

**Walker, Alice.** *The Color Purple.* The lives of two sisters--Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a southern woman married to a man she hates--are revealed in a series of letters exchanged over thirty years. **(FIC Walker)**

**Wallace, Daniel.** *Big Fish.* When his attempts to get to know his dying father fail, William Bloom makes up stories that recreate his father's life in heroic proportions. **(LP FIC Wallace)**

**Wright, Richard.** *Native Son.* Traces the fall of a young black man in 1930s Chicago as his life loses all hope of redemption after he kills a white woman. **(FIC Wright)**

**Wroblewski, David.** *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle.* A tale reminiscent of "Hamlet" that also celebrates the alliance between humans and dogs follows speech-disabled Wisconsin youth *Edgar*, who bonds with three yearling canines and struggles to prove that his sinister uncle is responsible for his father's death. **(FIC Wroblewski)**

# The Ultimate Teen Reading List

Adult Fiction  
Recommended for Teens



Selections from  
[teenreads.com](http://teenreads.com)

**The Ridgefield Library  
January 2009**

Annotations from NoveList

## FICTION TITLES

**Adams, Douglas.** *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. On Thursday lunchtime the Earth gets unexpectedly demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass. For Arthur Dent, who has already had his house demolished that morning, this seems already to be more than he can cope with. Sadly, however, the weekend has only just begun, and the Galaxy is a very strange and startling place. **(SF Adams)**

**Albom, Mitch.** *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Killed in a tragic accident, Eddie, an elderly man who believes that he had an uninspired life, awakens in the afterlife, where he discovers that heaven consists of having five people explain the meaning of one's life. **(FIC Albom)**

— *For One More Day* explores the themes of family, divorce and regrets, and the wish that we could have just one more day with a lost loved one. **(FIC Albom)**

**Alexander, Robert.** *The Kitchen Boy*. Presents a novel based on the 1918 Bolshevik revolutionary murder of Czar Nicholas II and the rest of the Russian royal family as told from the perspective of the event's only surviving witness, a young kitchen boy. **(FIC Alexander)**

**Alvarez, Julia.** *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*. The four Garcia girls escape the Dominican Republic and a life of privilege in the 1960s to come to the United States and difficult adjustment. **(FIC Alvarez)**

**Atwood, Margaret.** *The Handmaid's Tale*. Offred, a Handmaid, describes life in what was once the United States, now the Republic of Gilead, a shockingly repressive and intolerant monotheocracy, in a satirical tour de force set in the near future. **(FIC Atwood)**

**Austen, Jane.** *Pride and Prejudice*. Wealthy Mr. Darcy and spirited Elizabeth Bennett dislike each other at first sight, and each must contend with their pride and prejudices while Elizabeth's mother plots economically advantageous marriages for all her daughters. **(FIC Austen)**

**Sparks, Nicholas.** *Message in a Bottle*. When a message in a bottle leads to a magical meeting between Quinn and Dash, the summer seems to be off to a great start until Dash's ex conspires to ruin their romance. **(FIC Sparks)**

— *The Notebook*. An elderly man reads a story from a notebook to a woman who does not know him; the story is of young lovers kept apart by disapproving parents. **(FIC Sparks)**

— *A Walk To Remember*. A nostalgic look back at the 1950s in a story of first love set in a small North Carolina town. **(FIC Sparks)**

**Steinbeck, John.** *East of Eden*. The Trasks and the Hamiltons live and work together in Salinas during the early 20th century. **(FIC Steinbeck)**

**Tan, Amy.** *The Joy Luck Club*. Encompassing two generations and a rich blend of Chinese and American history, the story of four struggling, strong women also reveals their daughter's memories and feelings. **(FIC Tan)**

**Tartt, Donna.** *The Secret History*. A transfer student from a small town in California, Richard Pape is determined to affect the ways of his Hampden College peers, and he begins his intense studies under the guidance of eccentric Julian Morrow. **(FIC Tartt)**

**Tolkien, J.R.R.** *The Hobbit*. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. **(SF & YA Tolkien)**

— *The Lord of the Rings*. Frodo the hobbit and his companions set out to deliver the One Ring of Power to the dark land of Mordor in order to destroy the ring in the forge of its creation. **(SF Tolkien)**

**Toole, John Kennedy.** *A Confederacy of Dunces*. A popular Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy follows the adventures of New Orleans's lower denizens of the French Quarter. **(FIC Toole)**

**Umrigar, Thrity.** *The Space Between Us*. Captures the delicate balance of class and gender in contemporary India as witnessed through the lives of two women--Sera Dubash, an upper middle-class housewife, and Bhima, an illiterate domestic hardened by a life of loss and despair. **(FIC Umrigar)**

**Sebold, Alice.** *The Lovely Bones*. 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. **(FIC Sebold)**

**See, Lisa.** *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*. A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique *secret* language. **(FIC See)**

*Peony in Love*. **Peony** is the cloistered daughter of a wealthy family is betrothed to a suitor she has never met, these lyrics from The **Peony** Pavilion mirror her own longings. **In** the garden of the Chen Family Villa, a small theatrical troupe is performing scenes from this epic opera. **Peony** attends the production, watching from behind a screen, but catches sight of a handsome man and begins a journey of love and sorrow. **(FIC See)**

**Shaffer, Mary Ann & Annie Barrows.** *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*. In 1946, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next **book** in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey, who tells her about the Guernsey **Literary** and **Potato Peel** Pie Society, a **book** club born as an alibi during German occupation. **(FIC See)**

**Shreve, Anita.** *The Pilot's Wife*. When her husband, a pilot, dies in an airplane crash off the Irish coast, Kathryn Lyons finds herself in the media spotlight as rumors abound of her husband's shocking secret past. **(FIC Shreve)**

**Shriver, Lionel.** *We Need To Talk About Kevin*. Eva never really wanted to be a mother—and certainly not the mother of the unlovable boy who murdered seven of his fellow high school students, a cafeteria worker, and a much-adored teacher who tried to befriend him, all two days before his sixteenth birthday. **(FIC Shriver)**

**Smith, Alexander McCall.** *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. Working in Gaborone, Botswana, sleuth Precious Ramotswa investigates several local mysteries, including a search for a missing boy and the case of the clinic doctor with different personalities for different days of the week. **(MYS McCall Smith)**

**Smith, Betty.** *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. A young girl in a shabby neighborhood lives with dreams in an innocent time before the war. **(FIC &YA Smith)**

**Balducci, David.** *Wish You Well*. A coming-of-age story set in New York City and the mountains of Virginia in the 1940s. Lou and Oz Cardinal leave New York with their mother and head to live on their great-grandmother's farm. **(FIC Balducci)**

**Bradbury, Ray.** *Dandelion Wine*. In 1928, Douglas Spaulding wanders around Green Town, Illinois, with his brother and realizes that he is alive.. **(FIC Bra)**

— *Fahrenheit 451*. Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which book paper burns. Fahrenheit 451 is a novel set in the (perhaps near) future when "firemen" burn books forbidden by a totalitarian "brave new world" regime. **(FIC Bradbury)**

**Brockmeier, Kevin.** *The Brief History of the Dead*. In an afterlife world inhabited by the recently departed who remain in the memories of the living, Marion and Phillip Byrd fall in love again, while on Earth, their daughter, Laura, is stranded alone in an Antarctic research station. **(FIC Brockmeier)**

**Burns, Olive Ann.** *Cold Sassy Tree*. Modern times come to a conservative Southern town in 1906 when the proprietor of the general store elopes with a woman half his age, and worse yet, a Yankee. **(FIC Burns)**

**Caldwell, Ian.** *The Rule of Four*. Trying to decipher an ancient text that weaves mathematical labyrinths within a love story, two researchers obtain a diary that may contain the key to the code, but when a fellow researcher is killed, they realize that the book contains a dangerous secret. **(FIC Caldwell)**

**Card, Orson Scott.** *Ender's Game*. The Earth is under attack and the survival of the human species depends on a military genius who can defeat the alien "buggers." Recruited for military training, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin's childhood ends the moment he enters his new home: Battle School. **(SF Card)**

**Capote, Truman.** *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. A New York writer falls in love with an eccentric party girl named Holly Golightly; she is determined to marry a millionaire, but he puts a wrench in her plans. **(FIC Capote)**

**Chabon, Michael.** *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay.* In 1939 New York City, Joe Kavalier, a refugee from Hitler's Prague, joins forces with his Brooklyn-born cousin, Sammy Clay, to create comic-book superheroes inspired by their own fantasies, fears, and dreams. **(FIC Chabon)**

**Chevalier, Tracy.** *Girl with a Pearl Earring.* A poor seventeenth-century servant girl knows her place in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town. **(FIC Chevalier)**

**Cisneros, Sandra.** *The House on Mango Street.* For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness. **(FIC Cisneros)**

**Coehlo, Paulo.** *The Alchemist.* A fable about following one's dream, listening to one's heart, and reading life's omens features dialogue between a boy and an unnamed being. **(FIC Coehlo)**

**Conroy, Pat.** *The Great Santini.* Eighteen-year-old Ben's attempts to stand up for himself, his mother, and his sister are resisted by his intolerant father, a fighter pilot and inflexible disciplinarian. **(FIC Conroy)**

**Dai, Sijie.** *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress.* Cultural Revolution, two boys are sent to the country for reeducation, where their lives take an unexpected turn when they meet the beautiful daughter of a local tailor and stumble upon a forbidden stash of Western literature. **(FIC Dai)**

**De Bernieres, Louise.** *Corelli's Mandolin.* In the early days of the Second World War, before Benito Mussolini invaded Greece, Dr. Iannis practices medicine on the island of Cephalonia, accompanied by his daughter, Pelagia, to whom he imparts much of his healing art. Even when the Italians do invade, life isn't so bad--at first anyway. **(FIC De Bernieres)**

**De Saint-Exupery, Antoine.** *The Little Prince.* An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life. **(FIC Saint-Exupery)**

**Patchett, Ann.** *Bel Canto.* When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxane Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan. **(FIC Patchett)**

**Rand, Ayn.** *The Fountainhead* tells the story of a gifted architect, his struggle against conventional standards, and his violent love affair. **(FIC Rand)**

**Rawles, Nancy.** *My Jim.* explores what life must have been like for Jim, the slave who escapes down the Mississippi River with Huck Finn. **(FIC Rawles)**

**Robinson, Marilynne.** *Gilead.* As the Reverend John Ames approaches the hour of his own death, he writes a letter to his son chronicling three previous generations of his family, a story that stretches back to the Civil War and reveals uncomfortable family secrets. **(FIC Robinson)**

**Roth, Philip.** *The Plot Against America.* In a novel of alternative history, aviation hero Charles A. Lindbergh defeats Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election, negotiating an accord with Adolf Hitler and accepting his conquest of Europe and anti-Semitic policies. **(FIC Roth)**

**Russo, Richard.** *Empire Falls.* Milo Roby tries to hold his family together while working at the Empire Grill in the once-successful logging town of Empire Falls, Maine, with his partner, Mrs. Whiting, who is the heir to a faded logging and textile legacy. **(FIC Russo)**

**Ruiz Zafon, Carlos .** *The Shadow of the Wind.* In this literary thriller, the discovery of a forgotten book leads to a hunt for an elusive author who may or may not still be alive. **(FIC Ruiz Zafon)**

**Salinger, J.D.** *The Catcher in the Rye.* In an effort to escape the hypocrisies of life at his boarding school, sixteen-year-old Holden Caulfield seeks refuge in New York City. **(FIC Salinger)**

— *Nine Stories.* Each story introduces us to a new character and gives us an unedited tour of their life. The general theme which threads the stories and characters together is loneliness and yet the book is also full of hope. **(FIC Salinger)**

**Neville, Katherine.** *The Eight.* When two young women in France of 1790 discover the Montglane Chess Service in Montglane Abbey, their Abbess recognizes its mystic ability to provide anyone playing it with unlimited power and desperately scatter its pieces around the world. In 1972, computer expert Catherine "Cat" Velis is hired to recover the chess pieces--and is caught up in a nefarious, globe-spanning conspiracy. **(FIC Neville)**

**Niffenegger, Audrey.** *The Time Traveler's Wife.* It is an unconventional love story that centers on a man with a strange genetic disorder that causes him to unpredictably time-travel and his wife, an artist, who has to cope with his frequent absences and dangerous experiences. **(FIC Niffenegger)**

**Orwell, George.** *1984* is the story of one man's struggle against the ubiquitous, menacing state power ("Big Brother") that tries to dictate nearly every aspect of human life. **(FIC Orwell)**

**Packer, Ann.** *The Dive From Clausen's Pier.* When her fiancé is left paralyzed following a tragic accident, a woman begins to question her familiar world, from her everyday life to her relationships, as she sets out to rediscover her own identity. **(FIC Parker)**

**Palwick.** *The Necessary Beggar.* When young Darroti is accused of murdering a holy woman, his entire family is forced into exile away from their peaceful home city, a situation that thrusts them into a hostile land where hatred and war threaten their survival. **(SF Palwick)**

**Picoult, Jodi.** *My Sister's keeper.* Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body. **(FIC Picoult)**

**Plath, Sylvia.** *The Bell Jar* chronicles one young woman's emotional breakdown as she journeys from the glamorous world of Manhattan publishing to the isolation of the asylum. **(FIC Plath)**

**Potok, Chaim.** *The Chosen.* A baseball injury precipitates a friendship between two boys from Hasidic and Zionist families. **(FIC Potok)**

**Diamant, Anita.** *The Red Tent* is story of Dinah, a tragic character from the Bible whose great love, a prince, is killed by her brother, leaving her alone and pregnant. The novel traces her life from childhood to death, in the process examining sexual and religious practices of the day, and what it meant to be a woman. **(FIC Diamant)**

**Dorris, Michael.** *A 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. **(FIC Dorris)**

**Doyle, Arthur, Sir.** *The Hound of the Baskervilles.* Sherlock Holmes is caught up in a sinister plot of retribution involving a mysterious ghostly beast. **(MYS Doyle)**

**Edwards, Kim.** *The Memory Keeper's Daughter.* On a winter night in 1964, Dr. David Henry is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy. Yet when his daughter is born, he sees immediately that she has Down's syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect Norah, his wife, he makes a split second decision that will alter of their lives forever. **(FIC Edwards)**

**Enger, Leif.** *Peace Like a River.* The quiet 1960s Midwestern life of the Land family--father Jeremiah, and children, Reuben, Davy and Swede--is upended when Davy kills two teenage boys who have come to harm the family. On the morning of his sentencing, Davy escapes from his cell and the Lands set out in search of him. Their search is at once a heroic quest, a tragedy, a love story, and a haunting meditation on the possibility of magic in the everyday world. **(FIC Enger)**

**Fitch, Janet.** *White Oleander.* At the age of 12, Astrid has her world blown away when her mother is sentenced to life in prison for murdering her lover. Sharpened by harsh foster home environments, Astrid remakes herself as a survivor, and ultimately, an artist. **(FIC Fitch)**

**Flagg, Fannie.** *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café.* Mrs. Threadgoode's tale of two high-spirited women of the 1930s, Igdie and Ruth, helps Evelyn, a 1980s woman in a sad slump of middle age, to begin to rejuvenate her own life. **(FIC Fla)**

**Fitzgerald, F. S.** *The Great Gatsby*. Nick Carraway, a young Midwesterner now living on Long Island, finds himself fascinated by the mysterious past and lavish lifestyle of his neighbor, the nouveau riche Jay Gatsby. He is drawn into Gatsby's circle, becoming a witness to obsession and tragedy. **(FIC Fitzgerald)**

**Flock, Elizabeth.** *Me & Emma*. Eight-year-old Carrie Parker and her little sister, tired of living in an abusive environment, concoct a plan to run away, but their escape is thwarted by a shocking revelation that will change their lives. **(FIC Flock)**

**Follett, Ken.** *Pillars of the Earth*. Set in twelfth-century England, this epic of kings and peasants juxtaposes the building of a magnificent church with the violence and treachery that often characterized the Middle Ages. **(FIC Follett)**

**Frazier, Charles.** *Cold Mountain*. After Inman escapes from a war hospital in 1864 and starts walking to Cold Mountain, Adam struggles to save her mountain farm with the help of Ruby, an illiterate but efficient farmer. **(FIC Frazier)**

**Gaiman, Neil.** *Alanis Boys*. His past marked by his father's embarrassing taunts and untimely death, Fat Charlie meets the brother he never knew and is introduced to new and exciting ways to spend his time. **(FIC Gaiman)**

**Garcia Marquez, Gabriel.** *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. The evolution and eventual decadence of a small South American town is mirrored in the family history of the Bundies. **(FIC Garcia)**

**Gardner, Jostin.** *Sophie's World*. Finding two thought-inducing philosophical questions in her mailbox, Sophie enrolls in a correspondence course with a mysterious philosopher, and begins receiving some equally strange letters. **(FIC Gardner)**

**Goldberg, Myla.** *Bee Season*. An ordinary girl with an exceptional gift for spelling, young Eliza Neumann embarks on the rough-and-tumble "spelling bee" circuit, where her quirky family will collide with the harsh realities of life. **(FIC Goldberg)**

**Golden, Arthur.** *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Because her mother is dying and her father old, Chiyo, nine, is sold to a wealthy geisha house in Gion where she learns her trade and works it in the 1930s and 1940s. **(FIC Golden)**

**Lawson, Mary.** *Crow Lake*. In the rural farm country of northern Ontario, the lives of two families--the farming Pye family, and zoologist Kate Morrison and her three brothers--are brought together and torn apart by misunderstanding, resentment, family love, and tragedy. **(FIC Lawson)**

**Lee, Harper.** *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Scout's father defends a black man accused of raping a white woman in a small Alabama town during the 1930s. **(YA Lee, FIC Lee)**

**Lehane, Dennis.** *Mystic River*. Sean must confront the world of violence and pain he tried to forget when his childhood friend's daughter is murdered, and the investigation brings him face-to-face with a vigilante killer and a man with a dangerous secret. **(FIC Lehane)**

**Levin, Ira.** *Rosemary's Baby*. A woman discovers that her pregnancy is actually part of a satanic ritual. **(FIC Levin)**

**Lynch, Jim.** *The Highest Tide*. A shrimpy 13-year-old with a supersized passion for marine life comes of age during a summer of discovery on the tidal flats of Puget Sound. **(FIC Lynch)**

**Martel, Yann.** *Life of Pi*. Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for America, but when the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain. **(FIC Martel)**

**Mason, Bobbie Ann.** *In Country*. Sam resents the effects of the Vietnam War; especially the death of her father and her uncle's suffering from Agent Orange ingestion. **(FIC Mason)**

**McCullers, Carson.** *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. A novel set in a small southern town focusing on man's loneliness in a silent, unfathomable universe. **(FIC McCullers)**

**McEwan, Ian.** *Atonement*. Three children lost their innocence, as the sweltering summer heat bears down on the hottest day in 1935, and their lives are changed forever. **(FIC McEwan)**

**Morrison, Toni.** *Beloved*. Set in rural Ohio several years after the Civil War, this novel is a profoundly affecting chronicle of slavery and its aftermath. **(FIC Morrison)**

**Kincaid, Jamaica.** *Annie John.* This coming of age story revolves around Annie John, a rebellious young girl who lives on the Caribbean island of Antigua. **(FIC Kincaid)**

**King, Stephen.** It began--and ended--in 1958 when seven desperate children searched in the drains beneath Derry for an evil creature, but in 1985, Mike Hanlon, once one of those children, makes six phone calls and disinters an unremembered promise that sets off the ultimate terror. **(FIC King)**

**Kingsolver, Barbara.** *The Bean Trees.* Taylor Greer hits the road wanting only to get as far away from Kentucky as possible, ending up in Arizona with a 3-year-old Cherokee girl she has inherited from a woman in a bar. **(FIC Kingsolver)**

— *The Poison Wood Bible.* The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives forever transformed over the course of three decades by the political and social upheaval of Africa. **(FIC Kingsolver)**

**Knowles, John.** *A Separate Peace.* Gene and Phineas, despite their opposite personalities and talents, form a close friendship that subtly covers their unconscious rivalry. **(FIC Knowles)**

**Lahiri, Jhumpa.** *Interpreter of Maladies: Stories.* Short stories about life in India. **(FIC Lahiri)**

**Lamb, Wally.** *I Know This Much is True.* Dominick Birdsey, a forty-year-old housepainter living in Three Rivers, Connecticut, finds his subdued life greatly disturbed when his identical twin brother Thomas, a paranoid schizophrenic, commits a shocking act of self-mutilation. **(FIC Lamb)**

**Lansens, Lori.** *The Girls.* Rose and Ruby are closer than most twin sisters. Indeed, they have spent their twenty-nine years on earth joined at the head. Given that they share a web of essential veins, there is no possibility that they can be separated in their lifetime. **(FIC Lansens)**

**Golding, William.** *Lord of the Flies.* The classic tale of a group of English school boys who are left stranded on an unpopulated island, and who must confront not only the defects of their society but the defects of their own natures. **(YA Gold pb ; FIC Golding)**

**Greenway, Alice.** *White Ghost Girls* is the story of Frankie and Kate, two American sisters living in a foreign land in a chaotic time. With their war-photographer father off in Vietnam, Marianne, their beautiful but remote mother, keeps the family close by. **(FIC Greenway)**

**Grisham, John.** *A Painted House.* Lucas Chandler is a seven-year-old boy who lives in an unpainted house on an Arkansas farm with his parents and grandparents in the early 1950s. He loves Coca-Cola, baseball, and the St. Louis Cardinals, and he plans on using the money he earns picking cotton to buy a shiny baseball jacket from the Sears and Roebuck catalog. **(FIC Grisham)**

— *A Time To Kill.* The life of a ten-year-old girl is shattered by two drunken and remorseless young men. The mostly white town reacts with shock and horror at the inhuman crime. Until her black father acquires an assault rifle — and takes justice into his own outraged hands. **(FIC Grisham)**

**Gruen, Sara.** *Water For Elephants.* Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the *elephant*, who gave them hope. **(FIC Gruen)**

**Guterson, David.** *Snow Falling on Cedars.* After returning from internment and trying to get his land back, Kabuo Miyomoto is arrested and tried for the murder of Carl Heine. **(FIC Guterson)**

**Haddon, Mark.** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.* Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. **(FIC Haddon)**

**Halter, Marek.** *Sarah.* Born into a world of luxury in the ancient Sumerian city of Ur, Sarah flees the arranged marriage planned by her father, a decision that leads to an encounter with Abram, a member of a nomadic tribe of outsiders. **(LP FIC Halter)**

**Hamill, Pete.** *Snow in August.* Michael Devlin, an 11-year-old Irish American, meets Rabbi Hirsch, recently arrived from Europe, and in return for teaching the rabbi about baseball and English, the rabbi teaches Michael Yiddish and tells him about Prague, until an Irish gang becomes violent in its anti-Semitism. **(FIC Hamill)**

**Haruf, Kent.** *Plainsong.* An unlikely extended family is formed when a high school teacher helps a pregnant student make a home with two elderly bachelor ranchers. **(FIC Haruf)**

**Heller, Joseph.** *Catch-22* is a contemporary classic depicting the struggles of a United States airman attempting to survive the lunacy and depravity of a World War II airbase. **(FIC Heller)**

**Herbert, Frank.** *Dune.* Set on the desert planet Arrakis, this is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who would become the mysterious man known as Muad'Dib, avenge the traitorous plot against his noble family, and bring to fruition humankind's most ancient and unattainable dream. **(SF Herbert)**

**Hicks, Robert.** *The Widow of the South.* Carrie McGavock has already lost three children to typhoid fever when the Civil War comes to her door. Over 7,000 confederate soldiers die in the battle of Franklin; their corpses litter the land surrounding McGavock's plantation. When a wealthy neighbor of McGavock's threatens to modify the battlefield for agriculture, Carrie joins the fight to preserve the memory of the soldiers. **(FIC Hicks)**

**Hosseini, Khaled.** *The Kite Runner.* Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son, in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day. **(FIC Hosseini)**

*A Thousand Splendid Suns.* Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in war torn Kabul, losses incurred over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage. **(FIC Hosseini)**

**Hugo, Victor.** *Les Miserables.* Escaped convict Jean Valjean risks his life to take care of a motherless young girl during the first half of the 19th century. **(FIC Hugo)**

**Hull, Jonathan.** *The Distance from Normandy.* Unable to cope with the loss of his beloved wife to cancer, World War II veteran Mead is haunted by painful memories and journeys through Europe with his rebellious and emotionally troubled teenage grandson. **(FIC Hull)**

**Hurston, Nora Zeale.** *Their Eyes Were Watching God.* The story traces Janie's quest for identity, through three marriages, on a journey to her roots. **(FIC Hurston)**

**Huxley, Aldous.** *Brave New World.* A classic novel that describes the socialized horrors of a futuristic utopia devoid of individual freedom. **(FIC Huxley)**

**Irving, John.** *A Prayer for Owen Meany.* Owen hits a foul ball while playing baseball in the summer of 1953 that kills his best friend's mother, an accident that Owen is sure is the result of divine intervention. **(FIC Irving)**

**Ishiguro, Kazuo.** *Never Let Me Go.* A reunion with two childhood friends--Ruth and Tommy--draws Kath and her companions on a nostalgic odyssey into the supposedly idyllic years of their lives at Hailsham, an isolated private school in the serene English countryside, and a dramatic confrontation with the truth about their childhoods and about their lives in the present. **(FIC Ishiguro)**

**Jackson, Shirley.** *The Lottery and Other Stories.* The story contrasts commonplace details of contemporary life with a barbaric ritual known as the "lottery." **(FIC Jackson)**

**Kesey, Ken.** *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.* McMurphy, a criminal who feigns insanity, is admitted to a mental hospital where he challenges the autocratic authority of the head nurse. **(FIC Kesey)**

**Keyes, Daniel.** *Flowers for Algernon.* When brain surgery makes a mouse into a genius, dull-witted Charlie Gordon wonders if it might also work for him. **(FIC Keyes)**

**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 black, bee-keeping sisters. **(FIC Kidd)**