

11th Grade Summer Reading List

Warning: Any of the following young adult literature may contain mature reading material.

Adams, Douglas. Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Fiction - Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. Catalyst. Fiction - Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

Angelou, Maya. I Know why the Caged Bird Sings. – Autobiography - Covers the childhood of a woman who has been a professional dancer, actress, poet, journalist, and television producer.

Beah, Ishmael. Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a boy soldier. - Autobiography - Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States.

Bennett, Cherie. Life in the Fat Lane. – Fiction - Sixteen-year-old Lara, winner of beauty pageants and Homecoming Queen, is distressed and bewildered when she starts gaining weight and becomes overweight.

Bruchac, Joseph. Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two. -Fiction - After being taught in a boarding school run by white men that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during WWII in their native tongue.

Burch, Jennings Michael. They Cage the Animals at Night. Non-fiction - A personal account of the author's experiences living in New York City orphanages and foster homes from 1949 until his reunion with his friend and guardian three years later.

Carson, Rachel. Silent Spring. Non-fiction - This classic non-fiction book identified the dangers of indiscriminate pesticide use.

Cather, Willa. My Antonia. – Fiction - A successful lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with an immigrant Bohemian girl.

Flinn, Alex. Breathing Underwater. Fiction - Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father.

Going, K.L. Fat Kid Rules the World. - Fiction - Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly three hundred pounds, gets a new perspective on life when Curt, a semi-homeless teen who is a genius on guitar, asks Troy to be the drummer in a rock band.

Gottlieb, Lori. Stick figure : a Diary of my Former Self. – Autobiography - The author shares her childhood diaries, chronicling her experiences as an eleven-year-old anorexic.

Hinds, Gareth. Beowulf. - Graphic Novel - "For this edition, the author and editors have prepared a new text, based on the translation of A.J. Church published by Seeley & Co. in 1904"-A graphic novel adaptation of the Old English epic poem, "Beowulf," in which a Norse hero saves Denmark's royal house from monsters, returns home to become his own people's greatest king, and then faces a murderous dragon to protect them.

Klause, Annette. Blood and Chocolate. – Fiction - Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her “packmates” and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom.

Melville, Herman. Moby Dick. – Fiction – Story about Ishmael, who signs on to the "Pequod," a whaling ship led by Captain Ahab and soon realizes the captain's main mission is to seek revenge on the great white whale that once maimed him.

Shusterman, Neal. Everlost. – Fiction - When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.

Sorrells, Walter. Fake ID. – Fiction - After a lifetime on the run with her mother, sixteen-year-old Chass begins to piece together her disturbing past--which involves a mysterious tape, a deceased popular singer, and secrets in a small Alabama town--when her mother disappears, but Chass has only six days to find her before being put into foster care, and someone dangerous wants to find Chass first.

Spiegelman, Art. Maus: A Survivor's Tale. Graphic novel (Non-fiction) - A memoir about Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself. Cartoon format portrays Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

Strasser, Todd. Can't Get There From Here. - Fiction - Tired of being hungry, cold, and dirty from living on the streets of New York City with a tribe of other homeless teenagers who are dying, one by one, a girl named Maybe ponders her future and longs for someone to care about her.

Volponi, Paul. Black and White. – Fiction - Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.

Zevin, Gabrielle. Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac. – Fiction - After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life.

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