

FOR INCOMING 12TH GRADERS

Albom, Mitch: ***The Five People You Meet in Heaven***

An old man who dies rescuing a little girl finds that life is explained by five people in heaven who were once part of his life

Angelou, Maya: ***The Heart of a Woman***

Autobiographical account of the author's transition in her early 30's from nightclub singer and dancer to writer and politician.

Berendt, John: ***Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil***

Southern fiction fans will delight in its eccentricities, true-crime lovers will enjoy the murder case, and armchair travelers will be booking trips to Savannah soon after the close of this book!

Bohjalian, Chris: ***Midwives***

Fast paced story about the trial of a midwife accused of murder in a sleepy Vermont town.

Brashares, Ann: ***The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants***

Four senior girls share a pair of blue jeans with mysterious powers. Anyone who wears them has good fortune, looks attractive, has fun adventures. This is a very funny book.

Brown, Dan: ***The Da Vinci Code.***

A detective story of sorts, an intrigue around Christian history and a secret society of religious. Fast paced, high interest reading.

Angels and Demons

World-renowned Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned to a Swiss research facility to analyze a mysterious symbol seared into the chest of a murder victim, where he discovers evidence of the resurgence of an ancient brotherhood with a vendetta against the Catholic Church.

Bryson, Bill: ***A Short History of Nearly Everything.***

Synopsis and stories about the Big Bang Theory to the 21st century: a tour of the sciences.

Buck, Pearl: ***The Good Earth***

A Chinese peasant and his wife become rich landowners and raise a family while facing the challenges of life.

Chevalier, Tracy: ***Girl with a Pearl Earring***

Enjoyable read about a famous painting and the lives of those who possess or try to possess it.

Conrad, Joseph: ***Heart of Darkness***

Long short story written by a Polish-born English novelist about the cruel exploitation in the Belgian Congo; the "heart of darkness" is the jungle and the primitive, subconscious heart of man.

Lord Jim

A 1900 novel about a man's lifelong efforts to atone for an act of instinctive cowardice.

Forster, E.M.: ***A Room With a View***

A social comedy about a young Englishwoman who falls in love with an entirely unsuitable young man and is forced to choose between him and another, more acceptable suitor..

Garfield, Henry: ***Tartabull's Throw***

Fantasy about time travel. When a minor league pitcher (a Boston Red Sox) throws a ball, history is suddenly split in two. The characters experience history, romance, mystery and personal choices about the future.

Hardy, Thomas: ***Tess of the D'Urbervilles***

The impoverished and victimized Tess endures hardships and experiences a romance that leads her to desperate actions.

Golden, Arthur: ***Memoirs of a Geisha***

It tells the story of a young girl sold into geisha training in Japan.

Heinlein, Robert: ***Stranger in a Strange Land***

A man from Mars with superhuman abilities sets up a strange society on earth. This science-fiction novel mixes sexual politics, mysticism, and libertarian/conservative philosophy.

Joyce, James: ***Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man***

A largely autobiographical novel that portrays the childhood, school days, adolescence, and early manhood of Stephen Daedalus.

Kesey, Ken: ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest***

A 1962 novel about an Oregon mental hospital in which one of the patients rebels against the harsh control of the inmates; then has to face the consequences of his rebelliousness.

Kidd, Sue Monk: ***Secret Life of Bees***

The story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped by the death of her mother. She is taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who instill her with a sense of herself and a divine female power.

Koestler, Arthur: ***Darkness at Noon***

The Hungarian-born English novelist and essayist depicts the abuses and brutalities of the totalitarian prison state in this 1941 satirical novel.

LeCarre, John : ***The Spy Who Came in From the Cold***

Leamas wants desperately to end his career of espionage but must first undertake one last perilous assignment during the hottest days of the Cold War.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia: ***One Hundred Years of Solitude***

This 1967 novel reveals the rise and fall of the Buendia family; war and peace, youth and age are interwoven in the telling of the adventures of this family.

Love in the Time of Cholera

Set in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this novel traces the lives and loves of three people and their fates.

Michener, James: ***Space***

A 1985 novel about U.S. astronauts involved in a flight to the dark side of the moon.

The Novel

Set in contemporary Pennsylvania, this 1991 novel examines how a novel is produced from four points of view: the writer's, the editor's, the critic's, and the reader's.

Myers, Walter Dean: ***MONSTER***

A sixteen year old black boy is in jailed, accused of murder. To cope with what is happening to him, Steve writes his experience of the arrest and murder trial in the form of a screenplay diary.

Pasternak, Boris: ***Doctor Zhivago***

This 1957 Russian novel tells of the experiences of a doctor and his romantic life and of his disaffection with the Russian Revolution.

Plath, Sylvia: ***The Bell Jar***

1972 novel about a brilliant young woman's search for identity and hereventual breakdown.

Rand, Ayn: ***The Fountainhead***

Howard Roark is an architect who will not compromise his genius and integrity in his crusade to challenge conformity and mediocrity.

Rodriguez, Luis J.: ***Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.***

Mexican American poet Luis J. Rodriguez relates his experiences growing up angry in Watts and East Los Angeles. A powerful and vivid indictment of the prejudice that permeates society.

Salzman, Mark: ***Iron and Silk***

The adventures of a young martial arts master in China told in episodes by an American living in China in the mid 1980's; this true contemporary adventure captures life in modern China.

Sebold, Susie: ***The Lovely Bones***

14 year old Susie Salmon has been killed. She tells her story from heaven as her family cope with their loss and the town sheriff investigates the death.

Tashjian, Janet: ***The Gospel According to Larry***

Young male teen rants on various topics over the Internet only to be believed as an excerpt on the subjects he talks about. He becomes a nationally known trendsetter, unbeknownst to his peers and teachers at his high school.

Tolstoy, Leo: ***Anna Karenina***

Classic Russian novel about the tragic, adulterous love of the passionate Anna and romantic Count Vronsky.

Ung, Loung: ***First They Killed My Father***

This is a story of a young girl and her family who survive the onslaught of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia in 1975. Her family endures separation, labor camps and military training. This story unveils her strength of character and hope in a new life.

Uris, Leon: ***Exodus***

A panoramic semi-historical 1957 novel about the Jewish resettlement of Palestine and the creation of the state of Israel.

Trinity

1976 novel about the Protestant-Catholic battles in Northern Ireland from the perspectives of a young man and his family.