

2009 WTHS Summer Suggestions for Grades 10-12

(Compiled from Reading Olympics and Recent Award Lists)

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams

Seconds before the Earth is demolished for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is saved by Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised *Guide*. Together they stick out their thumbs to the stars and begin a wild journey through time and space. (Reading Olympics)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian Sherman Alexie

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot. (Winner of the National Book Award for Young People 2008)

In the Time of the Butterflies Julia Alvarez

Gives a fictionalized account of the four Mirabel sisters in the Dominican Republic under the dictatorship of General Trujillo. (ALA Notable Book, Reading Olympics, Outstanding Books for the College Bound)

A Step from Heaven An Na

In brief chapters that have the intimacy of snapshots, Young Ju tells of her family's immigration from Korea to the United States and their subsequent struggles in a new country. From childhood through adolescence, Young Ju's voice is convincingly articulated, whether as a four-year-old certain that the plane carrying her into the sky must be heaven-bound or as a desperate teenager gathering the courage to report her abusive father. (Michael L. Printz Award 2002)

Twisted Laurie Halse Anderson

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts. (Reading Olympics)

Sense and Sensibility Jane Austen

Two sisters of opposing temperaments share the pangs of tragic love. Their mutual suffering brings a closer understanding between the two sisters, and true love finally triumphs. (Reading Olympics)

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier Ishmael Beah

Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States. (Reading Olympics, Alex Award)

Life in the Fat Lane Cherie Bennett

Sixteen-year-old Lara, winner of beauty pageants and Homecoming Queen, is distressed and bewildered when she starts gaining weight and becomes overweight. (ALA Notable Book, Reading Olympics)

Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale Holly Black

Sixteen-year-old Kaye, who has been visited by faeries since childhood, discovers that she herself is a magical faerie creature with a special destiny. (Reading Olympics)

The Road of the Dead Kevin Brooks

Two brothers, sons of an incarcerated gypsy, leave London traveling to an isolated and desolate village, in search of the brutal killer of their sister. (Reading Olympics)

True Confessions of a Heartless Girl Martha Brooks

A confused seventeen-year-old girl, a single mother and her young son, two elderly women, and a sad and lonely man, with their own individual tragedies to bear, come together in a small Manitoba town and find a way to a better future. (Reading Olympics)

My Antonia**Willa Cather**

A successful lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with an immigrant Bohemian girl named Antonia. (Reading Olympics)

Summerland**Michael Chabon**

Following the death of his mother, Ethan and his father move to an island where a mystical baseball scout recruits him for a special mission and escorts him through a gateway to a series of interconnected worlds full of fantastical creatures who are in grave danger that only Ethan can stop. (Pulitzer-Prize-winning author)

Getting Away with Murder**Chris Crowe**

Presents a true account of the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi in 1955 and the racial unrest that led to the Civil Rights movement. (Reading Olympics)

Rebecca**Daphne du Maurier**

For months after her death, the memory of Rebecca de Winter continues to dominate everyone at her former home, Manderley, one of the most famous English country houses in this classic mystery. (Reading Olympics, ALA Notable Books)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**Mark Haddon**

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his family. (Reading Olympics, ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound)

Your Own, Sylvia: A Verse Portrait of Sylvia Plath**Stephanie Hemphill**

A series of poems that provide a chronological portrait of the life of Sylvia Plath, told in the voices of family members, friends, associates, and others who knew her. (2008 Michael L. Printz Honor Book, ALA Best Books for Young Adults List 2008)

Born Confused**Tanuja Desai Hidier**

Growing up in New York, Dimple feels American, and she's rebellious when her parents start talking about finding her "a suitable boy." The arranged meeting with a NYU student and son of Indian friends, is predictably strained and frustrating. "It's like *Titanic*. Without the romance," she confides to friend. (Reading Olympics)

Crank**Ellen Hopkins**

Kristina's life is turned upside-down, when she visits her absentee father, becomes addicted to the drug "crank", and is led down a desperate path that threatens her mind, soul, and her life. (Reading Olympics, Tennessean Top 10 List)

Sweetgrass**Jan Hudson**

Living on the western Canadian prairie in the nineteenth century, Sweetgrass, a fifteen-year-old Blackfoot Indian girl, saves her family from a smallpox epidemic and proves her maturity to her father. (Reading Olympics, ALA Notable Books)

Repossessed**A. M. Jenkins**

A fallen angel, tired of being unappreciated while doing his pointless, demeaning job, leaves Hell, enters the body of a seventeen-year-old boy, and tries to experience the full range of human feelings before being caught and punished, while the boy's family and friends puzzle over his changed behavior. (Reading Olympics, 2008 Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book)

The First Part Last**Angela Johnson**

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter. (Reading Olympics, Coretta Scott King Award)

Deliver Us From Evie**M. E. Kerr**

Sixteen-year-old Parr and his family face some difficult times when word spreads through their rural Missouri town that his older sister is gay, and she leaves the family farm. (Reading Olympics, ALA Notable Books, Kerr is a winner of the Margaret Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award)

The Bean Trees**Barbara Kingsolver**

Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places. (Reading Olympics, ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound)

Blood and Chocolate**Annette Klause**

Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom. (Reading Olympics, ALA Notable Books)

Watchers**Dean Koontz**

Relates the adventures of two creatures which have escaped from a secret, sinister government laboratory where experiments in genetic engineering are conducted. (Reading Olympics)

Where the Heart Is**Billie Letts**

Novalee Nation, seventeen, pregnant, and living in a Wal-Mart store discovers friendship, encouragement, direction and love with a group of caring people in Sequoyah, Oklahoma. (Reading Olympics)

Inexcusable**Chris Lynch**

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. (Reading Olympics)

The White Darkness**Geraldine McCaughrean**

Taken to Antarctica by the man she thinks of as her uncle for what she believes to be a vacation, Symone--a troubled fourteen year old--discovers that he is dangerously obsessed with seeking Symme's Hole, an opening that supposedly leads into the center of a hollow Earth. (2008 Michael L. Printz Award, ALA Best Books for Young Adults List 2008)

Sold**Patricia McCormick**

Lakshmi, 13, knows nothing about the world beyond her village shack in the Himalayas of Nepal, and when her family loses the little it has in a monsoon, she grabs a chance to work as a maid in the city so she can send money back home. What she doesn't know is that her stepfather has sold her into prostitution. (Notable Books for a Global Society 2007, National Book Award Finalist 2007)

Twilight**Stephanie Meyer**

Seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, where she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human. (International Reading Association Young Adult Choices, Tennesent Top 10)

The Bluest Eye**Toni Morrison**

An eleven-year-old African-American girl in Ohio, in the early 1940s, prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be beautiful. (Morrison is the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature)

Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary**Walter Dean Myers**

Popular novelist and poet Walter Dean Myers (Fallen Angels, Monster) profiles 1960's African-American leader Malcolm X. (Reading Olympics, Myers is a winner of the Margaret Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award)

Born Blue**Han Nolan**

Janie was four years old when she nearly drowned due to her mother's neglect. Through an unhappy foster home experience, and years of feeling that she is unwanted, she keeps alive her dream of someday being a famous singer. (Reading Olympics, ALA Notable Books)

The River Between Us**Richard Peck**

During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois. (Reading Olympics, Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, Peck is a winner of the Margaret Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award)

Life As We Knew it**Susan Beth Pfeffer**

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. (Reading Olympics, Children's Books of the Year 2007)

Friedrich**Hans Peter Richter**

A young German boy recounts the fate of his best friend, a Jew, during the Nazi regime. (Reading Olympics)

The Lovely Bones**Alice Sebold**

Fourteen-year-old Susie Salmon, the victim of a sexual assault and murder, looks on from the afterlife as her family deals with their grief, and waits for her killer to be brought to some type of justice. (Reading Olympics, NYPL Books for the Teen Age)

The Invention of Hugo Cabret**Brian Selznick**

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. A novel in words and pictures. (2008 Caldecott Medal winner, National Book Award for Young People's Literature 2007, ALA Best Books for Young Adults List 2008)

Everlost**Neil Shusterman**

When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free. (Reading Olympics)

Can't Get There from Here**Todd Strasser**

Tired of being hungry, cold, and dirty from living on the streets of New York City with a tribe of other homeless teenagers who are dying, one by one, a girl named Maybe ponders her future and longs for someone to care about her. (Reading Olympics)

American Born Chinese**Gene Luen Yang**

Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in popular culture. Presented in graphic novel format. (Reading Olympics, Michael L. Printz Award 2007)

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac**Gabrielle Zevin**

After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life. (Reading Olympics, ALA Best Books for Young Adults List 2008)

The Book Thief**Marcus Zusak**

Death is the narrator of this powerful story of a town in Nazi Germany. He is a kindly, caring Death, overwhelmed by the souls he has to collect from the gas chambers, from the battlefields, and from civilians killed in bombings. Death focuses on a young orphan, Liesl; her loving foster parents; the Jewish fugitive they are hiding; and a wild but gentle teen neighbor, Rudy, who defies the Hitler Youth and convinces Liesl to steal for fun. After Liesl learns to read, she steals books from everywhere. (Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book 2007)

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