

FOR INCOMING 11TH GRADERS

Bellow, Saul: ***Mr. Sammler's Planet***

A novel of modern society as seen by a Nazi concentration camp survivor in New York.

Block, Francesca: ***Echo***

The coming -of- age book of a sixteen- year-old girl in senior high. Each chapter deals with the people in her life. Deals with mature themes: love, death, sense of self, betrayal.

James Bradley and Ron Powers: ***Flags of Our Fathers: heroes of Iwo Jima***

What does society expect from its heroes? This book follows the lives of the six American soldiers of WWII, who raised the flag at Iwo Jima.

Capote, Truman: ***In Cold Blood***

A "non-fictional novel" about the robbery and murder of a family in Kansas in 1959 by two ex-convicts.

Cooper, James Fenimore: ***The Last of the Mohicans***

An adventure story set during the French and Indian War which brings the wilds of the American frontier to life.

Dickey, James: ***Deliverance***

Four men take a last raft ride down a Southern river and, after a wrongturn, encounter violence.

Doctorow, E. L.: ***Ragtime***

A "jazzy" view of early 20th-century America that fuses tales of fictional characters with such real people as Henry Ford, Scott Joplin, and J.P. Morgan.

Dreiser, Theodore: ***An American Tragedy***

The story of an unstable youth trapped by circumstances that lead to murder.

Sister Carrie

The story of a working girl and her life as the mistress of a man who descends the social scale as she rises to success as an actress.

Edgerton, Clyde: ***Walking Across Egypt***

An amusing story of a spunky woman, a stray dog, a teenage delinquent, and the best home-cooking in Listre, North Carolina.

The Floatplane Notebooks

Humorous tale of life in an American family in the latter part of the 20th century.

Faulkner, William: ***The Bear***

A symbolic account of a bear hunted by a 16-year-old boy.

The Reivers

An amusing recounting of a boy's misadventures in 1905.

Gaiman, Neil: ***Stardust***

This adult book for teens has 17-year-old Tristran Thorn going on a quest into the land of Fairie, where nothing is what it seems. A wonderful combination of comedy, romance, and adventure.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel: ***The House of the Seven Gables***

A classic tale of love, greed, and vengeance, the novel follows the fortunes of a decaying New England family.

Hemingway, Ernest: ***A Farewell to Arms***

The tragic love story of an American ambulance officer serving on the Austro-Italian front during World War I.

For Whom the Bell Tolls

During the Spanish Civil War, young American idealist, Robert Jordan, finds love and purpose fighting the Fascists.

Hickman, Homer: ***Rocket Boys***

True story of one man's future as an astronaut shaped by his love of science and the encouragement of a special teacher and community

Kerouac, Jack: ***On the Road***

A 1950's Huck Finn lights out for the territory in a jubilant, but bittersweet novel of the Beat Generation.

Kingston, Maxine Hong: ***Woman Warrior***

Kingston's memories of growing up in two worlds, the America to which her parents emigrated, and the legendary China of her mother's "talk-stories." This is a beautiful, impassioned story of courage, loss and strength.

Lewis, Sinclair: ***Main Street; Babbitt***

Blistering satires of the hypocrisy, materialism and conformity of 1920s America that are still startlingly relevant.

Mah, Adeline Yen: ***Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter***

True account of the life of a young Chinese woman who survives against all odds.

Malcolm X: ***Autobiography of Malcolm X***

Searing, angry, intelligent, this story remains a wake-up call about being black in America.

McCourt, Frank: ***Angela's Ashes***

Memoirs of life in Dublin's slums and emigration to America-inspiring, stirring.

Mitchell, Margaret: ***Gone With the Wind***

Sprawling, romanticized version of the South before and after the Civil War -- not great history, but what a heroine!

Lee, Harper: ***To Kill A Mockingbird***

Norris, Frank: ***The Octopus***

Farmers face off against the overwhelming power of the railroads in 1880s California in this powerful story of individuals struggling against far larger forces.

Robson, Lucia St. Clair: ***Ride the Wind***

Vivid, exciting story of Cynthia Ann Parker: abducted by the Comanche as a child, she must adapt to a dying way of life or perish.

Rolvaag, O.E.: ***Giants in the Earth***

Dramatic, realistic story of Norwegian immigrants carving a life out of the harshness of the Dakotas.

Sinclair, Upton: ***The Jungle***

Muckraking classic of life in Chicago's stockyards, its shocking details led to outrage and then reform.

Steinbeck, John: ***Cannery Row; East of Eden; Tortilla Flat***

Novels short and long of California in the 1930's, when its status as the Promised Land gave new hope to the dreams and struggles of everyone from Mexican workers to wealthy ranchers.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher: ***Uncle Tom's Cabin***

The most influential 19th century American novel, its account of slavery is still unforgettable, powered by Stowe's unfailing sense of righteous justice.

Tan, Amy: ***The Kitchen God's Wife***

An unfolding of secrets takes a mother and her daughter back to a small island outside Shanghai in the 1920's and throughout China during WWII.

Tyler, Anne: ***Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant***

Beautifully told, often humorous stories of contemporary men and women struggling to find meaning amidst the confusion and disillusionment of everyday life.

Vonnegut, Kurt: ***Cat's Cradle***

Satire and science-fiction in the typical Vonnegut style.

Walker, Alice: ***The Color Purple***

The story of a poor, barely literate black woman in the rural South during the early decades of this century and her struggle for independence from a brutal husband.

Walker, Margaret: ***Jubilee***

Life on a Civil War-era plantation from the point of view of a bright, fiery woman, daughter of a slave, but is fiercely proud nonetheless.