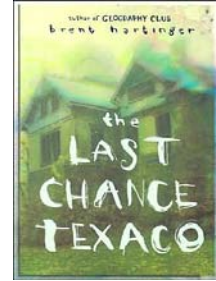


**William Tennent High School  
Summer Reading List for Incoming Freshmen  
Summer of 2009**

***The Last Chance Texaco*     Brent Hartinger**



Lucy Pitt is 15 when she is sent to Kindle Home, a group home and her last chance at a semi-normal life. If she makes any errors, she'll be sent to the high-security facility known as Eat-Their-Young Island. Kindle Home is different from the other places she's lived, primarily due to the dedication of the counselors and the way in which they connect with the kids. Lucy realizes that she wants to stay there, and although she manages to weather the consequences of her own impulsive tendencies, she can't control the lack of funding that threatens the Home or the arson that is causing the neighbors to become even more leery of having such an establishment nearby. Readers will root for Lucy and come away with a greater understanding of the complexities of group homes and their inhabitants.

**Reviews & Awards**

Booklist 01/01/04

Horn Book 10/01/04

Kliatt 03/01/04

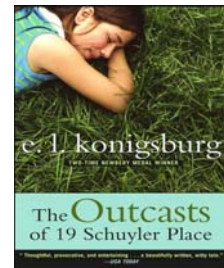
Library Media Connection 08/01/04

School Library Journal 03/01/04

Voice of Youth Advocates (V.O.Y.A.) 02/01/04

Wilson's Senior High School 10/01/04

***The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place*     E. L. Konigsburg**



“I Prefer Not To...” That's Margaret Rose Kane's response to every activity she's asked to participate in at the summer camp to which she's been exiled while her parents are in Peru. So Margaret Rose is delighted when her beloved uncles rescue her from Camp Talequa, with its uptight camp director and cruel cabinmates, and bring her to stay with them at their wonderful house at 19 Schuyler Place. But Margaret Rose soon discovers that something is terribly wrong at 19 Schuyler Place. People in their newly gentrified neighborhood want to get rid of the three magnificent towers the uncles have spent forty-five years lovingly constructing of scrap metal and shards of glass and porcelain. Margaret Rose is outraged, and determined to strike a blow for art, for history, and for individuality...and no one is more surprised than Margaret Rose at the allies she finds for her mission.

**Reviews & Awards**

Book Links (A.L.A.) 03/01/04

Booklist starred 12/15/03

Horn Book 10/01/04

Kirkus starred 12/15/03

Notable/Best Books (A.L.A.) 01/01/05

Publishers Weekly starred 01/12/04

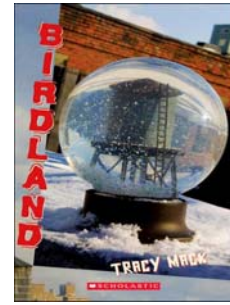
School Library Journal starred 01/01/04

Wilson's Junior High School 11/01/05

## ***Birdland***

**Tracy Mack**

Amidst the sparkle and hum of a New York City winter, Jed and his best friend Flyer are filming a documentary of their neighborhood. All around them are images that Jed's older brother Zeke wrote about: drummers, drunks, dog walkers, and the beautiful water towers that dot the city's skyline. But what Jed is really in search of is his older brother, Zeke, who died the year before, a poet who loved jazzman Charlie "Bird" Parker and who left behind his CDs, a notebook, and a lot of unanswered questions. When Jed encounters a mysterious homeless girl he starts to unravel the mystery of his brother's life and to try to pull himself and his family out of their grief.



### **Reviews & Awards**

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books 11/01/03

Booklist starred 10/15/03

Horn Book 10/01/04

Kliatt starred 11/01/03

Kirkus starred 09/15/03

Voice of Youth Advocates (V.O.Y.A.) 02/01/04

Wilson's Junior High School 08/01/04

## ***Touching Spirit Bear***

**Ben Mikaelson**

Within Cole Matthews lie anger, rage, and hate. Cole has been stealing, fighting, and lying for years. His attack on a classmate has left the boy with permanent physical and deep psychological damage and Cole in the biggest trouble of his life. To most, Cole seems beyond hope. But when he's offered a chance at an alternative path called Circle Justice, based on Native American tradition, Cole finds himself banished to a remote Alaskan island, where his rage and isolation lead him to another brazen attack. This time, his intended victim is the Spirit Bear of Native American legend—and the clumsy assault ends with Cole mauled nearly to death, desperately clinging to the life he has tried so hard to waste. The attack of the Spirit Bear is the start of Cole's long journey to accepting responsibility for his life and saving his soul.



### **Reviews & Awards**

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books 05/01/01

Booklist 01/01/01

Book Report 09/01/01

Kirkus Review 01/01/01

Notable/Best Books (A.L.A.) 01/21/02

School Library Journal starred 02/01/01

Voice of Youth Advocates (V.O.Y.A.) 06/01/01

Wilson's Junior High School 11/01/05