

12th Grade Summer Reading List

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

Albom, Mitch. Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson. Non-fiction – Visits with a dying sociology professor offer valuable lessons about the art of living and dying with dignity.

Alvarez, Julia. In the Time of Butterflies. Fiction - a fictionalized account of four sisters in the Dominican Republic under the dictatorship of General Trujillo.

Chopin, Kate. The Awakening. Fiction - Edna Pontellier, a Victorian-era wife and mother, is awakened to the full force on her desire for love and freedom when she becomes enamored with Robert LeBrun, a young man she meets while on vacation.

Conrad, Joseph. Heart of Darkness. Fiction - The captain of a steamship on the Congo River meets and observes Mr. Kurtz, the fabled chief of the Inner Station for the trading company on that river in 1890.

De la Cruz, Melissa. Blue bloods. - Fiction - Schuyler Van Alen, a loner at a prestigious New York City private school, sets out to learn the secrets of the Blue Bloods, an ancient group of vampires.

Esquivel, Laura. Like Water for Chocolate: A Novel in Monthly Installments, with Recipes, Romances, and Home Remedies. Translation of: Como agua para chocolate. A romantic and poignant tale of love and family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico. Includes recipes.

Green, John. Looking for Alaska. – Fiction -Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

Griffin, John Howard. Black Like Me. Non-fiction - The author, a white man, recounts his experiences when he darkened his skin and traveled through the South as an African-American man.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. The House of Seven Gables. Fiction - The Pyncheons, having lived for generations under the curse of a supposed witch who once occupied the land on which the family mansion was built, gain a new lease on life with the arrival of young Phoebe Pyncheon from the country.

Heller, Joseph. Catch-22. Fiction - A bombardier, based in Italy during World War II, repeatedly tries to avoid flying bombing missions while his colonel tries to get him killed by demanding that he fly more and more missions.

Hosseini, Khaled. The Kite Runner. Fiction - Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed, in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery to a Taliban official.

Johnson, Angela. The First Part Last. Fiction - Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

Kafka, Franz. The Metamorphosis. Fiction - A young man wakes up one morning to find himself transformed into a giant beetle-like insect. He becomes an object of disgrace to his family and an alienated man.

Kidd, Sue Monk. The Secret Life of Bees. Fiction - Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.

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

Lynch, Chris. Inexcusable. – Fiction - High school senior and football player Keir sets out to enjoy himself on graduation night, but when he attempts to comfort a friend whose date has left her stranded, things go terribly wrong.

Mori, Kyoko. Shizuko's Daughter. – Fiction - After Yuki's mother commits suicide, the 12-year-old girl must live with her distant father and his resentful new wife. Cut off from her mother's family, Yuki learns to rely on her own inner strength to cope with the tragedy.

O'Brien, Tim. The Things They Carried. Fiction - Contains a collection related fiction short stories with recurring characters, interwoven plot and themes told by a foot soldier retelling his experiences in the Vietnam War.

Peters, Julie Anne. Luna: a novel. Fiction - Fifteen-year-old Regan's life, which has always revolved around keeping her older brother Liam's transsexuality a secret, changes when Liam decides to start the process of "transitioning" by first telling his family and friends that he is a girl who was born in a boy's body.

Satrapa, Marjane. Persepolis. Graphic novel (Non-fiction) - Translation of: Persepolis. Contains black-and-white comic strip images in which the author shares the story of her life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen while the country came under control of the Islamic regime.

Soto, Gary. The afterlife. – Fiction - A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance.

Wooding, Chris. Storm Thief. – Fiction – With the help of a golem, two teenaged thieves try to survive on the city island of Orokos, where unpredictable probability storms continually change both the landscape and the inhabitants.

Wright, Richard. Black Boy. – Fiction - An autobiographical novel portraying racial conflicts in the rural South.

Zenatti, Valerie. When I was a soldier : a memoir. – Autobiography - Translation of: Quand j'étais soldate. Presents the memoirs of Valerie Zenatti, who at eighteen, enlisted in the Israeli army, endured harsh conditions and surroundings, and participated in top secret missions for the Israeli Secret Service, and describes her French-Jewish heritage and personal struggles.