



Following are the fiction titles included in the most recent edition of **Outstanding Books for the College Bound and Lifelong Learners**, prepared every five years by the young Adult Services Association (YALSA) of the American Library Association. Use it to round out your reading as you prepare for college entrance exams and courses, to strengthen your knowledge in a variety of subject areas and to enhance appreciation for different cultures and times.

Allison, Dorothy. **Bastard Out of Carolina.** Bone confronts illegitimacy, poverty, the troubled marriage of her mother and stepfather, and the stigma of being considered “white trash” as she comes of age in South Carolina.

Alvarez, Julia. **In the Time of Butterflies.** The four Mirabel sisters were called the Mariposas, or butterflies. Dede, the only survivor, tells the story of courage that helps liberate the Dominican Republic from the dictator Trujillo.

Bradshaw, Gillian. **The Sand-Reckoner.** A youthful Archimedes comes into his own as a mathematician, an engineer, and a fascinating human being in this engaging novel.

Card, Orson Scott. **Sarah.** The character of Sarah, Abraham’s beloved wife, illuminates this rendering of a pivotal story from the Old Testament.

Chevalier, Tracy. **Girl with a Pearl Earring.** Sixteen year-old Griet is hired as a maid in the household of Delft painter Johannes Vermeer, where she becomes an assistant and muse to the famous artist.

Cisneros, Sandra. **Caramelo.** LaLa learns the stories of her Awful Grandmother and weaves them into a colorful family history. The “caramelo,” a striped shawl begun by her Great-Grandmother, symbolizes their traditions.

Cisneros, Sandra. **The House on Mango Street.** In short, poetic stories, Esperanza describes life in a low-income, predominantly Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago.

Glancy, Diane, **Stone Heart: A Novel of Sacajawea.** You are there on the epic journey of Lewis and Clark that opened the west to the call of manifest destiny. Contrasts between the explorers’ actual journals and the young Shoshone woman’s own records reveal the inherent clash of cultures in this vast new land.

Goldberg, Myla. **Bee Season.** Eliza’s extraordinary gift for spelling leads her to understand the sounds of the alphabet, in a way that echoes the teachings of the mystical Kabbal.

Haddon, Mark. **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** Christopher has two mysteries to solve: who killed Wellington the dog, and what happened to his mother. But Christopher, who has Asperger Syndrome, a form of autism, approaches these mysteries and the world itself in a unique and special way.

Hosseini, Khaled. **The Kite Runner.** Years after he flees Afghanistan, Amir, now an American citizen, returns to his native land and attempts to atone for the betrayal of his best friend before he fled Kabul and the Taliban.

Kaplow, Robert. **Me and Orson Welles.** What would it be like to spend a week with the great Orson Welles, even sleeping in his pajamas? Richard Samuels, a budding teenaged actor, gets the opportunity to see what life on stage, and behind the stage, is really like on Broadway in 1937.

Kingsolver, Barbara. **The Bean Trees.** Taylor Greer leaves Kentucky and heads west to find a new life. When a baby is abandoned in her car, she learns that responsibilities and independence are not mutually exclusive in this story of family and community.

Reynolds, Sheri. **A Gracious Plenty.** What happens to us when we die? Finch Nobles, a cemetery keeper with horrible burn scars, talks to the dead, and helps them examine what keeps them tied to the earth.

Sapphire. **Push.** Precious Jones is a survivor. She had her father's baby at 12 and now, at 16, she is pregnant by him again. But an alternative school, a dedicated teacher, and classmates who understand help her fight back.

Satrapi, Marjane. **Persepolis.** Growing up in Iran wasn't all that bad, or all that different, except that Marjane wanted to be a prophet when she grew up. Dramatic black-and-white illustrations tell her story. (741.5 Satrapi)

Senna, Danzy. **Caucasia.** Separated when their parents' interracial marriage ends in divorce, light-skinned Birdie and her dark-skinned sister Cole lead very different lives while hoping for a reunion with one another.

Smith, Zadie. **White Teeth.** Archie and Samad, two unlikely friends, are brought together by bizarre twists of fate and near-death experiences in this epic novel of family, culture, love and loss set in post World War II London.

Vreeland, Susan. **The Passion of Artemisia.** This eloquent rendering of the story of Artemisia Gentileschi evokes appreciation of both her magnificent art and her struggles to succeed as an artist, a story that mirrors the experiences of young women today.