

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH Recommended Reading List

NOTE: The below list includes books either read or recommended. Some books are available in our library. Some contain mature themes and colorful language. Check for information within (parenthesis). Also, check out other books by the same authors or let me know some of your favorites to add to the list! NOTE: Books by the same author are on the same line separated by a semicolon followed by "or". As always, the best sources for new works are your neighborhood libraries and bookstores. There are some web sites that are helpful- ALA Best Books for Young Adults, ala.org- many links, such as to YALSA (Young Adult Library Services). St. Charles Public Library has a great site: <http://www.st-charles.lib.il.us/index.htm>. Also found this one below has lots of links: www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit_resources/favorites/by_age_group/YA_links.html

THE LIST

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| Abelove, Joan, GO AND COME BACK | (Racial Stereotypes, Recommended) |
| Adams, Alice, AFTER THE WAR | (Racial/Ethnic Stereotypes) |
| Adams, Douglas, HITCHIKERS'S GUIDE TO GALAXY | (Humor. See sequels) |
| Adams, Richard, WATERSHIP DOWN | (Fantasy, classic read) |
| Alcott, Louisa, LITTLE WOMEN | (Gender Differences) |
| Anderson, Laurie Halse, SPEAK | (Strong Female Character) |
| Angelou, Maya, I KNOW WHY CAGED BIRD SINGS | (Powerful Personal Memoir) |
| Avi, TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE
WINDCATCHER | |
| NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH | (set in High School) |
| BLUE HERON | |
| Austen, Jane, EMMA | |
| PRIDE AND PREJUDICE | (classic romantic tales of the human condition) |
| Banks, Russell, RULE OF THE BONE | |
| Bauer, Joan, RULES OF THE ROAD | |
| HOPE WAS HERE | (Strong Female Characters) |
| THWONK | (Humorous love story) |
| Bauer, Marion Dane, ON MY HONOR | (Dealing with Grief-Loss of best friend) |
| Beals, Melba, WARRIORS DON'T CRY | (Racial Issues-Integration, Autobiography) |
| Blais, Madeline, IN THESE GIRLS HOPE IS A MUSCLE | (High School Girls basketball team, non-fiction) |
| Blumberg, Rhoda, ADMIRAL PERRY IN LAND OF SHOGUN | |
| INCREDIBLE JOURNEY OF LEWIS & CLARK | (Historical) |
| Blume, Judy, BLUBBER | (Dealing with obesity) |
| TIGER EYES | (Girl becomes mainstay of family after father dies) |
| THEN AGAIN, MAYBE I WON'T | |
| Bombeck, Erma, I WANT TO GROW HAIR, I WANT TO GROW UP, I WANT TO GO TO BOISE | (Dealing w/Illness) |
| Borland, Hal, WHEN THE LEGENDS DIE | (Dealing with Ethnic Stereotypes) |
| Brady, Mari, PLEASE REMEMBER ME | (Dealing with Illness) |
| Brashares, Ann, THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS | |
| Braithwaite, Edward, TO SIR WITH LOVE | (Dealing with Racial Stereotypes) |

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- Bridgers, Sue Ellen, ALL TOGETHER NOW
HOME BEFORE DARK (Life Challenges)
NOTES FOR ANOTHER LIFE
PERMANENT CONNECTIONS
- Bronte, Charlotte, JANE EYRE (classic, early 19th Century England Romantic tale)
- Brooks, Bruce, MOVES MAKE THE MAN (Basketball)
WHAT HEARTS
- Buck, Pearl, THE GOOD EARTH (modern classic, life in China)
- Burnet, THE SECRET GARDEN (Coming of Age Story)
- Burns, Olive, COLD SASSY TREE (Age Differences)
- Cadnum, Michael, HEAT (Sports, Female Protagonist!)
- Calvert, Patricia, GLENNIS, BEFORE AND AFTER (Dealing with Life Challenges)
- Capps, Benjamin, A WOMAN OF THE PEOPLE (Dealing with Stereotypes)
- Card, Orson Scott, ENDER'S GAME
SPEAKER OF THE DEAD or sequels (class favorites, Science Fiction)
- Carter, EDUCATION OF LITTLE TREE (Native American Protagonist)
- Cather, MY ANTONIA
- Chambers, Aidan, TOLL BRIDGE
- Chbosky, Stephen, THE PERKS OF BEING A WALL FLOWER (Humorous, themes of self discovery)
- Childress, HERO AIN'T NOTHING BUT A SANDWICH (Serious, Mature Material-Heroin Addict's story)
- Christie, Agatha, AND THEN THERE WERE NONE (Famous Mystery Writer)
- Clapp, Patricia, WITCHES' CHILDREN
- Cleaver, HAZEL RYE; or WHERE LILIES BLOOM
- Cochran, ROUGHNECKS (High School Football story)
- Cole, Brock, CELINE; or GOATS (Wonderful story about outcasts)
- Colfer, ARTEMIS FOWL (popular book in 6th-7th grade)
- Collier, BROTHER SAM IS DEAD. (Revolutionary War)
- Collins, Suzanne, HUNGER GAMES and sequels
- Conly, Jane Leslie, CRAZY LADY (About Personal Values)
- Conrad, HEART OF DARKNESS (considered a literary classic)
- Cooney, Caroline, DRIVER'S ED (Dealing with Life Challenges)
FLIGHT 116 IS DOWN
- Cooper, Susan, GREENWITCH
GREY KING
OVERSEA
UNDER STONE (Fantasy)
- Cormier, Robert, AFTER THE FIRST DEATH
BUMBLEBEE FLIES AWAY
CHOCOLATE WARS (Mature language, situations)
I AM THE CHEESE (Government Conspiracies - Mature Themes)
WE ALL FALL DOWN (Struggles of intimacy);
HEROES
RAG
BONE SHOP

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FRENCHTOWN SUMMER	
Crane, RED BADGE OF COURAGE	(Civil War Story)
Craven, I HEARD THE OWL CALL MY NAME	
Creech, Sharon, WALK TWO MOONS	(Issues of Family, recommended)
LOVE THAT DOG	
Crew, Linda, CHILDREN OF THE RIVER	(Dealing with Racial/Ethnic Stereotypes)
Crutcher, Chris	(his books often contain mature themes and obscenities but he's a great writer)
IRONMAN	(Bo, an athlete, struggles with his anger)
RUNNING LOOSE	(Growing up in the face of obstacles)
STAYING FIT FOR SARAH BYRNES	(Dealing with Life Challenges and Differences)
STOTAN	(Sports Novel. Excellent)
WHALE TALK	
BEGINNINGS	
CHINESE HANDCUFFS	
Culin, Charlotte, CAGES OF GLASS, FLOWERS OF TIME	(Dealing with Life Challenges)
Curtis, Christopher, THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM-1963	(Dealing with Racial/Ethnic Stereotypes)
BUD NOT BUDDY	(young orphan searching for his father, humorous)
Cushman, Karen, CATHERINE, CALLED BIRDY	
MIDWIFE'S APPRENTICE	(Medieval Setting; excellent story)
Danziger, Paula, THE CAT ATE MY GYMSUIT	(Marcy grows up; a humorous writer)
Davidson, Mary, HELEN KELLER: STORY OF MY LIFE	(Physical Challenges, Autobiography)
Deuker, Carl, HEART OF A CHAMPION	(Sports and Friendship, recommended);
ON THE DEVIL'S COURT	
Dickens, GREAT EXPECTATIONS,	(Historical Fiction Classic!)
Dillard, Annie, TEACHING A STONE TO TALK	(Writer of AMERICAN CHILDHOOD)
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV	(Classic work about human nature, rage and revenge against an abusive father)
Dorris, Michael, A YELLOW RAFT ON BLUE WATER	
GUESTS	
MORNING GIRL	(Mature Subject material and language; Dealing with Stereotypes)
Draper, Sharon, FORGED BY FIRE	
TEARS OF A TIGER	
ROMIETTE AND JULIO	
DOUBLE DUTCH	
DARKNESS BEFORE DAWN	(strong female protagonist)
Dumas, Alexandre, THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	(Classic swashbuckling adventure)
Duncan, Lois, RANSOM	
KILLING MR. GRIFFIN	(Suspense, Intrigue, excellent characters)
Farmer, Nancy, A GIRL NAMED DISASTER	(Strong Female Character)
Fast, Howard, APRIL MORNING	(Revolutionary War)

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MY GLORIOUS BROTHERS	(Historical Fiction)
Fisch, Robert, LIGHT FROM THE YELLOW STAR	(Holocaust/Memoir)
Fitzgerald, F Scott, THE GREAT GATSBY	(classic tale set in the 1920's, a young man's search for meaning)
Flagg, Fannie, FRIED GREEN TOMATOES	(Gender Differences)
Fleischman, Paul, SEEDFOLKS	(Urban Garden brings community together- 13 different narrators)
WHIRLIGIG	
Forbes, JOHNNY TREMAIN	(Historical Fiction - A Classic!)
Fox, Paula, SLAVE DANCER	(Historical Fiction. Boy on Slave Ship)
Franklin, Miles, MY BRILLIANT CAREER	(Gender Differences)
Funke, Cornelia, THE THIEF LORD	(lots of my students love INKHEART)
Gaines, Ernest, THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MISS JANE PITTMAN	(Dealing with Racial/Ethnic Stereotypes)
George, JULIE OF THE WOLVES	(Strong Female Protagonist)
Giles, Gail, SHATTERING GLASS	
Golding, William, THE LORD OF THE FLIES	(classic tale of group of boys surviving on an island)
Goldman, William, THE PRINCESS BRIDE	(Medieval Humorous Adventure)
Grant, Cynthia, THE WHITE HORSE	(Dealing with Women's issues)
Greene, Hanna, I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN	
Greene, Bette, DROWNING OF STEPHEN JONES	
SUMMER OF GERMAN SOLDIER	(Historical Fiction)
PHILLIP HALL LIKE ME	
Grisham, John, A TIME TO KILL	
TESTIMONY	
PARTNER	
THE STREET LAWYER	(or any other others; Popular Fiction Writer. Some sexual situations)
Hamilton, Virginia, COUSINS	
Hanff, 84, CHARRING CROSS ROAD	
Hawthorne, Nathaniel, SCARLET LETTER	(Classic dealing with reputation)
Haynes, David, RIGHT BY MY SIDE	(African American Experience)
Hemingway, OLD MAN AND THE SEA	(More to story than title);
FAREWELL TO ARMS	(tragic romance during World War 1)
Hesse, Karen, OUT OF THE DUST	(Historical Fiction; Life Challenges)
Hesser, Terry, KISSING DOORKNOBS	(Dealing w/Obsessive Compulsive Disorder)
Hinton, SE, writer of OUTSIDERS, RUMBLE FISH	
TAMING THE STAR RUNNER	
THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW	
Hobbs, Will, DOWNRIVER	
JASON'S GOLD	(Historical Fiction)
THE MAZE	
Hocken, Sheila, EMMA AND I	(Dealing with Illness/Physical Challenges)
Hornbacher, Marya, WASTED	(eating disorders, non fiction, excellent)
Horwood, DUNCTON WOOD	

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- Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki, FAREWELL TO MANZANAR (Historical; Japanese Internment Camps during WW2; highly acclaimed book)
- Hunt, ACROSS FIVE APRILS (Historical Fiction, CIVIL WAR)
- Hunter, DIARY OF LATOYA HUNTER (Memoir of a Middle School Aged Girl)
- Hurwin, Davida, A TIME FOR DANCING (Dealing with Illness/Physical Challenges)
- Jacques, Brian, REDWALL; or MOSSFLOWER (Fantasy Adventures. Very popular author)
- Jiang, Ji-Li, RED SCARF GIRL (Dealing with Illness/Physical Challenges)
- Johnson, Angela, TONING THE SWEEP (African American experience. Very moving)
- Jones, Ron, THE ACORN PEOPLE (Mature; inspirational, deals w/illness)
- Kata, PATCH OF BLUE
- Keller, Helen, MY RELIGION (Autobiography-Personal Memoir)
- Kerr, M.E., GENTLEHANDS IS THAT YOU MISS BLUE NIGHT KITES (Girls growing up among religious mysticism)
- Keyes, Daniel, FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON (Operation turns mentally challenged man into genius, temporarily. Considered a classic.)
- Kim, THE LONG SEASON OF RAIN
- Kingsolver, Barbara, THE BEAN TREES (Highly acclaimed; mature subject)
- Kirkpatrick, KEEPING THE GOOD LIGHT (Female Protagonist)
- Klass, David, DANGER ZONE (Racism, prejudice, politics!)
- Klause, Curtis, BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (Strong Female Character)
- Knowles, SEPARATE PEACE (Classic tale of friendship)
- Krakauer, Jon, INTO THIN AIR (Autobiography of a tragic experience)
- L'Engle, Madeleine, (Writer of WRINKLE IN TIME)
A RING OF ENDLESS LIGHT
A SEVERED WASP
A SWIFTLY TILTING PLANET
YOUNG UNICORNS
- Lee, Harper, TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (Classic bout fight against prejudice; Historical Fiction)
- LeGuin, Ursula,
A WIZARD OF EARTH SEA
VERY FAR AWAY FROM ANYWHERE ELSE (Dealing with Differences)
ONES WHO WALK AWAY FROM OMELAS (Utopian issues, young protagonists)
- Leslie, IN SHADOW OF A RAINBOW
- Levin, Gail Carson, ELLA ENCHANTED
- Levitin, THE RETURN
- Lewis, C.S., LION, WITCH, WARDROBE (Any of NARNIA series)
- Lipsyte, Robert, JOE LOUIS: A CHAMPION FOR ALL AMERICA (Biography of Boxer)
ONE FAT SUMMER (Humorous + Inspirational)
THE CHEMO KID (Dealing with Illness)
THE CONTENDER (Boxing story)
- London, Jack, THE CALL OF THE WILD (Classic tale of the wolf dog, Buck's survival in the Arctic)
- Lopez, Charlotte, LOST IN THE SYSTEM (Dealing with Life Challenges)

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- Lowry, Lois, A SUMMER TO DIE
GATHERING BLUE
MESSENGER (Author of GIVER)
- Maclean, Norman, A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT
- Magorian, Michelle, GOOD NIGHT, MR TOM (Age Differences)
- Marshall, Catherine, CHRISTY (Life Challenges, Gender Difference)
- Mazer, Norma, AFTER THE RAIN (Age Differences)
OUT OF CONTROL (Sexual Harassment)
WHEN SHE WAS GOOD
- McCaffrey, Anne, DRAGONSINGER
- McCullers, Carson, MEMBER OF THE WEDDING (Gender Differences; excellent)
- McDonald, Joyce, SWALLOWING STONES
- McGuigan, Mary, WHERE YOU BELONG (Racial/Ethnic Stereotypes)
- McKinley, Robin, BEAUTY (Strong Female Character)
THE BLUE SWORD (Kidnapped Girl becomes Warrior)
- Mead, Alice, ADEM 'S CROSS (Albanian Boy in Kosovo)
- Meigs, Cornelia, INVINCIBLE LOUISA (Gender Differences)
- Merrill, Jean, THE PUSHCAR WARS (Satire, Funny)
- Mikaelsen, Ben, PETEY Dealing with Cerebral Palsy
RESCUE JOSH McGUIRE
- Momaday, N. Scott, THE WAY TO RAINY MOUNTAIN (Native American experience)
- Myers, Walter Dean, FALLEN ANGELS (Vietnam Story)
HARLEM
HOOPS (Sports Story)
IT AIN'T ALL FOR NOTHIN
MONSTER
SCORPIONS (Youth Gangs)
SLAM!
THE GLORY FIELD (Civil War. Highly recommended)
- Namioka, Lensey, DEN OF THE WHITE FOX (Historical, action, suspense!)
- Naylor, Phyllis, WALKING THROUGH THE DARK (Dealing with Life Challenges)
- Nix, Garth, SABRIEL
- Nolan, Han, DANCING ON THE EDGE
- Nuwer, Hank, THE LEGEND OF JESSE OWENS (Biography)
- O'Neal, Zibby, THE LANGUAGE OF GOLDFISH (Dealing with Differences)
- O'Dell, Scot, ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
- Orenstein, Peggy, SCHOOL GIRLS
- Orr, Wendy, PEELING THE ONION, (Dealing with Women's issues)
- Ortiz, Victoria, SOJOURNER TRUTH (Dealing with Racial/Ethnic Stereotypes)
- Orwell, George, 1984 (Futuristic Novel)
ANIMAL FARM (Politics and Human nature couched within Animal story)
- Paterson, Katherine, BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA (Boy learns about friendship)
COME SING JIMMY JO
JACOB I HAVE LOVED (Family Issues between twins)
JIP, HIS STORY (Historical Fiction)
MASTER PUPPETEER
THE GREAT GILLY HOPKINS (Strong Female Character)

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- Paulsen, Gary, HARRIS AND ME (Boy's Adventures w/mischievous cousin)
 HATCHET (Great Survival Story!)
 NIGHTJOHN + (Slavery)
 POPCORN DAYS AND BUTTERMILK NIGHTS
 SARNY (Sequel to NIGHTJOHN)
 SOLDIER'S HEART
 THE FOXMAN
 TRACKER
- Peck, Richard, THE LAST SAFE PLACE ON EARTH (about the impact a group in the
 community can have on its members)
 A DAY NO PIGS WOULD DIE (A rural Vermont boy has to grow up quickly
 due to his father's early death and the
 raising of a "pet" pig which ultimately needs
 to be the winter food)
- Peck, Robert SOUP ON FIRE (Comical Novel)
- Pelzer, Dave, A CHILD CALLED IT (mature subject, well written)
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth, FAMILY OF STRANGERS
 YEAR WITHOUT MICHAEL (acclaimed author)
- Philbrick, Rodman, FREAK THE MIGHTY (Humorous, inspirational)
- Plummer, Louise, UNLIKELY ROMANCE OF KATE BJORKMAN
- Potok, MY NAME IS ASHER LEV; or THE CHOSEN (Wonderful books about friendship)
- Pullman, Phillip, RUBY IN THE SMOKE
 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
 THE SUBTLE KNIFE (great dark mysteries)
- Quackenbush, Robert, CLARA BARTON (Dealing with Gender Issues, Biography)
- Raskin, THE WESTING GAME (Strong Female Character)
- Rawlings, THE YEARLING (Animal Story)
- Rawls, WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS
- Remarque, Erich, ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT (Classic told by German Soldier)
- Rhodes, Atwater, IN THE FOREST OF THE NIGHT
- Richter, Conrad, THE LIGHT IN THE FOREST (Dealing with Racial/Ethnic Stereotypes)
- Riordan, Rick, THE LIGHTNING THIEF. (Big class favorite)
- Rodowsky, Colby, REMEMBERING MOG (Dealing with Life Challenges)
- Roop, Peter, SUSAN B ANTHONY (Biography, Gender Differences)
- Rowling, HARRY POTTER Series (ANY acceptable)
- Rylant, EVERY LIVING THING
 SING MAY (Very moving remembrance)
- Sachar, Louis, HOLES (Wrongly accused, Stanley is sent to a
 boot camp for young offenders, where he
 discovers both corruption and a
 connection to his past.)
- Salinger, JD, CATCHER IN THE RYE (Mature subject material, but classic
 coming of age novel)
- Salisbury, Graham, BLUE SKIN OF THE SEA
- Sanders, Dori, CLOVER (Dealing with Racial/Ethnic Stereotypes)
- Schaefer, SHANE (Western!)
- Serrailier, Ian, ESCAPE FROM WARSAW (World War II Story)

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- Shusterman, Neal, WHAT DADDY DID (Dealing with Life Challenges. Mature Themes)
- Sleator, William, ODDBALLS (Humor. Personal Memories)
- Slepian, Jan, THE ALFRED SUMMER, (4 outcasts face limitations. Very inspirational)
- Soto, Gary, A SUMMER LIFE
FIRE IN MY HANDS
LIVING UP THE STREET
TAKING SIDES (In his books, this excellent author shares his own Hispanic experience)
- Sparks, Beatrice, JAY'S JOURNAL
IT HAPPENED TO NANCY
- Speare, THE SIGN OF THE BEAVER
THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND
- Spinelli, Jerry, author of MANIAC MAGEE, STARGIRL (Strong Female Character)
THERE'S A GIRL IN MY HAMMERLOCK (Gender Differences)
WHO PUT THAT HAIR IN MY TOOTHBRUSH (Humor. Boy's Romantic escapades)
WRINGER
- Stanley, CHILDREN OF DUSTBOWL (Historical Fiction)
- Staples, Suzanne, SHABANU: DAUGHTER OF THE WIND (Young woman struggles with growing up in the desert of Pakistan. Very well written. Some mature subject material)
- Steinbeck, John, EAST OF EDEN
GRAPES OF WRATH
LONG VALLEY
TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY
THE PEARL
RED PONY
- Stevenson, Robert Louis, KIDNAPPED (Classic tale of survival)
- Stewart, Trenton Lee, THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY (Another class favorite)
- Stiefvater, Maggie, SHIVER (Wolf befriends a girl; popular choice for 6-7th grade)
- Swift, Jonathan, GULLIVER'S TRAVELS (classic fantasy tale revealing human foibles)
- Taylor, Mildred, ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY (Historical, Excellent-racial issues)
SONG OF THE TREES (prequel)
- Temple, TASTE OF SALT (Moving Haitian experience. Mature reading)
- TenBoom, Corrie, THE HIDING PLACE (Dealing with Racial/Ethnic Stereotypes)
- Thomas, Rob, DOING TIME (Provocative. Serious subject material)
RATS SAW GOD (Steve, brilliant but nearly failing out of high school, recounts the events that brought him from straight-A sophomore to apathetic senior)
- Tolan, S, THE PLAGUE
- Tolkien, JRR, Any of the LORD OF THE RINGS Series or HOBBIT
- Townsend, Sue, THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE (humorous, Boy living in England)
- Trueman, Terry, STUCK IN NEUTRAL
- Twain, Mark, ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER (A classic!)

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- Uchida, Yoshiko, A JAR OF DREAMS; or THE INVISIBLE THREAD (Autobiography of Japanese American Girl in internment camp during WW II)
- Valens, E G, THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN (Physical Illness/Challenge)
- Verne, AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
- Voigt, Cynthia, COME A STRANGER
DICEY'S SONG (Kids on own)
HOMECOMING
IZZY, WILLY-NILLY (Dealing w/Illness)
JACKAROO (Most of her Novels feature Strong Female Protagonists)
- Wallace, Rich, PLAYING WITHOUT THE BALL (Sports story)
- Wangerin, Wlater, THE BOOK OF THE DUN COW (Animal Fantasy, battle of good and evil)
- Wells, H.G., THE INVISIBLE MAN
- Werlin, Nancy, LOCKED INSIDE
THE KILLER'S COUSIN (Mystery/Suspense Novels)
- Wersba, Barbara, RUN SOFTLY
GO FAST
WHISTLE ME HOME
- Westall, Robert, DEMONS AND SHADOWS (Ghost Stories)
KINGDOM BY THE SEA (WW II Boy/Dog journey)
- Wheeler, Leslie, JANE ADDAMS (Gender Differences)
- White, BELLE PRATER'S BOY
White, Robb, DEATHWATCH (Survival Story)
- White, Ryan, RYAN WHITE: MY OWN STORY (Dealing with Illness/Physical Challenges)
- Wiesel, Elie, NIGHT (Holocaust Memoir. Powerful. Mature subject)
- Wittlinger, Ellen, HARD LOVE
- Wolff, Virginia, BAT 6 (Ethnic Stereotypes)
MAKE LEMONADE (Dealing with Life Challenges)
PROBABLY STILL NICK SWANSON (Dealing with Differences)
- Woodson, Jacqueline, I HADN'T MEANT TO TELL YOU THIS (Racial Stereotypes- Marie, a popular black girl, befriends Lena, a poor, white girl living with a secret of abuse. (great book alternating between the point of view of the young woman and the young man in the relationship)
- IF YOU COME SOFTLY
- Yep, Laurence, CHILD OF THE OWL
THE STAR FISHER (Chinese American Experience)
- Zindel, Paul, Author of PIGMAN, DAVID AND DELLA
MY DARLING, MY HAMBURGER (Love, Sex, betrayal come to a young girl)
PIGMAN AND ME (Age Differences)
- Zusak, Markus, THE BOOK THIEF (serious work, but well written)