



FAY SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SUMMER READING LIST 2011

You are to read TWO BOOKS over the summer: the required book at the top of the page for the grade that you are entering AND one other on the list for your grade. Returning students will be given the required book before leaving for vacation. The required book will be discussed in English class, and you will have writing assignments pertaining to the book during the first week of school. **BE SURE** that you take notes in your books! You will have an in-class assignment on the second book. **You must bring both books to your first English class in September.**

You are encouraged to read as many books from the list as possible. **In addition to the required book and the one other from the list for your grade,** you may also, of course, read books not on this list, provided they are of comparable literary merit. Credit may be given for extra reading according to the ability of the student to write appropriate reports as directed by the teacher. In addition to reading, all students are encouraged to write as often as possible. A journal (perhaps describing your reactions to the books) is a perfect way to develop your writing ability.

This list includes many wonderful books, from enduring classics to the latest award winners. When this list was created, all the books were available in paperback. However, books do occasionally go out of print or have limited availability. Even if this should happen to a book on this list, there are still a number and variety of books from which to choose.

Note: In most cases, the book summary was taken or adapted from the Library of Congress or other library source. **Don't miss the enhanced view of this reading list with book cover images that link to more information and book reviews on the Fay Library web page!** (http://library.fayschool.org/Pages/summer_reading.htm)

Entering Grade 6

Required:

- ◆ **Year of Impossible Goodbyes** – Sook Nyul Choi
It is 1945, and ten-year-old Sookan and her family must endure the cruelties of the Japanese who occupy Korea. It is an incredible true story of one family's determination to find freedom.

Choose one or more books from this list:

- ◆ **The Graveyard Book** – Neil Gaiman
Newbery Medal, 2009
Nobody Owens would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised by ghosts and werewolves. This chilling tale chronicles the adventures of Nobody as he faces the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead.
- ◆ **Catherine, Called Birdy** – Karen Cushman
Newbery Honor Book, 1995
Catherine, a spirited and inquisitive young woman of good family, narrates in diary form the story of her fourteenth year—the year 1290.
- ◆ **Stargirl** – 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.
- ◆ **Dragon's Gate** – Laurence Yep
Newbery Honor Book, 1994
In rural China in 1865, 14-year-old Otter begins his journey to America to meet his father and legendary uncle on the transcontinental railroad. In the freezing mountains of the Sierras, Otter begins his harrowing journey toward self-knowledge.
- ◆ **The Night Journey** – Kathryn Lasky
Rachel ignores her parents' wishes and persuades her great-grandmother to relate the story of her escape from czarist Russia.
- ◆ **The Westing Game** – Ellen Raskin
Newbery Medal, 1979
The mysterious death of eccentric millionaire Sam Westing brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.
- ◆ **The London Eye Mystery** – Siobhan Dowd
When Salim doesn't come back from his ride on the London Eye, his cousins Ted and Kat turn to the authorities for help, but when they offer no viable suggestions, the two use their sleuthing skills to figure out what actually happened.
- ◆ **Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind** – Suzanne Fisher Staples
Newbery Honor Book, 1990
Growing up on the windswept Cholistan Desert of Pakistan, young Shabanu has been allowed freedoms forbidden to most Muslim girls. Now she must make a decision: marry the man her father has chosen for her, or bring dishonor to her family by striking out on her own.
- ◆ **Airborn** – Kenneth Oppel
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2005
Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.
- ◆ **The Magic Circle** – Donna Jo Napoli
After learning sorcery to become a healer, a good-hearted woman is turned into a witch by evil spirits and she fights their power until her encounter with Hansel and Gretel years later.
- ◆ **A Wrinkle in Time** – Madeleine L'Engle
Newbery Medal, 1963
Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.
- ◆ **The Haymeadow** – Gary Paulsen
Using his wits and determination, fourteen year old John Barron survives rattlesnakes, coyote and bear attacks, and a flash flood during the three months that he is responsible for tending his family's six thousand sheep.

- ◆ **Locomotion** – Jacqueline Woodson
Coretta Scott King Honor Book, 2004
Lonnie C. Motion has had some tough breaks in his life. When his class studies poetry, he begins to find the words to tell the world about his family, his little sister, and the fire that took his parents away.
- ◆ **Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy** – Gary D. Schmidt
Newbery Honor Book, 2005
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2005
In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves. Can Turner do anything to stop developers from making a shady deal to push Lizzie and her people off their island home?
- ◆ **20,000 Leagues under the Sea** – Jules Verne
A French professor and his two companions sail above and below the world’s oceans as prisoners on the fabulous electric submarine of the deranged Captain Nemo.
- ◆ **The Same Stuff as Stars** – Katherine Paterson
When Angel’s mother leaves her and her younger brother with their poor great-grandmother, the eleven-year-old girl worries not only about her family, but also about a mysterious man who begins sharing with her the wonder of the stars.
- ◆ **The Thief** – Megan Whalen Turner
Newbery Honor Book, 1997
Magus, the King’s Scholar, releases Gen, a skilled thief, from prison so that he may lead him to an ancient treasure, yet once freed, Gen has plans of his own and has no intention of letting Magus walk away with all the goods.
- ◆ **Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator** – Jennifer Allison
During the summer before ninth grade, intrepid Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin and his thirteen-year-old daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion’s boarded-up tower.
- ◆ **The Dark is Rising** – Susan Cooper
Newbery Honor Book, 1974
On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.
- ◆ **Rules** – Cynthia Lord
Newbery Honor Book, 2007
Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic boy.
- ◆ **Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos** – R.L. LaFevers
Twelve-year-old Theo uses arcane knowledge and her own special talent when she encounters two secret societies in pursuit of a valuable artifact stolen from the London museum for which her parents work.
- ◆ **Kensuke’s Kingdom** – Michael Morpurgo
When Michael is swept off his family’s yacht, he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive—until he finds he is not alone.
- ◆ **The Egypt Game** – Zilpha Keatley Snyder
Newbery Honor Book, 1968
An unlikely group of children, entranced by the mysteries of the pharaohs, plays an elaborate game of make-believe in their own Egypt. They are visited by a secret oracle and become involved in a murder mystery.
- ◆ **The Mysterious Benedict Society** – Trenton Lee Stewart
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.
- ◆ **The Misfits** – James Howe
Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.
- ◆ **Love That Dog** – Sharon Creech (verse novel)
Jack cares nothing about poetry and sees no point in that “snowy woods” stuff, but begins to love poetry when he realizes he can have a personal connection to famous poems. He even surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.
- ◆ **Becoming Joe DiMaggio** – Maria Testa (verse novel)
On the day Joseph Paul (named after the new Yankees center fielder) is born, Papa-Angelo makes a chair for him so they can listen to baseball games on the radio together. Joseph Paul decides he wants to grow up to be his hero, Joe DiMaggio.

Entering Grade 7

Required:

◆ **The Giver** – Lois Lowry

Newbery Medal, 1994

In a world with no poverty, no crime, no sickness and no unemployment, and where every family is happy, twelve-year-old Jonas is chosen to be the community's Receiver of Memories. Under the tutelage of the Elders and an old man known as the Giver, he discovers the disturbing truth about his utopian world.

Choose one or more books from this list:

- ◆ **The Light in the Forest** – Conrad Richter
As part of a peace treaty between the Delaware Indians and British settlers in 1764, a young man who had been kidnapped and raised by the Indians is returned to his people and an unfamiliar life.
- ◆ **Blood on the River: James Town 1607** – Elisa Carbone
Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.
- ◆ **Trouble Don't Last** – Shelley Pearsall
Samuel, an eleven-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.
- ◆ **Elijah of Buxton** – Christopher Paul Curtis
Newbery Honor Book, 2008
Coretta Scott King Award, 2008
In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.
- ◆ **Treasure Island** – Robert Louis Stevenson
While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as great danger.
- ◆ **The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle** – Avi
Newbery Honor Book, 1991
Charlotte Doyle, aged 13, is the only passenger on the disreputable-looking brig, *Seahawk*, crossing the Atlantic in 1832. The captain is cruel, the crew is talking mutiny, and Charlotte is accused of murder.
- ◆ **The Count of Monte Cristo** – Alexandre Dumas
An innocent man, Edmond Dantès, is imprisoned for years on a godforsaken island while the friend who betrayed him takes Dantès' ravishing fiancée for himself. Dantès eventually escapes, recovers a fortune in buried pirate treasure, transforms himself into the mysterious Count of Monte Cristo, and methodically goes about exacting his revenge.
- ◆ **Make Lemonade** – Virginia Euwer Wolff
In order to earn money for college, fourteen-year-old LaVaughn babysits for a teenage mother. Together they try to cope with life's lemons in this tough, funny, and ultimately hopeful novel.
- ◆ **Chains** – Laurie Halse Anderson
National Book Award Honor for Young People's Literature, 2008
At the start of the Revolutionary War, Isabel is sold to a cruel loyalist family, even though she has been promised freedom by her former owner. Soon faced with the choice of working for or against the British, Isabel chooses to work with anyone who can help her.
- ◆ **Lily's Crossing** – Patricia Reilly Giff
Newbery Honor Book, 1998
During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.
- ◆ **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** – Mark Twain
The adventures and pranks of a mischievous boy growing up in a 19th-century Mississippi River town as he plays hooky on an island, witnesses a crime, hunts for pirate's treasure, and becomes lost in a cave.
- ◆ **Little Women** – Louisa May Alcott
This perennial favorite chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.

- ◆ **The Teacher’s Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts** – Richard Peck
In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell’s dream of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew in the Dakotas is disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean, old Myrt Arbuckle “hauls off and dies.”
- ◆ **Totally Joe** – James Howe
As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphabiography—life from A to Z—and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager.
- ◆ **The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again** – J.R.R. Tolkien
Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to share in an adventure from which he may never return.
- ◆ **Princess Academy** – Shannon Hale
Newbery Honor Book, 2006
While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.
- ◆ **To Be a Slave** – Julius Lester
Newbery Honor Book, 1969
Told by slaves themselves, this is the true story (nonfiction) of slavery in North America, from the leaving of Africa through the Civil War.
- ◆ **The Other Side of Truth** – Beverly Naidoo
Carnegie Medal, 2001
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, they are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria.
- ◆ **No Turning Back: A Novel of South Africa** – Beverly Naidoo
When the abuse at home becomes too much for twelve-year-old Siphso, he runs away to the streets of Johannesburg and learns to survive in the post-apartheid world.
- ◆ **George Washington, Spymaster: How America Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War** – Thomas B. Allen
The title says it all: codes, ciphers, secret messages and spies masterminded by George Washington.
- ◆ **My Brother, My Sister, and I** – Yoko Kawashima Watkins
Living as refugees in Japan in 1947 and trying to locate their missing father, thirteen-year-old Yoko and her older brother and sister endure a bad fire, injury, and false charges of arson, theft, and murder. This is the sequel to *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*.
- ◆ **The King of Mulberry Street** – Donna Jo Napoli
In 1892, Dom, a nine-year old stowaway from Naples, Italy, arrives in New York and must learn to survive the perils of street life in the big city.
- ◆ **Parents Wanted** – George Harrar
Andrew, who has ADD, is adopted by new parents after years of other foster homes and desperately hopes that he will not mess up the situation.
- ◆ **The Outsiders** – S. E. Hinton
Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents’ death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society in which they find themselves “outsiders.”
- ◆ **When the Legends Die** – Hal Borland
When his father kills another Indian, Thomas Black Bull and his parents seek refuge in the wilderness. They take up life as it was in the old days, hunting and fishing, battling for survival.
- ◆ **The Book of Dead Days** – Marcus Sedgwick
With the help of his servant and an orphan girl, a magician named Valerian searches graveyards, churches, and underground waterways for a book he hopes will save him from a pact he has made with evil.
- ◆ **Dark Sons** – Nikki Grimes (verse novel)
Coretta Scott King Honor Book, 2006
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.
- ◆ **Shakespeare Bats Cleanup** – Ron Koertge (verse novel)
Fourteen year-old first baseman Kevin Boland’s life revolves around baseball. When he is diagnosed with mononucleosis, he is faced with months of recuperating at home. How will he cope with the boredom? The answer may surprise you.

Entering Grade 8

Required:

- ◆ **Animal Farm** – George Orwell
In this most famous of all twentieth-century political allegories, farm animals overthrow their human owner and set up their own democratic society in which all animals are equal...or are they?

Choose one or more books from this list:

- ◆ **Daniel, Half-Human: And the Good Nazi** – David Chotjewitz
Batchelder Honor Book, 2005
In 1933, best friends Daniel and Armin admire Hitler, but as anti-Semitism buoys Hitler to power, Daniel learns he is half Jewish, threatening the friendship even as life in their beloved Hamburg, Germany, is becoming nightmarish.
- ◆ **Colors of the Mountain** – Da Chen
This memoir tells of the author's youth in China during the time of Mao's Cultural Revolution. As his family endures horrific brutality and poverty, Da Chen manages to persevere and ultimately wins admission to the Beijing Language Institute.
- ◆ **Wait for Me** – An Na
As her senior year in high school approaches, Mina yearns to find her own path in life but working at the family business, taking care of her little sister, and dealing with her mother's impossible expectations are as stifling as the southern California heat, until she falls in love with a man who offers a way out.
- ◆ **The Once and Future King** – T. H. White
This is the magical epic of King Arthur and his shining Camelot; of Merlin and Owl and Guinevere; of beasts who talk and men who fly, of wizardry and war. It is the book of all things lost and wonderful and sad.
- ◆ **Inside the Walls of Troy: A Novel of the Women who Lived the Trojan War** – Clemence McLaren
The events surrounding the famous battle between the Greeks and the Trojans are told from the points of view of two women, the beautiful Helen and the prophetic Cassandra.
- ◆ **The Bean Trees** – Barbara Kingsolver
Taylor Greer flees her harsh life in Appalachia and heads west in this story of love and friendship, abandonment and belonging.
- ◆ **Fahrenheit 451** – Ray Bradbury
In this classic, frightening vision of the future, firemen don't put out fires; they start them in order to burn books. Montag, a fireman in charge of burning the forbidden volumes, meets a revolutionary school teacher who dares to read and helps him realize the value of books.
- ◆ **When Zachary Beaver Came to Town** – Kimberly Willis Holt
National Book Award for Young People's Literature, 1999
During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.
- ◆ **Nation** – Terry Pratchett
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2009
After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.
- ◆ **When I Was Puerto Rican** – Esmeralda Santiago
This is the story of the author's journey as a young girl from Puerto Rico to New York City's tenements, a journey filled with sadness, joy, loss, confusion and triumph.
- ◆ **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** – Mark Twain
Huck Finn is a thirteen-year-old semi-literate boy living in Missouri in the 1830s. He refers to blacks by the N-word because he has never heard them called anything else. He's been brought up to see blacks as slaves, as property, as something less than human. On Huck's journey to escape his drunken, abusive father, he meets Jim, who is escaping slavery and Huck is transformed by Jim's friendship.

- ◆ **Elsewhere** – Gabrielle Zevin
After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to “live.”
- ◆ **A Gathering of Old Men** – Ernest J. Gaines
In this novel, set in Louisiana in the 1970s, eighteen old, black men each claim to have shot a white man and, in the process, experience their first taste of power and pride.
- ◆ **Dairy Queen** – Catherine Gilbert Murdock
After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school’s rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.
- ◆ **Gathering Blue** – Lois Lowry
Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.
- ◆ **Messenger** – Lois Lowry
In this novel that unites characters from *The Giver* and *Gathering Blue*, Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.
- ◆ **Skellig** – David Almond
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2000
Unhappy about his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel.
- ◆ **Hard Love** – Ellen Wittlinger
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2000
When John, a 'zine writer who comes from a broken home, encounters Marisol, a self-confident young woman and also a 'zine writer, they fall in love amid the bohemian life of Boston, and, in the process, learn how exciting and difficult first love can be.
- ◆ **A Brief History of Montmaray** – Michelle Cooper
On her sixteenth birthday in 1936, Sophia begins a diary of life in a fictional island country off the coast of Spain, where she is among the last descendants of an impoverished royal family trying to hold their nation together on the eve of the Second World War.
- ◆ **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time** – Mark Haddon
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.
- ◆ **Peak** – Roland Smith
After Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he’s left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father’s renewed interest in him has strings attached. He wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit—and his motives are selfish at best.
- ◆ **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: A Fable** – John Boyne
Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.
- ◆ **The Secret Life of Bees** – Sue Monk Kidd
In 1964, fourteen-year-old Lily Owens runs away from her abusive father in rural South Carolina and finds shelter and healing at the Black Madonna Honey Company, with three middle-aged black sisters. As she enters their mesmerizing secret world of bees and honey, she discovers a place where she can find the single thing her heart longs for most.
- ◆ **The Body of Christopher Creed**
– Carol Plum-Ucci
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2001
Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.
- ◆ **I, Coriander** – Sally Gardner
In seventeenth-century London, Coriander, a girl who has inherited magic from her mother, must find a way to use this magic in order to save both herself and an inhabitant of the fairy world where her mother was born.
- ◆ **Frenchtown Summer** – Robert Cormier (verse novel)
In a series of free-verse vignettes, the writer reminisces about his life as a twelve-year-old boy living in a small Massachusetts town during the hot summer of 1938.

Entering Grade 9

Required:

- ◆ **The Catcher in the Rye** – J. D. Salinger
Sixteen-year-old Holden Caulfield, realizing he is about to be expelled from boarding school, seeks to escape the hypocrisies of life by running away to New York City. Since this book was first published in 1951, teens have identified with Holden's idiosyncrasies, penetrating insight, confusion, sensitivity, and negativism.

Choose one or more books from this list:

- ◆ **Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations--One School at a Time** – Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.
In 1993 Greg Mortenson was an American mountain-climbing bum wandering emaciated and lost through Pakistan's Karakoram. After he was taken in and nursed back to health by the people of a Pakistani village, he promised to return one day to build them a school.
- ◆ **An Abundance of Katherines** – John Green
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2007
Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.
- ◆ **The House on Mango Street** – Sandra Cisneros
Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, tries to rise above the hopelessness of life in the tenements.
- ◆ **Lost in Place: Growing up Absurd in Suburbia** – Mark Salzman
The author describes his early years as an ambitious and eccentric young man with a passion for practicing kung fu and studying Chinese philosophy.
- ◆ **Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard** – Mawi Asgedom
This is the true story of a young boy's amazing journey. At the age of three, he fled civil war in Ethiopia by walking with his mother and brother to a Sudanese refugee camp.
- ◆ **Pride and Prejudice** – Jane Austen
In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the suit of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.
- ◆ **Crackback** – John Coy
Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.
- ◆ **The Hunger Games** – Suzanne Collins
In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.
- ◆ **A Northern Light** – Jennifer Donnelly
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2004
In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest.
- ◆ **The Carbon Diaries 2015** – Saci Lloyd
In 2015, when England becomes the first nation to introduce carbon dioxide rationing in a drastic bid to combat climate change, sixteen-year-old Laura documents the first year of rationing as her family spirals out of control.
- ◆ **Graceling** – Kristin Cashore
In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace, the Grace of killing, and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.
- ◆ **Going Bovine** – Libba Bray
Michael L. Printz Award, 2009
After being diagnosed with Creutzfeldt Jakob's (aka mad cow) disease, disaffected teenager Cameron Smith sets off on a road trip with a death-obsessed video gaming dwarf he meets in the hospital in an attempt to find a cure.

- ◆ **New Boy** – Julian Houston
An African-American teen discovers the world—and himself—when he integrates an all-white Connecticut boarding school in the 1950s.
- ◆ **The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks** – E. Lockhart
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2009
Sophomore Frankie starts dating senior Matthew Livingston, but when he refuses to talk about the all-male secret society that he and his friends belong to, Frankie infiltrates the society in order to enliven their mediocre pranks.
- ◆ **The House of the Scorpion** – Nancy Farmer
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2003
Newbery Honor Book, 2003
In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.
- ◆ **Pigs in Heaven** – Barbara Kingsolver
When Turtle witnesses a freak accident at the Hoover Dam, her mother responds and a man's life is saved, but their lives are changed by the incident.
- ◆ **The Ropemaker** – Peter Dickinson
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2002
While searching for the magician in the Empire with the powers to save her cherished Valley, Tilja comes to discover that she has hidden powers of her own and thus is soon leading the way to save her friends from the Empire's evil sorcerers.
- ◆ **Private Peaceful** – Michael Morpurgo
When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.
- ◆ **Book of a Thousand Days** – Shannon Hale
Dashti, a young maid, sacrifices her own freedom to accompany her mistress, the Lady Saren, into exile. Once in the land of the man they both love, they are forced to hide their true identities as they vie for his attention.
- ◆ **The Five People You Meet in Heaven** – Mitch Albom
Killed in a tragic accident, Eddie, an elderly man who believes that he had lived an uninspired life, awakens in the afterlife, where he discovers that heaven consists of having five people explain the meaning of one's life.
- ◆ **Troy** – Adèle Geras
Told from the point of view of the women of Troy during the final weeks of the Trojan War, women are sick of tending the wounded, men are tired of fighting, and bored gods and goddesses find ways to stir things up.
- ◆ **My Heartbeat** – Garret Freymann-Weyr
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2003
As she tries to understand the closeness between her older brother and his best friend, fourteen-year-old Ellen finds her relationship with each of them changing.
- ◆ **Dracula** – Bram Stoker
A young man tries to cheat death by joining a sinister cult and unleashing the evil force of Count Dracula when he finds he has a horrible disease.
- ◆ **The Great Gatsby** – F. Scott Fitzgerald
In the 1920s, a young man, newly rich, tries to recapture the past and win back the sweetheart of his youth, despite the fact that she has married.
- ◆ **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** – Sherman Alexie
Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.
- ◆ **The Joy Luck Club** – Amy Tan
This novel chronicles the long friendship of four native-born Chinese women and their American-born daughters. The death of one member brings her daughter into the group, creating a new understanding for each.
- ◆ **Ender's Game** – Orson Scott Card
An expert at simulated war games, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin believes that he is engaged in one more computer war game when, in truth, he is commanding the last Earth fleet against an alien race seeking Earth's complete destruction.
- ◆ **1984** – George Orwell
In a future time when a totalitarian government watches over all citizens and controls all thinking, language and even history, one man, Winston Smith, dares to rebel against the authority of Big Brother.
- ◆ **Bronx Masquerade** – Nikki Grimes (verse novel)
Coretta Scott King Award, 2003
While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.