



Get Booked for Summer!



SHS Summer 2007 Reading

Cash and Carry Books Ready To Go

The following titles will be available for cash and carry at the book fair the week of May 21st through May 25th. Remember to bring your cash or check (made payable to SHS PTA) so that you can kick-start your summer reading. The titles are listed below with the page number(s) in the summer reading packet where you can find a brief annotation to pique your curiosity. Happy reading!

Blunt Objects (p.2)	For the Players in All of Us (p.4)	Get Graphic (p.6)	Notable Nonfiction (p. 7-8)	Teacher (p.11-20) Recommendations
<i>And Then There Were None</i>	<i>Wicked</i>	<i>Persepolis</i>	<i>Fast Food Nation</i>	<i>The Alchemist</i>
<i>Angels and Demons</i>	For the Wreckers in All of Us (p.4)	<i>V for Vendetta</i>	<i>Pledged: The Secret Life of Sororities</i>	<i>American Born Chinese</i>
<i>Dante Club</i>	<i>Bleachers</i>	Kiss & Tell (p.6)	<i>Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers</i>	<i>A Cup of Tea</i>
<i>Glass Castle</i> (teacher rec. p.10,14)	<i>Friday Night Lights</i> (teacher rec. p.16)	<i>Here on Earth</i>	Shock & Awesome(p8)	<i>Dreams for My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance</i>
<i>Shooter</i>	<i>Game of Shadows</i>	<i>The Pact</i> (teacher rec.18)	<i>Flags of Our Fathers</i>	<i>The Dark Tower: The Gunslinger</i>
<i>Sick Puppy</i> (L-O-L p.7)	<i>Moneyball</i>	<i>The Time Traveler's Wife</i> (teacher rec. p.14, 16)	<i>Going After Cacciato</i>	<i>The Exception to the Rulers</i>
<i>Son of the Mob</i>	<i>Swimming Across Antarctica</i> (teacher rec. p.13)	Life Beyond Westport (p.6-7)	<i>Swallows of Kabul</i>	<i>Ghost Town and Other Stories</i>
<i>Tell No One: A Novel</i>	For Thrillseekers (p.5)	<i>Places in Between</i> (Shock & Awe p8,12)	Techies & Trekkies (p.9)	<i>Looking for Alaska</i>
Deep Thinkers (p.3)	<i>Cobra Event</i>	<i>Random Family</i>	<i>Blink: The Power of Thinking About Thinking</i>	<i>Maximum Ride</i>
<i>Blindness</i>	<i>Shadow Divers</i>	<i>Snow Flower & the Secret Fan</i> (p.15 & 17)	<i>Halo: Ghosts of Onyx</i>	<i>The Memory Keeper's Daughter</i>
<i>Diving Bell and Butterfly</i>	<i>Touching the Void</i>	L-O-L (p.7)	<i>Something Wicked this Way Comes</i>	<i>Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee</i>
<i>Franny and Zooey</i>	From the Heart (p.5)	<i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i> (teacher rec. p.12)	<i>Thud: a Novel of Discworld</i>	<i>The Road</i>
<i>Gilead</i> (teacher rec. p.12)	<i>A Northern Light</i>	<i>Naked</i> (teacher rec. p.13)	<i>Xenocide</i>	<i>The Stand</i>
Fantastic Female Authors (3)	<i>Lucia Lucia: A Novel</i>	<i>The Nanny Diaries</i>	A Walk on the Wild Side(p.9)	<i>The Shadow of the Wind</i>
<i>Falling Angels</i>	<i>My Sister's Keeper</i> (teacher rec. p.14)	<i>A Walk in the Woods</i>	<i>Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas</i>	<i>The Tender Bar</i>
<i>Namesake</i>	<i>A River Runs Through It</i>	Notable Nonfiction (7-8)	<i>Jesus' Son</i>	<i>Truth and Beauty</i>
<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i>	<i>True Believers</i>	<i>Devil in the White City</i>	<i>Perks of Being a Wallflower</i>	<i>The World According to Garp</i>
<i>Vanishing Acts</i>			<i>Sex, Drugs, & Cocoa Puffs</i>	<i>Where the Heart Is</i>

Staples High School English Dept. Summer Reading List

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Description</u> (Note: some descriptions adapted from bn.com website)
<h1>Blunt Objects</h1>		<p>Whodunits, or just plain mysterious</p>
<i>And Then There Were None</i>	Christie, Agatha	Ten strangers are summoned as weekend guests to a private island off the coast of Devon. Their host is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past. One by one they fall prey. Before the weekend is out, there will be none. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: JAMIE BOONE & NAVI SOMAL)
<i>Angels and Demons</i>	Brown, Dan	A Harvard symbologist discovers the resurgence of an ancient secret brotherhood known as the Illuminati and embarks on saving the Vatican. A fast-paced thriller. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: JONATHAN CHOI, TOMER GAT, SOPHIE GORDON, CHARVE KNOFLA, JACOB LEVI, MAX MLYNSKI & MAC MOMBELLO)
<i>Dante Club</i>	Pearl, Matthew	In Boston in 1865, the illustrious members of the Dante Club fight to keep a sacred literary cause alive, but their plans fall apart when a series of murders erupts through Boston and Cambridge.
<i>Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter</i>	Mah, Adeline Yen	The memoir of Mah, considered unlucky after her mother died in childbirth, tells the story of her family life in China with an overbearing stepmother and abusive father. Eventually she leaves for England to study medicine and emigrates to the United States. Happiness does not come easily even then.
<i>Glass Castle</i>	Walls, Jeannette	Walls' memoir of growing up with self-indulgent, irresponsible parents and her siblings shows just how resilient children can be, even after suffering hunger, homelessness, and the effects of mental illness.
<i>Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell</i>	Clarke, Susanna and Rosenberg, Portia	Two magicians, who wish to resurrect their dying art, begin to perform dastardly magic on one another and a darker, more sinister magic begins to reveal itself. Frightening, moving, and often witty.
<i>Other People's Stories</i>	Shuman, Amy	Shuman examines what happens when one person's story intersects with inspiration, revealing everyday cultural differences.
<i>Shooter</i>	Walter Dean Myers	Teachers, therapists, law enforcement officials, and others try to piece together the facts in the aftermath of a tragedy in which Len, a high school senior fed up with being bullied, shoots and kills a football hero and then commits suicide. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: JON KELLY & BJ LERNER)
<i>Sick Puppy</i>	Hiaasen, Carl	A multimillion-dollar real estate deal will destroy an untouched Gulf Coast island unless someone stops it. Twilly Spree is the man who steps up.
<i>Son of the Mob</i>	Gordon Korman	Seventeen-year old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.
<i>Tell No One: A Novel</i>	Coben, Harlan	Dr. David Beck receives an email message with hints that his wife is alive—eight years after her death.
<i>Twilight</i>	Meyer, Stephenie	Stephenie Meyer developed a completely unrealistic situation and added deeply human characters to create a believable tale of vampires, love and self sacrifice. The suspense will keep you reading until the last page.

Deep Thinkers

For those who like to engage the brain

<i>Atonement</i>	McEwan, Ian	Set in England in 1935, this psychologically penetrating novel of love and war, childhood and class, guilt and forgiveness, mesmerizes.
<i>Blindness</i>	Saramago, Jose	Imagine an entire city turned blind. White is the only color perceived. Chaos ensues.
<i>Diving Bell and Butterfly: a Memoir of Life in Death</i>	Bauby, Jean-Dominique	The author relates his story of a massive stroke and celebrates everyday life.
<i>Franny and Zooey</i>	Salinger, J.D.	Franny and her older brother Zooey battle the demons of adolescence. (STUDENT REC: SARAH MCNEE)
<i>Gilead</i>	Robinson, Marilynne	The Civil War is revisited in a 1956 vision from Iowan John Ames whose ancestors' participation in both Union and Confederate activities cause Ames to realize how history lives through generations.
<i>The Power of One</i>	Courtenay, Bryce	Set in South Africa during WWII, this is the moving story of one young man's search for the love that binds friends, the passion that binds lovers, and the realization that it takes only one to change the world. An affecting story.
<i>The Stranger</i>	Camus, Albert	An ordinary man gets drawn into a senseless murder in Algeria. (STUDENT REC: Michael Wolson)
<i>The Tao of Pooh</i>	Hoff, Benjamin	Our old friend Winnie the Pooh introduces Taoist concepts of simplicity and the progress of life. Thought-provoking and charming.
<i>Zen & The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i>	Persig, Robert	The book details a cross-country motorcycle trip by a man and his 11-year-old son, as well as his quest for truth. Describes working on a motorcycle as part of a process to achieve an inner peace of mind.

Fantastic Female Authors Insight from the X Chromosome

<i>Bee Season</i>	Goldberg, Myla	A nine-year-old feels out of place in her gifted family, until she joins the highly competitive world of spelling bees and family dynamics change. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: JULIE ALINTOFF)
<i>Falling Angels</i>	Chevalier, Tracy	Following Queen Victoria's death in 1901, society undergoes radical changes. Two girls, of different social strata, befriend one another at their family burial plots.
<i>Mermaid Chair</i>	Kidd, Sue Monk	A love story between a woman and a monk, a woman and her husband, and a woman and her own soul. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: LAUREN SALVIOLI)
<i>Namesake</i>	Lahiri, Jhumpa	The story of an American born of Asian-Indian parents who tries to assimilate while honoring his heritage.
<i>Penelopiad</i>	Atwood, Margaret	Penelope, wife of the 20-year-absent Odysseus, wonders about the execution of her handmaidens after he had returned from the Trojan War and his subsequent adventuring. Intriguing insights into the lives of women in those mythical days!
<i>The Poisonwood Bible: a Novel</i>	Kingsolver, Barbara	A family of missionaries takes their beliefs to Africa in 1959 with intentions of converting the "natives." Their experiences affect each family member differently. Long, worthwhile read that sheds light on America's desires to change other cultures.
<i>The Red Tent</i>	Diamant, Anita	The story of Dinah's "four mothers" and her own journey to a new land and a calling into midwifery. Fictional retelling of stories of Genesis. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: ALEXIS MCINTOSH & ILANA SINAY)
<i>Vanishing Acts</i>	Picoult, Jodi	Dalia Hopkins leads a charmed life until one day, a policeman knocks on her door, revealing a secret about herself that changes the world as she knows it. Life doesn't always turn out how we imagine. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: RYAN GROSSO, ALEXA ROSATO & ELENA RUEVEN)

For the Players in All of Us Delicious Drama

<i>The Year of Magical Thinking</i>	Didion, Joan	A serious memoir recounting the time just after her husband's death when she learns that her daughter is comatose. She tries to make sense of her own life—or what is left of it. Didion's text has recently been made into a Broadway play.
<i>Wicked</i>	Maguire, Gregory	If you've seen the play, read the book. The wicked witch in the Wizard of Oz is not so bad after all. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: NIKOLE CASIMIR & BOBBY GOELZ)

For the Wreckers in All of Us



<i>Bleachers</i>	Grisham, John	A novel about a high school football team in a small Texas town in which football has become a religion. Good storytelling amidst many relationships.
<i>Friday Night Lights: a Town, a Team, and a Dream</i>	Bissinger, H.G.	One high school football season in Odessa, Texas, where football rules the community.
<i>Game of Shadows: Barry Bonds, BALCO, and the Steroid Scandal That Rocked Professional Sports</i>	Fainaru-Wada, Mark	Chronicles an overview of steroid use in professional sports, including the federal investigation which has shaken the sporting world.
<i>Grayson</i>	Cox, Lynne	Lynne Cox, best known for swimming the waters of Antarctica, here tells the story of her encounter with a baby gray whale which had been separated from its mother. Part mystery, part magical—all true.
<i>It's Not About the Bike</i>	Armstrong, Lance	The inspiring story of Lance Armstrong's life, including his struggle with cancer and his Tour de France triumphs.
<i>Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game</i>	Lewis, Michael M.	Billy Beane, manager of the financially strapped Oakland Athletics, used mathematical strategies in the 2002 draft, decisions which led to success even though the Athletics did not have well-known players.
<i>Swimming to Antarctica</i>	Cox, Lynne	Distance swimmer Lynne Cox describes the challenges of swimming across the English Channel, the Bering Strait, the Strait of Magellan, Cook Strait in New Zealand, and in the cold waters of the Antarctic.
<i>Ultimate-The First Four Decades</i>	Leonardo and Zagoria	This is a history of Ultimate Frisbee. One page devoted to Staples Frisbee. Probably only for Ultimate enthusiasts.

For Thrillseekers

Pages of Adrenaline
and Adventure



<i>Cobra Event</i>	Preston, Richard	Terrorists using biological weapons which cause hideous deaths take a detective on a chase against time.
<i>Mysterious Island</i>	Verne, Jules	Give yourself a few pages to get past the bloated Victorian language, and you'll be hooked on a great adventure story from one of the all-time masters of the genre.
<i>Shadow Divers: True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II</i>	Kurson, Robert	Deep sea divers discover a World War II German U-boat, sunk only sixty miles off the coast of New Jersey. The search for the buried sub is a survival story in itself. The mysteries its discovery unfold in this action-packed true adventure make the reader think about how close the U.S. was to being attacked on the Atlantic side.
<i>Touching the Void</i>	Simpson, Joe	Simpson tells the story of being seriously injured and left for dead in a crevasse in the Andes by his climbing partner. Obviously he lives to tell his tale of extreme survival.

From the Heart

Warm &
Fuzzy



<i>A Northern Light</i>	Donnelly, Jennifer	Sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and boyfriend, takes a job at a hotel in 1906 where the death of a guest renews her determination to live her own life.
<i>A River Runs Through It</i>	Maclean, Norman	Portrayal of two brothers' passion for the sport of fly fishing against the rugged wilderness of Montana in the thirties.
<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	Smith, Betty	Detailed and touching description of growing up poor in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn in the early 1900s.
<i>Lucia Lucia: A Novel</i>	Trigiani, Adriana	A big, Italian family, romance, life choices, and humor make this an engaging story. Just who will Lucia become? What others expect of her or what she wants to be?
<i>My Sister's Keeper</i>	Picoult, Jodi	The story of a child who is born purely for medical reasons to save her sister's life. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: LIZ ROCKMORE)
<i>Travels with Charley</i>	Steinbeck, John	Steinbeck and his poodle travel the country, reflecting on American character, racial hostility, American loneliness and the unexpected kindness of strangers.
<i>True Believer</i>	Sparks, Nicholas	Part ghost story, part romance, all Southern storytelling from a favorite author.

Get Graphic! where pictures and words merge



<i>Persepolis</i>	Satrapi, Marjane	Graphic comic of the author's life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen while the country came under fundamentalist control.
<i>V for Vendetta</i>	Moore, Alan	Britain is under an absolutely corrupt regime. V, a masked character, systematically dismantles the fascist version of England.



Kiss and Tell

Hi-test
Emotion



<i>Here on Earth</i>	Hoffman, Alice	A modern retelling of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> : A woman attends a funeral and comes face-to-face with the troubled man from her romantic past that she still loves desperately. Against the advice of everyone in town, she follows her heart and leaves a broken marriage in her wake.
<i>The Pact: A Love Story</i>	Picoult, Jodi	Love, murder, and a suicide pact between Chris and Emily, lifelong friends who become a teenage couple. Two families are torn apart, desperate for answers.
<i>Possession</i>	Byatt, A.S.	Two scholars uncover a clandestine love affair between two long-dead Victorian poets. Love letters and fairytales, excerpts from biographies and scholarly accounts interweave, creating a sensuous and delightful novel of ideas and passions.
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Austen, Jane	In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with a snobbish suitor as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: CASEY RICHARDS & KRISTIN LEWIS)
<i>The Time Traveler's Wife</i>	Niffenegger, Audrey	Clare and Henry fall deeply in love, but Henry has a condition which periodically resets him in time (past or future). They desperately try to retain their complex relationship, but time is against them.

Life Beyond Westport

expand
your world



<i>Drown</i>	Diaz, Junot	Ten stories of teenage and family life, from the barrios of the Dominican Republic to the urban squalor of inner-city New Jersey. Raw and sobering.
<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>	Alvarez, Julia	Four lively Latinas from the Dominican Republic rebel against their parents' old-world discipline and embrace all that America has to offer.
<i>Interpreter of Maladies</i>	Lahiri, Jhumpa	Pulitzer prize-winning collection of nine compelling stories that chart the emotional journeys of Indian Americans.
<i>Places in Between</i>	Stewart, Rory	In 2002 the author walked across Afghanistan, surviving by his wits, knowledge of Persian dialects and Muslim customs, and the kindness of strangers. The trek became a tale of survival, ancient story-telling, and greater understanding of what shapes all lives.
<i>Random Family</i>	LeBlanc, Adrian Nicole	True story written by a journalist who followed two Bronx girls for ten years and chronicled their stories through boyfriends, drugs, gangsters, motherhood, and uncertain futures.
<i>Saving Fish from Drowning</i>	Tan, Amy	Twelve American tourists travel unattended through rural China after their tour guide mysteriously dies. More mysteries and dangers follow them.

Life Beyond Westport expand your world (cont.)

<i>Snow Flower and the Secret Fan</i>	See, Lisa	Nineteenth century China is surprisingly complex. Arranged marriages, loss, friendship, secret languages, class struggles combine into a beautiful tale. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: JESS DAVIS)
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Hosseini, Khaled	The story of two boys from different classes living in war-torn Afghanistan presents lessons in faith, trust and betrayal. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: STEPHANIE GANDELMAN, RACHEL GORMAN CARLY MACHLIS & ELENA RUEVEN)
<i>What Is the What</i>	Eggers, Dave	Valentino Deng, a refugee now living in the U.S., has escaped civil war in Sudan. We learn about the trials he survived in Sudan as a boy, in Ethiopia and Kenya, and ultimately in the America, where Deng never gives up his struggle for freedom.

LOL-LOL-LOL These Made Readers Laugh Out Loud Literally!



<i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i>	Toole, John Kennedy	Intelligent, interesting, hilarious. A real work of comic genius. Set in New Orleans. Caution: contains some coarse language.
<i>A Walk in the Woods</i>	Bryson, Bill	Hilarious account of Bill Bryson's attempt to walk the length of the Appalachian Trail with his old college buddy. Beer, bears, and people along the trail are described with wild abandon. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: EVERETT TREMBLAY & KATIE ROMERO)
<i>Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius</i>	Eggers, Dave	Memoir of Egger's life beginning with his parents' deaths and subsequent task of bringing up his 8-yr-old brother while yet a young man himself. Funny and touching.
<i>Naked</i>	Sedaris, David	Humorous essays about nervous tics, hitchhiking, and strange relationships.
<i>Sick Puppy</i>	Hiaasen, Carl	Young Twilly Spree sets off on an environmental rescue mission, determined to save a Gulf Coast island from the invasion of a mall-builder.
<i>The Nanny Diaries: A Novel</i>	McLaughlin, Emma	The life of a nanny in NYC isn't easy, especially when the employer is self-absorbed and expects service beyond childcare.

Notable Non Fiction



<i>Fast Food Nation</i>	Schlosser, Eric	Schlosser presents an examination of the fast food industry, tracing its history and discussing how it arose in postwar America, as well as the impact it has had on economy, food production, and popular culture.
<i>Lost Painting: The Quest for a Caravaggio Masterpiece</i>	Harr, Jonathan	A young grad student from Rome makes a discovery that inspires a search for a work of art lost for almost two centuries. She stumbles across a clue in a dusty archive, tracks the painting across hundreds of years of history, and finally manages to assemble the pieces of the puzzle.
<i>Pledged: The Secret Life of Sororities</i>	Robbins, Alexandria	The author goes undercover for a year examining the abusive and dangerous behavior that some young women inflict on their college sisters.
<i>River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey</i>	Millard, Candice	Roosevelt was the first "civilized" person to travel an unmapped tributary of the Amazon. True adventure filled with anacondas weighing up to 500 pounds, near-death, and the delight of exploration.

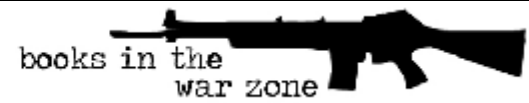
Notable Non Fiction



(cont.)

<i>Staples High School: 120 Years of A+ Education</i>	Woog, Dan	Riveting history of the greatest high school on earth. Familiar faces, and some not so familiar, tell the tales that made this school so amazing. Great photos, too.
<i>Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers</i>	Roach, Mary	Explores how human cadavers have been used throughout history, discussing how the use of dead bodies has benefited every aspect of human existence.
<i>The Devil in the White City</i>	Larson, Erik	This book weaves the true story of America's first serial killer with the development of the Chicago World's fair of 1893. It is a fascinating exploration of a different era. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: RACHEL GORMAN)
<i>The World is Flat</i>	Friedman, Thomas	This is a book all Staples students should read. After reading the book, we have a much clearer understanding of the kind of world Staples students will live in as working adults.
<i>Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith</i>	Krakauer, Jon	Mormon fundamentalists claim to have murdered at God's direct command. Krakauer examines the murders and the history of a fundamentalist, polygamist sect which led the murderers to believe they were doing the Lord's work.

Shock and Awe(some)



<i>Black Hawk Down</i>	Bowden, Mark	The story of the October 1993 attempt by a U.S. Special Forces team to abduct two top lieutenants of a Somali warlord in Mogadishu, Somalia and how the mission turned into a bloodbath that would cost the lives of 18 American soldiers.
<i>Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima</i>	Bradley, James	Bradley tracks down the truth behind the famous sculpture of the raising of the American flag over the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II. The myth of the sculpture differs from the truth.
<i>Going After Cacciato</i>	O'Brien, Tim	During the Vietnam War, an American soldier simply walks out of the jungle and decides to go to Paris. This winner of the National Book Award reveals war through its horrors, hallucinations, and comedy.
<i>In the Lake of the Woods</i>	O'Brien, Tim	When long-hidden secrets about the atrocities he committed in Vietnam come to light, a candidate for the U.S. Senate retreats with his wife to a lakeside cabin in northern Minnesota. Within days of their arrival, his wife mysteriously vanishes into the watery wilderness.
<i>Places in Between</i>	Stewart, Rory	Stewart hiked across Afghanistan in 2002. This is his story of the effects left on the beautiful country and its people by the Taliban and America's military involvement.
<i>Swallows of Kabul</i>	Khandra, Yasmina	Two couples suffer under the tyrannical Taliban. What would life be like under a fundamentalist culture where liberty and justice for all do not exist?
<i>The Quiet American</i>	Greene, Graham	A terrifying portrait of innocence at large. While the French Army in Indo-China is grappling with the Vietminh, back at Saigon a young and high-minded American begins to channel economic aid to a 'Third Force.'

Techios and Trellkies

Science, Sci-fi,
and Super Stuff

Blink: The Power of Thinking About Thinking	Gladwell, Malcolm	Just how important could snap decisions be? According to Gladwell, they are made instantly and often unconsciously with both positive and negative results. Fascinating look at an unusual subject. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: ELENA RUEVEN)
<i>Ender's Game</i>	Card, Orson Scott	A young boy is recruited for military training by the world government and enrolls in Battleschool. Among the elite recruits, Ender proves himself to be a genius among geniuses. (STUDENT REC: MATT CHON)
<i>Flatland</i>	Abbott, Edwin	A mind-expanding journey into a two-dimensional world gives us a new vision of our own beliefs about our state of being and society. Written in 1899.
<i>Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho</i>	Katz, Jon	Tells the true story of Jesse and Eric, nineteen-year-old roommates in the small town of Caldwell, Idaho who changed their lives and built a new future for themselves with the power of the Internet.
<i>Halo: Ghosts of Onyx</i>	Nylund, Eric S.	Master Chief defends a besieged Earth, while an ancient force has other plans.
<i>Something Wicked This Way Comes</i>	Bradbury, Ray	Two boys in Green Town, Illinois discover the dark world and strange characters that inhabit the carnival.
<i>Speaker for the Dead</i>	Card, Orson Scott	Part II of the Ender's Game trilogy. Ender Wiggin can now atone for his earlier failures.
<i>Thud</i>	Pratchett, Terry	Once again, Pratchett's wit livens up a story involving the hostility between trolls and dwarfs.
<i>Xenocide</i>	Card, Orson Scott	Part III of the Ender's Game trilogy. Humans, pequininos, and the Hive Queen can finally live in peace on Lusitania. However, a dangerous virus means Lusitania must be destroyed.

A Walk on the Wild Side

Wacky, edgy
& indescribable

<i>Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream</i>	Thompson, Hunter S.	Thompson and his alter ego drink, drug, and drive themselves through Las Vegas in 1971.
<i>Jesus' Son</i>	Johnson, Denis	Collection of stories narrated by a young man, an alcoholic and heroin addict, who has led a life of crime, betrayal, and loss.
<i>Perks of Being a Wallflower</i>	Chbosky, Stephen	Told through Charlie's diary, this is the story of growing up in high school. Charlie's letters are unique, hilarious, and devastating. His is a world of first dates, mixed tapes, family dramas, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show complete his world. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: MONICA VAUGH-FLAM)
<i>Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs</i>	Klosterman, Chuck	Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs is supposedly about art, entertainment, infotainment, sports, politics, and kittens, but really it's about all of us. He taken on the entire spectrum of postmodern America: reality TV, Internet porn, and Pamela Anderson, among others. Read it to believe it! (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: JOANNA GROSS)

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WHO READ IT	BOOK TITLE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
Dodig, John	<i>The Ruins</i>	Scott Smith	Consider a group of college age men and women on a vacation to Mexico. They decide to go on a small excursion looking for a friend who is missing. It is not long after their adventure begins that they realize what a horrific mistake they made. This is a great summer or vacation book or even simply a book to read each night before you go to bed. I know it is a real page turner.
	<i>Close Range, Wyoming Stories</i>	Annie Proulx	Eleven of Annie Proulx's best short stories all under one cover, the last of which is the famous "Brokeback Mountain". If you like a good story and enjoy the use of language to draw a fascinating picture, you'll love this book.
Dumais, Chip	<i>Einstein's Dreams</i>	Alan Lightman	A fictional work in which a twenty-six-year-old Albert Einstein, working in a patent office in Switzerland, dreams 30 scenarios in which time works differently as he formulates his theory of relativity.
	<i>"Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!": Adventures of a Curious Character</i>	Richard Feynman	A collection of often humorous anecdotes about the 1965 Nobel Prize winner for physics. Feynman covers topics as different as atomic physics and gambling.

••• Art Department •••

Eichler, Carla	<i>The Glass Castle</i>	Jeanette Walls	NYC Society/Entertainment reporter recounts her childhood growing up poor in West Virginia with her well meaning but eccentric and alcoholic parents. Walls covers how ashamed she was of her past, and how she got past the shame and accepted where she came from.
	<i>Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art</i>	Scott McCloud	Examines comics as an art form by detailing the process of how comics are created by combining writing, art, trends, subject matter, and themes.
	<i>Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance</i>	Barack Obama	Presidential candidate Barack Obama tells the story of his life as the son of a black African father and a white American mother, searching for a workable meaning to his life as an African American.
LaBelle, Jacqueline	<i>Math and the Mona Lisa</i>	Bulent Atalay	This book discusses the myriad of connections between art, math, and science. Focusing on Leonardo da Vinci's work, it also covers a wide range of topics from Ancient Egyptian Art to MC Escher.
	<i>Lamb</i>	Christopher Moore	A hysterical account of the gospel according to Biff, Christ's childhood pal. If you need a good laugh, Moore is one of the best current comedy writers out there.
	<i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i>	Jarod Diamond	An account of how the world demographically came to be the way the way it is.
	<i>A Chance Meeting</i>	Rachel Cohen	Through old letters and eye-witness accounts, Cohen traces the myriad of connections among writers and artists of the late 19th & early 20th century America.

••• Art Department ••• (cont.)

LaBelle, Jacqueline	<i>To the Tower Born</i>	Robin Maxwell	Historical fiction surrounding the factual disappearance/murder of Edward and Richard of York. Set in 15 th century England.
	<i>Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister</i>	Gregory Maguire	The same author who wrote "Wicked," yet slightly less dark. A different twist on the Cinderella story.
	<i>Second Glance</i>	Jody Picoult	A mystery/romance that takes place both in modern day and early 20 th century Vermont.
	<i>The Keltiad Series</i>	Patricia Kennealy	A futuristic twist on the tales of Arthur and his descendents. Very well-written, with vivid characters.

••• Culinary Arts •••

Gans, Chef	<i>La Cucina: A Novel of Rapture</i>	Lily Prior	This book combines the sensuous pleasures of love and food, simmering in the heat of a Sicilian kitchen.
	<i>Girl Cook: A Novel</i>	Hannah McCouch	A hilarious modern romance about one woman's determined quest to have both love and a career, set against the backdrop of New York City's high-powered restaurants.
	<i>Little Indiscretions: A Novel</i>	Carmen Posadas	In this runaway international bestseller, winner of Spain's top literary prize, Agatha Christie meets Pedro Almodovar in the kitchen—a hilarious whodunit about the mysterious death of a chef.
	<i>Tummy Trilogy</i>	Calvin Trillin	Calvin Trillin's hilarious odyssey in search of something decent to eat is sheer joy. Not a cookbook.
	<i>Bone in the Throat: A Novel</i>	Anthony Bourdain	A wildly funny, irreverent tale of murder, mayhem, and the mob.
Grace, Chef	<i>Cooked</i>	Jeff Henderson	The inspiring true story of Jeff Henderson's journey from the streets to the stove, from cocaine to foie gras.
	<i>Prime</i>	Poppy Z. Brite	A culinary mystery with Texas-sized danger.

••• English Teacher Recommendations •••

Bauks, Jesse	<i>St. Lucy's School for Girls Raised By Wolves</i>	Karen Russell	Beautifully written debut collection of short stories that mix fantasy and reality and the surreal wonder of childhood. Russell (only 25 years old) blends emotion, both joyous and painful, through her vividly imagined characters which include a minotaur, an alligator wrestler, and several ghosts.
	<i>American Born Chinese</i>	Gene Luen Yang	This graphic novel was a finalist for the National Book Award. Yang splices three apparently unrelated storylines involving a mythical Chinese Monkey King, an ultimate negative Chinese stereotype turned sit-com character, and his own memoir of growing up in a Northern Californian suburb. All three stories meld into a truly thoughtful, and personal, look at growing up in America. Mr. Yang's drawings are also colorful and stunning and contribute storytelling.

...English Teacher Recommendations...(cont.)

Chiappetta, John	<i>Pastoralia</i>	George Saunders	A funny and bizarre collection of stories about down-and-out losers whom we cant help but root for.
	<i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i>	John Kennedy Toole	A truly hysterical book. The main character, Ignatius J. Reilly, is a one-man army crusading against a world of fools. Set in New Orleans, Ignatius is a sarcastic, obnoxious, self-centered hypochondriac. But how many such individuals do we get the luxury of meeting in our "normal" lives? Ignatius will remind you to celebrate the absurd and to laugh-out- loud.
Comm, Lisabeth	<i>The Tender Bar</i>	J.R. Moehringer	Memoir of a boy who grows up without a father and so hangs out at the local bar looking for fatherly affection. After a tough life, he gets into Yale and becomes a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist. Great writing.
	<i>The Painted Drum</i>	Louise Erdrich	A Native American drum, passed down through generations, has magical powers of healing. Erdrich shows up the problems and the special strengths of 21st century Native Americans.
	<i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>	Kiran Desai	Set in India, the novel shows us the pain that accompanies the loss of one's culture due to English colonization and immigration to America. Won the Booker Prize.
	<i>Gilead</i>	Marilynne Robinson	Beautifully written story of an old preacher who looks back over his life, reflecting on his spiritual values and the relationships with his son, his father and his grandfather.
Curis, Maureen	<i>Truth and Beauty</i>	Ann Pachett	This work of non fiction portrays an unwavering friendship between two writers, Ann Pachett and Lucy Grealy. Readers witness how, over 20 years, these women's lives intertwine, becoming both bound and liberated by art, despair, and love. Pachett reveals the uplifting and simultaneously brutal path of friendship.
Fulton, Michael	<i>The Places in Between</i>	Rory Stewart	An intriguing and all together terrifying account of the author's trek across Afghanistan in 2002. It just doesn't get any more real than this.
Geraghty, Dan	<i>The Stand</i>	Stephen King	Captain Trips has destroyed nearly every living human being ... and the apocalypse has yet to begin. Enter, Randall Flagg. The survivors must face the essence of evil. A book you will not put down--I promise.
	<i>Maximum Ride</i>	James Patterson	Patterson creates a world where genetic engineering and man-made superhumans have the ability to fly. Follow this allegorical look at the post 9/11 error focused on profiling, detention centers, secret prisons, and the fear of the unknown.
Holden, Patrick	<i>Schismatrix</i>	Bruce Sterling	An excellent example of "cyberpunk", a subgenre of Science Fiction. An interesting tale concerning the nature of gene modification, the integration of machines into the human body/psyche, and the consequences of an indefinite lifespan. Worthwhile for both enjoyment and analysis.
Humphrey, Elizabeth	<i>Anna Karenina</i>	Leo Tolstoy	A great book about forbidden love set during 19th century Russia that deals with class conflict and social expectations.
	<i>The Dark Tower Series</i>	Stephen King	This requires patience, as there are 7 books in the series-- but they're all out now! A great combination of western gunslingers with magic and alternate universes.
Kuroghlian, Gerald E.	<i>A Cup of Tea</i>	Mary Ephron	Set in New York in 1917, wealthy and privileged Rosemary Fall takes pity on a destitute Eleanor Smith who she meets on a rainy night in front of her home. Eleanor invites Rosemary into her home for a cup of tea. While there Rosemary meets Philip, Eleanor's fiancée and a romance begins.

...English Teacher Recommendations...(cont.)

Liepolt, Werner	<i>The Exception to the Rulers</i>	Amy Goodman	Amy Goodman's journalist background makes her stories about the abuse of political power here and throughout the world into reading that will wake you up, challenge the way you think, and present a view other than the one the establishment agrees upon.
	<i>The Good Fight</i>	Ralph Nader	He's not just a crank and a political joke. He started by forcing the big car manufacturers to stop producing death traps. He continued by fighting for healthy and humane working conditions. Today he takes on both major political parties because of their many failures which he talks about fixing in this book.
	<i>The Omnivore's Dilemma</i>	Michael Pollan	Non-fiction food for thought. Michael Pollan writes intelligently about the origins and implications of four types of meals. He weaves interesting, deep research into whatever topic he is covering, be it the energy used to produce and deliver food, the ways in which we have changed the foods we eat, and the ways in which we eat things that are no longer really even foods.
McNamee, Julia	<i>Naked</i>	David Sedaris	Wickedly funny, completely irreverent.
	<i>Bel Canto</i>	Anne Patchett	Lush and romantic, with a little politics thrown in. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: ANNIE HARNICK, SUZIE SCHNEIDER, CARLY SCHULMAN & RIKI SMOLEN)
Micinilio, Pat	<i>Any John Irving novel</i>	John Irving	I would recommend any of Irving's books: <i>The World According to Garp</i> , <i>A Widow for One Year</i> , <i>The Cider House Rules</i> , <i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i> , etc. Great novels of character development and stories that come full circle
	<i>Sowbelly</i>	Monte Burke	A great read for freshwater fishing enthusiasts about how some fisherman will go to extremes to catch a lunker bass. The "Sowbelly" is a rare and gigantic bass, almost mythical because of its enormous size. The book consists of informative historical accounts of fisherman trying to land this fish.
Robbins, Barbara	<i>The Alchemist</i>	Paul Coleho	The simple tale of one man's journey to discover his personal legend. If you enjoyed Hesse's <i>Siddhartha</i> , pick this book up.
	<i>Where the Heart Is</i>	Billie Letts	A pregnant teenage girl is abandoned by her boyfriend at a Walmart and faced with the predicament of how to survive on her own. A heart-warming tale. Skip the movie and read the book instead.
	<i>Thinner</i>	Stephen King	<i>Thinner</i> is the disturbing story of Billy Halleck's struggle to break free from a bizarre curse that is causing him to grow thinner and thinner and may just lead to his death. Sink your teeth into one of King's lesser-known works. (mature content)
Sawch, Deb	<i>Swimming to Antarctica</i>	Cox, Lynne	Distance swimmer Lynne Cox describes the challenges of swimming across the English Channel, the Bering Strait, the Strait of Magellan, Cook Strait in New Zealand, and in the cold waters of the Antarctic.
Wren, Suzanne	<i>The Shadow of the Wind</i>	Carlos Ruiz Zafon	This is a descent into murder and doomed love as Daniel becomes caught up in a mystery that surrounds the methodical elimination of one book. It all starts in the Cemetery of Forgotten Books...
	<i>Noble House</i>	James Clavell	Noble House is an intriguing story about a business merger between an American company and a Hong Kong institution. Cultural differences, business acumen, and love interests heat up and almost spiral out of control. This novel is only for the brave of heart, for although the story spans a week in time, it is over 1,000 pages.

•••English Teacher Recommendations•••(cont.)

Young, Gus	<i>N by E</i>	Rockwell Kent	The artist Rockwell Kent describes and illustrates a story of sailing to the arctic and the events that follow his subsequent shipwreck.
	<i>'Salem's Lot</i>	Stephen King	A vampire moves into a Maine village, providing King with the chance to develop small town characters as only he can; the novel is both action-packed and frightening, at once entertaining and intellectually valuable.
	<i>Ghost Town and Other Stories</i>	Patrick McGrath	A series of short stories inspired by post 9-11 New York describe the city in different time periods. McGrath's narrators are creepy but his stories are compelling.

•••Guidance Counselor Recommendations•••

Capozzi, Vicki	<i>My Sister's Keeper</i>	Jodi Picoult	A riveting story of how a family copes with the serious illness of a teenage daughter. Suspenseful with a surprise ending. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: ZANA HRVACIC)
	<i>Less Stress More Success</i>	Marilee Jones and Kenneth R. Ginsburg	Co-written by a top college admission dean and leading pediatrician, this first-of-its-kind book delivers strategies for surviving the admissions process while strengthening parent-child relationships, managing the stress of applying to college, and building resilience to meet challenges today and in the future. This book is just what parents and teens need to thrive during this most important rite of passage.
Honeycutt, Denise	<i>The Time Traveler's Wife</i>	Audrey Niffenegger	Clare and Henry fall deeply in love, but Henry has a condition which periodically resets him in time (past or future). They desperately try to retain their complex relationship.
Schwartz, Elaine	<i>The Memory Keepers Daughter</i>	Kim Edwards	A father makes a decision which he keeps secretive and it pulls an entire family apart.
Slocum, Deb	<i>History of Love</i>	Nicole Krauss	A moving story of the lives of a teenage girl and older man whose lives intersect around the authorship of a love story. Beautifully written.
Taney, Carol	<i>The Glass Castle</i>	Jeanette Walls	Wonderful memoir- beautifully depicting a unique highly atypical family (alcoholic father, bi-polar, artistic mother -both highly self-involved)and the resiliency of the children who survived it...Humor playing an important role.

•••Library Media Center & Computer Science•••

Roberts, Julia	<i>Looking for Alaska</i>	John Green	Sixteen year old Miles Halter faces the challenges of a new school--classes, pranks, and eccentric friends. Alaska, whom he has a crush on but who is involved with another young man, is troubled and exciting. A car crash leaves Miles with questions about longing, lust, and loss.
	<i>The Memory Keeper's Daughter</i>	Kim Edwards	What are the consequences of quick decisions made to protect others? Twins are separated at birth, leading to repercussions for two families. (STUDENT REC: CARLY SCHULMAN)

••• Library Media Center & Computer Science •••(cont.)

Roberts, Julia	<i>The Space Between Us</i>	Thrity Umrigar	Sera is an upper class housewife, living with her pregnant daughter and son-in-law in modern Bombay. Her servant, Bhima, has worked for her as their children have grown. As well, Bhima cares for her pregnant, teenage granddaughter. The characters' lives intersect though their home lives are dependent upon their very dissimilar classes and wealth, which often disrupts their attempts at friendship.
	<i>The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town</i>	John Grisham	Grisham tells the true story of Ron Williamson, a black minor league baseball player, who is sent to death row for murder and rape. Grisham reviews the evidence and trial transcripts, and interviews witnesses in an attempt to get to the truth of the accusations.
	<i>Sold</i>	Patricia McCormick	Lakshmi lives a simple life in Nepal until she is sold into prostitution to settle her step-father's gambling debt. This is a haunting fiction story of sexual slavery today written by an author who interviewed dozens of girls like Lakshmi in Nepal and India.
Rogers, Rob	<i>The Thirteenth Tale</i>	Diane Setterfield	An amazing tale part mystery, part suspense, maybe even a ghost story to boot! A tale of two women and their amazing lives. Very few books capture me like this one did; it is worth your time!
Stiles, Robin	<i>Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee</i>	Charles J. Shields	A biography about the somewhat reclusive, preferring to remain private, life of Harper Lee. Very well researched book. Would make a great companion to "To Kill a Mockingbird" or "In Cold Blood." A whole chapter chronicles the making of the movie as well. After reading it, I was spoiled for the rest of the summer. No other book I picked up compared!

••• Math Teacher Recommendations •••

Cameron, Elizabeth	<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Khaled Hosseini	A detailed account of one Afghani man's life who moves to the US and his journey back. Some events are graphic, but it gives a powerful insight into this culture during an important time in history.
	<i>Snow Flower and the Secret Fan</i>	Lisa See	I liked it as much as my favorite Memoirs of a Geisha. It is so interesting to learn about other cultures and that horrible custom of foot binding. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: CATHARINA VAAGEN)
Corbo, Frank	<i>Tender Bar</i>	J.R. Moehringer	A young boy grows up without a father but finds male role models at the local bar.
	<i>Mothers and Sons</i>	Colm Toibin	Short story collection about mother/son relationships that are distant and mysterious.
	<i>Founding Brothers</i>	Joseph Ellis	For history buffs. Details the social and political relationships among Washington, Jefferson, Adams and the founders of the US.
Gomez, Maggie	<i>Bringing Down the House</i>	Ben Mezrich	The inside story of six M.I.T. students who took Vegas for millions.
	<i>The Ponds of Kalambayi: An African Sojourn</i>	Mike Tidwell	A hilarious and moving memoir of a young Peace Corps volunteer in the remote corners of Zaire, Africa. It is a wonderful account of culture clash, generosity of spirit, and determination.

••• Math Teacher Recommendations •••(cont.)

Gomez, Maggie	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	An amazing story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the amusing and unforgettable Buendia family.
	<i>Uncle Petros and Goldbach's Conjecture</i>	Apostolos Doxiadis	The captivating tale of Uncle Petros and his bout with sanity as he tries to prove the most illusive Goldbach's conjecture.
Mahoney, Taryn	<i>Good In Bed</i>	Jennifer Weiner	This is a fun book about a single girl trying to make it after ending a long term relationship. It deals with issues from body image to dealing with different challenges. It's a great summer beach read!
	<i>The Craggy Hole in My Heart and the Cat Who Fixed it</i>	Geneen Roth	This book helps understand where pain comes from and gets into the head of an emotional eater and what triggers her compulsive eating. It's touching and will hit some level of understanding in everyone.
Walsh, Bill	<i>Lonesome Dove</i>	Larry McMurtry	A tale of the Old West where right is right and wrong is wrong.
	<i>A Prayer for Owen Meaney</i>	John Irving	Funny story about adolescence and finding one's place in life.
	<i>The Greatest Game Ever Played: Harry Vardon, Francil Ouiment, and the Birth of Modern Golf</i>	Mark Frost	Good early-twentieth-century history book about Harry Vardon and Francis Quimet., focusing on their showdown at the 1913 U.S. Open.

•••Physical Education Teacher Recommendations •••

Betts, Bruce	<i>Kite Runner</i>	Khaled Hosseini	A detailed account of an Afghani man's life who moves to the US and his journey back. Some events are graphic, but is gives a powerful insight into this culture during an important time in history.
Cittadino, Melissa	<i>My Heartbeat</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	Story revolves around a love triangle. This text was recommended to me by students who had picked it up at our SHS library.
Lawrence, Laddie	<i>God on the Starting Line</i>	Marc Bloom	Jewish coach at a Catholic prep school. This is Mark Bloom's true story.
Mafredonia, Chris	<i>What It Takes to Be Number One: Vince Lombardi on Leadership</i>	Vince Lombardi, Jr.	The famous coach's son examines the leadership qualities that his father considered essential to success. He explores the leadership philosophy of Vince Lombardi, extracts lessons about what it takes to be an effective leader, and shows how to apply those qualities to one's own life and career.
Petruccio, Coach	<i>Friday Night Lights</i>	H. G. Bissinger	One high school football season in Odessa, Texas, where football rules the community
	<i>Pros and Cons: The Criminals Who Play in the NFL</i>	Jeff Benedict	Benedict investigated off-the-field violence and found it pervades professional football. 21 percent of NFL players have been arrested or indicted for a serious crime (rape, domestic violence, DUI, battery, etc.)!

•••Physical Education Teacher Recommendations•••(cont.)

Punshon, Judy	<i>Daughter of Persia</i>	Sattarch Farman-Farmaian	Autobiography of author's childhood in a Persian harem, founding of the Tehran School of Social Work and her flight from Iran.
	<i>Ghost Town: Tales of Manhattan Then and Now</i>	Patrick McGrath	Three stories set in NYC that capture the city's life at three periods of time, including post 9-11.
	<i>Snow Flower and the Secret Fan</i>	Lisa See	Friends find a bond amidst isolation, arranged marriages, loss, and motherhood in 19 th century China.
	<i>Mothers and Sons</i>	Colm Toibin	Nine short stories that explore that delicate balance—the relationship between mothers and sons.

•••Science Teacher Recommendations•••

Johnson, Arlene	<i>Charity Girl</i>	Michael Lowenthal	Mike has written about the internment of young women with venereal disease during World War I through the eyes of a victim.
Jones, Will	<i>Beneath the Wheel</i>	Hermann Hesse	Are you an overworked, overstressed student at an overly competitive school? Creativity and intellect being stifled? Ever feel like your spirit is being crushed...Beneath the Wheel?
	<i>Lucy Gayheart</i>	Willa Cather	A tragic story of love and loss written in clear, resonant prose. Better and more moving than her other works. Highly recommended.
	<i>The Time Traveler's Wife</i>	Audrey Nifenegger	Very original, very creative, well written, incredibly moving love story. Wow. Easy to read, hard to forget. Caution: contains some coarse language. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: AVERY KLEINMAN & CARLY MACHLIS)
	<i>Treasure Island</i>	RL Stevenson	Pirates are cool. This book is cool. One of the originals, and still one of the best.
	<i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i>	John Kennedy Toole	Intelligent, interesting, hilarious. A real work of comic genius. Set in New Orleans. If you think the "Comic Book Guy" on the Simpsons is funny, you'll love Ignatius J. Reilly. Caution: contains some coarse language.
	<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i>	James Fenimore Cooper	An important and exciting early American novel about courage, love, life, and death on the frontier in colonial America. Set during the French and Indian War, it's full of battles and rescues. Not easy reading, but worth it.
	<i>The Road</i>	Cormac McCarthy	A man and his son struggle to survive in some bleak and blasted near-future. Very depressing, very literate, very thought-provoking, and ultimately, somewhat uplifting. Caution: contains some mature themes. Pulitzer Prize winner 2007.
	<i>The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat-</i>	Oliver Sacks	A man who thinks his own leg is that of a dead corpse, and it's attached to him. Twins who can give you, off the top of their head, a 10 digit prime number or what day of the week it was on October 19, 1283, but can't tie their shoes. A middle aged man whose memory stops at the age of 28. A fascinating set of short tales from a clinical psychiatrist and gifted story teller.
Scheetz, A.J.	<i>Canticle for Leibowitz</i>	A. Miller and M. Walter	Post-apocalyptic story of religion and technology. After to destruction of society by a nuclear war, the "simplification" sought to eliminate all technology including literacy. Required reading for any true Sci-Fi fan.

••• Science Teacher Recommendations ••• (cont.)

Scheetz, A.J.	<i>The Dispossessed: An Ambiguous Utopia</i>	Ursula K. Le Guin,	Le Guin is arguably the best-ever female science fiction writer. In the <i>Dispossessed</i> , Shevek, a respected physicist from the "moon" planet Anarres, which is an idealized communist state travels to the parent planet "Urras," which is a capitalist society, in order to reestablish ties. He soon finds himself dealing with profound culture clash problems.
	<i>Childhood's End</i>	Arthur C. Clarke	What if aliens suddenly appeared on earth and ended war, cruelty and strife? What if they spurred the onset of a golden age of man? What if they all looked like the devil? Read this book for these answers and more.
	<i>The Stars My Destination</i>	Alfred Bester	Cyberpunk before there was cyber or punk. Gully Foyle is the only man who can teleport through space and time. Some people don't like that.
	<i>Ringworld</i>	Larry Niven	A tour de force of technology applied to Sci-Fi. Louis Wu and his manic-depressive alien side kick Nesses explore an enormous ring shaped world that was build and abandoned by an unknown culture.
	<i>Solaris</i>	Stanislaw Lem	Researching an alien life form that covers the entire surface of a planet, Kris Kelvin and his colleagues find out just how alien the life form is. They also experience their darkest and most repressed fears as the life form attempts communication with them.
	<i>Neuromancer</i>	William Gibson	Gibson's most famous book, and the one that started the so called cyber punk genre. Lots of really cool characters fill this book. Many of the concepts and technologies in this 1984 book are alarmingly close to today's reality.
	<i>War with the Newts</i>	Karel Capek	Evolution in action. After the moderately intelligent marine animals are discovered, they are exploited by humans, until the newts start to pursue their own agenda.
	<i>Red Mars</i>	Kim Stanley Robinson	The first of a trilogy which includes, <i>Green Mars</i> and <i>Blue Mars</i> . <i>Red Mars</i> is about the colonization and terraformation (making a planet habitable for humans) of Mars. Be careful, once you pick this book up, you'll want to read all three!
	<i>The Book of the New Sun</i>	Gene Wolfe	A dark and disturbing book about a professional torturer who is exiled for showing mercy to one of his subjects. The book chronicles the adventures of Severain as he travels through a dying world.

••• Social Studies Teacher Recommendations •••

D'Amico, James	<i>The Island at the Center of the World</i>	Russell Shorto	It's the history of New York--or New Amsterdam-- that you never knew about! Based on many first-hand accounts of the Dutch settlers, the story of the development of the city with it's diversity, focus on trade, and international flavor, you'll realize that the "capital of the universe" hasn't changed all that much over the last four centuries.
Evan, Frances	<i>The Other Boleyn Girl</i>	Philippa Gregory	Historical fiction - The story of Mary Boleyn (Ann Boleyn's sister) and her affair with Henry VIII.
Ward, Megan	<i>The Pact</i>	Jodi Picoult	A heartbreaking story of close families going through a tragic event in their lives. The story develops into one of self-discovery for each of the families as they live through the surprises, betrayals, and arguments resulting from the tragedy. (STUDENT RECOMMENDATION: NIKOLE CASIMIR & EMILY KLOUDA)

••• Social Studies Teacher Recommendations •••(cont.)

Whiting, Jackie	<i>The Brief History of the Dead</i>	Kevin Brockmeier	The City, where the recently departed reside as long as they are remembered by the living, is home to a variety of souls: a journalist, a vagrant preacher, lovers, and Laura Byrd, whose time to remember is running out.
	<i>Power of One</i>	Bryce Courtenay	The story of Peekay, an English boy living in South Africa during World War II who learns about prejudice and slavery through friendship.
	<i>Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal</i>	Christopher Moore	Presents a humorous imagining of Jesus Christ's life, told by his longtime friend, Biff, taking a fresh look at his relationship with Mary Magdalene, the roles of the disciples, his crucifixion, and the Resurrection.
	<i>What Is the What</i>	Dave Eggers	Valentino Deng, a refugee now living in the U.S., has escaped civil war in Sudan. We learn about the trials he survived in Sudan as a boy, in Ethiopia and Kenya, and ultimately in America, where Deng never gives up his struggle for freedom.

••• Special Education Department •••

Bebee, Andrea	<i>The Secret Supper</i>	Javier Sierra	Father Agostino Leyre is sent to Milan in the 15 th century to solve the mystery of who is sending cryptic messages to the Church and to find out if Leonardo da Vinci has painted messages into The Last Supper.
	<i>The Intelligencer</i>	Leslie Silbert	Kate Morgan, private eye, investigates a London financier and discovers a mysterious manuscript, buried for centuries, that could lead to murder.
	<i>Panic</i>	Jeff Abbott	Fast-paced thriller about a filmmaker whose mother is murdered and then finds himself prey to a spy ring.
	<i>Entombed</i>	Linda A. Fairstein	A prosecutor investigates a case involving a twenty-year-old skeleton entombed behind a brick wall and draws a connection to a series of rapes in NYC.
	<i>Princess</i>	Jean P. Sasson	A Saudi Arabian princess tells of her life, from her turbulent childhood to her arranged marriage, revealing the role designated to women by men in Saudi Arabia.
Green, Deborah	<i>The Great Fire</i>	Hazzard, Shirley	In 1947 Japan, a thirty-two-year-old British war veteran recording the effects of the Hiroshima bombing is touched by the son and daughter of an Australian medical administrator--the brother suffering from a rare degenerative disease and the teenaged sister devoted to him. The veteran struggles with his attraction to the young girl.
	<i>Water for Elephants</i>	Sara Gruen	Orphaned during the Depression, Jacob runs off with a traveling circus. Details of the secret he kept for 70 years begin to unfold as he struggles to keep his sanity.
	<i>Suite Francaise</i>	Irene Nemirovsky	This historical novel from the 1940s concerns the German occupation of Paris and the plight of the author. Written in 1942, prior to her being arrested and sent to Auschwitz, Nemirovsky had written two of the planned five parts of the novel. Sixty-four years later, the novel was brought to light by her daughter who found it in a suitcase.
Huisking, Mary Lou	<i>Mozart's Women</i>	Jane Glover	For those with an interest in opera and divas, this is a great book. Mozart also traveled throughout Europe a great deal thus making this book a nice glimpse of Europe in the late 1700s. A great read.

... Theater Department ...

David Roth	<i>Swing: A Mystery</i>	Rupert Holmes	Jazz saxophonist Ray Sherwood is haunted by personal tragedy, but when a talented student asks him to help with a new composition, Ray finds himself drawn to the coed, but their involvement soon causes more problems for Ray and threatens everything he has accomplished.
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... World Language Department ...

DeLuca, Catalina	<i>Sold</i>	Patricia McCormick	Lakshmi lives a simple life in Nepal until she is sold into prostitution to settle her step-father's gambling debt. This is a haunting fiction story of sexual slavery today written by an author who interviewed dozens of girls like Lakshmi in Nepal and India.
	<i>Ester and Ruzya: How My Grandmothers Survived Hitler's War and Stalin's Peace</i>	Masha Gessen	The Russian author tells the story of how her grandmothers, two Jewish women, survived the Eastern European programs, the Holocaust and Stalin's purges.
	<i>Live to Tell the Tale</i>	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	A must read for those who want to understand his writings. This is Gabriel Garcia Marquez's autobiography. It has been published in both English and Spanish.
	<i>A Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	It is wonderful to read this masterpiece just after you read "Live to Tell the Tale." You will understand this book in a new light.
	<i>When I Was Puerto Rican</i>	Esmeralda Santiago	The first part of her autobiography that take us from her humble beginnings in Puerto Rico to her getting her Doctorate and everything she learned in the process
	<i>El Cantaro Fresco</i>	Juana de Ibarborou	A collection of wonderful poems in simple, easy-to-read language.
Fray, Chris	<i>Ester and Ruzya: How My Grandmothers Survived Hitler's War and Stalin's Peace</i>	Masha Gessen	The Russian author tells the story of how her grandmothers, two Jewish woman, survived the Eastern European programs, the Holocaust and Stalin's purges.
Pels, Susan	<i>Heat</i>	Bill Buford	A food critic apprentices with Mario Batali and then travels to Italy to learn what it's really like to be a chef.
	<i>Zorro</i>	Isabel Allende	How did Diego de la Vega grow up to become Zorro? An adventure story with a background of 19th century California under Spanish rule.
	<i>In the Shadow of the Wind</i>	Carlos Ruiz Zafón	A literary mystery, a coming of age story and a romance, set in Barcelona.
	<i>My Life in France</i>	Julia Child	Julia explains how she discovered French cuisine and invented herself as a chef.
	<i>The Piano Tuner</i>	Daniel Mason	The British War Office commissions a piano tuner to travel to Burma in the late 19th century.
Sullivan, Dan	<i>Roma</i>	Steven Saylor	One of the liveliest novels I've read about Rome's first 1,000 years.