

7th and 8th Grade Gifted/Honors SUMMER READING PROJECT

BOOK LISTS

Because you will be taking a higher level course at CMS next year, you will complete a different summer reading assignment than regular language arts classes. You will be required to read a **total of 2-3 books over the summer** (for your grade level in 2013-2014). This assignment is not optional and time will not be given to complete the reading once the school year has begun. This will connect to your first set of grades in the class, so be sure to do your best. The tables below will display and explain your reading selection options.

FICTION OPTIONS: Every student must read at least **one novel** from this list for your grade.

7 th Grade Fiction	8 th Grade Fiction
<i>Nothing but the Truth</i> by Avi	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> by Arthur Conan Doyle
<i>The Wave</i> by Todd Strasser	<i>The Outsiders</i> by S E Hinton
<i>The Wednesday Wars</i> by Gary D. Schmidt	<i>The Glory Field</i> by Walter Dean Myers
<i>The Running Dream</i> by Wendelin Van Draanen	<i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i> by Avi
<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i> by Agatha Christie	<i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card
<i>A Monster Calls</i> by Patrick Ness	<i>And Then There Were None</i> by Agatha Christie
<i>The Chosen</i> by Chaim Potok	<i>Z is for Zachariah</i> by Robert C O'Brien
<i>Unwind</i> by Neal Shusterman	<i>Romiette and Julio</i> by Sharon M. Draper

NON-FICTION OPTIONS: Every student must read at least **one novel** from this list (7th and 8th).

- *Get Organized Without Losing It* by Janet Fox
- *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey
- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
- *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science* by John Fleischman
- *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller
- *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jimenez
- *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L Swanson (7th)
- *A Life in the Wild: George Schaller's Struggle to Save the Last Great Beasts* by Pamela S. Turner
- *The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir* by Farah Ahmed
- *Three Cups Of Tea* by Greg Mortenson (8th only)
- *Heroes, Gods, and Monsters* by Bernard Evslin

ALTERNATIVE OPTION: CLASSICAL LITERATURE: Any student may choose to substitute one classical selection from the list below for one Fiction or Non-Fiction selection. This must be the FULL novel!

- *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- *The Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne
- *20,000 Leagues under the Sea* by Jules Verne
- *White Fang* by Jack London
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* by Roger Lancelyn Green
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain
- *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
- *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell
- *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
- *Poor Richard's Almanac* by Benjamin Franklin

CHOICE READING OPTION: For extra credit, each student may read **one additional book of his/her choosing**. It should be a middle or high school level text, but you may choose which book you want to read (or re-read).

BOOK PROJECTS

You will be required to complete a **project for each of the 2 (or 3) books**. This means, you will complete a Fiction Option Project, a Non-Fiction Option Project, and *the* Choice Option Project. In many cases, you have a choice as to which project to complete. Be sure to pay attention to the grading rubric (attached). This assignment is not optional and time will not be given to complete the reading once the school year has begun. This will be your first set of grades in the class, so be sure to do your best. The projects can be found below.

FICTION OPTION PROJECT

Every student must complete a project on your **Fiction Option** (or Classical if you substituted) selection to verify your completion of the book. You may choose any ONE project listed below. The project will be completed outside of class or during the summer and is due on **Thursday, August 15th**.

Fiction Project Choices

Word Strong

- ❖ Create a full **newspaper page** for your story. Cleverly summarize the plot in one of your articles. Cover the weather in another. Include an editorial and a collection of ads that would be pertinent to the story. Be sure to include a title and date for your newspaper.
- ❖ Pretend that you have been chosen to write a **sequel** to this story. Create a book jacket, including cover image on the front, a blurb (summary) on the back, and information about the author on the inside front cover. The blurb should include information about the sequel's plot, setting and main characters. Add pages inside the book jacket to include the first chapter of the sequel (1-3 pages).
- ❖ Add a **new character** to the story that would clearly change the story's plot. Re-tell three key scenes with this new character (climax, resolution, student choice) by re-writing the scene or turning the scenes into a comic strip (of at least 15 sections total). At the end of the re-written scenes, include a paragraph comparing the original story to the changed version of the story (title this paragraph "COMARISON").

Art Strong

- ❖ Summarize the plot of your story by creating a **cartoon** version of the story. Use about 25 frames.
- ❖ Construct a 10 page **scrapbook** for your favorite character as if s/he created it during the story. Include a clear caption of each image.

Sound Strong

- ❖ Rewrite an important/exciting chapter/section of your story from another character's point of view. Dramatically **record** it on tape. Add sound effects to your recording. Play it in class. (The recording should be around 5 minutes in length.)
- ❖ Choose a **song** (school appropriate), such as *Airplanes* by B.o.B, and change the lyrics so they are about the story. Keep in tune! Include background music if at all possible!

Idea Strong

- ❖ Come up with a new **invention** that you could add to the story to make it more interesting. Your invention could help a character with a conflict or even change the event in the story completely. Give the invention a clever name and include a diagram of the invention, a paragraph explaining its purpose, and a clear explanation of how it would change the story.
 - ❖ Research and prepare a report on the author's life and how his/her life affected her writing in your book. Include information on why the **author** wrote this book and a general summary of the plot. The report can be done as an essay or a neat, organized, informative, attractive PowerPoint. Author's webpages and interviews can be very helpful for this!
 - ❖ Design your own **personal** response. Remember to get your teacher's approval (by August 5) before you begin.
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NON-FICTION OPTION PROJECT

Every student must complete a project on your **Non-Fiction Option** selection to verify your completion of the book. (If you substituted Classical for Non-Fiction, choose another project from the requirements for Fiction instead of a Non-Fiction topic.) The project will be completed outside of class or during the summer and is due on **Tuesday, August 13th**.

Select ONE option from the list below AND complete the Non-Fiction Cover Page (attached).

Project Options

- ❖ Construct a **mural** about the book. The mural should include a collection of images showing surface and deep meanings from the book. Make a list of the images chosen, why, and how they each relate to the story.
 - ❖ Construct a 10 page **scrapbook** for your favorite character as if s/he created it during the story. Include a clear caption of each image.
 - ❖ Create a full **newspaper page** for your story. Cleverly summarize the plot in one of your articles. Cover the weather in another. Include an editorial and a collection of ads that would be pertinent to the story. Be sure to include a title and date for your newspaper.
 - ❖ Design your own **personal** response. Remember to get your teacher's approval (by August 5) before you begin.
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CHOICE OPTION PROJECT

Students who chose to read an additional book to receive extra credit must complete a project on your **Choice Option** selection to verify your completion of the book. The project will be completed outside of class or during the summer and is due on **Monday, August 19th**. Complete the book report template (attached).

NON-FICTION RESPONSE

NAME:

DATE:

TITLE & AUTHOR:

MAIN IDEA:

EVIDENCE:

EVIDENCE:

TEXT FEATURES:

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My MAGNIFICENT Book Report

This is my book cover.

Theme by _____

The author's message to the reader is...

The Book's Title Is: _____

The Author Is: _____

The genre(s) of this book: (check one or more)

- fiction
- nonfiction
- adventure
- mystery
- biography
- humor
- fantasy
- sports
- historical
- friendship
- folk or fairy tale
- spooky
- science
- animal tale
- other _____

Character

Here's information about my favorite character:

Something the character said was ...

Name of character _____

How the character looked _____

Something the character did _____

How I am/am not like the character _____

Setting

Here is where my story took place:

Description _____

Drawing _____

Plot

Here's a mini-movie showing 3 key events in the story:

Event 1 _____

Event 2 _____

Event 3 _____

Quick Takes

Three words to describe this book are
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

This book is special because _____

This book reminded me of _____

A new vocabulary word I learned from this book is _____
It means _____

Here's something I know about the author _____

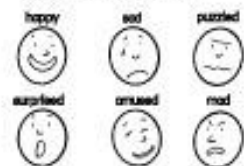
Cause and Effect

This event in the story had a powerful effect:

Cause _____

Effect _____

This book made me feel ... (color in one or more)



because _____

I give this book _____ stars (color in one or more)

I would recommend this book to _____ (person's name)
because _____

Fiction and Non-Fiction Project Rubric				
	Exceeding 5	Achieving 4	Progressing 3	Struggling 2
Book title/author and student's name are clearly labeled	Book title, book author and student name are clearly labeled and project is given a clever title	Book title, book author and student name are clearly labeled	Missing book title, book author OR student name	Missing 2/3 or more: Book title, book author and student name are clearly labeled
Project is completed according to the directions (points x3)	All directions were followed and embellishments were added	All directions were clearly followed	Project is missing one minor element	Project is missing more than one minor element
Project is neat and shows effort	Project is neat, well organized, attractive, and demonstrates substantial time and effort	Project is neat, organized, and looks attractive	Neatness, organization, or attractiveness could be improved	2/3 or more could be improved: neatness, organization, attractiveness
Information is accurate and clearly shows understanding of the book (points x3)	Information given is completely accurate, shows a deep understanding of the book's message and is easily understood by the audience.	Information given is completely accurate and shows a general understanding of the book.	Information given is almost completely accurate and shows a general understanding of the book with no more than one minor error	Information given is inaccurate and/or does not demonstrate a general understanding of the book
Creativity	Project shows a high level of creativity (ex: information or project presented in a unique way).	Project shows some creativity.	Project shows little creativity.	Project shows no creativity.
Mechanics	No grammar or spelling errors.	Grammar and/or spelling errors do not interfere understanding, but 1-3 grammar errors do exist.	Grammar and/or spelling errors may minimally interfere understanding; 4-7 grammar errors do exist.	Grammar and/or spelling errors interfere with understanding or more than 7 errors are present.
Project is turned in on time	Project is turned in early.	Project is turned in on time.	Project is turned in one school day late.	Project is turned in 1-5 school days late.
TOTAL				

GRADE: _____/55

Annotated Book List

- ***Nothing but the Truth* by Avi**
 - In this thought-provoking examination of freedom, patriotism, and respect, ninth-grader, Philip Malloy, is kept from joining the track team by his failing grades in English class. Convinced that the teacher just doesn't like him, Philip concocts a plan to get transferred out of her class. Breaking the school's policy of silence during the national anthem, he hums along, and ends up in a crisis at the center of the nation's attention.
 - Fiction: Diaries & Journals, Realistic Fiction
- ***The Wave* by Todd Strasser**
 - The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.
 - Fiction: Historical Fiction
- ***The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt**
 - Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.
 - Fiction: Historical Fiction
- ***Unwind* by Neal Shusterman**
 - The Second Civil War was fought over reproductive rights. The chilling resolution: Life is inviolable from the moment of conception until age thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, parents can have their child "unwound," whereby all of the child's organs are transplanted into different donors, so life doesn't technically end. Connor is too difficult for his parents to control. Risa, a ward of the state is not enough to be kept alive. And Lev is a tithe, a child conceived and raised to be unwound. Together, they may have a chance to escape and to survive.
 - Fiction: Science Fiction
- ***The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen**

- Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope with crutches and a first cyborg-like prosthetic, Jessica feels oddly both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say, act like she's not there. Which she could handle better if she weren't now keenly aware that she'd done the same thing herself to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her.
 - Fiction: Realistic Fiction
- ***Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie**
 - Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. One of his fellow passengers must be the murderer. Isolated by the storm and with a killer in their midst, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer amongst a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again...
 - Fiction: Mystery
- ***A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness**
 - The monster showed up after midnight. As they do. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting. He's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the one he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments, the one with the darkness and the wind and the screaming... This monster is something different, though. Something ancient, something wild. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.
 - Fiction: Fantasy
- ***The Chosen* by Chaim Potok**
 - It is the now-classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again....
 - Fiction: Realistic Fiction
- ***The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle**
 - Holmes and Watson are faced with their most terrifying case yet. The legend of the devil-beast that haunts the moors around the Baskerville families home warns the descendants of that ancient clan never to venture out in those dark hours when the power of evil is exalted. Now, the most recent Baskerville, Sir Charles, is dead and the footprints of a giant hound have been found near his body. Will the new heir meet the same fate?
 - Fiction: Mystery
- ***The Outsiders* by S E Hinton**

- According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser.
 - Fiction: Realistic Fiction
- ***The Glory Field by Walter Dean Myers***
 - "Those shackles didn't rob us of being black, son, they robbed us of being human." This is the story of one family. A family whose history saw its first ancestor captured, shackled, and brought to this country from Africa. A family who can still see remnants of the shackles that held some of its members captive -- even today. It is a story of pride, determination, struggle, and love. And of the piece of the land that holds them together throughout it all.
 - Fiction: Historical Fiction
- ***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi***
 - An ocean voyage of unimaginable consequences... Not every thirteen-year-old girl is accused of murder, brought to trial, and found guilty. But I was just such a girl, and my story is worth relating even if it did happen years ago. Be warned, however: If strong ideas and action offend you, read no more. Find another companion to share your idle hours. For my part I intend to tell the truth as I lived it.
 - Fiction: Historical Fiction
- ***Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card***
 - In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut—young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Is Ender the general Earth needs? The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway for almost as long. Ender's two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If, that is, the world survives.
 - Fiction: Science Fiction
- ***And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie***
 - First, there were ten - a curious assortment of strangers summoned as weekend guests to a private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal - and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder.

One by one they fall prey. Before the weekend is out, there will be none. And only the dead are above suspicion.

- Fiction: Mystery

- ***Z is for Zachariah* by Robert C O'Brien**

- Ann Burden is sixteen years old and completely alone. The world as she once knew it is gone, ravaged by a nuclear war that has taken everyone from her. For the past year, she has lived in a remote valley with no evidence of any other survivors. But the smoke from a distant campfire shatters Ann's solitude. Someone else is still alive and making his way toward the valley. Who is this man? What does he want? Can he be trusted? Both excited and terrified, Ann soon realizes there may be worse things than being the last person on Earth.

- Fiction: Science Fiction

- ***Romiette and Julio* by Sharon M. Draper**

- When Romiette Cappelle meets Julio Montague, she feels as though she has met the soul mate who can rescue her from her recurring nightmare about fire and water. But like the Shakespearean characters whose names echo theirs, Romiette and Julio discover that not everyone approves of their budding romance. In their case, it is because Romiette is African-American and Julio is Hispanic, and the Devildogs, a dangerous local gang, violently oppose their interracial relationship. When the Devildogs threaten to teach them a lesson, Romiette and Julio come up with a risky plan to escape from the gang's fearsome shadow. But things go terribly awry, and the two find themselves caught up in a deadly reality more frightening than Romiette's nightmare -- and in a desperate struggle to avoid the tragic fate of Shakespeare's famous young lovers.

- Fiction: Realistic Fiction

- ***Get Organized Without Losing It* by Janet Fox**

- Kids today have a lot to keep track of—and keep organized. Schoolwork, friends, activities, chores...rooms, backpacks, lockers, desks...and what about fun? Here's friendly, practical, humorous help for kids who want to manage their tasks, their time, and their stuff—without going overboard or being totally obsessed. Tips, techniques, strategies, and examples empower kids to conquer clutter, prioritize tasks, handle homework, prepare for tests, plan projects, stop procrastinating, and start enjoying the benefits of being organized: less stress and more success. Lists and steps make it doable; jokes and cartoons make it enjoyable. Recommended for any kid who's frustrated, overwhelmed, and sick of hearing "Clean your room!" "Where's your homework?" and "You're going to be late AGAIN!"

- Non-Fiction: Self-Help

- ***The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey**

- Being a teenager is both wonderful and challenging. In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, author Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more. In addition, this book is stuffed with

cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens will engage teenagers unlike any other book.

- Non-Fiction: Self-Help

- ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster**

- What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey?. Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface—a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character—and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you. In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

- Non-Fiction: Reference

- ***Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science* by John Fleischman**

- Phineas Gage was truly a man with a hole in his head. A railroad construction foreman, Phineas was blasting rock near Cavendish, Vermont, in 1848 when a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain. Miraculously, he survived another eleven years and became a textbook case in brain science. But he was forever changed by the accident, and what happened inside his brain will tell you a lot about how your brain works and what makes us who we are.

- Non-Fiction: Science

- ***The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller**

- Great story of human courage and dedication recounted in autobiography of a remarkable woman: the magical moment when Miss Keller first recognizes the connection between words and objects, her joy at learning how to speak, friendships with notable figures, her education at Radcliffe and an extraordinary relationship with her inspired teacher, Anne Sullivan.

- Non-Fiction: Autobiography

- ***The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jimenez**

- Francisco Jimenez was born in Mexico, entered California illegally as a very young child, and spent his boyhood alternating between migrant farm work and the classroom. This collection of autobiographical short stories was written years later, when Jimenez had become an established professor at Santa Clara University (CA), but they give immediate access to the feelings of the growing boy. Adrian Vargas reads in a lightly accented English, offering a voice that is evidently that of the full grown man remembering, rather than that of the youth he remembers. Each story is simple, direct, and redolent with the smells of the earth, the sounds of the ever-changing home with its growing number of siblings, and the amazing experiences each new schoolroom offers. The frustrations range from those specific to poverty and migrancy, including the inability to follow up on promises made by a good teacher because the family moves on the day the offer of trumpet lessons has been proffered, through the universal experience of an older brother saddled with an ignorant younger sibling who insensitively feeds

his prized penny collection into the grocery store's gumball machine. Jimenez and Vargas both maintain a leisurely pace appropriate to storytelling that can reach a wide audience, giving the images constructed from words time to bloom in the audience's mind before wrapping each tale in a tight, often surprising, close.

- Non-Fiction: Autobiography

- ***Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L Swanson**

- The YA version of Swanson's bestselling *Manhunt*, this account of Lincoln's assassination and the 12-day search for his killer reads like a historical thriller, no matter that the narrative jumps among its locations and characters. As President Lincoln delivers victory speeches in April 1865, an enraged John Wilkes Booth vows death: "Now, by God, I'll put him through." Every bit of dialogue is said to come from original sources, adding a chill to the already disturbing conspiracy that Swanson unfolds in detail as Booth persuades friends and sympathizers to join his plot and later, to give him shelter. The author gives even the well-known murder scene at Ford's Theatre enough dramatic flourish to make the subject seem fresh. While Lincoln lays dying, Booth's accomplices clumsily attempt to kill Secretary of State William H. Seward, and Booth talks his way past a guard meant to bar him from crossing a bridge into Maryland. In focusing on Booth, the author reveals the depth of divisions in the nation just after the war, the disorder within the government and the challenges ahead. Abundant period photographs and documents enhance the book's immediacy.

- Non-Fiction: History

- ***A Life in the Wild: George Schaller's Struggle to Save the Last Great Beasts* by Pamela S. Turner**

- For more than fifty years, explorer-naturalist George Schaller has been on a mission: to save the world's great wild beasts and their environments. In this compelling biography, illustrated with Schaller's own striking photographs, Pamela S. Turner examines the amazing life and groundbreaking work of the man International Wildlife calls "the world's foremost field biologist." Schaller's landmark research revolutionized field biology, demonstrating that it is possible to study dangerous animals in their own habitats: mountain gorillas in Central Africa, predatory tigers in India, mysterious snow leopards in the Himalayas, and many others. His insights about species and environment led him to successfully advocate for the protection of over 190,000 square miles of wilderness around the world – an area the size of Spain. Packed with grand adventure, intriguing science, dramatic photographs, and Schaller's own breathtaking descriptions of the natural world and the animals who live in it, this full-color biography brilliantly captures the spirit and passion of George Schaller's unusual – and inspiring – life in the wild.

- Non-Fiction: Biography, Nature

- ***The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir* by Farah Ahmed**

- Farah Ahmed's poignant tale of survival chronicles her journey from war to peace. Equal parts tragedy and hope, determination and daring, Ahmed's memoir delivers a remarkably vivid portrait of her girlhood in Kabul, where the sound of gunfire and the sight of falling bombs shaped her life and stole her family. She herself narrowly escapes death when she steps on a land mine. Eventually the war forces her to flee, first over the mountains to refugee camps

across the border, and finally to America. Ahmedi proves that even in the direst circumstances, not only can the human heart endure, it can thrive. *The Other Side of the Sky* is a remarkable journey, and Farah Ahmedi inspires us all.

- Non-Fiction: Autobiography

- ***Three Cups Of Tea* by Greg Mortenson**

- In 1993 Greg Mortenson was the exhausted survivor of a failed attempt to ascend K2, an American climbing bum wandering emaciated and lost through Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya. After he was taken in and nursed back to health by the people of an impoverished Pakistani village, Mortenson promised to return one day and build them a school. From that rash, earnest promise grew one of the most incredible humanitarian campaigns of our time-Greg Mortenson's one-man mission to counteract extremism by building schools, especially for girls, throughout the breeding ground of the Taliban. Award-winning journalist David Oliver Relin has collaborated on this spellbinding account of Mortenson's incredible accomplishments in a region where Americans are often feared and hated. In pursuit of his goal, Mortenson has survived kidnapping, fatwas issued by enraged mullahs, repeated death threats, and wrenching separations from his wife and children. But his success speaks for itself. At last count, his Central Asia Institute had built fifty-five schools. *Three Cups of Tea* is at once an unforgettable adventure and the inspiring true story of how one man really is changing the world-one school at a time.

- Non-Fiction: Biography

- ***Heroes, Gods, and Monsters* by Bernard Evslin**

- The earth breeds giants and ogres of indescribable horror -- the heavens hold omnipotent gods and goddesses, abounding in courage, strength and wisdom. Zeus, the almighty king of the gods, who cannot resist feminine beauty -- mortal or divine, and his jealous and vengeful wife, Hera. Perseus, fearless mortal warrior, who takes on an impossible challenge: slaying the monstrous Medusa, whose glance turns men to stone. The Minotaur, half-man and half-bull, the horrible fruit of a queen's unspeakable desire, who annually destroys the young victims sacrificed to his terrifying power. A fantastic world of spells and curses, magic and mystery, forces that create and destroy at will.

- Non-Fiction: Mythology

- ***The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

- When ten-year-old Mary Lennox is sent to live with her mysterious uncle after the death of her parents, little does she realize the changes that will take place within herself. An invalid cousin, a crabby gardener, an animal charmer, and a rusty key to a secret garden all work their magic on the spoiled child from India.

- Fiction: Historical, Classic

- ***A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

- Sara Crewe is a young girl sent to a boarding school in London where she is to be lavishly cared for as instructed by her doting, wealthy father, Captain Crewe. When her father dies, and she is left an orphan and a pauper, Sara becomes a servant at the school, and befriends a maid with

whom she shares an attic room. Her imagination keeps her alive in her destitute life, and the rich stories she invents become as real to the reader as they do for Sara and the maid.

- Fiction: Historical, Classic

- ***Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne**

- Shocking his stodgy colleagues at the exclusive Reform Club, enigmatic Englishman Phileas Fogg wagers his fortune, undertaking an extraordinary and daring enterprise to circumnavigate the globe in eighty days. With his French valet Passepartout in tow, Verne's hero traverses the far reaches of the earth, all the while tracked by the intrepid Detective Fix, a bounty hunter certain he is on the trail of a notorious bank robber.

- Fiction: Adventure, Classic

- ***20,000 Leagues under the Sea* by Jules Verne**

- The classic story of Captain Nemo and his voyage underneath the sea is as wonderful today as it was in the late 1800s. A professor, his companion, and a whale harpooner are rescued at sea by the Captain and are forced to live as his prisoners in his underwater vessel.

- Fiction: Adventure, Science Fiction, Classic

- ***White Fang* by Jack London**

- Jack London's tales are more than epics of hardship and survival -- they are morality plays in which good wins over evil. In WHITE FANG, virtue takes shape in a young prospector and his fiercely loyal wolf-dog. It's a timeless tale of courage and survival as well as a touching friendship between man and animal.

- Fiction: Adventure, Classic

- ***Call of the Wild* by Jack London**

- At first, Buck does not understand his restlessness. Something is calling him...a sound, a feeling, a desire...too compelling to ignore. Day after day it grows more urgent, until finally the magnificent dog understands and obeys. Buck has to leave the world of human beings and campfires to answer "the call of the wild."

- Fiction: Adventure

- ***The Princess Bride* by William Goldman**

- What happens when the most beautiful girl in the world marries the handsomest prince of all time and he turns out to be...well...a lot less than the man of her dreams? As a boy, William Goldman claims, he loved to hear his father read the S. Morgenstern classic, *The Princess Bride*. But as a grown-up he discovered that the boring parts were left out of good old Dad's recitation, and only the "good parts" reached his ears. Now Goldman does Dad one better. He's reconstructed the "Good Parts Version" to delight wise kids and wide-eyed grownups everywhere. What's it about? Fencing. Fighting. True Love. Strong Hate. Harsh Revenge. A Few Giants. Lots of Bad Men. Lots of Good Men. Five or Six Beautiful Women. Beasties Monstrous and Gentle. Some Swell Escapes and Captures. Death, Lies, Truth, and a few Miracles. In short, it's about everything.

- Fiction: Fantasy

- ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain**

- In this classic story of boyhood escapades on the shores of the Mississippi River, Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn together find trouble and adventures wherever they go, including attending their own funerals!
 - Fiction: Adventure, Classic
- ***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**
 - When he escapes from his abusive father, Huckleberry Finn encounters danger and adventure on a raft trip down the Mississippi River. He stumbles into a situation where he is mistaken for his friend, Tom Sawyer, and helps free a slave from captivity.
 - Fiction: Adventure, Classic
- ***King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* by Roger Lancelyn Green**
 - Retold out of the old romances, this collection of Arthurian tales endeavors to make each adventure--"The Quest for the Round Table, " "The First Quest of Sir Lancelot, " "How the Holy Grail Came to Camelot, " and so forth--part of a fixed pattern that effectively presents the whole story, as it does in *Le Morte D'Arthur*.
 - Fiction: Fantasy, Classic
- ***Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott**
 - Jo, Beth, Meg, Amy, and their mother endure the hardships of poverty, while the girls' father is away fighting in the Civil War.
 - Fiction: Historical Fiction, Classic
- ***The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain**
 - English look-alikes from two different worlds, the palace and the slums, playfully change places and suddenly become confronted with each other's problems.
 - Fiction: Realistic Fiction, Classic
- ***The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane**
 - When young Henry Fleming leaves school to fight for his country in the American Civil War, he agonizes over whether he will act heroically or cowardly.
 - Fiction: Historical Fiction, Classic
- ***Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell**
 - Told from the point of view of Black Beauty, this classic tale follows the magnificent horse's adventures as a colt on a country squire's estate through his years as a London cab horse.
 - Fiction: Realistic Fiction, Classic
- ***The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway**
 - An old man goes to sea in hopes of changing his failing luck and finds himself alone in a battle with a giant fish.
 - Fiction: Adventure, Classic
- ***Poor Richard's Almanac* by Benjamin Franklin**
 - Poor Richard's Almanack is one of Benjamin Franklin's most charming creations. He delighted in cloaking his writing behind a variety of literary personas, and Richard Saunders remains one of his most beloved, although some critics have complained that Poor Richard reveals the shallow materialism at the heart of Franklin's homespun philosophy and, by extension, at the heart of

America itself. The Almanack holds a central place in understanding Franklin and his evolution from humble tradesman to founding father as well as providing a fascinating window into colonial America. Franklin's sharp wit still retains its ability to surprise and delight readers today.

- Non-Fiction: Autobiography