will You Die With Me?** A personal memoir of a Black Panther Party Central Committee member recounts his rise from an angry youth to leading Buddha Samurai cadre. He secretly organized resistance efforts to police brutality and promoted the black liberation movement.

*Fleming, Candace. **Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life**. Maybe all you know of Eleanor Roosevelt is that she was sort of tall, wore a lot of hats, and was first lady to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was one of the more, well, famous presidents. While all those things are true, Eleanor was also a scrappy, tireless advocate for human rights, incredibly loyal to her friends, and one of the most radical president's wives EVER. Don't let the pearls and long skirts fool you, Eleanor did things no other first lady had done before her.

*Freedman, Russell. **Martha Graham: A Dancer's Life**. In her day, Martha Graham was the DEAL. Paula Abdul and every other smooth-mover can thank Graham for paving the way for them way back in the 1930's and 40's. She is known as the mother of modern dance, and she choreographed dances for over 70 years, right up until her death at age 96 in 1991. Not only was she a dance teacher to both Liza Minelli and Madonna, but she was also a wild woman who romanced young male dancers and broke every classical dance rule.

* Gates, Jr. Henry Louis **Colored People: A Memoir**. A remembrance of childhood and youth in the 1950s and 1960s that is almost elegiac in its soft tone. Gates is a noted scholar who's currently head of the African American Studies Department at Harvard.

*Gilbert, Elizabeth. **Eat, Pray, Love**. A well-traveled I'll-try-anything-once journalist chronicles her intrepid quest for spiritual healing. Driven to despair by a punishing divorce and an anguished love affair, Gilbert flees New York for sojourns in the three *Is* - Italy, India, and Indonesia to reconnect with herself.

*Gill, Michael Gates. **How Starbucks Saved My life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else**. A former advertising executive relates how, after losing his high-paying job and developing a brain tumor, he took a job at Starbucks under a young African-American manager, whose positive character helped him heal and understand the value of respecting others.

*Gillespie, Marcia Ann, Rosa Johnson Butler and Richard A. Lang. **Maya Angelou: A Glorious Celebration**. An illustrated profile of one of America's best-loved writers pays tribute to the life, career, and activism of Maya Angelou, providing a scrapbook of an extraordinary woman who is renowned as a poet, author, playwright, and humanitarian.

*Helfer, Andrew and DuBurke, Randy. **Malcolm X: Graphic Biography**. A graphic novel that shows Malcolm Little's transformation from a black youth beaten down by Jim Crow America into Malcolm X, the charismatic, controversial, and doomed national spokesman for the Nation of Islam. Helfer and DuBurke tell the story of Malcolm X's short life—his meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the two leaders describing the opposite ideological ends of the fight for civil rights; and his eventual assassination by other members of the Nation of Islam (NOI). The authors don't shy from any part of their subject's life.

*Kisor, Henry. **What's that Pig Outdoors? A Memoir of Deafness**. Genial and moving, sharp and witty, Kisor's memoir defies pigeonholing of the deaf by hearing and deaf persons alike.

*Lamb, Christina. **House of Stone**. Through the parallel accounts of two people in Zimbabwe, one a poor black maid, one a rich white farmer, unfolds a compelling story of a country ravaged first by colonial settlers and now by brutal civil war. Aquí's dream is to become a nurse, but at 14 she must give up school, and she eventually ends up as nanny to farmer Nigel and his family on their 4,000-acre farm, where black war vets are now camped and threatening to grab the land.

*Lee, Joann Faung Jean Lee. **Asian Americans in the 21st Century: Oral Histories**. Presents the stories of first-to-fourth generation Americans of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Asian-Indian, Pacific Island, and Southeast Asian descent, in which they discuss what it is like to live in America, various aspects of Americanization, and interracial marriage.

*Mailer, Norman. **Oswald's Tale: An American Mystery**. Mailer reconstructs the life of Lee Harvey Oswald, whose claim to fame is having killed John F. Kennedy. Includes a full account of his years in Minsk, his disastrous childhood, his years in the Marines, and the events leading from his return to the US in 1961 to his death in Dallas in 1963.

*Marston, Elsa. **Santa Claus in Baghdad**. Eight short stories illuminate the experiences of adolescents in modern-day Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, and Jordan, yet many of their conflicts and concerns are universal in nature. In the title story, 13-year-old Amal learns some lessons about honor, gifts, and the act of giving when her seven-year-old brother confuses their wealthy uncle with Santa Claus.

*McCourt, Frank. **Angela's Ashes**. Recounting scenes from his childhood in New York City and Limerick, Ireland, McCourt paints a brutal yet poignant picture of his early days when there was rarely enough food on the table, and boots and coats were a luxury.

*Meeink, Frank & Roy, Jody M., Ph.D.,. **Autobiography of a Recovering Skinhead: The Frank Meeink Story**. Meeink finds the family he's been looking for in a gang of white supremacists, and learns to hate Jews without ever meeting one. His gritty memoir touches on racism, addiction, and ultimately, redemption.

*Monette Paul **Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story**. Paul Monette did not lead a life different from many gay men—he struggled courageously with his family, his sexuality, his AIDS diagnosis—but in bearing witness to his and others' pain, he creates a personal testimony that illuminates the darkest corners of our culture even as it finds unexpected reserves of hope.

Moore, Wes. **The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates**. In 2000, Wes Moore had recently been named a Rhodes Scholar in his final year of college at Johns Hopkins University when he read a newspaper article about another Wes Moore who was on his way to prison. It turned out that the two of them had much in common, both young black men raised in inner-city neighborhoods by single mothers. Stunned by the similarities in their names and backgrounds and the differences in their ultimate fates, the author eventually contacted the other Wes Moore and began a long relationship. Moore visited his namesake in prison; he was serving a life sentence, convicted for his role in an armed robbery that resulted in the killing of an off-duty policeman. Growing up, both men were subject to the pitfalls of urban youth: racism, rebellion, violence, drug use, and dealing. The author examines eight years in the lives of both Wes Moores to explore the factors and choices that led one to a Rhodes scholarship, military service, and a White House fellowship, and the other to drug dealing, prison, and eventual conversion to the Muslim faith, with both sharing a gritty sense of realism about their pasts.

*Morris, Dashaun "Jiwe". **War of the Bloods in my Veins**. In this haunting memoir, Morris shares his childhood turned inside out when, in fourth grade, he loses his first friend in a drive-by shooting. By high school he is the man, a champion on the football field by day and gang member by night. This is a plea to his brothers that gang life is mental illness.

*Nemat, Marina. **Prisoner of Tehran: A Memoir**. Follows the author's tragic childhood in 1980s Iran, which was shaped by war and her work as an anti-propaganda activist, efforts for which she was beaten and sentenced to death before a guard offered to save her if she would convert to Islam and marry him.

*Oppenheimer, Mark. **Wisnheimer: A Childhood Subject to Debate**. The memoir of a constant talker who learns to put his articulation to good use. Frustrated and bullied in school, Mark finds his niche when he joins the high school debate team. Love of language and reason is revealed in this passionate, witty, and funny memoir.

*Prejean, Helen. **Dead Man Walking**. An excellent overview of Capital Punishment in the United States. Helen Prejean details her dealings with death row inmates, offers vital statistics and accounts of cases.

*Robison, John Elder. **Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's**. The author describes life growing up different in an odd family, his unusual talents, his struggle for a "normal" life, his diagnosis at forty of Asperger's syndrome, and the dramatic changes that have occurred since that diagnosis.

*Santiago, Esmeralda. **When I Was Puerto Rican**. Esmeralda and her seven siblings live in a corrugated metal shack in Puerto Rico. She is uprooted as a result of poverty and her parents' quarreling and suffers blows to her ego from their expectations of her. The girl goes to New York, where her grandmother lives, and must rely on her intelligence and talents to help her survive in an alien

world in which being Puerto Rican is not advantageous.

*Sebold, Alice. **Lucky**. The author tells the story of her violent rape at the age of eighteen, her accidental sighting of her attacker six months later, the resulting trial and conviction of the man, and the trauma she suffered for years afterwards.

*Senna, Danzy. **Where Did you Sleep Last Night?** Author of *Caucasia* and daughter of a white Boston Brahmin mother and southern, black father, Senna writes of race and relatives, her parents volatile marriage and distressing divorce. This powerful memoir is powerful and controversial. Any other books by this author.

*Su, Lac. **I Love You Are for White People**. Traces the author's experiences as an Asian-American immigrant as well as his efforts to understand his identity and transcend the dangers of gang life in Los Angeles, in a personal account that describes his early life in Vietnam, his devastation at the contrast between real life and his impressions about the American dream, and his educational pursuits.

*Tate, Sonsyrea. **Little X: Growing Up in the Nation of Islam**. Little X offers useful insights into life inside a movement most readers don't understand. Tate describes her education at the University of Islam, the Nation's elementary school in Washington, D.C.

*Uchida, Yoshiko. **The Invisible Thread**. Growing up in California, Yoshi knew her family looked different from their neighbors. Still, she felt like an American. But everything changed when America went to war against Japan

*Welch, Diana **The Kids Are Alright**. A family story told by its four children describes how they lost their parents and their privileged lifestyle and were separated into different homes, where they struggled to achieve independence and find one another.

*Yen Mah, Adeline. **Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter**. "Mama died giving birth to you. If you had not been born, Mama would still be alive." Even though Mama died two weeks after the birth from a fever, this brutal message dooms Wu Mei (Fifth Younger Sister) throughout her sad and lonely childhood in China during the 1940s and 1950s. Wu Mei, whose English name is Adeline, faces the anger and cruelty of her family; only an aunt and frail grandfather are supportive. Shunted off to boarding schools, left out of family activities, Adeline nevertheless thrives academically and hopes desperately to please her father.

Nonfiction – Sports

* Aronson, Marc. **Pick-Up Game: a full day of full court**. A series of short stories, interspersed with poems and photographs, provides different perspectives on a game of streetball played one steamy July day at the West 4th Street court in New York City known as The Cage. Authors include Walter Dean Myers, Willie Perdome, Sharon Flake & more.

*Asinof, Eliot. **Eight men out: the Black Sox and the 1919 World Series**. Describes the backgrounds and motives of the players, the actual plays of the series, the indictments, and the famous 1921 trial.

*Blais, Madelaine. **In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle**. Tells of the training and development of a high school basketball team from Amherst, Massachusetts who eventually won the state championships. The book spans from a disappointing season's end to a triumphant one the following year. It details the physical and psychological efforts each girl put into the development of the team. The players' individual stories cover jealousies, antagonisms, practice habits, diverse family situations, and sexual harassment. There is a wonderful sense of community in the small-town New England setting, and plenty of local color.

*Borer, Michael Ian. **Faithful to Fenway**. What is the sociological and urban cultural impact the Red Sox's fabled Fenway Park has had on Boston? After explaining that an "important place can become a part of culture's symbolic system and help foster collective memories," Borer demonstrates how Fenway, by providing "a place where the narrative could be passed from one generation to the next," became the specific site where the locals' individual histories developed into the region's collective history. Along with his astute social scientific insight, Borer also includes plenty of first-person accounts of the ballpark from Red Sox greats like Carl Yastrzemski and Johnny Pesky and from regular Bostonians and out-of-town baseball fans.

*Bryant, Howard. **Shut Out: a Story of Race and Baseball in Boston**. Argues that the Boston Red Sox missed out on having a dream team featuring Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays due to the franchise's racist practices, and examines the ownership dynasty of the Yawkey family and racial issues in the city of Boston as a whole.

*Carlin, John. **Playing the Enemy**. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in a South African prison because of his position as the military leader of the African National Congress, the leading anti-apartheid organization. In 1994, after his release, he was elected South Africa's president in the country's first free election. Realizing that his new government was on tenuous ground and could disintegrate at any moment, he sought a symbolic moment that would unite the black citizenry with white Afrikaners and hit upon the idea of South Africa hosting rugby's first World Cup. The first step was to convince South Africa's national team—the Springboks—to get aboard. Mandela's charm, determination, and patriotism won them over to the point that the team wound up singing the national anthem of the black resistance movement in a much-replayed television spot. Improbably, Springbok—once the sporting symbol of Afrikaner dominance and arrogance—advanced to the cup finals, gathering more fans, black and white, with each win.

*Corbett, Sara. **Venus to the Hoop: a Gold-Medal Year in Women's Basketball**. Profiles the twelve female athletes and coach of the 1996 United States Women's National Basketball Team and discusses their personal and team journeys to win gold medals at the 1996 Olympics.

*Hamm, Keith David. **Scarred for Life**. This homegrown, lowdown book comprises a full-blown history of skateboarding through case studies, beginning with a profile of the 55-year-old Bill Coleman and the Northern California scene of the 1960s and '70s. Some of the chapters cover favored locales ("Pools," "Pipes," "Ramps," "Streets"), others encapsulate decades, from the '60s to the present. Hamm writes in West Coast border vernacular covering everything from the perils of taking a 40 mph turn on wet pavement to the pitfalls of corporate sponsorship.

*Joravsky, Ben. **Hoop Dreams**. A study of the struggles of Arthur Agee and William Gates to win college scholarships and positions on professional teams follows the stories of their families, relationships, and personal aspirations.

*Kimball, George. **Four Kings**. Consider the state of boxing today. Not easy, is it? It's hard to name a prominent fighter. The audience that once gravitated to the sweet science has been diffused among an alphabet soup of competing organizations presenting overhyped, pay-per-view events. It wasn't always so. Roberto Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, and Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns were all household names in the 1980s, held multiple titles in or around the middleweight division, and fought among themselves nine times. Kimball's accounts of the fights are riveting blow-by-blows, the "big event" context is palpably rendered, and each of the fighters re-emerges from the mists of memory as colorful and compelling as ever.

*Krakauer, Jon. **Into Thin Air**. A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more—including Krakauer -- in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

*McKissack, Patricia. **Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball League**— With passion and purpose, the mother-son team has written an account of Negro League baseball and its relationship to major-league baseball, from the sport's origin in 1839 to the early 1950s.

*Roy, Travis. **Eleven Seconds**. Travis Roy recounts how his life has changed since a freak accident in 1995 in his first Boston University hockey game that left him paralyzed from the neck down.

*Shaughnessy, Dan. **Senior Year: A Father, A Son and High School Baseball**. The author chronicles his son's senior year of high school baseball, the boy's obsession with and talent for sports, and his efforts to keep his grades up while deciding what college to attend and avoiding problems until graduation.

Poetry

*Beidao. **At the Sky's Edge**. Presents increasingly lyrical, meditative poems written in the years following his banishment from China in 1989. Quiet, spare, these are poems of paradox and possibility, of words carefully balanced, of a world on edge.

*Alcorn, Stephen. **I, Too, Sing America: Three Centuries of African-American Poetry**. A collection of poems by African-American writers, including Lucy Terry, Gwendolyn Bennett, and Alice Walker.

*Cisneros, Sandra. **Loose Woman**. Joy is the prevailing emotion in these poems. There's much to ponder in the relation between life and the task of living it--these themes run through Cisneros' fiery new poems. The whole collection reflects a nervy turning of

decorum's heavy stones exposing the rich soil of a woman's singular voice. These poems are not so much a self-discovery as they are a reaffirmation of the self.

*Chaltas, Thalia. **Because I Am Furniture.** Anke's father is abusive to her brother and sister, but not to her. To him, she is like furniture— not even worthy of the worst kind of attention. Then Anke makes the school volleyball team. She loves feeling her muscles after workouts, an ache that reminds her she is real. Even more, Anke loves the confidence that she gets from the sport. And as she learns to call for the ball on the court, she finds a voice she never knew she had. For the first time, Anke is making herself seen and heard, working toward the day she will be able to speak up loud enough to rescue everyone at home— including herself.

*Crisler, Curtis. A collection of poems depicts the lives of poverty, crime, despair, and lost innocence of African American teenagers growing up in Gary, Indiana.

*Dove, Rita. **Selected Poems.** Brought together for the first time in one volume are the astonishing poems of the nation's new Poet Laureate—the youngest and the first African-American chosen for the position.

*Engle, Margerita. **The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba.** Poems describe early women's right pioneer Frederika Bremer's life-changing journey to Cuba in 1851, as her path crosses that of Cecilia, a translator and slave, and of Elena, a rich girl who feels limited by her place in society.

*Espada, Martin. **Republic of Poetry.** The heart of this collection is a cycle of Chile poems on creation, destruction, and redemption.

*Ferlinghetti, Lawrence. **A Coney Island of the Mind: Poems.** Born in Yonkers, New York, in 1919. After receiving an A.B. degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina, an M.A. from Columbia University, and a stint in the Navy during World War II, and after working in the mail room at *Time Magazine* and living in Paris where he received a Doctorat de l'Universite from the Sorbonne, Ferlinghetti eventually settled in San Francisco, where he and Peter D. Martin founded the first all-paperback bookstore in the country, City Lights Books. Besides being named San Francisco's first poet laureate, he has received The Before Columbus Foundation "Lifetime Achievement Award."

* Giovanni, Nikki. **Blues for All Changes: New Poems.** In poems built with broken lines and paragraphs of prose, she spars with the ills that confront us, but every struggle has a human face. Ask Roger Woody, of the Woody Pipe and Excavating Company, who is destroying the wonderful woodland adjacent to Giovanni's home and readying it for a new housing development. When a young basketball star is harassed for his youth and style ("Iverson"), she assumes the role of compassionate but stern sister. You will not find many familiar rhetorical devices here, but you will want to dance to the music, the rhythms and language, the sound and exacting energy of these poems, which is more than enough.

*Glenn, Mel. **Jump Ball: A Basketball Season in Poems.** A powerful book of poems about a group of high school seniors who are held hostage by their history teacher. Dreams, fears and secrets of teens in an urban setting revealed.

*Kleon, Austin. **Newspaper Blackout.** Poet and cartoonist Austin Kleon has discovered a new way to read between the lines. Armed with a daily newspaper and a permanent marker, he constructs through deconstruction—eliminating the words he doesn't need to create a new art form: Newspaper Blackout poetry.

* **Poems from the Women's Movement.** A volume of top-selected works representing definitive modes of thought during the women's movement of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s includes pieces by such writers as Adrienne Rich, Muriel Rukeyser, and Judy Grahn.

* hihab, Naomi Ny. **Honeybee.** Celebrates honeybees and their work as a metaphor for human love, work, and memory.

*Schutz, Samatha **I don't want to be crazy.** In this work of poetry Schutz is candid about going away to college and finding the independence she desired difficult to handle. She begins to suffer from incapacitating anxiety attacks that change everything she had planned.

* Young, Kevin. **Dear Darkness: Poems.** These elegies are a reflection of the death of the poet's father, a violent event that silenced Young with grief until turning to rhapsodizing about the food that sustained him and his Louisiana family for decades. "Aunties" and "double cousins" help Young to speak to shared loss, hunger and pain, but includes blessings knowing "inside/ anything

can sing."

Nonfiction

*Alvarez, Julia. **Once upon a Quinceañera**. A cultural exploration of the Latina fifteenth birthday celebration traces the experiences of a Queens teen preparing for her quinceañera, in an account that documents the history of the celebration's traditions as well as its growing popularity.

*Anthony, Lawrence. **Babylon's Ark**. South African conservationist and environmentalist Anthony received the Earth Day Medal for his work in Baghdad. Here he recounts his own efforts and those of Iraqis and Americans to care for the animals in the Baghdad Zoo as people were getting killed all around it. Part of the story includes saving a pride of Uday Hussein's lions, closing a black-market zoo, and rescuing Saddam's Arabian horses from a hidden stable in Abo Ghraib.

*Bartoletti Campbell, Susan. **They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group**. This book looks at how the Ku Klux Klan grew out of the ashes of the Civil War. Using first-person accounts Bartoletti presents stories told by people on both sides of violent conflicts, shedding light the conditions that helped to create the Klan and the affects of their legacy of racism, fear and brutality both in the past and in our own time.

*Brown, Dee. **Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee**. Beginning with the Long Walk of the Navajos in 1860 and ending 30 years later with the massacre of Sioux men, women, and children at Wounded Knee in South Dakota, it tells how the American Indians lost their land and lives to a dynamically expanding white society.

*Burke, James. **The Day the Universe Changed**. Burke examines the course of man's beliefs from the Middle Ages to today, focusing on the critical periods in history when the ideas and institutions that have transformed man's understanding of the world were born.

*Burns Griffin, Loree. **The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe**. Traces the recent deaths and disappearances of North American honeybees due to Colony Collapse Disorder, profiles bee wranglers and scientists who are studying it, and speculates on how it may adversely affect the rest of the world.

*Cohen, Elliot. **The Last Days of Democracy**. In this chilling account of an America in political and cultural decline, media critics Elliot D. Cohen and Bruce W. Fraser show how mainstream media corporations like CNN, Fox, and NBC (General Electric) together with giant telecoms like Comcast, Verizon, and AT&T have become administration pawns in a well-organized effort to hijack America. Cohen and Fraser show in blunt terms how incredible power, control, and wealth have been amassed in the hands of an elite few while the rest of us have been systematically manipulated, deceived, and divested of our freedom.

*Costeau, Jack and Schiefelbein. **The Human, the Orchid, and the Octopus**. With the help of Schiefelbein, who wrote the narration for a number of Costeau's award-winning documentaries, Cousteau completed this defining and superlative chronicle the year before his death. Cousteau seamlessly splices amazing tales of exploring undersea caves, encountering sharks, and surviving an Antarctic blizzard with bracing eyewitness accounts of the shockingly rapid and potentially catastrophic destruction of marine life. Indelible descriptions of the glory of the undersea world are matched by prescient observations and arresting analysis of humankind's paradoxical approach to risk, the roles religion and science play in defining our perception of nature, and the "moral quandaries" attendant on technology, especially nuclear weapons.

*Diamond, Jared. **Collapase**. Using the Mayan empire, Easter Island, the Anasazi, and other examples, the author shows how a combination of environmental factors such as habitat destruction, the loss of biodiversity, and degradation of the soil caused complex, flourishing societies to suddenly disintegrate. Modern societies are divided into those that have begun to collapse, such as Rwanda and Haiti; those whose conservation policies have helped to avert disaster, such as Iceland and Japan; and those currently dealing with massive problems, such as Australia and China. The solutions discussed are of vital importance: how societies respond to environmental degradation will determine the future of the planet for teenagers living now.

*Eggers, Dave. **The Best American Non-Required Reading 2008** edited; introduction by Judy Blume. Presents selections of mainstream and alternative American literatue including both fiction and nonfiction, that discuss a broad spectrum of subjects.

*Gladwell, Malcolm. **The Tipping Point**. An introduction to the Tipping Point theory explains how minor changes in ideas and products can increase their popularity and how small adjustments in an individual's immediate environment can alter group behaviors.

- *Gonick, Larry. **A Cartoon History of the World**. Features humorous, illustrated accounts of the major events and personalities that have shaped history throughout the past five centuries, from the arrival of Columbus in the New World through the establishment of the U.S. Constitution.
- *Hirsh, Kathleen. **Songs from the Alley**. Straight to the heart of the most urgent social problem in America, this documentary of the homeless is sure to touch the consciousness of all who read these beautifully executed stories.
- *Holldobler, Bert & Edward O. Wilson. **Journey to the Ants: A story of Scientific Exploration**. With childlike wonder, the authors, who are myrmecologists, make their science wonderful and accessible. The rich detail, brilliant photographs and ant lore provided one book reviewer to say, "I would have gone to the ants and acquired wisdom."
- *Iyer, Pico. **The Open Road: the Global Journey of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama**. An illuminating account of the Dalai Lama explores his diverse roles as a politician, scientist, philosopher, and religious leader; discusses his ideas about religion, Tibet, peace, and world events; and examines his hidden life, often pragmatic messages, and the daily challenges he confronts.
- *Jacobs, A.J. **The Know-It-All: One Man's Humble Quest to Become the Smartest Man in the World**. When Jacobs, a pop-culture junkie and magazine editor, got a bee in his bonnet to read the entire abridged set of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* to stave off the decline of his recalled knowledge, his wife, family, and coworkers looked on with disbelief, amusement, and annoyance. His fixation on the morbid, the insane, and the grotesque in history is highly entertaining. Cortés had syphilis. Descartes had a fetish for cross-eyed women.
- *Jarvis, Cheryl. **The Necklace**. Documents the anti-apartheid advocate's ten-year effort to unite his country, during which he worked with proponents of apartheid from his jail cell, won the presidency, and helped South Africa's national rugby team host the World Cup as part of a unifying campaign.
- *Katsoulis, Melissa. **Literary Hoaxes: an Eye-opening History of Famous Frauds**. A guide to literary works that tricked publishers, readers, and critics throughout history, covers everything from Dionysus the Renegade's fraudulent Sophocles text in 400 BC to Clifford Irving's fake Howard Hughes autobiography.
- *Kidder, Tracy. **Mountains Beyond Mountains**. This Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner investigates a far harsher world in the company of Paul Farmer, a radical public health reformer devoted to providing medical care to the poor, mainly in Haiti. A Harvard-educated medical anthropologist, TB expert, and MacArthur "genius" gifted with an unshakable moral imperative, an ardent imagination, and limitless energy, compassion, and chutzpah, Farmer created Partners in Health, a renegade yet hugely influential organization. A powerful presence, this uncompromising visionary is too spectacularly impressive not to be disconcerting, and Kidder shares his puzzlement over and occasional discomfort with this charismatic and tirelessly giving man who eschews personal comfort to care for the "underdogs of the underdogs."
- *Levine, Ellen. **Freedom's Children**. Young civil rights activists tell their own stories. Note: Southern blacks who were young and involved in the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s describe their experiences.
- *Lukas, Anthony. **Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families**. The climax of this humane account of 10 years in Boston that began with news of Martin Luther King's assassination, is a watershed moment in the city's modern history--the 1974 racist riots that followed the court-ordered busing of kids to integrate the schools. To bring understanding to that moment, Lukas, a former New York Times journalist, focuses on two working-class families, headed by an Irish-American widow and an African-American mother, and on the middle-class family of a white liberal couple.
- *Miller, Kenneth. **Finding Darwin's God**. Miller examines the key issues that seem to divide the scientific and religious views of creation in an attempt to answer the question of whether or not God and evolution can coexist.
- *Murphy, Jim. **An American Plague: The True Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793**. Murphy brings alive the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793. Primary sources and gripping narrative, depict the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.
- *Olmstead, Larry. **Getting into Guinness: One Man's Longest, Fastest, Highest Journey Inside the World's Most Famous Record Book**. A full-throttle joyride through the bizarre world behind the records. This gifted story teller paints a vivid picture of the silliness and absurdity of the global quest for fame.

*Nafisi, Azar and Azar Nafisi. **Reading Lolita in Tehran.** Prof. Nafisi resigned from her job as professor of English Literature at a university in Tehran in 1995 due to repressive government policies. For the next 2 years, until she left Iran, she gathered 7 young women, former students, at her house every Thursday morning to read and discuss works of Western literature forbidden by the new regime. They used this forum to learn to speak freely, not only about literature, but also about the social, political, and cultural realities of living under strict Islamic rule.

*Pollack, William & Pipher. **Real Boys: Rescuing Our Sons from the Myths of Boyhood.** Based on William Pollack's groundbreaking research at Harvard Medical School for more than two decades. *Real Boys* explores this generation's "silent crisis": why so many boys are sad lonely, and confused although they may appear tough, cheerful and well adjusted.

Pollan, Michael. In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto. "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants." These simple words go to the heart of food journalist Pollan's thesis. Humans used to know how to eat well, he argues, but the balanced dietary lessons that were once passed down through generations have been confused and distorted by food industry marketers, nutritional scientists, and journalists.. His advice: "Don't eat anything that your great-great grandmother would not recognize as food." Looking at what science does and does not know about diet and health, he proposes a new way to think about what to eat, informed by ecology and tradition rather than by the nutrient-by-nutrient approach.

Omnivore's Dilemma. Delves into facts about food, life expectancy as it relates to consumption, and global health implications resulting from food choices made by people around the world, encouraging readers to consider their food choices and eating habits.

*Seeley, Thomas. D. **Honeybee Democracy.** Someone may think the book should be titled Honeybee Monarchy. After all, everybody knows that a beehive has a queen. Yes there's a queen, but one of the biggest misconceptions about how bee colonies work is that queens direct colony doings. Actually she's not a Royal Decider, as he puts it, but a Royal Ovipositer, laying 1,500 eggs or so on a summer day while leaving the rest of colony affairs to the group. Seeley describes a colony as a smoothly functioning group that makes life-or-death decisions rather democratically. Bees' methods work so well, he says, that evolution has favored some of the same features elsewhere, as in behavior among human brain cells

*Spiegelman, Art. **In the shadow of no towers.** Spiegelman summons his considerable talent to express exactly what the horrendous events of 9/11 meant to him and his family, both at the time and since that fateful day. The author lives and works in the immediate vicinity of ground zero, and his daughter was attending high school in the shadow of the towers. With wry insight he depicts the anxious efforts of his family to reach one another as the towers were burning. Spiegelman employs a multitude of narrative devices and graphic styles, numerous political and cultural references, and inspired motifs from late-19th- and early-20th-century comic strips.

*Taylor, Peter Lane. **The Secret of Priest's Grotto.** Two explorers survey caves in the Western Ukraine and relate the story of how an extended Jewish family, fleeing persecution by the Nazis, lived for two years in a large cave, Popowa Yama, and survived the war.

*Tobin, Jacqueline L. and Raymond G. Dobard. **Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad—**African Americans make coded quilts and use them to escape from slavery.

*Steinberg, Jonny. **Sizwe's Test: A Young Man's Journey Through Africa's AIDS Epidemic.**

Explores the perspectives of HIV-positive villagers in rural South Africa, revealing the cultural misunderstandings, superstitions, and stigmas that compel people to refuse free treatment and challenge efforts to stop the spread of AIDS.

*Tucker, Neely. **Love in the Driest Season.** Follows an American foreign correspondent's and his wife's struggle to save the life of, and eventually adopt, an infant girl who was abandoned in conflict-torn Zimbabwe, an endeavor during which they volunteered at the capital's orphanage, faced a series of bureaucratic obstacles, and battled numerous life-threatening conditions that compromised the child's health.

*Van Lente, Fred. **Action Philosophers.** In graphic novel format, explains the theories of various philosophers through humorous examples and anecdotes.

*Zinn, Howard. **A People's History of America.** A history of the United States, from 1492 through the early years of the Clinton presidency, told from the point of view of African-Americans, women, Native Americans, and poor laborers of all nationalities, who have been politically and economically exploited.

