

# Summer Reading

---

## *Grades 9 and 10*

### **Fiction**

**The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer**-Michelle Hodkin. Mara Dyer doesn't think life can get any stranger than waking up in a hospital with no memory of how she got there. It can. She believes there must be more to the accident she can't remember that killed her friends and left her mysteriously unharmed. There is. She doesn't believe that after everything she's been through, she can fall in love. She's wrong.

**The Evolution of Mara Dyer**-Michelle Hodkin. Mara Dyer once believed she could run from her past. She can't. She used to think her problems were all in her head. They aren't. She couldn't imagine that after everything she's been through, the boy she loves would still be keeping secrets. She's wrong. In this gripping sequel to *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer*, the truth evolves and choices prove deadly. What will become of Mara Dyer next?

**Legend** by Marie Lu -What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem.

**Prodigy** by Marie Lu-June and Day arrive in Vegas just as the unthinkable happens: the Elector Primo dies, and his son Anden takes his place. With the Republic edging closer to chaos, the two join a group of Patriot rebels eager to help Day rescue his brother and offer passage to the Colonies. They have only one request—June and Day must assassinate the new Elector. It's their chance to change the nation, to give voice to a people silenced for too long.

**What I Didn't Say** by Keary Taylor - Getting drunk homecoming night your senior year is never a good idea, but Jake Hayes never expected it all to end with a car crash and a t-post embedded in his throat. His biggest regret about it all? What he never said to Samantha Shay.

**Eleanor and Park** by Rainbow Rowell - Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. When Eleanor meets Park, you'll remember your own first love—and just how hard it pulled you under.

Disclaimer: contains strong language

**Revolution** by Jennifer Donnelly - Two girls' stories into one unforgettable account of life, loss, and enduring love. *Revolution* spans centuries and vividly depicts the eternal struggles of the human heart.

Disclaimer: contains drug use references

**The Absolute True Diary of a Part Time Indian** by Sherman Alexie - Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

**Last Chance for First** by Tom Hazuka (CCSU professor) - A star high school soccer player needs to cope with parents who compare him to his perfect brother, his best friend and co-captain of the team who is thrown off for drinking,

a difficult, if not sadistic, coach, and an eccentric, unpredictable girl friend--and still get the team to the State championships.

**\*The Girl Who Fell From the Sky** by Heidi W. Durrow - Forced to move to a new city, with her strict African American grandmother as her guardian, Rachel is thrust for the first time into a mostly black community, where her light brown skin, blue eyes, and beauty bring a constant stream of attention her way. It's there, as she grows up and tries to swallow her grief, that she comes to understand how the mystery and tragedy of her mother might be connected to her own uncertain identity

**Paine: Time of Anarchy, Volume 1** by John Brian Durbin (SHS teacher) - A CIA-manufactured plague was bioengineered to attack coca plants in an effort to eliminate cocaine production. The plague mutates and destroys food plants worldwide. Governments collapsed and billions died. Follow Michael Paine Martin, the son of a mercenary leader, as he tries to protect himself and his family from the ravages of anarchy.

**Paine: Time of Anarchy, Volume II** by John Brian Durbin (SHS teacher) Continue to follow the adventures of Michael Pine Martin as he leads himself, his family, and his country from the ravages of anarchy and political corruption.

**The Shakespeare Stealer** by Gary Blackwood - Widge is an orphan with a rare talent for shorthand. His fearsome master has just one demand: steal Shakespeare's play "Hamlet"--or else. Widge has no choice but to follow orders, so he works his way into the heart of the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare's players perform.

**Backwater** by Joan Bauer -Hunting family history turns into an adventure for sixteen-year-old Ivy Breedlove as she tracks down an eccentric aunt, engages in a daring rescue, and gains rewarding insights about herself.

**The Angel Experiment** (Book 1) by James Patterson

A group of genetically enhanced kids who can fly and have other unique talents are on the run from part-human, part-wolf predators called Erasers in this exciting SciFi thriller.

**Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons: The Story of Phillis Wheatley** by Ann Rinaldi

This historical fiction of America's first black female poet, born in Senegal with the name Keziah, gives a detailed account of her rise out of the white Wheatley household and her personal struggles on her own in the eighteenth century.

**The Trouble with Lemons** by Daniel Hayes Tyler and Lymie, eighth grade boys, discover a dead body in a quarry and work to uncover the mystery behind it.

**The Wanderer** by Sharon Creech Sophie's journey on the open sea takes her farther than she dreamed into the dangerous ocean and her forgotten past

**The Book Without Words** by AVI

This is a tale of eternal life, death, greed, sorcery, and friendship. It's not only a fantasy but also a fable, with lessons in "useful truths" along the way.

**My Life in Dog Years** by Gary Paulsen

Gary Paulsen tells his story of eight different dogs that have been a part of his life. Each story is tender and gives the reader glimpses into Paulsen's childhood riddled with alcoholism and neglect as well as his adulthood filled with dogs, horses, and a person or two!

***A Night to Remember*** by Walter Lord

On a cold April night in 1912, the luxury liner Titanic hit an iceberg and sank two hours later. This is a minute-by-minute account of the nightmare.

***Zlata's Diary Zlata*** by Filipovic

A teenager in Sarajevo, Zlata Filipovic began her diary before the Bosnian War started. Her life focused on her friends, school, new skis, and rock music. All this changed when bombs began to fall and life became a question of survival.

***Heir Apparent Vivian*** by Vande Velde

All of the elements of a good fantasy are present in this adventure. Giannine Bellisario is about to celebrate her 14th birthday. This year, she receives a gift certificate to any Rasmussem Gaming Center Virtual Reality Arcade. She decides to use her certificate for a total-immersion game called Heir Apparent. This unique combination of futuristic and medieval themes will appeal to fans of fantasy, science fiction, and video gaming.

***Behind the Bedroom Wall*** by Laura E. Williams

Korinna, a teenage girl in Germany, is an active member of the local Jungmadel, a Nazi youth group, along with many of her friends. She believes that Hitler is helping Germany by dealing with what he calls the "Jewish problem," a campaign that she witnesses as her Jewish neighbors are attacked and taken from their homes. When Korinna discovers that her parents—who are secretly members of an underground resistance group—are sheltering a family of Jewish refugees behind her bedroom, she is shocked.

***Briar Rose*** by Jane Yolen

This is a moving story of the Holocaust. The reader will find hope and bravery behind barbed wire. It reminds us of love's power to heal even the most terrible and enduring wounds.

***Death is a Lonely Business*** by Ray Bradbury

A young writer and amateur sleuth pursues a killer stalking the neighborhood's old eccentrics.

***Downriver*** by Will Hobbs

Fifteen-year-old Jessie and the other rebellious teenage members of a wilderness survival school team abandon their adult leader, hijack his boats, and try to run the dangerous white water at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

***School's Out - Forever*** (Maximum Ride, Book 2) by James Patterson

Max and her flock are back in this new volume in the Maximum Ride series, a follow-up to *The Angel Experiment* (2004). In a flying fight with Erasers, Fang is injured so seriously that the flock takes him to a hospital. It's obvious he's not a normal human (having wings and avian DNA), so it isn't long before the FBI shows up. Anne Walker, the

lead agent, takes the flock home to her Virginia farm, where she tries to mother the kids and enrolls them in a nearby private school.

***Girl Stolen*** by April Henry

A trip to the pharmacy turns into a nightmare for Cheyenne Wilder, a blind teenager. Sick with pneumonia, she waits in the backseat of her stepmother's car when someone steals it, unintentionally kidnapping her. Things become even more complicated when the inadvertent kidnapper, Griffin, returns home to his hostile father and his criminal cronies, who have their own designs on Cheyenne upon learning that her father is the president of Nike. The novel is a nail-biter with an unforgettable protagonist who smartly and bravely turns her weakness, and her captors' underestimation of her capabilities, into an advantage.

***The Rules of Survival*** by Nancy Werlin

Living with an unpredictable, psychotic mother has taught Matthew how to survive. Constantly on alert, he and his sister, Callie, devotedly shelter their younger stepsister, Emmy, from their mother's abuse and worry about staying safe. The children's fear is palpable in this haunting, powerful portrayal of domestic dysfunction, which is written in retrospect as a letter from Matt to Emmy. Werlin reinforces her reputation as a master of the YA thriller, pulling off a brilliant departure in this dark but hopeful tale, with pacing and suspense guaranteed to leave readers breathlessly turning the pages.

***Touching Spirit Bear*** by Ben Mikaelson

Cole Matthews has been fighting, stealing, and causing trouble for years. So his punishment for beating Peter Driscoll senseless is harsh. Given a choice between prison and Native American Circle Justice, Cole chooses Circle Justice. He will spend one year in complete isolation on a remote Alaskan island. In the first days of his banishment, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and nearly dies. Now there is no one left to save Cole, but Cole himself.

***Nonfiction***

***The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*** by Sean Covey - Based on his father's bestselling *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Sean Covey applies the same principles to teens, using a vivacious, entertaining style.

***A Walk in the Woods*** by Bill Bryson - The Appalachian Trail stretches from Georgia to Maine and covers some of the most breathtaking terrain in America—majestic mountains, silent forests, sparkling lakes. If you're going to take a hike, it's probably the place to go. And Bill Bryson is surely the most entertaining guide you'll find. He introduces us to the history and ecology of the trail and to some of the other hardy (or just foolhardy) folks he meets along the way—and a couple of bears.

***Graphic Novel***

***Sandman: Vol 1*** by Neil Gaiman - A wizard attempting to capture Death to bargain for eternal life traps her younger brother Dream instead. Fearful for his safety, the wizard kept him imprisoned in a glass bottle for decades. After his escape, Dream, also known as Morpheus, goes on a quest for his lost objects of power.

## *Grades 11 and 12*

### **Fiction**

***Where She Went***-Gayle Forman-It's been three years since the devastating accident . . . three years since Mia walked out of Adam's life forever.

Now living on opposite coasts, Mia is Juilliard's rising star and Adam is LA tabloid fodder, thanks to his new rock star status and celebrity girlfriend. When Adam gets stuck in New York by himself, chance brings the couple together again, for one last night.

***The Retribution of Mara Dyer***-Michelle Hodkin. It had to end sometime, but Mara had no idea it would end like this. Experience the mind-blowing conclusion to the *New York Times* bestselling Mara Dyer trilogy. Mara Dyer wants to believe there's more to the lies she's been told. There is. She doesn't stop to think about where her quest for the truth might lead. She should. She never had to imagine how far she would go for vengeance. She will now. Loyalties are betrayed, guilt and innocence tangle, and fate and chance collide in this shocking conclusion to Mara Dyer's story. Retribution has arrived.

### **Legend**-Marie Lu

He is a Legend.

She is a Prodigy.

Who will be Champion?

June and Day have sacrificed so much for the people of the Republic—and each other—and now their country is on the brink of a new existence. June is back in the good graces of the Republic, working within the government's elite circles as Princeps Elect while Day has been assigned a high level military position. But neither could have predicted the circumstances that will reunite them once again. Just when a peace treaty is imminent, a plague outbreak causes panic in the Colonies, and war threatens the Republic's border cities.

***The Ghosts of Heaven***-Marcus Sedgwick. Timeless, beautiful, and haunting, spirals connect the four episodes of *The Ghosts of Heaven*, the mesmerizing new novel from Printz Award winner Marcus Sedgwick. They are there in prehistory, when a girl picks up a charred stick and makes the first written signs; there tens of centuries later, hiding in the treacherous waters of Golden Beck that take Anna, who people call a witch; there in the halls of a Long Island hospital at the beginning of the 20th century, where a mad poet watches the oceans and knows the horrors it hides; and there in the far future, as an astronaut faces his destiny on the first spaceship sent from earth to colonize another world. Each of the characters in these mysterious linked stories embarks on a journey of discovery and survival; carried forward through the spiral of time, none will return to the same place.

***Fairest***-Marissa Meyer. Pure evil has a name, hides behind a mask of deceit, and uses her "glamour" to gain power. But who *is* Queen Levana? Long before she crossed paths with Cinder, Scarlet, and Cress in *The Lunar Chronicles*, Levana lived a very different story—a story that has never been told . . . until now.

*New York Times* -bestselling author Marissa Meyer reveals the story behind her fascinating villain in *Fairest*, an unforgettable tale about love and war, deceit and death.

***The Vigilante Poets of Selwyn Academy***- Kate Hattemer. Witty, sarcastic Ethan and his three best friends are students at Selwyn Arts Academy, which has been hijacked by *For Art's Sake*, a sleazy reality-television show. In the tradition of Ezra Pound, the foursome secretly writes and distributes a long poem to protest the show. They're thrilled to have started a budding rebellion. But the forces behind the show are craftier than they seem. The web

of betrayal stretches farther than Ethan could have ever imagined, and it's up to him, his friends, and a heroic gerbil named Baconnaise to save Selwyn.

***Divergent Series: Allegiant*** (Book3) by Veronica Roth - What if your whole world was a lie? What if a single revelation—like a single choice—changed everything? What if love and loyalty made you do things you never expected? The explosive conclusion to Veronica Roth's #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Divergent* trilogy reveals the secrets of the dystopian world that has captivated millions of readers in *Divergent* and *Insurgent*.

***Defending Jacob*** by William Landay - Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney in his suburban Massachusetts county for more than twenty years. He is respected in his community, tenacious in the courtroom, and happy at home with his wife, Laurie, and son, Jacob. But when a shocking crime shatters their New England town, Andy is blindsided by what happens next: His fourteen-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student.

Disclaimer: contains vulgar language

***The Art of Racing in the Rain*** by Garth Stein - A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope—a captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it.

***First Love*** by James Patterson - Axi Moore is a "good girl": She studies hard, stays out of the spotlight, and doesn't tell anyone that what she really wants is to run away from it all. The only person she can tell is her best friend, Robinson—who she also happens to be madly in love with. When Axi impulsively invites Robinson to come with her on an unplanned cross-country road trip, she breaks the rules for the first time in her life. But the adventure quickly turns from carefree to out-of-control.

***Looking for Alaska*** by John Green (author of *The Fault in Our Stars*) This book deals with the Big Ones: suffering, loss, and grief, but it does so with such compassion and humor that the net impact is uplifting. Even the principal turns out to be a human being. There are no cardboard cut-out characters here.

Disclaimer: References to smoking, drinking, and sex

***Paine: Time of Anarchy, Volume 1*** by John Brian Durbin (SHS teacher) - A CIA-manufactured plague was bioengineered to attack coca plants in an effort to eliminate cocaine production. The plague mutates and destroys food plants worldwide. Governments collapsed and billions died. Follow Michael Paine Martin, the son of a mercenary leader, as he tries to protect himself and his family from the ravages of anarchy.

***Paine: Time of Anarchy, Volume II*** by John Brian Durbin (SHS teacher) Continue to follow the adventures of Michael Paine Martin as he leads himself, his family, and his country from the ravages of anarchy and political corruption.

***Slam*** by Nick Hornby - For 16-year-old Sam, life is about to get extremely complicated. He and his girlfriend—make that ex-girlfriend—Alicia have gotten themselves into a bit of trouble. Sam is suddenly forced to grow up and struggle with the familiar fears and inclinations that haunt us all.

Disclaimer: contains teen pregnancy

***Stargirl*** by Jerry Spinelli - From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a

school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her.

**Feed** by M.T. Anderson - For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed.

Disclaimer: contains vulgar language, some sexual references

**Black Ice** by Loren Cary

This novel is an autobiography of Cary's experiences as the only black person in an exclusive white boarding school in New Hampshire.

**Break with Charity: A Story About the Salem Witch Trials** by Ann Rinaldi

Susanna English, an ancestor of Nathaniel Hawthorne, becomes the fictionalized narrator of the research-based novel telling of her close personal struggles with

people directly involved in the Salem Witch Trials.

**The Chosen** by Chaim Potak

Reuven, the son of a Hasidic rabbi and the destined leader of his sect, and Danny, the son of an orthodox Jewish teacher, become friends. Through their relationship each comes to understand another way of life and the responsibilities of friendship

**The Jungle** by Upton Sinclair

Poverty, disease, and despair are depicted in the story of the barbarous working conditions in the slaughter houses of Chicago in 1900.

**Peril at End House** by Agatha Christie

Hercule Poirot convinced Miss Buckley that someone was trying to kill her. But who? Why? Now the celebrated crime-solver is dedicating himself to crime prevention.

**Snow in August** by Pete Hamill

Posed gracefully between fantasy and reality, this book is a beautifully crafted tale of friendship, loyalty, Brooklyn, and the remarkable power of words.

**For Whom the Bell Tolls** by Ernest Hemingway

This classic, timeless epic portrays an American who fought in the mountains of Spain during the Spanish Civil War.

***The Journey of Crazy Horse*** by Joseph M. Marshall III

Joseph Marshall draws on a rich Native American oral tradition to carefully and lovingly unfold the life of Crazy Horse. Although most of the world remembers Crazy Horse as a peerless warrior who brought the United States Army to its knees at the Battle of Little Bighorn, Marshall presents a vivid, haunting biography of Crazy Horse as a loyal son, spurned lover, instinctive warrior, doting father, compassionate hunter, and natural leader.

***Saving the World (Maximum Ride, Book 3)*** by James Patterson

The end is near . . . or is it? Slated for extermination by their scientist creators, rebel-mutant Max and other members of her flock, all of whom possess bird DNA and functioning wings, are on the lam again, their mission to save the world from a eugenics plot. Affection for the dauntless characters and misadventures that build on universal yearnings about sprouting wings and taking flight will hold readers.

***Life As We Knew It*** by Susan Beth Pfeffer

It's almost the end of Miranda's sophomore year in high school, and her journal reflects the busy life of a typical teenager: conversations with friends, fights with mom, and fervent hopes for a driver's license. When Miranda first begins hearing the reports of a meteor on a collision course with the moon, it hardly seems worth a mention in her diary. But after the meteor hits, pushing the moon off its axis and causing worldwide earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes, all the things Miranda used to take for granted begin to disappear. Yet even as suspicious neighbors stockpile food in anticipation of a looming winter without heat or electricity, Miranda knows that that her future is still hers to decide even if life as she knew it is over.

***Haunted*** by Judith St. George

Haunted is a story of mystery and suspense. Sixteen year-old Alex is hired to house-sit Red Roof Farm, an estate that came complete with cars, pool, and all expenses paid, plus \$200 a week. He thinks it will be a breeze. He plans to sit by the pool, drive around in a nice car, and meet girls. But the moment he sees the sinister-looking mansion Alex remembers why he is there: a murder-suicide has left it empty and it is his job to look after things until the new owner arrives. Once he is alone on the property, Alex realizes he is being haunted by two forces, one leading him to discovery, the other trying to kill him.

***The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins*** by Walter Dean Myers Through his journal, Scott Pendleton Collins tells the story of his life as a World War II soldier. Seventeen year old Collins has no idea of the massive military offensive he is about to take part in. Walter Dean Myers captures the shift from fraternity and the boredom of life on the base to the terror and confusion of D-Day. The action and imagery are explicit but not exploitive as Collins survives the landing and pushes on through subsequent battles.

***The Missing: Book 1 FOUND*** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Jonah has always known that he was adopted, and he's never thought it was any big deal. Then he and a new friend, Chip, who is also adopted, begin receiving mysterious letters. The first one says, "You are one of the missing." The second one says, "Beware! They're coming

back to get you." Jonah, Chip, and Jonah's sister, Katherine, are plunged into a mystery that involves the FBI, a vast smuggling operation, an airplane that appeared out of nowhere -- and people who seem to appear and disappear at will. The kids discover they are caught in a battle between two opposing forces that want very different things for Jonah and Chip's lives.

***Between Shades of Gray*** by Ruta Sepetys

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life--until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive?

This powerful tale of heartbreak and hope is sure to haunt readers long after they finish the last page.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** by Zora Neale Hurston

One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston's classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.

***A Walk Across America*** by Peter Jenkins

This novel is the author's account of the first half of his journey from New York to the Gulf of Mexico. Readers, who accompany Peter and his dog Cooper, will rediscover the United States as Peter tells what he found in a joyous celebration of America and its people.

***The Big Four*** by Agatha Christie

In another famous Agatha Christie murder mystery, Hercule Poirot is appalled as he follows a trail of murders in what could very well prove to be his final case.

***The Seven Dials Mystery*** by Agatha Christie

In another Agatha Christie murder mystery, Reclusive tycoon, Sir Oswald Coote, and his melancholy wife, Lady Maria, have come upon the ideal plan to spice up their quiet lives. They'll be hosting a lavish weekend party at Chimneys, their isolated estate. A practical joke involving seven clocks and a sleeping guest has ended in accidental death—and cause for alarm.

***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*** by Jamie Ford

This novel portrays a war-time era Chinese-Japanese variation on Romeo and Juliet. In 1986, Henry Lee joins a crowd outside the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle's Japantown. Henry, a Chinese American, remembers a young Japanese American girl from his childhood in the 1940's—Keiko Okabe, with whom he forged a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcended the prejudices of their Old World ancestors.

***Fever 1793*** by Laurie Halse Anderson

On the heels of her acclaimed contemporary teen novel *Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson surprises her fans with a riveting and well-researched historical fiction. *Fever 1793* is based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that wiped out 5,000 people--or 10 percent of the city's population--in three months. At the close of the 18th century, Philadelphia was the bustling capital of the United States, with Washington and Jefferson in residence. In the foreground of this story is 16-year-old Mattie Cook, whose mother and grandfather own a popular coffee house on High Street. Mattie's comfortable and interesting life is shattered by the epidemic, as her mother is felled and the girl and her grandfather must flee for their lives.

***Leaving Protection*** by Will Hobbs

Sixteen-year-old Robbie Daniels hopes to earn money for college by working on a fishing trawler in southeastern Alaska during the king salmon season. He has no luck finding a job until he encounters Tor Torsen. Robbie soon discovers that in addition to fishing, Torsen hopes to find plaques that early Russian explorers buried in the late eighteenth century as they lay claim to Alaska. Torsen plans to sell the plaques illegally, until he and Robbie are caught in a huge storm. Hobbs blends details about salmon fishing in the dangerous waters off Alaska as well as a few well-placed pieces of Russian history into a taut, exciting novel. At the center of the story is Torsen, who comes across as ambiguous and complex, never a black-and-white villain despite his illegal acts.

***In My Father's House*** by Ann Rinaldi

This historical novel deals with the Civil War and with the MacLean family who witnessed both the war's first battle and also the final peace agreement.

***The Poisonwood Bible*** by Barbara Kingsolver

This enthralling novel about a troubled white American family in Africa is narrated by a missionary's four, funny, smart, brave daughters, who are caught up in the political upheaval of what was called the Congo in 1961.

***Silent Night*** by Mary Higgins Clark

The novel is a suspenseful, fast-paced holiday story about the most painful Christmas Eve for a mother whose child follows a thief into the subway in New York and into the most dangerous adventure of his life.

***A Doll's House*** by Henrik Ibsen

This classic play, still relevant today, is about the struggle between independence and security. It is the story of Nora and her husband Torvald who struggle to resolve their issues of independence, individual rights, and love. Nora's struggle and ultimate realizations about her life invite all of us to examine our own lives and find the many ways we share her problems and conflicts.

## **Nonfiction**

### ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor Thomas Foster***

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface—a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character—and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you. In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

### ***Nickel and Dime*** by Barbara Ehrenreich

Essayist and cultural critic Barbara Ehrenreich has always specialized in turning received wisdom on its head with intelligence, clarity, and verve. With some 12 million women being pushed into the labor market by welfare reform, she decided to do some good old-fashioned journalism and find out just how they were going to survive on the wages of the unskilled—at \$6 to \$7 an hour, only half of what is considered a living wage. So she did what millions of Americans do, she looked for a job and a place to live, worked that job, and tried to make ends meet.

As a waitress in Florida, where her name is suddenly transposed to "girl," trailer trash becomes a demographic category to aspire to with rent at \$675 per month. In Maine, where she ends up working as both a cleaning woman and a nursing home assistant, she must first fill out endless pre-employment tests with trick questions such as "Some people work better when they're a little bit high." In Minnesota, she works at Wal-Mart under the repressive surveillance of men and women whose job it is to monitor her behavior for signs of sloth, theft, drug abuse, or worse. She even gets to experience the humiliation of the urine test.

### ***Love in the Driest Season: A Family Memoir*** by Neely Tucker

Neely Tucker has traveled the world as a journalist, but it is only when he travels to Africa and visits the AIDS orphanages that his heart is moved and nearly broken. Tucker tells the story of how one little child touched his hand and changed his life.

### ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*** by Ishmael Beah

This absorbing account by a young man who, as a boy of twelve, gets swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war goes beyond the best journalistic efforts in revealing the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare. Beah, a boy equally thrilled by causing mischief as by memorizing passages from Shakespeare and dance moves from hip-hop videos, was a typical precocious twelve year old. But rebel forces destroyed his childhood innocence when they hit his village, driving him to leave his home and travel the arid deserts and jungles of Africa. After several months of struggle, he was recruited by the national army, made a full soldier, learned to shoot an AK-47, and hated everyone who came up against the rebels. However, an abrupt change occurred a few years later when agents from the United Nations pulled him out of the army and placed him in a rehabilitation center.

***Zeitoun by Dave Eggers***

This is the true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, *Zeitoun* is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.

***Never Fall Down*** by Patricia McCormick - Based on the true story of Cambodian advocate Arn Chorn-Pond, and authentically told from his point of view as a young boy, this is an achingly raw and powerful historical novel about a child of war who becomes a man of peace. It includes an author's note and acknowledgments from Arn Chorn-Pond himself.

***Touching the Void*** by Joe Simpson – Follow the story of Joe Simpson and Simon Yates, two extreme climbers, when disaster strikes at 21,000 feet.

***Outcasts United*** by Warren St. John - a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh.

***Graphic Novel***

***Little Fish*** by Ramsey Beyer- Told through real-life journals, collages, lists, and drawings, this coming-of-age story illustrates the transformation of an 18-year-old girl from a small-town teenager into an independent city-dwelling college student.