

Stuart Country Day School Upper School Summer Reading 2008-2009

Summer Reading List Introduction

In the Upper School we require that students read a total of four books over the summer, and this includes the required titles. Be sure to look at the Required Reading Chart on page two.

Both teachers and students created this list. The student list is arranged by genre, and the teacher list is arranged by department. We applaud all those who helped to make the list as wonderful as it is! Please feel free to choose the four books from any of the lists. We encourage students to broaden their reading tastes by reading a variety of authors and genres. We hope you enjoy reading this summer and that you return to school in September ready to celebrate the books you have read!

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Stuart Country Day School
Upper School Summer Reading
2008-2009

<p>Required Reading for Summer 2008</p> <p>We require that students read a total of four books over the summer, and this includes the required titles. For required reading each teacher will have his/her own assignment when you begin class.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">GRADE 9</p> <p>English: (Please read both) Angelou, Maya. <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> Kidd, Sue Monk. <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GRADE 10</p> <p>English: <i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding. . If you are considering taking the English AP test in your junior year, please visit the summer reading section on Dr. Manzulli's website. You should read 4 additional novels this summer.</p> <p>Modern Europe <i>Year of Wonders</i> by Geraldine Brooks</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GRADE 11</p> <p>English: <i>Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close</i> by Jonathan Safran Foer. Students are also strongly encouraged to read <i>Ragged Dick</i> by Horatio Alger. If you are considering taking the English AP test, please visit the summer reading section on Dr. Manzulli's or Ms. Eckstrom's website. You should read 4 additional novels this summer.</p> <p>Modern Europe <i>Year of Wonders</i> by Geraldine Brooks</p> <p>U.S. History: <i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman</i> by Ernest J. Gaines</p> <p>AP 11th US History: <i>The White</i> by Deborah Larsen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GRADE 12</p> <p>English: <i>Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America</i> by Barbara Ehrenreich. (This is a work of non-fiction.) If you are a rising senior and are considering taking the English AP test, please visit the summer reading section on Ms. Eckstrom's website. You should read 4 additional works of non-fiction this summer.</p> <p>Modern Europe <i>Year of Wonders</i> by Geraldine Brooks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRENCH 4</p> <p><i>Les vacances du Petit Nicolas</i> from Sempe and Goscinny</p>

Stuart Country Day School Student List

Biography and Memoir:

Angelou, Maya. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.

The first part of Angelou's intricate autobiography. Here, she recounts her childhood growing up with her grandmother in a tightly-knit black community in Arkansas. As she grows up and away from this area and begins her journey across the United States, she beautifully tells her sometimes humorous, sometimes saddening, and touching life story.

Curie, Eve. Madame Curie.

This is the biography of a woman scientist struggling to make it in a male-dominated profession. This biography will take you on an emotional ride of Marie Curie's ups and downs in both her career and her personal life.

Griffin, J. Black Like Me.

Ever wonder what it was like to be a black man in the South in 1950? So did John Howard Griffin, who takes a medication to deepen the color of his skin, trading in his privileged lifestyle to experience that of an oppressed black man.

Gunther, John. Death Be Not Proud.

John Gunther admires his son, Johnny, who died from a brain tumor when he was only 16. His dad recollects memories of his son, whose courage and wit surprised everyone around him.

Hellman, Lillian. Pentimento.

Lillian Hellman looks back at people in her life that helped her develop both as a woman and a writer. She explains life long friendships and humorously captures our attention with her wit. This book was the influence for the Academy-Award winning movie *Julia*.

Hemingway, Ernest. A Moveable Feast.

Set in Paris in the 1920's, this memoir takes us through Hemingway's memories of Paris after World War I, his first love, and life as a writer. It skillfully takes us through his life with optimism and creativity which Hemingway himself embodied.

Krakauer, John. Into Thin Air and Into the Wild.

These two memoirs chronicle Krakauer's extraordinary journeys around the world: in Into Thin Air, he describes his disastrous journey on Mount Everest during the deadliest season Everest had ever experienced. In Into the Wild, he recounts the tale of Christopher McCandless, who ventures into the woods of Alaska searching for adventure.

Lobel, Anita. No Pretty Pictures.

This gripping memoir recounts Lobel's childhood growing up during the Nazi regime. It describes her hiding and eventual capture in vivid detail, making the tale all more real as it is written from a child's perspective.

McBride, James. The Color of Water.

An inspiring story of a white woman's struggle to raise her black children and be happy with the man she loves in a society dominated by racial issues and identity.

McCarthy, Mary. Memoirs of a Catholic Girlhood.

An ironic and humorous retelling of the author's childhood in a convent school and, later, an Episcopalian seminary following the escape from her repressive home.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Opdyke, Irene Gut. In My Hands.

The stirring tale of the adventures of Irene Gutowna, later called Opdyke, as a source of Jewish aid during the Holocaust. Not simply a memoir about the Holocaust, but also a memoir about moral choice and the life-changing courage of one person.

Sender, Ruth. The Cage.

This haunting memoir describes in detail the horror and torment that Jewish families encountered in ghettos and concentration camps during World War II under Hitler. Riva Minska (or Ruth Sender) was only thirteen when she was sent to death camps like Lodz and Auschwitz. The memoir also depicts her courage in times of doubt and fear, although the life Sender leads is horrific, making it even more “unbearably real.”

Steinbeck, John. Travels With Charley.

After writing his modern classics, John Steinbeck set off in a camper with his poodle Charley “in search of America.” His nightly journal entries about the good and bad things he encounters make up Travels, filled with interesting and humorous vignettes of American life during the 1960’s.

Weissman, Gerda. All But My Life.

This memoir tells of the story of Gerda Weissman, a Polish Jew, and her life enslaved under the Nazis then finally freed by American soldiers.

Wiesel, Elie. Night.

The painful memories of a Holocaust survivor and his struggle to understand the causes and effects of this terrible plight. Touching upon religious and moral questions, this book is a fascinating and harrowing read.

Classic:

Agee, James. A Death in the Family.

The lyrical retelling of the accidental death of a beloved father, A Death in the Family has been lauded since its publication as a powerful, emotional novel. The author seamlessly weaves together the emotions of the man’s wife, brother, and son, demonstrating tenderness, innocence, and loss in this modern classic.

Austen, Jane. All titles (except Pride and Prejudice).

One of the best-known and best-loved authors in British history, Jane Austen has been lauded for her wit, her accurate descriptions of English society, and, of course, her romantic heroes in her classic novels. Try Emma, Northanger Abbey, or Persuasion.

Brontë, Anne. The Tenant of Wildfell Hall.

The “tenant” in the title is mysterious and beautiful Helen, who marries a handsome man only to find that he is cruel and abusive. She decides to take control of her miserable marriage, but can she change her husband for the better or will she be stuck forever?

Brontë, Emily. Wuthering Heights.

One of the most famous Gothic romances of all time, Wuthering Heights tells the story of Catherine and the gypsy Heathcliff and their timeless love on the Yorkshire moors. Certainly not your typical fairytale romance, but nevertheless a passionate novel.

Crane, Stephen. Red Badge of Courage.

This is the story of a soldier’s experience during the American Civil War. Henry Fleming is a soldier in the war who is greatly disturbed and disappointed by what he sees. This is one of the most famous anti-war novels ever written.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Dickens, Charles. All titles (except Great Expectations).

He is a classic writer who has inspired hundreds of people through his 20 works. His books are known for being difficult to read, but they are also well known for their lessons and magnificent plots and characters.

Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. All titles.

Although the Russian names may be confusing to some, don't miss out on Dostoyevsky's classic novels of life in nineteenth-century Russia. Dostoyevsky is famed for his ability to get into the character's heads and his great descriptions. Try Crime and Punishment or The Brothers Karamazov, The Idiot.

Dumas, Alexander. The Count of Monte Cristo.

This novel has it all: intrigue, love, betrayal, passion, wit, social satire, and great fight scenes. Follow the life of Edmund Dumas and discover how he becomes the "Count of Monte Cristo" through Dumas' vivid details.

Dumas, Alexander. The Three Musketeers.

An action-adventure classic that also incorporates history, this novel chronicles the adventures of young swordsman D'Artagnan, who arrives at the French court in 1625 to join the king's musketeers. After meeting his three comrades – Porthos, Aramis, and Athos – he is mixed up in court intrigues, international politics, and lots of sword fights.

Eliot, George. Silas Marner.

The story of gold, betrayal, and love, Silas Marner tells the story of a reclusive weaver who is framed for theft by a close friend. When he finds and raises a young girl, what will happen to this hermit?

Eliot, George. Middlemarch.

The classic heroine, Dorothea Brooke, attempts to find love with the scholarly Mr. Casaubon. While describing her search for fulfillment and happiness, Eliot (real name: Mary Ann Evans) also gives the reader a detailed portrait of nineteenth-century morality and great insight into characters' thoughts and feelings.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. Tender is the Night.

Set in 1920 in France, this tale depicts a tragic romance between a young actress and an American couple, Nicole and psychiatrist Dick Diver. Nicole, Diver's former patient and current wife, is responsible for Denver's ultimate emotional and physical demise.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. This Side of Paradise.

Follows Armory Blane, a Princeton University student during World War I. The tale develops into a story about Blane's life after Princeton, and shows us the rich cultures of New York and Princeton.

Greene, Graham. The Heart of the Matter.

The story of a man in a West African town immersed in a love for a woman who is not his wife. This man turns out to be flawed yet courageous in a nail-biting suspense novel.

Hardy, Thomas. Far From the Madding Crowd.

A young man falls deeply in love with a farm girl, later becoming obsessed with every thought of her. This book illustrates rural England during times of the Industrial Revolution, and gives us a sense of middle-class life in the fictional county of Wessex, England.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Hardy, Thomas. The Mayor of Casterbridge.

At the beginning of this novel, Henchard sells off his wife and child out of drunken rage. After waking the next morning, he is appalled at his actions and dedicates himself to make something of his life. The novel truly begins 18 years later when he reconnects with his wife and daughter and becomes the Mayor of Casterbridge. This book shows us the flaws of mankind, as well as a plot intertwined with fate.

Hugo, Victor. Les Miserables.

Hugo's classic tells the epic story of an escaped convict and his journey through the Parisian world, experiencing love and war, poverty and wealth. Hugo also seamlessly weaves in historical details about France during the 19th century.

Joyce, James. All titles.

One of the most well-known and complex novelists of the twenty-first century: his most popular works are Ulysses, Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Finnegan's Wake, and Dubliners.

Keneally, Thomas. Schindler's List.

Based on the true story of Oskar Schindler, who saved more Jews from the gas chambers in World War II than any other person.

Lawrence, D.H. Sons and Lovers.

The autobiographical novel about decisions that Lawrence must make between the love he has for his possessive mother and the desire he feels for two women.

Maugham, W. Somerset. Of Human Bondage.

A tale of one man's obsession that comes from an oppressively religious background and a need for freedom.

Maugham, W. Somerset. Cakes and Ale.

A sharp, witty satire of London literary society.

Mitchell, Margaret. Gone With the Wind.

The timeless romance between Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler and their relationship that spans from the destruction of the Old South and the Reconstruction after the Civil War.

Plath, Sylvia. The Bell Jar.

Plath's semiautobiographical novel tells the story of Esther Greenwood, a summer intern in New York City in her early twenties and chronicles her mental decline and her consequent struggle to fit in with society's standards. Considered a "twentieth century classic" for its psychological insight and contemporary style.

Sinclair, Upton. The Jungle.

Sinclair's turn-of-the-century novel sent shockwaves through the United States during the early 20th century. It depicts the misery of one immigrant family, Jurgis and Ona, in Chicago's meatpacking industry. Although they arrive with naiveté and hope for their future, they soon realize the repression that they face in their new country.

Smith, Betty. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.

Although this novel traces the adolescence of resourceful, observant dreamer Francie Nolan, it also gives the reader an interesting look at early 20th century Brooklyn. Smith describes Francie's dysfunctional family, from her tragically idealistic father to her pragmatic mother and her favored younger brother. This novel about Francie's courage in the face of hardship has been lauded for its poignance and sincerity.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Tolstoy, Leo. Anna Karenina.

Tolstoy describes the monotonous life of Anna Karenina in 19th century Russia, who, although she is married, lacks passion and love. Of course, when she meets the dashing Count Vronsky, all this changes. What will happen when she gives in to true love?

Tolstoy, Leo. War and Peace.

A novel based on Napoleon's invasion of Russia during the 19th century, War and Peace thoroughly discusses how this war affects individuals like the Bolkonsky and Rostov families as well as Russia as a whole.

Verne, Jules. Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea.

The story begins with a French naturalist who is hunting for a sea monster, however instead of a sea monster he discovers a submarine and its captain. Together he and the captain embark on many underwater journeys.

Wells, H.G. The Time Machine.

In this science fiction classic a man creates a machine, which he travels to the future in. In the future, he finds a society, the Eloi, being maintained by another society, the Morlock, only so that the Morlock can use the Eloi for their own benefit. It is through Wells's analysis of these two societies that he criticizes his own.

Wells, H.G. War of the Worlds.

One of Wells's most famous novels tells of an alien invasion on earth, through which Wells criticizes British imperialism.

Wilde, Oscar. The Picture of Dorian Gray.

The dark tale of a narcissist and hedonistic man, whose physical appearance mysteriously does not change with age. Instead, the only thing that ages is a portrait of himself as a young man. Why is this?

Wright, Richard. Native Son.

The painfully realistic story of an African-American man who is oppressed by the racism and poverty that surrounds him.

Fantasy:

Adams, Richard. Watership Down.

This epic novel follows a group of talking rabbits fleeing their home in search of a new and safe place to live. While they journey, the reader discovers the rabbits' culture and relationships. A complex allegory, it's as much about human ethics as it is about a group of bunnies trying to survive.

Bradbury, Ray. Something Wicked This Way Comes.

Tells the intriguing and unusual story of two boys, James Nightshade and William Halloway, as their small and ordinary Midwestern town is visited by a carnival. What the two boys don't know is that this "dark" carnival is anything but ordinary.

Bradley, Marion. The Mists of Avalon.

Even if you're not a big fan of Arthurian legends, you may still really love this novel. Told from the point of view of Morgaine and Gwendhwyfar (or Guinevere), Bradley takes the reader through these myths from a new and refreshing female perspective.

LeGuin, Ursula K. A Wizard of Earthsea.

The magical story of the young boy Sparrowhawk, his evolution, and discovery of fate in the land of Earthsea. Also read The Tombs of Atuan, The Farthest Shore, and Tehanu, the other books in this four-part series. Recommended for lovers of Tolkien and Lewis.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Seton, Anya. Green Darkness.

Seton weaves a complex tale of history, magic, and reincarnation in this thrilling novel. American heiress Celia Taylor is visiting a cathedral in England when she mysteriously faints and is then transported back into the sixteenth century! She meets famous historical figures like King Edward and begins to discover how their two worlds are very much related – making history really come alive.

Stuart, Mary. The Crystal Cave and The Hollow Hills.

Merlin, the son of a princess, lives a terrible childhood full of troublesome visions and misfortunes. However, one day that all changes for his destiny leads him to the King and the tale begins to unfold of his adventures.

In The Hollow Hills, Merlin is haunted by strange dreams of a sword, a sword that has the power to make one man a King.

Tolkien, J.R.R. The Hobbit and The Ring Trilogy.

Possibly the most famous fantasy series of all time, The Ring Trilogy (which begins with The Hobbit) describes the life of hobbits, wizards, elves, and humans living in Middle-Earth on a quest to find and destroy the evil Ring of Power. A classic for fantasy buffs.

White, T.H. The Once and Future King.

A fantastic serial retelling of the Arthurian legends, comprising four parts: The Sword in the Stone, The Queen of Air and Darkness, The Ill-Made Knight, and The Candle in the Wind. A must-read for all fans of mythology and legends.

Fiction:

Burns, Olive Anne. Cold Sassy Tree.

An effervescent novel about a small turn-of-the-century Georgia town that has been scandalized by intrigue and passion. Only three weeks after his wife's death, Grandpa Rucker marries his store's young milliner. Follow the narrator, fourteen-year-old Willy Tweedy, and the rest of the town as they react and adjust to the news.

Cather, Willa. O Pioneers.

Cather's first great novel tells the story of Alexandra Bergson, a pioneer who arrives in Hanover, Nebraska as a girl. Cather intricately weaves Alexandra's struggles to survive as a farmer with an accurate portrait of the changes occurring in the American frontier.

Coelho, Paul. The Alchemist.

Santiago, a shepherd boy, journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success. Eventually, he journey to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment.

Dorris, Michael. A Yellow Raft in Blue Water.

By fifteen, Rayona's African-American father and Native American mother have both walked out of her life. While she is being raised by her grandmother, something happens that reconnects her with her mother and changes her life forever.

Dos Passos, John. Manhattan Transfer.

Considered to be Dos Passos' greatest work, this sweeping novel depicts life and the search for fulfillment of the "American dream" for both wealthy power brokers and struggling immigrants in New York City during the 1920's.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Forster, E.M. Room With a View.

Tells the story of a young woman, Lucy Honeychurch, and her struggle between what she wants and what society expects of her. How will society react when she falls in love with the free-thinking, handsome George Emerson?

Green, Hannah. I Never Promised You a Rose Garden.

Drowning in the emotional burdens of life, Deborah escapes into a magical kingdom. With the help of her worried parents and a psychiatrist, Deborah enrolls in a 3 year struggle to return to the real world.

Guest, Judith. Ordinary People.

This book takes you through the life of a family mourning the loss of a son and brother. The Mother blames the death of her son on his Brother, and these misunderstandings lead to pain and suffering, but ultimately healing.

Heller, Joseph. Catch-22.

This amusing novel brings us down to the level of a Bombardier in World War II, furious as thousands of people are trying to kill him. It shows us both humor and horror and gives us an in-depth and satirical look at 20th century America.

Hemingway, Ernest. All titles (except The Old Man and the Sea).

One of the most influential writers of the twentieth century, Ernest Hemingway was a member of the "Lost Generation" in the early 1920's. Although his language may be easy to understand, the themes and ideas of his novels are complex and interesting. Try A Farewell to Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls, The Sun Also Rises, or other titles.

Hinton, S.E. The Outsiders.

The story of three brothers' struggle following the death of their parents, they find themselves in the center of the war between wealthy children and those from the wrong side of the tracks.

Hosseini, Khaled. The Kite Runner.

Tells the story of an unlikely friendship formed between the sons of a successful businessman and his servant while at the same time giving the reader knowledge about political events in modern Afghanistan.

Hughes, Richard. A High Wind in Jamaica.

This interesting and thrilling novel tells the story of a group of children who accidentally find themselves at the mercy of a fearsome group of pirates.

Kerouac, Jack. On the Road.

An autobiographical narrative about a hitchhiking odyssey across America. Kerouac tells about the highs and lows that he and his friends are subject to throughout their trip.

Kesey, Ken. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

When the sane Randall Patrick McMurphy enters into an mental asylum instead of being incarcerated, he turns the place upside down, setting his own rules and commencing the war between himself and the head nurse. His fight for freedom and realization that every man determines his future does not come without large consequences.

Kingsolver, Barbara. The Bean Trees.

When Taylor Greer sets across America in her car, she acquires (a completely unexpected) three-year-old child. Her story includes love, friendship, and finding resources in places that appear to be empty.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Lahiri, Jhumpa. Interpreter of Maladies.

A collection of short stories about Indian immigrants and the human desire to feel like one belongs. Universal emotions and events are described and relatable to everyone.

LeCarre, John. A Perfect Spy.

An intensely gripping novel about the treachery of British agent Magnus Pym and his rush to tell his story to his son before he is found out and denounced as a traitor.

Llewellyn, Richard. How Green Was My Valley.

The classic coming-of-age story of a boy in a Welsh coal-mining family. Written in a beautiful lyrical style, the book demonstrates the author's love for his country and its people.

McEwan, Ian. Atonement.

A haunting novel that traces the story of Briony Tallis, and her experiences of betrayal and redemption in pre-World War II Britain.

Mori, Kyoko. Shizuko's Daughter.

The story of Yuki, a girl who has lost her mother to suicide, and her emotional journey to find herself through memories of her mother and her tragedy.

Morrison, Toni. Beloved.

A tragic story of antebellum slavery, and the death of a child whose spirit continues to haunt her mother. Also try: The Bluest Eye, Song of Solomon.

Morrison, Toni. Sula.

The story of two childhood friends – one conventional, the other eccentric – and their struggle to accept one another following a reunion years later.

Portis, Charles. True Grit.

Mattie Ross is a strong-willed, unsentimental heroine that encounters trouble in Arkansas' Indian Territory with her sidekick, the mean, one-eyed Rooster Cockburn. Together, they encounter outlaws and trouble, outsmart the criminals and get lots of laughs.

Potok, Chaim. The Chosen.

Tells the story of two Jewish boys – one Hasidic, the other Orthodox – in 20th century New York who form an unlikely friendship. Although their fathers may have disagreements spiritually and intellectually, they manage to navigate adolescence, faith, and friendship together during the time of the Holocaust and World War II.

Rostand, Edmond. Cyrano de Bergerac.

Rostand's lyrical and witty play laid the basis for the spirit of romance (and lots of romantic comedies today!). Swashbuckling, heroic Cyrano, who despite his many gifts, is too self-conscious and shy to pursue his true love, Roxanne; instead, he helps his inarticulate foe Christian woo her using his poetry while secretly in love with her himself.

Salinger, J.D. Franny and Zooey.

If you enjoyed Catcher in the Rye, this book by the same author is an excellent choice. Franny and Zooey is written in two chunks: "Franny" and "Zooey." They weave together relationships between a college student and her younger brother in the same humorous and psychological way as Salinger did in his earlier novel.

Scott, Paul. The Jewel in the Crown.

Part history, part romance, part mystery, and even part allegory, this recounts the British Raj in India during World War II. Although the novel centers on an Indian young man, Hari, it features an interesting and complex cast of characters, both natives and colonists. The story is narrated by both British and Indians, giving a new and refreshing view of Britain's treasured colony's fight for independence – not at all like some history books!

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Sijie, Dai. Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress.

Under Mao's Cultural Revolution, two young men condemned to "re-education" in the mountains find an escape from the hardships of daily life. At the beginning of the novel, the narrator and his friend Luo steal a suitcase full of forbidden books simply to get away from the ordinary. After they read the literature to their tailor and his daughter, the men find what they were looking for – adventure, mystery, and romance – in a way they did not expect.

Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch.

As the title says, this novel tells about one day in the life of Ivan Denisovitch, a prisoner in a Russian labor camp under Stalin. Although it only describes one twenty-four hour period, the scheming protagonist must battle to survive the subzero and inhumane conditions of his home. A fascinating look into Stalin's Russia and the oppression prisoners faced.

Steinbeck, John. The Grapes of Wrath.

Steinbeck won the Pulitzer Prize for this lyrical and touching observation of American life after the Great Depression. The Grapes of Wrath chronicles the life of the Joads, a family crushed by the Depression, and their move to California. Its poignancy and the questions it asks about American justice and society have made it one of the most influential novels of our time.

Trevor, William. Short Stories.

A set of short stories, each story explaining the life of a person and their emotions.

Tsukiyama, Gail. Women of the Silk.

Women silk factory makers form a "sisterhood", a group that shows their town its first strike. A tale of the friendship, courage and the freedom of young women in China.

Undset, Sigrid. Kristin Lavransdatter.

This trilogy chronicles the life of Kristin Lavransdatter during fourteenth-century Scandinavia. Learn about her romances and her hard work while also discovering what life was like in the fourteenth century politically, socially, and spiritually.

Vonnegut, Kurt. Welcome to the Monkey House.

A collection of Kurt Vonnegut's short, creative, and humorous stories.

Vonnegut, Kurt. Slaughterhouse Five.

A novel centered on the bombing of Dresden that helps us to find meaning in our lives.

Walker, Alice. The Color Purple.

The story of two sisters' loyalty to one another and their tales: one is a missionary in Africa and the other a wife and mother living in the South.

Waugh, Evelyn. Brideshead Revisited.

Waugh's most famous novel follows Charles Ryder as he visits the aristocratic Flyte family at their grandiose Brideshead Castle. Brideshead Revisited shows the deterioration of the English aristocracy through their sins, but also how their religion influences them.

Waugh, Evelyn. The Loved One.

In this humorous novel, a Los Angeles funeral parlor, called the Whispering Glades, where the staff may only call the corpses "Loved Ones", provides the setting for this comedic satire on life in Hollywood and the movie business.

Wharton, Edith. The Age of Innocence.

This ironically-titled novel, set in upper class New York in the 1870s, tells of lawyer Newland Archer's love for the recently divorced Countess Ellen Olenska while still involved in his marriage to her cousin, May.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Wharton, Edith. The House of Mirth.

Follows the life of Lily Bart through New York at the turn of the century, a time of opulence, lacking morals, and the Gilded Age.

Woolf, Virginia. Any title.

From the British feminist author of the 20th century come various books dealing with psychology, particularly depression, in a stream of consciousness. Recommended titles: Mrs. Dalloway, To The Lighthouse, and A Room of One's Own.

History:

Brown, Dee. Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.

This account depicts how the Native Americans lost their land and lives to the rapidly growing white society from the time of the Navajos' Long Walk in 1860 to the massacre of the Sioux in 1890. This controversial book is a must-read for any American history student who wants to better understand the natives' problems.

Capote, Truman. In Cold Blood.

Called a "nonfiction novel," Truman Capote's masterpiece gives the historical account of four brutal murders in Kansas an edge through his literary structure and writing, which makes it seem like a novel. In Cold Blood inspired many journalists through this terrifying but very memorable account.

Ellison, Ralph. Invisible Man.

This harrowing novel tells the story of an unnamed African-American man and his journey through American intolerance and cultural blindness. A truthful look at race relations in the North and the South during the 1950's.

Guterson, David. Snow Falling on Cedars.

During times of prejudices, a Japanese American man is blamed for the murder of a Local Fisherman in Alaska. This story recalls hatred, love, and forgiveness during times of uncertainty for the Japanese-American community.

Hailey, Alex. Roots.

Alex Haley tells of his journey to find his own culture on the other side of the world in Africa, and traces the roots of nearly 25 million African-Americans. He speaks to all races about what it's like to come in contact with your culture in a riveting, spiritual book.

Hersey, John. Hiroshima.

The product of Hersey's interviews in Japan immediately following the catastrophic event that conceived the atomic age tells the story of what happened on August 6, 1945, from the memories of survivors.

Historical Fiction:

Alvarez, Julia. In the Time of the Butterflies.

A clever blend of fact and fiction, Alvarez tells a story of courage and sisterhood in the Dominican Republic during the Trujillo dictatorship there. They evolve from teenagers to revolutionaries in this powerful, tense, award-winner.

Burgess, Anthony. Nothing Like the Sun.

If you enjoyed "Shakespeare in Love," give this book a try. Beginning in Stratford-upon-Avon, the reader is introduced to young Shakespeare as a leather craftsman. Watch him develop from a dreamer to a playwright in London. Burgess also expertly incorporates real history of the period and Shakespeare's life without straying from Shakespeare at all.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Chang, Jung. Wild Swans.

An extraordinary family portrait that tells of the 1900's in China. Chang's grandmother was sold as a concubine to Beijing's police chief; his mother grew up during Japan's brutal occupation, and the author witnessed her mother's arrest and her father's mental breakdown as well as the oppressive and inhuman side of communism in this memoir.

Cooper, James Fenimore. The Last of the Mohicans.

A book set in 1757 during the time of the Native Americans and new European settlers. This book has it all: action, romance, and courage. The novel is exciting and interesting until the end!

Dunant, Sarah. The Birth of Venus.

As much a coming-of-age story as a historical account, this novel tells the story of young Alessandra Cecchi in 15th-century Florence under the powerful, wealthy Medici family. What will happen to Florence – and Alessandra – when Florence is taken over by Savonarola, threatened by a French invasion, or terrorized by serial killers?

Emecheta, Buchi. The Bride Price.

A multi-layered romance about women of the Ibo tribe in Nigeria and their struggles to maintain their identity against the patriarchal society they live in.

Frazier, Charles. Cold Mountain.

After being severely wounded in the Civil War, Inman, a Confederate soldier, decides to walk back to his home in the Blue Ridge Mountains and be with the woman he loves, Ada. This tale follows both Ada and Inman, while they encounter slaves and witches and try to stay alive in a world of unknowns.

Khashoggi, Soheir. Nadia's Song.

After Karima Ismail's daughter goes missing, the story of the unbreakable bond between mother and daughter is narrated. Set in Egypt, five decades of Middle Eastern history are included in this novel, from World War II to the Gulf War.

Markayanda, Kamala. Nectar in a Sieve.

The tragic, yet beautiful tale of Rukmani, a woman in a poor village in India, and the influence of both Indian and Western culture on her life.

O'Brien, Tim. The Things They Carried: A Work of Fiction.

A semi-memoir of O'Brien's life, dealing with his experiences in the Vietnam War and their lasting legacies on both a personal and social level.

Paton, Alan. Cry, the Beloved Country.

The poignant and timeless tale of one man, Stephen Kumalo, and his son Absalom, both members of the Zulu tribe during the turmoil of 1940's South Africa.

Seton, Anya. The Winthrop Woman.

This historical piece follows Elizabeth Winthrop, wife of the Puritan governor John Winthrop. Although her husband favors a theocracy, Elizabeth disobeys his rules and goes her own way. She befriends the "heretical" Anne Hutchinson and even dares to find her own true love in this refreshing look at early American history.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. Uncle Tom's Cabin.

This novel depicts African-American slaves on three separate plantations not as monsters or idiots (as was commonly thought at the time), but as caring mothers, fathers, and Christians. Great for anyone who wants to better understand the antebellum US.

Tan, Amy. The Joy Luck Club.

A story that portrays China through the strong bonds of mothers and daughters, held together by secrets between these Chinese-American women and their families.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Uris, Leon. Exodus.

Israel's birth as a nation is revealed through a heartbreaking tale of an American nurse and an Israeli freedom fighter.

Mystery:

Atwood, Margaret. Alias Grace.

In 1843, sixteen-year-old Grace Marks was tried and convicted for murdering her employer and mistress, making headlines across the world. In this novel, Atwood retells the story from Grace's point of view, recounting everything from before the famed murders to her stay in prison and asylums in a chilling, detailed, and fascinating psychological thriller.

Christie, Agatha. All titles.

Christie is one of the most well-known mystery authors of all time, and there is a very good reason for this! All of her books are extraordinarily well written and are full of twists and turns. Any one of them would be a fascinating read for this summer.

Collins, Wilkie. The Woman in White and The Moonstone.

This is a mystery/suspense novel that has been nearly forgotten despite its wonderful, surprising plot. Laura Fairly's father's dying wish was for her marriage to Sir Percival Glyde. Her sister soon finds out he is nothing but a monster and will stop at nothing to save Laura. If you enjoy this, try The Moonstone as well, the first conventional "mystery novel" written!

duMaurier, Daphne. Rebecca.

A tale of fear, suspicion, and romance unfolds at Manderley with widower Max de Winter, the unnamed narrator, and Winter's former wife Rebecca. As the story develops, it becomes a story of obsession, evil, and, of course, mystery. Highly recommended by many students.

Eco, Umberto. The Name of the Rose.

A great choice for fans of the "Da Vinci Code," Adso of Elk and wise William of Baskerville attempt to solve a 14th century Italian monastery's murder mystery. They take the reader on a whirlwind journey through the history of the Catholic Church, philosophy, religion, and even debates on topics like the poverty of Christ.

James, Henry. Turn of the Screw and Aspern Papers.

The first of these two mysteries is about a crazy governess who believes ghosts are haunting her young charges for evil purposes. The second describes an American publisher's journey to Venice to find a series of letters written by an admired poet: what he finds is another mystery.

Sayers, Dorothy. Gaudy Night.

One of Sayers' famed Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries, Gaudy Night is a "psychological thriller" that describes Miss Harriet Vane's return to Shrewsbury College, part of Oxford University, for a seemingly harmless college reunion. A few months after the 'eventful' gathering, she is called back to the University to solve numerous mysteries. Perfect if you enjoy Agatha Christie's mystery books.

Tey, Josephine. Daughter of Time.

Wounded Inspector Grant of Scotland Yard searches for a way to make his stay in the hospital more interesting – in the process, he stumbles on the puzzling historical mystery of King Richard III and the alleged murder of his two nephews in the Tower.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Science:

Carson, Rachel. Silent Spring.

Released in 1962, Carson's classic account of ecological ruin and the modern environment describes in graphic detail what happens when we put too many chemicals in our plants and soil. Perfect for anyone going into AP Environmental Science or who just wants to understand modern ecological problems.

Feynman, Richard. Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!.

Nobel-Prize winning Physicist Richard Feynman comically takes us on a journey of an eccentric physicist. After casually trading ideas with Einstein and Bohr, Feynman still manages to capture our attention by mixing utter intelligence with sheer curiosity.

Hawking, Stephen. A Brief History of Time.

This book helps nonscientists understand the questions which are still present in the mouths of scientists. It explains the theories of the Big Bang, Black Holes, and time travel without being too complex, and enlightens us with theories we never would've thought of.

Leopold, Aldo. A Sand County Almanac.

A series of beautifully written essays, polemics, and memoirs about the marvels of nature. Discover the natural world through the study of animals living along the Wisconsin River.

Roueché, Berton. Medical Detectives.

Written by a "New Yorker" journalist, Medical Detectives chronicles 25 medical mysteries in the early to late twentieth century. Although they are true stories, Roueché has written these tales of disease and medicine as narratives and allowed the reader to play "medical detective." Great for any aspiring scientist.

Weiner, John. The Beak of the Finch.

Weiner provides a comprehensive and accessible introduction to Charles Darwin and evolution.

Zinsser, Hans. Rats, Lice, and History.

An intensely interesting combination of history, science, biography, and literature that traces the origins and history of microbial diseases. This book is relevant because it speaks not only about the past of famous diseases like the bubonic plague, but also their effect on today's society.

Science Fiction:

Abbott, Edwin. Flatland.

Narrated by A. Square, Flatland humorously describes in detail what life is like in a two-dimensional world ruled by angles and shapes. What will happen when he is taken from everything he knows and put into a three-dimensional world?

Adams, Douglas. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Imagine waking up one morning to find that your planet is being destroyed to make way for an intergalactic freeway. This is what happens to Arthur Dent, a mild-mannered man who is now a "hitch-hiker" across the universe. Filled with satire and wit, this is a must-read for all science-fiction fans.

Bradbury, Ray. Dandelion Wine.

Bradbury tells the story of the unusual and magical summer of 1928 for one twelve-year-old boy, Douglas Spaulding, and his journey to grow up during this extraordinary summer.

Stuart Country Day School Student List (cont.)

Bradbury, Ray. The Martian Chronicles.

A group of stories that chronicle the colonization of Mars in 1999, Bradbury tells the stories of both the colonizers from Earth and the Martians who must now try to survive despite the disease and unrest the scientists from Earth bring.

Finney, Jack. Time and Again.

Simon Morley hypnotizes himself back into the late 1800's, giving us a strong sense of 19th century New York. Morley falls in love, but ultimately has to deal with threats being presented in both the present and the past.

Herriot, James. All Creatures Great and Small.

A heartwarming, entertaining, and humorous book about Herriot's beginning years as a vet. A beautiful portrayal of the relationship between man and animal.

Huxley, Aldous. Brave New World.

A science fiction novel about the sterile life on a future Earth. As the story unfolds, the disturbing truth shines through about what really lies beneath the façade of utopia.

Keyes, Daniel. Flowers for Algernon.

This is heart-wrenching story of a young man, Charlie, who eagerly submits himself to undergo an operatin that will hopefully increase his I.Q. He finds that the grass is not always greener on the other side.

Orwell, George. 1984.

George Orwell's classic revelation about a future society under a totalitarian regime closely mirrors the world's state of affairs, and is thus a frighteningly real depiction of the control politics and the government exert over the lives of people.

Orwell, George. Animal Farm.

An engaging allegory of the totalitarian regime in the Soviet Union through comparing the nation to a far. On this farm, the pigs Napoleon and Snowball seize control, drawing parallels to the collapse of communism and the rise of totalitarianism.

Quinn, Daniel. Ishmael.

This award-winning, unconventional novel tells the story of a modern writer who finds and answers an advertisement for a pupil. On the model of Plato's "Republic," the narrator and his unusual teacher have dialogues about what has gone wrong with human civilization.

English Department Grades 9 - 12

Austen, Jane *Emma* (11th and 12th) *The best novel of all time? Perhaps.*

Baker, Nicholas (11th and 12th) *The Mezzanine*
This is a favorite post-modern novel. It is very short but brilliant.

Barnes, Julian *The History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters* (10th, 11th and 12th) A thoroughly post-modern novel; an enjoyable, adventurous read. It mixes genres, styles, and disciplines.

Byatt, A.S. *Possession*. (11th and 12th) This is a favorite books. It is part history, part love story.

Flaubert, Gustave (11th and 12th) *Madame Bovary*
A must for any student who wants to be a writer.

Gregory, Phillipa *The Other Boleyn Girl* (9th and 10th grade) This is a great summer read, full of romance, drama, and a good dose of sibling rivalry. It will also set the stage nicely for some of the historical information covered in British Literature.

Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (11th and 12th) While this is a difficult read, it is also a great story of a woman's struggles to move past a dark and tragic event in her life.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *When We Were Orphans* (11th and 12th) I love this novel. Ishiguro is one of the most beautiful writers in the English novel.

James, Henry (11th and 12th) *Portrait of a Lady*
Isabella Archer is about your age when she gets her wish: She leaves her isolated town in upstate New York and travels to Italy with her aunt. This is a novel full of careful psychological insights.

Lahiri, Jhumpa *The Namesake* (10th, 11th, and 12th) A great novel about what it means to try to become an American while maintaining your own cultural identity.

Niffenegger, Audrey *The Time Traveler's Wife*. (10th, 11th, 12th) This book is part romance, part science fiction. It tells a great story and has a unique structure.

McEwan, Ian *Atonement* (12th)
This is an amazing novel. It begins with a 13 year old heroine and is set in England in 1935. McEwan is one of the best contemporary novelists. This novel's ending is astonishing: let me know what you think of it.

Mitford, Nancy *Love in a Cold Climate* (11th and 12th)
A must for Anglophiles: It is a funny, quirky, 20th century novel written by one a gifted writer who was also a member of one of England's most notorious 20th century aristocratic families.

Steinbeck, John, *The Pearl* (9th and 10th) I love this book for its simple beauty and timeless tale.

Salinger, J.D. *Fanny & Zooey* (11th and 12th)
This is a favorite novel read by many teenagers.

Tolstoy, Leo *Anna Karenina* (11th and 12th)
What is more romantic than the engagement scene in this novel?

Vikram Seth, *A Suitable Boy* At 1349 pages (1488 pages softcover) and 591,552 words, the book is one of the longest novels ever published in the English language but the romance is worth it! As soon as you read, "You too will marry a boy I choose" you know what sort of novel you are reading. This novel may be long --- but so are soap operas. Fun! Fun! Fun!

Wharton, Edith *The Custom of the Country* (11th and 12th)
This is a funny novel about a rich, ambitious bad-girl heroine set in turn of the century America and Europe.

Foreign Language Department Grades 9 -12

Clarke, Breena *River Cross My Heart*

A wonderful book for the girls to read based on Georgetown and the hardships of the black population in 1925. I am confident that all the girls will enjoy it very much and really get a feel for what the people went through. It was the time of President Coolidge.

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

Unique because it is written from the viewpoint of an autistic child.

Lahiri, Jhumpa *Interpreter of Maladies*

“India is an inescapable presence in this strong first collection's nine polished and resonant tales, most of which have appeared in *The New Yorker* and other publications.” *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. Find on amazon.com.*

Grades 11 & 12

Eugenides, Jeffrey *Middlesex*

“Middlesex is a grand, utterly original fable of crossed bloodlines, the intricacies of gender, and the deep, untidy promptings of desire. It’s a brilliant exploration of divided people, divided families, divided cities and nations -- the connected halves that make up our world and ourselves. Justly acclaimed when it was released in Fall 2002, it announces the arrival of a major writer for our times.” *From the inside book flap of the book. Find on amazon.com*

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel *Chronicles of a Death Foretold*. This book is incredibly thought provoking - a must-read for the lover of mysteries.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

“With *One Hundred Years of Solitude* Gabriel García Márquez introduced Latin American literature to a world-wide readership. Translated into more than two dozen languages, his brilliant novel of love and loss in Macondo stands at the apex of 20th-century literature.” --*Alix Wilber Find on amazon.com*

Saylor, Steven *Murder on the Appian Way*

A True Depiction of Life in the Roman Republic.

Sijie, Dai *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*

“This beautifully presented novella tracks the lives of two teens, childhood friends who have been sent to a small Chinese village for "re-education" during Mao's Cultural Revolution. “

Zafon, Carlos Ruiz. *The Shadow of the Wind*. This Spanish author gives many cultural insights into that time period. It may be read in Spanish or in English.

Fine Arts Department Grades 9 and 10

Chevalier, Tracy *The Girl with The Pearl Earring* A fictional story based on the famous painting by Vermeer.

Harr, Jonathan *The Lost Painting* A WONDERFUL book on Caravaggio.

Korman, Gordon *Born to Rock*

A high school senior, president of the Young Republicans club, 4.0 GPA, future Harvard student—had his entire future perfectly planned out. He then discovers that his real father is a punk rock legend. The student must then reconcile his two histories.

Tucker, Lisa *The Song Reader*

A tender narrative about grief, love, madness and crippling family secrets, in which the premise is that the main character analyzes the songs stuck in the heads of her clients, explaining what the song fragments reveal about their psyches.

Grades 11 and 12

Brown, Dan *The DaVinci Code* Bestseller about the hidden messages by Da Vinci in his paintings.

DuPre, Hilary and Piers DuPre *Hilary and Jackie*

Biography of the famous cellist, Jacqueline DuPre, who died of multiple sclerosis at age 42, written by her sister and brother-in-law. It includes her triumphs and achievements as well as her crises and flaws.

Lapierre, Alexandra *Artemisia* Artemisia Genteleschi was born in the late Renaissance to an accomplished painter. She gained experience from her father and then surpassed his expertise, working in the style of Caravaggio and becoming one of the most significant painters of her time.

Lane, Dakota *The Orpheus Obsession*

The lyrics of a rock song speak directly to the main character, who decides that the song was written just for her. A story of chat rooms, blogs, self-deception, arrogance and interwoven plotlines.

Lebrecht, Norman *Song of Names*

A violin prodigy and a Polish refugee whose family perished in the Holocaust, lives with a wealthy Jewish family in London and befriends their socially awkward son. After a

time he slides into London's seamier nightlife and eventually disappears on the day of his much-anticipated debut. He reappears 40 years later. The story explores the horrors of the Holocaust and the Blitz, as well as the quiet communities of Hasidic Judaism that developed in Britain after the flight of so many refugees.

Levenson, Thomas *Measure for Measure: A Musical History of Science*

This is a fascinating and probing account of the intertwining of science and music. Levenson delves into the subject and discovers a truth that every serious musician comes to recognize: the importance of mathematics to the basics of music. Levenson singles out special scientific and musical instruments and explores thoroughly how the two fields are related.

Manning, Sarra *Guitar Girl*

Story of teen-aged rock star attempting to reach maturity, sort out what's important and decide what needs to be let go. Wryly funny and realistic.

Rice, Anne *Cry to Heaven* Fictional account of opera in 17th and 18th century Italy, specifically Venice. It is accurate both musically and historically.

Smith, Diane *Pictures from an Expedition* Recently written book set in 1876 just after the Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana, and just after the Civil War. A woman artist who is a scientific illustrator is hired to accompany a scientific and exploration expedition west.

Fine Arts Department
Plays from the Standard Theatre Repertoire
Grades 9 - 12

Beckett, Samuel *Endgame* Absurdist piece about communication.

Ionesco, Eugene *The Chairs*, *The Bald Soprano*, *The Lesson* Absurdist plays about existentialism.

Anonamous *Everyman* Morality play from the Middle Ages.

Albee, Edward *The American Dream* *The Sandbox* Cynical plays about relationships and misplaced values.

Wilder, Thornton *Our Town* Famous story about life and death in small town America.

Jackson, Shirley *The Lottery* Frightening story about arbitrary and unquestioned laws.

Fletcher, Louise *Sorry*, *Wrong Number* A classic murder mystery.

Fine Arts Department
Plays from the Standard Theatre Repertoire

Wilde, Oscar *The Importance of Being Earnest* Charming and amusing romantic story about a man left in a handbag.

Chase, Muriel *Harvey* The story of a man and his make believe rabbit.

Gibson, W. *The Miracle Worker* The story of Helen Keller.

Simon, Neil *Brighton Beach Memoirs* WWII play about a family.

Harat, Moss and George Kaufman *You Can't take it With You* A funny play about an unusual family.

Hansberry, Lorraine *A Raisin In the Sun* A poor family and their struggles to face reality.

Zindel, Paul *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* A bohemian mother and two very different sisters grow together through a science project.

Kesselring, Joseph *Arsenic and Old Lace* Two maiden aunts and their murderous philanthropy.

Coward, Noel *Blithe Spirit* Famous and funny plays about the haunting by an former wife.

Goodrich, F and A. Hacketts *The Diary of Anne Frank* (based on the writings of Anne Frank) A young girl's diary while hiding from Nazi's in Holland.

Shaw, G. B. *Saint Joan* Play based on the trial of Joan as a soldier and her spirituality.

History Department Grades 9 & 10

Balakian, *Black Dog of Fate* History of the 1894 Armenian massacre by the Ottoman Turks, one of the greatest episodes of racial genocide in global history.

Brittain, Vera, *Testament of Youth* (1933) - memoir of a young British woman who left her studies at Oxford to serve as a nurse when World War I broke out in 1914; poignant account of the losses and sacrifices of this generation.

Brooks, Geraldine. *Year of Wonders*
The story focuses on the plague year, 1666, and English villagers' response to the sickness, fears and deaths.

Chang, Jung. *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*.
Examines the volatile history of 20th century through the eyes of three generations of Chinese women.

Chen, Da. *Colours of the Mountain* 2000
The story focuses on a boy's struggle to fulfill his dreams during a time in China fraught with many political challenges.

Dickens, Charles, *A Tale of Two Cities* - a suspenseful tale that takes place in London and Paris during the radical bloody phase of the French Revolution; follows the sequence of events between 1787 and 1793 very accurately and creates absolutely unforgettable characters caught in the turmoil of the Reign of Terror.

Fuller, Alexandra. *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight : An African Childhood*
This is a wonderful memoir of a British girl growing up in southern and central Africa from 1972 to 1990. It dramatically links her childhood to the spectacular landscape.

Hakakian, Roya. *Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran*. Well written story of one girl's experiences growing up in Iran during a revolutionary time filled with much repression.

Remarque, Erich Maria, *All Quiet on the Western Front* Pacifist novel about a young German soldier's experience on the Western Front during World War I. This is a very moving account of the effects of war on the young men in the trenches.

Sebald, W.G. *Austerlitz* A painful but gripping holocaust memoir.

Shelley, Mary, *Frankenstein* The original romantic story might surprise you - not at all like the myriad spin-offs in 20th-century popular culture; written by the daughter of the British feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, who died soon after she gave birth. Shelley

History Department Grade 9 & 10 (cont.)

created this story as the result of a story-writing competition among Mary, her husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and their friend, Lord Byron; she was nineteen when this story was published.

Spencer, Jonathan, *The Question of Hu* History of a collision of cultures; a lowly devout Chinese Catholic who accompanied a Jesuit missionary on a journey to ship his library to France in 1722 was locked up in an insane asylum in France shortly his arrival because of his “mad” behavior

Vijayaraghaven, Vineeta *Motherland: The Other Side of My Heart.*

An Indian American teenager is sent to India to live with her relatives. At first, she struggles with the culture shock, but comes to recognize the beauty and value in traditional Indian culture.

Voltaire, *Candide* The story of a gentle man who, though pummeled and slapped in every direction by fate, clings desperately to the belief that he lives in "the best of all possible worlds.

History Grades 11 & 12

Cambor, Kathleen. *In Sunlight in a Beautiful Garden*

Lyrical story of the lives lost and saved in the Johnstown flood of 1889.

Frazier, Charles. *Cold Mountain*

This novel chronicles the journey of a war-weary Civil war soldier as he escapes the miseries of war and returns to his home and his beloved.

Frazier, Ian. *Family*. “Using letters and other family documents, Frazier reconstruct two hundred years of middle class life, visiting small towns his ancestors lived in, reading books they read, and discovering the larger forces of history that affected them.”

Shaara Gaines, Ernest. *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* Follows the life of one woman who lived for over 100 years, born into slavery and alive to witness the Civil Rights movements of the mid 20th century.

Goodwin, Doris Kearns *No Ordinary Time* - Great historical writing about the FDR White House years.

Hemingway, Ernest, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*- Fictional account of the American Abraham Lincoln Brigade’s involvement in the Spanish Civil War in the 1930’s

Larsen, Deborah *The White* 2003

Beautifully written story of a girl’s captivity among natives set in colonial America.

History Department Grade 11 & 12 (cont.)

Moody, Anne. *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. A beautifully written autobiography of a black girl growing up in the rural South in the 20th century.

O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried*

A compelling examination of one man's struggles as a soldier during the Viet Nam War.

Shaara, Michael. *The Killer Angels* 1980

An Outstanding novel, which creates rich, complex and compassionate vision of the battle of Gettysburg.

X, Malcolm and Alex Haley *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* Explores the life of a key figure of the 20th century starting with his childhood as he confronts a racist nation.

Unsworth, Barry. *Sacred Hunger*

Winner of the Booker Prize, this well written novel examines an 18th century English family's rise to wealth through their participation in African slave trade.

Von Drehle, David. *Triangle*

A beautifully written non-fiction study of the causes and results of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. This brings to life urban and industrial life in New York City at the turn of the century.

Library List Grades 9 & 10

Abelove, Joan. *Go and Come back*. Alicia, who lives in a small Peruvian village, is just as fascinated by the anthropologist who come to her village as they are with her.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*. What devastating secret made Melinda call the police from a party, then become silent?

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*. 1985.

In a world decimated by alien attacks, the government trains young geniuses like Ender Wiggin in military strategy with increasingly complex computer games.

Opdyke, Irene Gut *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer*

An teen's decent into the hell of the holocaust is recounted as she inadvertently becomes a heroic rescuer.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees*. Taylor Greer leaves Kentucky to make a new life but her plans are suddenly altered when she finds an abandoned baby in her car.

Krakauer, Jon *Into Thin Air*

Tragedy strikes a group of climbers on Mount Everest in 1996 and many lives are lost.

Nolen, Stephanie. *Promised the Moon: The Untold Story of the First Women in the Space Race* The untold riveting story of women in aviatiions.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

The unforgettable classic expose of slavery in the United States.

Hawking, Stephen *A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes*

The author makes the history and evolution of the universe understandable and fascinating to all who read it!

Library List Grades 11 & 12

Bradshaw, *The Mists of Avalon*

A magical feminine retelling of the Arthurian legends that will leave you wanting more!

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. 1987.

Preferring death over slavery for her children, Sethe murders her infant daughter who later mysteriously returns as a ghost.

Ursula Hegi, *Ursula Stones from the River*

This compelling story recounts the effects of WW II on a small town in Germany are witnessed by an outcast of the village.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*. A journalist goes undercover to find out what its like to live on a minimum wage.

Guterson, David *Snow Falling on Ceders,*

A murder becomes the catalyst for remembering a love story during the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Dorris, Michael *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*

Three generations of Native American women recount their searches for identity and love.

Sinclair, Upton *The Jungle*

The deplorable conditions of the Chicago stockyards are exposed in this turn-of-the-century novel.

Weisel, Elie *Night*

A searing account of Auschwitz as experienced by a 15-year-old boy.

Religion Department Grades 9 & 10

Alborn, Mitch *Tuesday's with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young Man and Life's Greatest Lesson*

A touching and uplifting story about celebrating the gift of life told by a man dying of a terminal illness.

Canin, Ethan *The Palace Thief*

The Palace Thief is the basis for the movie *The Emperor's Club* and tells the story of how your actions throughout life form the foundation for your character – who you become.

Harris, Joanne *Chocolat*

A great pre-reading for freshman morality class (and its viewing of the video). Makes you really think about the blurry line between society's notions of right and wrong, all the while tantalizing your taste buds with the Chocolat made by an outsider in a quaint, little, insular French town.

Kirberger, Kimberly *No Body's Perfect*

Kirberger's collection of stories by real teens about body image, self- acceptance, and the search for identity.

Potak, Chaim *The Chosen*

Reuven and Danny have a counter-cultural friendship. Together they negotiate adolescence, family conflicts, the crisis of faith, loss, love, and the journey to adulthood. Each boy learns the valuable lessons of learning to stand for his own values.

Religion Department Grades 11 & 12

Boylan, Jennifer F. *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*

Boylan shares her journey to living an authentic life. She had to rely on support from her friends and family in her search for identity. The most important voice that she needed to listen to was her own.

Gaarden, Jostein *Sophie's World: A Novel about the History of Philosophy*

Okay Philosophy buffs, even if you can't sing Monty Python's Philosopher's Song, you might be intrigued about the mystery that young Sophie is called to investigate by an unknown teacher. Kant, Hume, Hegel. Historical philosophical development is finally easy to understand through Sophie's lessons. Well, maybe the end breaks apart a little, but isn't that really how life is. Deep thinkers and mystery buffs, alike, will love this.

Religion Department (cont.)

Hesse, Herman *Siddhartha*

Classic fiction about a man's Buddha-like journey from living the high life to choosing the contemplative life. Terrific to read before taking World Religions. A must for anyone interested in Buddhism.

Hoff, Benjamin *The Tao of Pooh*

Did you grow up with Winnie-the-Pooh? Did you know that his stories can be lessons in Taoism? That's what Hoff shows. A fun, easy reading for anyone who believes in simplicity and nature's lessons. Also, a must for anyone interested in Taoism.

Kidd, Sue Monk *The Secret Life of Bees*

Searching and belonging: isn't that what it's all about. Young Lily searches for the memory of her mother and, in doing so, finds an unusual setting of belonging. The Legend of the Black Madonna comes to light and is made practical in the everyday workings of Lily's new home.

Leddy, Mary Jo, *Radical Gratitude: Discovering Joy through Everyday Thankfulness*

Gratitude bridges the gulf between our spiritual and material worlds. By coming to appreciate the earthly things around us that give true joy, we open the path to greater authenticity and discover what is most real in ourselves. Mary Jo Leddy provides the space for Radical Gratitude in ourselves, in others, and in our world.

Maguire, Gregory *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West.*

Lions and tigers and bears? Oh, my! We get to go back to Oz, but see it from the Wicked Witch's perspective. A little dark, but a great example of reconstruction and interpretation from a woman's point of view. And, certainly a great way to reflect upon the notion of good and evil.

Palmer, Parker *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*

"Let Your Life Speak" is about simply that. Learning to listen to your inner most desire is one of the most vital lessons of life. Making decisions based upon your own call for greatness is a key component of life. Palmer challenges us to listen to our own life and to be our own person despite many societal pressures.

Science Department Grades 9 – 12

Alkins, P.W. *The Periodic Kingdom*

A sweeping history of the periodic table that connects chemistry, physics and human experience.

Coelho, Paulo *The Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dream.*

Science and spirituality combine in this fascinating fable.

Feynman, Richard *Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman*

Humorous book about his life, science stuff, and self-examination.

Lambert, Joan Dahr *Circles Of Stone*

A powerful account of the prehistoric roots of women as leaders.

Morris, Richard *Last Sorcerers: The Path from Alchemy to the Periodic Table.*

An amazing scientific saga comes to life on these pages!

Plait, Philip *Bad Astronomy*

Book about science and astronomy misconceptions and hoaxes.

Roueche , B *The Medical Detectives*

This collection is a "page-turner." Each story is a quick and fascinating read.

Sachs, Oliver. "*Uncle Tungsten*", *Memories of a Chemical Boyhood.* Memoir of Dr. Sack's childhood and of his uncle, a chemist.

Sachs, Oliver *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*

Interesting stories involving how the brain, and diseases of the brain, can change our perceptions of reality.

Trefil, James. *101 Things You Don't Know About and No One Else Does Either*

Science things explained...

Walker, Jearl *Flying Circus of Physics with Answers*

Book with random (strange) physics happenings explained.

Winchester, Simon *Krakatoa The Day the World Exploded*

A shocking account of the largest volcanic eruption in history in which 40,000 people lost their lives.

Weisman, Alan. *The World without Us* Called by the *New Yorker* a "pop-science ghost story", what would be left behind if the human population were suddenly and irrevocably wiped out?