

C.C. Mellor Memorial Library

Recommended Reading List

Grade 9 and Grade 10

- Adams, Douglas. *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Crown, 2004 (25th anniversary edition). First published 1980. Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is rescued by his friend Ford Prefect, and together they travel the galaxy with the help of a handy guide labeled "Don't Panic."
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1999. A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.
- Armstrong, Lance. *It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life*. Berkley, 2001. A teenage misfit who finds his niche in cycling calls on the same personal characteristics that made him a cycling champion to survive cancer, win the Tour de France and find real joy.
- Bragg, Rick. *All Over but the Shoutin'*. Vintage, 1998. Pulitzer-prize winning reporter Rick Bragg remembers his years of growing up in poverty-stricken Alabama and how football became the vehicle for his success.
- Brashears, Ann. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. Delacorte, 2001. During summer break, longtime friends Lena, Tibby, Carmen, and Bridget each embark on adventures that they share with one another through a pair of jeans that they have decided will be worn by all and so will absorb all of their stories.
- Brooks, Geraldine. *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*. Viking, 2001. A young heroine reacts with courage in her struggle to survive when half the population of a small village dies of plague in 1666.
- Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Shadow*. Tor, 1999. Bean begins life as an illegal experiment and ends up a disciple and safety net for Ender Wiggins in the battle to save Earth from the Buggers.
- Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Dutton, 1999. Sixteen-year-old Griet, hired as a servant in the busy household of famous 17th-century artist Johannes Vermeer, takes on the duties of cleaning his studio, mixing colors, and standing in as a model. Eyebrows are raised when Griet is seen wearing a pearl earring that belongs to Vermeer's wife.
- Conroy, Pat. *My Losing Season*. Nan A. Talese, 2002. Novelist Pat Conroy remembers a year on the basketball team at the Citadel, in a tribute to the value of sports in his life.
- du Maurier, Daphne. *Rebecca*. First published 1938. With a husband she barely knows, a young bride moves into their isolated estate, where she finds herself increasingly haunted by the previous Mrs. De Winter and intimidated by her sinister servant.
- Enger, Leif. *Peace Like a River*. Grove/Atlantic, 2001. Reuben, an asthmatic boy in 1960s Minnesota, tells of his family's quest in search of his older brother Davy, who escaped from jail the morning of his sentencing for murder.
- Feiler, Bruce. *Abraham; A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*. William Morrow, 2002. A biography of Abraham, the father of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, as seen through the beliefs of each religion.
- Gantos, Jack. *Hole in My Life*. Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2002. A compelling personal memoir of a poor boy's dream to be a writer, his entanglements with drugs and prison, and his ultimate success.

- Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms*. First published 1929. A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.
- Herbert, Frank. *Dune*. First published 1965. The Atreides family is banished to planet Dune, where the ferocious Fremen live.
- Hillenbrand, Laura. *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*. Random House, 2001. The true story of jockeys and trainers who create a Depression-era thoroughbred racing champion that captures the imagination of an entire nation.
- Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*. Viking, 2002. Searching for a connection to her dead mother, Lily leaves her abusive father and finds shelter with a family of African American sisters.
- McCall Smith, Alexander. *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. Anchor Books, 2002. Immediately upon setting up shop in a small storefront in Gaborone, Precious Ramotswe is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, follow a wayward daughter, and to locate a missing boy who may have been snatched by witch doctors.
- Martel, Yann. *The Life of Pi: A Novel*. Harcourt, 2002. Sixteen-year-old Pi Patel, his family and their zoo animals emigrate from India to North America aboard a cargo ship, but the ship sinks and Pi finds himself sharing a lifeboat with a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Man Booker Prize, 2002
- Mathabane, Mark. *Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa*. Macmillan, 1986. Despite overwhelming odds, a young South African boy triumphs over the degrading racism and dire poverty of his childhood.
- Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone With the Wind*. First published 1936. After her genteel, romantic lifestyle is swept away by the Civil War, Scarlett O'Hara summons strength to salvage her plantation home.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*. Scholastic, 1988. Young American soldiers are soon disillusioned and challenged by the realities of the war in Vietnam. Coretta Scott King Award, 1989.
- Pratchett, Terry. *Going Postal*. HarperCollins, 2004. Arch-swindler Moist Van Lipwig has an awful choice to make: he can hang, or he can try to re-establish the long defunct Ank Morpork Post Office, where tons of undelivered letters have been accumulating for decades.
- Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1996. Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North. Carnegie Medal.
- Quindlen, Anna. *Blessings: A Novel*. Random, 2002. The caretaker on a large estate takes on the care of an abandoned baby with the help of the estate's matriarch.
- Salinger, J. D. *Catcher in the Rye*. First published 1951. Holden Caulfield runs away from boarding school to New York City.
- Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse Five*. First published 1969. After surviving the bombing of Dresden in World War II, Billy Pilgrim spends time on the planet Tralfamadore.
- White, T. H. *The Once and Future King*. First published 1958. The chivalry and romance of medieval England are transported to the modern world.
- Wright, Richard. *Native Son*. First published 1940. A young African-American man, trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, only finds release in acts of violence.

Books can be found in the Young Adult section and the Adult section of the library. Ask the desk staff for help locating the book you want to read.

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