

# Summer Reading Titles 2011

Over the course of the last year, faculty and administration have been evaluating the current summer reading program and have decided it needs to change. The current program's goal was to provide an abundance of choices so that all students could find a book of interest to them. The concept is one we all embrace, unfortunately it is impossible for teachers to be familiar with all of the titles. Thus, evaluating the required assignments is unrealistic.

The new summer reading program will be modeled after book discussion groups. The program will still offer a wide variety of choices and insure that teachers/facilitators have read the title. The list below has approximately seventy-five titles, both fiction and nonfiction, and spans a wide array of topics. The key below indicates the subject area they connect to. Students will read a title over the summer. They will develop three clarifying questions they anticipate being raised during the book discussion. In addition, students will answer in a well developed paragraph one of the questions listed on the Summer Reading Web page.

Upon returning to school in the fall, students will be notified of the day, time, location, and facilitator of their book discussion group. Students will go to the assigned room to join in a book discussion. They will turn in their questions and answers to the facilitator. Both participation in the discussion and the written questions and answers will comprise their grade for summer reading which will be reflected in the first term English Language Arts grade.

*Finally...enjoy your book and look forward to discussing the title with fellow students and staff!*

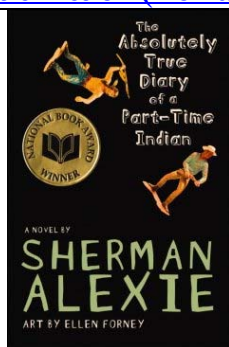


**Key** Cultural History/Social Studies Science Art Math ★ Award Winner Titles

## Fiction

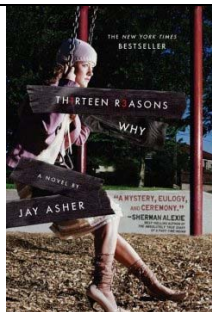
### Realistic Fiction (Romance – Coming of age – Angst)

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*** – Native American – Realistic Fiction – Diary, Both, Grades 7-12.

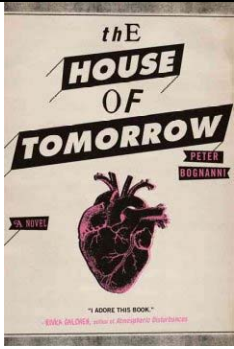

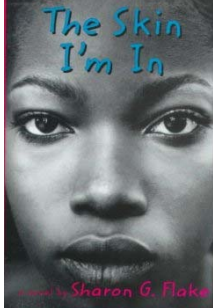
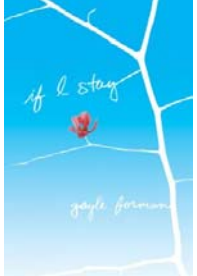


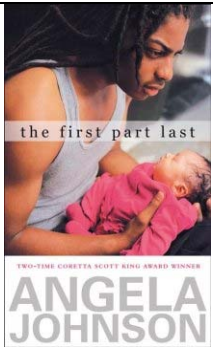

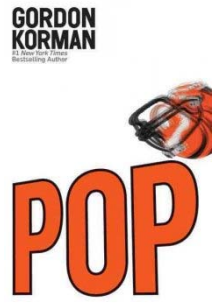
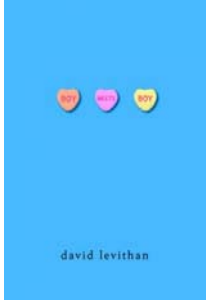
/\* Starred Review \*/ National Book Award Winner, Horn Book, Boston Globe Award, YALSA Best Books for YA...Alexie nimbly blends sharp wit with unapologetic emotion in his first foray into young-adult literature. Fourteen-year-old Junior is a cartoonist and bookworm with a violent but protective best friend Rowdy. Soon after they start freshman year, Junior boldly transfers from a school on the Spokane reservation to one in a tiny white town 22 miles away. Despite his parents' frequent lack of gas money (they're a "poor-ass family"), racism at school and many crushing deaths at home, he manages the year. Rowdy rejects him, feeling betrayed, and their competing basketball teams take on mammoth symbolic proportions. The reservation's poverty and desolate alcoholism offer early mortality and broken dreams, but Junior's knowledge that he must leave is rooted in love and respect for his family and the Spokane tribe. He also realizes how many other tribes he has, from "the tribe of boys who really miss . . . their best friends" to "the tribe of tortilla chips-and-salsa lovers." Junior's keen cartoons sprinkle the pages as his fluid narration deftly mingles raw feeling with funny, sardonic insight(Kirkus)

***Thirteen Reasons Why*** – Jay Asher – High Interest, Both, Grades 7-9.

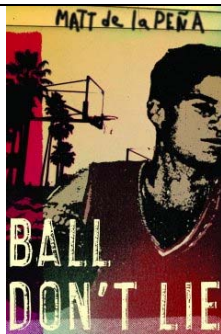


/\* Starred Review \*/ Best Books for Young Adults YALSA, California Book Award Winner... "Everything affects everything," declares Hannah Baker, who killed herself two weeks ago. After her death, Clay Jensen—who had a crush on Hannah—finds seven cassette tapes in a brown paper package on his doorstep. Listening to the tapes, Hannah chronicles her downward spiral and the 13 people who led her to make this horrific choice. Evincing the subtle—and not so subtle—cruelties of teen life, from rumors, to reputations, to rape, Hannah explains to her listeners that, "in the end, everything matters." Most of the novel quite literally takes place in Clay's head, as he listens to Hannah's voice pounding in his ears through his headphones, creating a very intimate feel for the reader as Hannah explains herself. Her pain is gut-wrenchingly palpable, and the reader is thrust face-first into a world where everything is related, an intricate yet brutal tapestry of events, people and places. Asher has

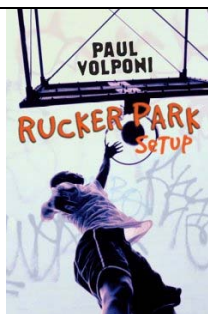
<p><b>House of Tomorrow</b> Peter Bognanni – Coming of age – Funny – Compassionate, Both, Adult book appeals to YA.</p> <p>★</p>		<p>created an entrancing character study and a riveting look into the psyche of someone who would make this unfortunate choice. A brilliant and mesmerizing debut from a gifted new author(Kirkus).</p> <p>/* Starred Review */ <b>Alex Award Winner, National Book Award Finalist</b>...Sebastian Prendergast, the teenage narrator of Bognanni's funny and unique debut, lives in Iowa's first geodesic dome with his grandmother, a devout follower of futurist philosopher Buckminster R. Fuller. But when Nana has a stroke, Sebastian is thrown together with Janice and teenage Jared Whitcomb, who were touring the home when Nana was stricken. Soon, Sebastian and Jared form an unlikely bond via the great teenage tradition of punk rock, starting their own band despite the objections of everyone around them and Sebastian's lack of musical ability (holding a guitar for the first time, Jared says, "Strum," and Sebastian asks, "What do you mean?"). And while Jared succeeds to some degree in socializing Sebastian—teaching him about music, smoking, and curse words—Sebastian ends up getting more than he bargained for when the two get caught up in Whitcomb family drama. The boys here don't come of age—girls are just beginning to exist and lifelong struggles are only taking root—but their connection is an honest, noisy, and raucous look at friendship and how loud music can make almost everything better(Publishers Weekly).</p>
<p><b>Ironman</b> Chris Crutcher – Character driven- Emotionally intense, Both, Grades 9-12.</p>		<p>Bo Brewster, a high school senior, is forced to attend anger-management classes after a series of run-ins with his English teacher/ex-football coach. Since those in the class are considered "felons" by outsiders, he figures the best he can hope to do is survive. The group's teacher, Mr. Nak, a Japanese American from Texas, deftly draws Bo into participating in the class, allowing him to learn plenty about himself and the running war that he has waged with his father for years. Bo spends most of his time outside of school training rigorously in preparation for a grueling triathlon. An added twist finds Bo's father providing his arch rival with an expensive bike, hoping Bo will lose and learn a lesson. The story is presented in both a third-person account of events, and through Bo's eyes in letters he writes to talk-show host Larry King, the only adult he believes will listen. Through Crutcher's masterful character development, readers will believe in Bo, empathize with the other members of the anger-management group, absorb the wisdom of Mr. Nak, and despise, yet at times pity, the boy's father. This is not a light read, as many serious issues surface, though the author's trademark dark humor (and colorful use of street language) is abundant. Crutcher has consistently penned exceptional reads for YAs, and Ironman is one of his strongest works yet(School LibraryJournal).</p>
<p><b>The Skin I'm In</b> Sharon Flake – African American Fiction –Character driven – Realistic Fiction, Female, Grades 7-9.</p> <p>★</p>		<p><b>John Steptoe Award for New Talent, YALSA Best Books for Young Adults, New York Public Library Top Ten Book for the Teen Age</b>...Books for Youth, For the Young: Whether the setting is a tough city neighborhood or a poor Hawaiian village, bullies are scary, gangs are trouble, and it's hard to be different. In this YA novel, a middle-schooler feels like an outcast and struggles for acceptance. In Flake's novel, Maleeka Madison feels like a freak in her inner-city middle school. The kids pick on her because she's "the darkest, worst-dressed thing in school" and because she gets good grades. The leader of the pack is Charlese, who pulls and pushes Maleeka into wilder and wilder delinquent behavior. A new teacher tries to help and so does a smart, friendly boy. In the end, Maleeka stands up for herself, wins the poetry contest, and likes the skin she's in. The message is overt ("Strut your stuff . . . accept yourself for who you are"), but first novelist Flake lessens the sermonizing. Funny and clever, she's honest about how mean people are, how hard it is. The characters are complex: even the cute, friendly boyfriend fails Maleeka one time when she most needs him; the teacher is vulnerable as well as strong; the bad girl's home is a disaster. The gum-smacking, wisecracking dialogue in the hallways, the girls' bathroom, and the classroom will pull readers into a world too rarely represented in middle-grade fiction. Every outsider kid will get it, every victim of class bullies(Booklist).</p>
<p><b>If I Stay</b> - Gayle Forman High Interest, Female, Grades 9-12.</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ The last normal moment that Mia, a talented cellist, can remember is being in the car with her family. Then she is standing outside her body beside their mangled Buick and her parents' corpses, watching herself and her little brother being tended by paramedics. As she ponders her state ("Am I dead? I actually have to ask myself this"), Mia is whisked away to a hospital, where, her body in a coma, she reflects on the past and tries to decide whether to fight to live. Via Mia's thoughts and flashbacks, Forman (Sisters in Sanity) expertly explores the teenager's life, her passion for classical music and her strong relationships with her family, friends and boyfriend, Adam(Publilshers Weekly).</p>

<p><b>First Part Last</b> Angela Johnson - Coming of age – Issue oriented – Realistic Fiction, Both, Grades 8-12</p> <p>★</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ Gr 8 Up/ Printz Award Winner, Coretta Scott King Award, ALA Best Books for Young Adults...Brief, poetic, and absolutely riveting, this gem of a novel tells the story of a young father struggling to raise an infant. Bobby, 16, is a sensitive and intelligent narrator. His parents are supportive but refuse to take over the child-care duties, so he struggles to balance parenting, school, and friends who don't comprehend his new role. Alternate chapters go back to the story of Bobby's relationship with his girlfriend Nia and how parents and friends reacted to the news of her pregnancy. Bobby's parents are well-developed characters, Nia's upper-class family somewhat less so. Flashbacks lead to the revelation in the final chapters that Nia is in an irreversible coma caused by eclampsia. This twist, which explains why Bobby is raising Feather on his own against the advice of both families, seems melodramatic. So does a chapter in which Bobby snaps from the pressure and spends an entire day spray painting a picture on a brick wall, only to be arrested for vandalism. However, any flaws in the plot are overshadowed by the beautiful writing. Scenes in which Bobby expresses his love for his daughter are breathtaking. Teens who enjoyed Margaret Bechard's <i>Hanging on to Max</i> (Millbrook, 2002) will love this book, too, despite very different conclusions. The attractive cover photo of a young black man cradling an infant will attract readers(School Library Journal).</p>
<p><b>Standing Against the Wind</b> Traci Jones – Realistic Fiction – Character driven – Inspirational – Moving, Female, Grades 7-9.</p> <p>★</p>		<p>Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award - Author, Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year, NCSS-CBC Notable Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies...Patrice's rarely seen mother is in jail, and shy, studious Patrice lives with her aunt in a crowded apartment in the Chicago projects. Each day she must run the gauntlet of taunts and threats, as she negotiates the halls of her middle school and the long cold blocks between school and home. When Monty becomes her friend and protector, she is able to concentrate on applying for a scholarship to a prestigious African-American boarding school. It takes courage, ingenuity and help from Monty to get to the prison and to convince her uncaring mother to sign the application. Along the way, Monty, impressed by Patrice's steadfastness, raises his own grades and goals. Jones vividly and painfully portrays the deadening effects of poverty, hopelessness and dysfunctional and ever-changing family relationships. She chooses credible language for each character without creating caricatures. Patrice is a true hero, a child who has the inner strength to overcome roadblocks to success. Moving and thought-provoking(Kirkus).</p>
<p><b>Pop</b> Gordon Korman - Realistic Fiction – Sports Fiction – Emotionally intense, Male, Grades 7-10.</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ Football will be the way Marcus Jordan makes the transition to his new school, so he practices in the park, preparing for tryouts. There he meets the enigmatic Charlie, a middle-aged man who knows much about football and conveys what Marcus has been missing in his game: fearlessness. "I love the pop! Sometimes you actually hear it go pop!" As bad luck would have it, Charlie is the father of Troy, star of the team, who takes an instant dislike to Marcus. Soon it is clear that Charlie is not eccentric but suffering from early-onset Alzheimer's caused by all the hits he took as a player in the NFL, a fact his family works hard to conceal. Marcus's involvement with Charlie exposes the secret and reveals the family tensions it has created. This carefully structured story, despite the difficult issue at its core, engages readers primarily with complex characters (including secondary ones) and well-drawn relationships. The football scenes are riveting, but the poignant human drama more than holds its own. Banking his usual over-the-top humor, Korman goes straight to the heart(Kirkus).</p>
<p><b>Boy Meets Boy</b> David Levithan Coming of age – Realistic fiction- Humorous – Offbeat. Grades 8 up.</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ Gr 8 Up–High school sophomore Paul lives in a present-day gaytopia, where boys come out of the closet to become class president, and the Gay-Straight Alliance has more members than the football team. The cheerleaders ride Harleys, and the cross-dressing homecoming queen is also the star quarterback. Paul meets artistic Noah in the bookstore. They pass notes rife with meaningful detail; paint in Noah's psychedelic, art-covered room; and fall in sweet, realistic teenage love, unencumbered by gay bashing, sexual-identity crises, and parental rejection. With these real-world plot constraints removed, the narrative is driven completely by colorful, literate characters at their unfettered best. Paul is the cerebral teen's dream narrator—reflective and insightful, occasionally snarky, and consistently hilarious. Levithan's whimsical, energetic prose and surreal setting draw comparisons to Weetzie Bat-era Francesca Lia Block. The sharp humor and thoughtful clarity of the narration are on par with those in Stephen Chbosky's <i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> (MTV, 1999) and Ellen Wittlinger's <i>Hard Love</i> (S &amp; S, 1999). Levithan's prophecy of a hate-free world in which everyone loves without persecution makes this a provocative and important read for all young adults, gay or straight.</p>

**Ball Don't Lie** Matt de la Peña –  
Sports Fiction –Realistic Fiction -  
Gritty, Male, Grades 10-12.

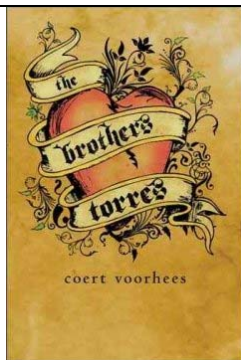


/\* Starred Review \*/ Gr 9 Up/[ALA Best Books for Young Adults](#)...“That white boy can ball....He don't play like no regular white boy.” Sticky, 17, has spent his life being abused by pimps living with his prostitute mother, bouncing from one foster home to another, and living on the street between failed placements. But he's developed incredible hoop skills that have given him considerable social standing among his mostly black peers. And he gets a girlfriend named Anh-thu, who loves him and wants to help him reach his dreams. Sticky sees basketball as his way out of his dead-end life and is determined to make the right moves in the game to attain his goal. But he doesn't quite know how to make the right moves in his life, until a bad decision leads him to confront dark secrets. Jumping back and forth in time, this first novel has a unique narrative voice that mixes street lingo, basketball jargon, and trash talk to tell Sticky's sorry saga from a variety of viewpoints. Although readers who are not familiar with basketball may have trouble following some of the detailed game action, even they will be involved in the teen's at once depressing and inspiring story. Sticky is a true original, and de la Peña has skillfully brought him to life(School Library Journal).



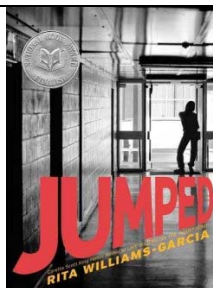
[American Library Association Quick Pick winner, ALA Best Book Young Adult](#)...In this intense sports novel, Mackey is about to realize his ambition of participating in one of Rucker Park's legendary street basketball tournaments. When he and his friend J.R. are chosen to play on rap star J-Greene's squad, the Greenbacks, it seems that their dreams are coming true. Then J.R. is murdered on the court, and Mackey finds himself haunted by the role he played in the tragedy. J.R.'s father, Stove, who is refereeing the tournament, knows that Mackey has not told the truth about J.R.'s death; the man's thoughts form a Greek chorus to the action on the court and Mackey's inner struggles. In high-velocity street ball, elbows and punches fly as players zigzag and streak across the court, and eager crowds line up to see mind-boggling steals and gravity-defying slam dunks. Volponi's sportswriting is finely attuned to the action, and he weaves the true, storied history of Rucker Park, located in New York City's Harlem, throughout his story. At times, the drama threatens to boil over, but Volponi keeps things in check with driving sports action and nuanced characterizations. Recommend this fine work to basketball fans, and to those who've enjoyed Walter Dean Myers's and James Bennett's sports novels(School Library Journal).

**Brothers Torres** Coert Voorhees –  
Realistic Fiction – Cultural – Character  
driven, Male, Grades 10-12.



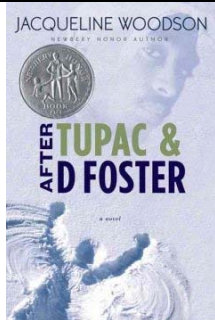
/\* Starred Review \*/ Gr 9 Up/[ALA Best Books for Young Adults, International Reading Association's Children's Book Awards, YALSA Top Teen Book for Young Adults](#)...Frankie Torres knows his older rother, Steve, is endangering his college scholarship by staying out all night with the local cholos and picking fights with his soccer teammates. Accepting of his sibling's good looks and macho charm, Frankie figures Steve is just looking for respect and covers for him, deflecting his parents' questions and picking up the slack at Los Torres, the family's New Mexican restaurant. Frankie's primary obsession is getting a date with Rebecca Sanchez for the Homecoming dance. When he exhibits some bravado against rich kid and soccer jock John Dalton, he only hopes to win her attention, but he unintentionally incites a series of incidents that forces his brother to defend him. Adding insult to injury, Frankie's working-class parents begin secretly negotiating the sale of Los Torres to the Daltons. Protected by his brother's squad of toughs, Frankie seeks revenge but soon learns what these warring factions of older boys are willing to risk. Frankie is as memorable a character as Sherman Alexie's Junior Spirit in *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (Little, Brown, 2007). He exhibits a resiliency that is hopeful, and his colorful language and humor both confirm and dispel ethnic stereotypes. Flecked with Spanish phrases and authentic street slang and colloquialisms, Frankie's story is as poignant as it is hip and funny and will be a welcome addition to collections serving teens(School Library Journal).

**Jumped** Rita Williams-Garcia –  
Realistic Fiction – Fast paced –  
Character driven, Female, Grades 7-10.



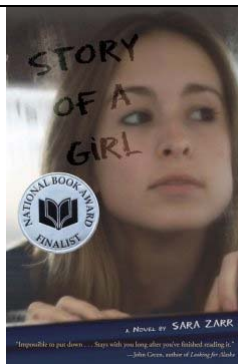
/\* Starred Review \*/[Newbery Honor Book, National Book Awards Finalist](#)... Alternating among the perspectives of three girls at an urban high school, Williams-Garcia (*Like Sisters on the Homefront*) shows once again her uncanny ability to project unique voices. Benched by the basketball coach for her low grades, Dominique is trying to bite back her rage when “some stupid little flit comes skipping down B corridor like the Easter Bunny.... Skipping. In all that pink” and walks between Dominique and her “girls,” “like she don't see I'm here and all the space around me is mines.” That's it—Dominique vows to “kick her ass” at exactly 2:45. Her intended victim, Trina—already full of herself over her looks, and pumped up because she's about to hang her latest masterpiece of art in a hallway—does not hear, but Leticia does, and she can't wait to tell her best friend (“That would be something to see.... Trina getting stomped on school grounds”). And when Leticia's friend argues that Leticia ought to warn Trina, the plot quickens rather than taking a simple path around should-she/shouldn't-she. So well observed that the characters seem to leap off the page, the novel leaves a strong and lingering impact(Publishers Weekly).

**After Tupac and D Foster** Jacqueline Woodson – Coming of age – Character driven – Bittersweet – Compelling, Both, Grades 6-10.



Newbery Honor, ALA-ALSC Childrens Notable Book, National Book Award Finalist, Coretta Scott King Award...D Foster, Neeka, and an unnamed narrator grow from being 11 to 13 with Tupac Shakur's music, shootings, and legal troubles as the backdrop. Neeka and the narrator have lived on the same block forever and are like sisters, but foster child D shows up during the summer of 1994, while she is out "roaming." D immediately finds a place in the heart of the other girls, and the "Three the Hard Way" bond over their love of Tupac's music. It seems especially relevant to D, who sees truth in his lyrics, having experienced the hard life herself in group homes and with multiple foster families. Woodson's spare, poetic, language and realistic Queens, NY, street vernacular reveal a time and a relationship, each chapter a vignette depicting an event in the lives of the girls and evoking mood more than telling a story. In this urban setting, there are, refreshingly, caring adults and children playing on the street instead of drug dealers on every corner. Readers are right on the block with bossy mothers, rope-jumping girls, and chess-playing elders. With Tupac's name and picture on the cover, this slim volume will immediately appeal to teens, and the emotions and high-quality writing make it a book well worth recommending. By the end, readers realize that, along with the girls, they don't really know D at all. As she says, "I came on this street and y'all became my friends. That's the D puzzle." And readers will find it a puzzle well worth their time(School Library Journal).

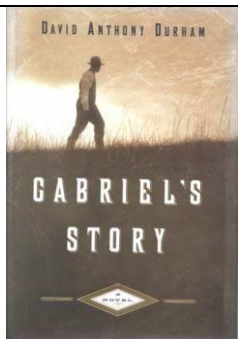
**Story of a Girl** Sara Zarr – Realistic Fiction – Character driven – Emotionally intense – Moving, Female, Grades 9-12.



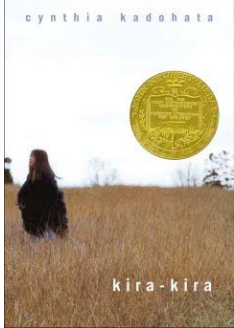
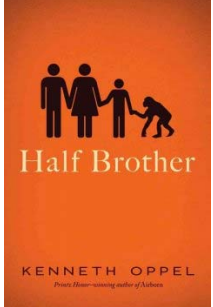
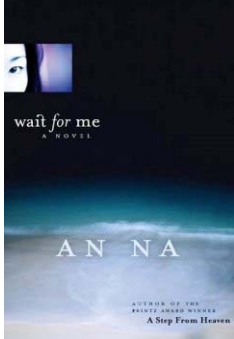
/\* Starred Review \*/ Gr 9 Up/ National Book Award Finalist, American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults National Book Award Finalist... When Deanna's father catches her having sex in a car when she is 13, her life is drastically changed. Two years later, he still can't look her in the eye, and though Tommy is the only boy she's been with, she is branded the school slut. Her entire family watches her as though she is likely to sleep with anyone she sees, and Tommy still smirks at and torments her when she sees him. Her two best friends have recently begun dating, and Deanna feels like an intruder. She tries to maintain a close relationship with her older brother, but Darren and his girlfriend are struggling as teenage parents. Deanna learns to protect herself by becoming outwardly tough, but feels her isolation acutely. Her only outlet is her journal in which she writes the story of an anonymous girl who has the same experiences and feelings that she does. Through this, readers see the potential that Deanna cannot identify in herself. This is a heartbreaking look at how a teenager can be defined by one mistake, and how it shapes her sense of self-worth. This is realistic fiction at its best. Zarr's storytelling is excellent; Deanna's reactions to the painful things said to her will resonate with any reader who has felt like an outsider. It is an emotionally charged story, with language appropriate to the intensity of the feelings. Story of a Girl is recommended for both teens and the adults who live and work with them(School Library Journal).

### Historical & Cultural Fiction

**Gabriel's Story** by David Durham – Adult book appeals to YA – Historical Fiction - Western stories, Both, Adult appeals to YA.

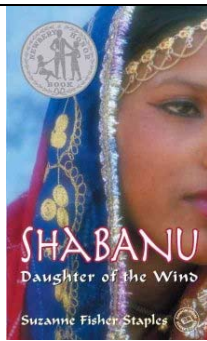


/\* Starred Review \*/ Alex Award, New York Times Notable Book, Booklist Editor's Choice ... Intensely dramatic debut, set in Kansas and points west and southwest during the 1870s: a direct homage to Cormac McCarthy's highly praised fiction (both his Blood Meridian and the recent Border Trilogy) but also an original work of high distinction. The protagonist, teenaged Gabriel Lynch, arrives from the East with his widowed mother Eliza and younger brother Ben at a train station where they're met by her husband-to-be, Solomon Johns, a farmer who had been Eliza's first love before her life with the boys' father, a prosperous middle-class Baltimore mortician. Gabriel resents the opportunities lost, and the hard life they're introduced to, and eagerly leaves "home," joining another black boy (James) to ride with a group of cattle drovers. A bloodthirsty odyssey ensues, as the gang's embittered leader Marshall Hogg (an amoral fatalist straight out of Dostoevsky) directs his minions to steal, rape, and murder, ever moving on, through Mexico, Arizona, and the Rockies, en route to California—away from the avengers who slowly, methodically pursue them. Durham tells this story with great skill, weaving together a beautifully plotted central action and extended italicized passages detailing the embattled growth to manhood of the stoical Ben and the steely determination of a bereaved Mexican soldier who'll follow Hogg to hell and back. Meanwhile, he also depicts with hallucinatory vividness the enigmatic figure of Hogg's second-in-command Caleb, a black drover who never speaks, and harbors a terrible secret indeed. The only flaw in the narrative is Durham's inexplicable tendency toward an abstract rhetoric clearly influenced by both the aforementioned McCarthy and his major influence, Faulkner, which often

		<p>produces moments of ludicrous and vague grandiosity (e.g., watching Caleb, "Gabriel thought him some dark figure of the apocalypse"). Such moments aside, Gabriel's Story grates on the reader's nerves unerringly, and frequently rises to real grandeur. A brilliant example of how to assimilate and transmute powerful literary influence. And what a movie this dark, haunting tale will make (Kirkus).</p>
<p><b>Kira-Kira</b> Cynthia Kadohata – <b>Historical Fiction</b> – Character driven – emotionally intense – stylistically complex, Female, Grades 7-9.</p> <p>★</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ <b>Newbery Award Winner, ALA Notable Children's Books, Booklist Editors' Choice</b>... Set in the 1950s and '60s, Kadohata's moving first novel is narrated by a first-generation Japanese-American girl who moves with her family from Iowa to Georgia when their "Oriental foods grocery store" goes out of business. There, Katie and her family face hardships, including discrimination (she is ignored by the girls at school, for example), and the harsh conditions at the poultry plant where her mother works ("thugs" make sure workers do not gather so that they cannot organize). Katie's father often sleeps at the hatchery between shifts, and when their babysitter goes away, Katie and her brother must stay in the hot car outside the plant while their mother works. But it's her doting older sister Lynn's struggle with lymphoma that really tests her family. Katie's narrative begins almost as stream-of-consciousness, reflecting a younger child's way of seeing the world. But as she matures through the challenges her family faces, so does the prose. Kadohata movingly captures the family's sustaining love—Lynn and Katie secretly save their treat money for years so they can help their parents buy a house, and when ailing Lynn gets to pick the house, she chooses a sky blue one, because Katie as a "little girl,... had told her [she] wanted our first to be sky blue." The family's devotion to one another, and Lynn's ability to teach Katie to appreciate the "kira-kira," or glittering, in everyday life makes this novel shine (Publishers Weekly).</p>
<p><b>Half Brother</b> Kenneth Oppel – <b>Historical Fiction</b> – Character Driven – Though provoking – Compelling</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ Gr 7 – 11 — Thirteen-year-old Ben Tomlin's whole world is changing. His parents, research scientists, have moved them across Canada to be with their newest subject, Zan. Intending to prove that chimpanzees are capable of intelligent thought and communication, the Tomlins teach the baby chimp sign language and incorporate him into their daily lives. Thrust into a new school and, essentially, a new family, Ben is caught in a whirl of new emotions, especially when the lovely Jennifer comes onto the scene. Though Zan learns sign language relatively well, his animal instincts gradually become more pronounced and Ben and his parents must make some important decisions about the chimp's future. Oppel has taken a fascinating subject and molded it into a top-notch read. Deftly integrating family dynamics, animal-rights issues, and the painful lessons of growing up, Half Brother draws readers in from the beginning and doesn't let go. The carefully crafted characters will be an easy connection for teens and the interpretation of the animal-testing controversies of the 1970s will provide an alternate viewpoint for animal-book lovers (School Library Journal).</p>
<p><b>Wait for Me</b> An Na – Coming of age – Realistic Fiction – Emotionally intense, Female, Grades 7-10.</p> <p>★</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ <b>Galaxy National Book Award, Printz Award Winner, National Book Award Finalist</b>... What defines success? For one immigrant Korean mother, it is nothing less than a Harvard education. Seventeen-year-old Mina has created a high-school life filled with the illusion of straight A's and a topnotch college preparatory program in order to meet the overwhelming demands and expectations of her controlling Umma. Aided by former boyfriend and fellow Korean Jonathan, Mina adds some cheating to her life of lying. Her younger, hearing-impaired sister Suna, viewed as "damaged" by Umma, and the forbidden love and realistic advice of new, Mexican boyfriend Ysrael, ultimately force a sense of accountability in Mina. In an open-ended and arresting conclusion, she begins to face the truth within herself. Once again An Na has created a compelling drama riveted with emotional anguish. She draws her characters completely from within their souls, expressing the dreaded fear and doubt of protagonist Mina, which is brought on by the harshness and overbearing parental presumptions of Umma, and complicated by the loving responsibility for neglected and virtually abandoned sister, Suna. For Mina, success will depend on how she confronts her own desires, voices them to her rigid, insufferable mother and begins to live an honest life for herself. Gripping and engrossing (Kirkus).</p>

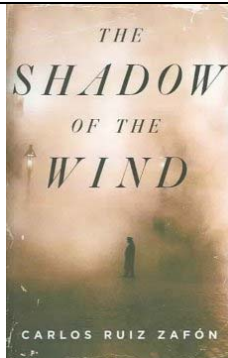
**Shabanu: Daughter of the wind.**

Suzanne Staples – Coming of age – Cultural – Compelling – Thought provoking, Female, Grades 7-10.



A Newbery Honor Book, ALA Notable Children's Book Award, ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies, Horn Book Fanfare Honor Book...Staples's first book is a beautiful portrayal of the life of a girl growing up among camel-dealing nomads in modern Pakistan. Shabanu knows the way her people, the Cholistanis, have always lived: a daughter abides by her father's decisions, a wife obeys her husband's wishes. Yet Shabanu is strong-willed and independent, and her mother warns, "Shabanu, you are wild as the wind. You must learn to obey. Otherwise . . . I am afraid for you." As the arranged marriage of Shabanu's sister Phulan approaches, and with her own wedding planned for the following year, Shabanu confronts her fear and apprehension. She scarcely knows the man she is expected to wed. What if she does not obey? Before the ceremonies take place, however, disaster strikes. Shabanu and Phulan, out alone and threatened with rape by a powerful local landowner, escape but humiliate him. In revenge, he kills Phulan's betrothed and threatens to cut off the family's water supply. As one condition for restoring peace, Shabanu must marry the landlord's older brother. With the help of a wise, loving aunt, Shabanu learns to curb and conceal her powerful will and channel it to bring her peace of mind. Staples's depiction of desert life is breathtaking. She employs vivid, lyrical metaphors to create the potency of the family's joys and struggles. Shabanu's thorny, poignant coming-of-age will capture the attention of readers young and old(Publishers Weekly).

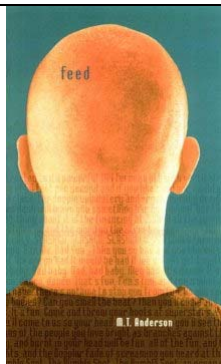
**Shadow of the Wind** Carlos Ruiz Zafon – **Historical Fiction** – Spanish Fiction – Suspense. Both



\* Starred Review \*/ The histories of a mysterious book and its enigmatic author are painstakingly disentangled in this yeasty Dickensian romance: a first novel by a Spanish novelist now living in the US. We meet its engaging narrator Daniel Sempere in 1945, when he's an 11-year-old boy brought by his father, a Barcelona rare-book dealer, to a secret library known as the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. Enthralled, Daniel "chooses" an obscure novel, The Shadow of the Wind, a complex quest tale whose author, Julian Carax, reputedly fled Spain at the outbreak of its Civil War, and later died in Paris. Carax and his book obsess Daniel for a decade, as he grows to manhood, falls in and out of fascination, if not love with three beguiling women, and comes ever closer to understanding who Carax was and how he was connected to the family of tyrannical Don Ricardo Aldaya—and why a sinister, "faceless" stranger who identifies himself as Carax's fictional creation ("demonic") "Lain Coubert" has seemingly "got out of the pages of a book so that he could burn it." Daniel's investigations are aided, and sometimes impeded, by a lively gallery of vividly evoked supporting characters. Prominent among them are secretive translator Nuria Monfort (who knows more about Carax's Paris years than she initially reveals); Aldaya family maid Jacinta Coronada, consigned to a lunatic asylum to conceal what she knows; Daniel's ebullient Sancho Panza Fermin Romero de Torres, a wily vagrant working as "bibliographic detective" in the Sempere's bookstore; and vengeful police inspector Fumero, a Javert-like stalker whose refusal to believe Carax is dead precipitates the climax—at which Daniel realizes he's much more than just a reader of Carax's intricate, sorrowful story. The Shadow of the Wind will keep you up nights—and it'll be time well spent. Absolutely marvelous(Kirkus).

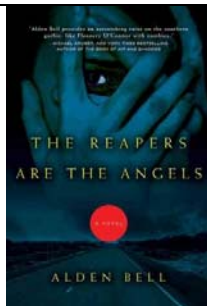
**Science Fiction – Fantasy - Horror**

**Feed** M. T. Anderson – Science Fiction - Character driven – World building, Both, Grades 8-12.



/\* Starred Review \*/ **Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, National Book Award Finalist**...for Young People's Literature "I don't know when they first had feeds. Like maybe, fifty or a hundred years ago. Before then, they had to use their hands and their eyes. Computers were all outside the body. They carried them around outside of them, in their hands, like if you carried your lungs in a briefcase and opened it to breathe." Titus and his friends have grown up on the feed—connected on a 24-hour basis through brain implants to a vast computer network, they have become their medium. "The braggest thing about the feed . . . is that it knows everything you want and hope for, sometimes before you even know what those things are." Titus is a master at navigating this world where to consume is to live, but when he meets Violet, a distinctly unusual girl whose philology-professor father has chosen to homeschool her instead of sending her to School™, he begins, very tentatively and imperfectly, to question this equation. Thrown together when their feeds are hacked at a party and they are temporarily disconnected, their very hesitant romance is played out against the backdrop of an utterly hedonistic world of trend and acquisition, a world only momentarily disturbed by the news reports of environmental waste and a global alliance of have-not nations against the obliviously consuming US. Anderson (Handel, Who Knew What He Liked, 2001, etc.) has crafted a wickedly clever narrative in which Titus's voice takes on perfectly the speech patterns of today's more vapid teens (" 'Oh, unit,' I was like, 'is this malfunction?' "). When Violet's feed begins to fail, and with it all her life functions, she decides to rebel against all that the feed stands for—the degradation of language, the self-absorption, the leaching of all culture and independent thought from the world—and Titus must make his choice. The crystalline realization of this wildly dystopic future carries in it obvious and enormous implications for today's readers—satire at its finest(Kirkus).

**Reapers are the Angels** Alden Bell – Horror – Zombies – Lyrical, Adult appeals to YA.

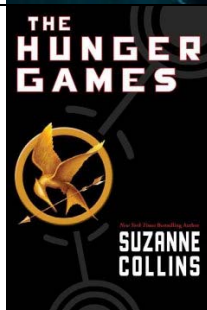


**/\* Starred Review \*/ Alex Award Winner, YALSA's Best Books for Young Adults Award...** This may be the most beautiful book about zombies this reviewer has ever read. Fifteen-year-old Temple travels alone through a dead world. Born after the apocalypse, this is the only realm she's ever known, and she is perfectly suited to it, dispatching "meatskins" as a matter of course. After she accidentally kills a man who attempted to rape her, his brother vows revenge. Zombies and even her pursuer are a backdrop to a story about Temple's real enemy, the monster she fears herself to be. Bell is a pseudonym for Joshua Gaylord (Hummingbirds). BZG Temple encounters a bulked-up, inbred clan of half-humans who have been injecting a steroidlike fluid derived from zombie brains(Kirkus).

**Hunger Games** Suzanne Collins - (trilogy...Catching Fire, Mockingjay)Science fiction – action packed – character driven – World building, Both, Grades 7-9.

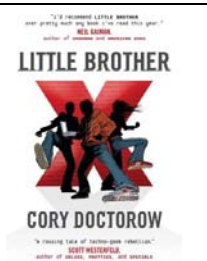


Trilogy Titles


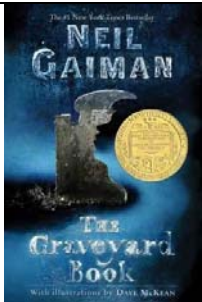
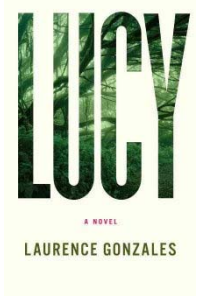
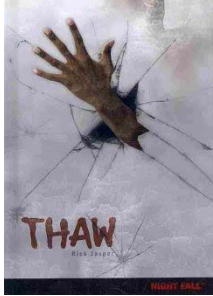


**/\* Starred Review \*/ Publishers Weekly Best Books, New York Times Notable Books for Children...**Signature Reviewed by Megan Whalen TurnerIf there really are only seven original plots in the world, it's odd that "boy meets girl" is always mentioned, and "society goes bad and attacks the good guy" never is. Yet we have Fahrenheit 451, The Giver, The House of the Scorpion—and now, following a long tradition of Brave New Worlds, The Hunger Games. Collins hasn't tied her future to a specific date, or weighted it down with too much finger wagging. Rather less 1984 and rather more Death Race 2000, hers is a gripping story set in a postapocalyptic world where a replacement for the United States demands a tribute from each of its territories: two children to be used as gladiators in a televised fight to the death.Katniss, from what was once Appalachia, offers to take the place of her sister in the Hunger Games, but after this ultimate sacrifice, she is entirely focused on survival at any cost. It is her teammate, Peeta, who recognizes the importance of holding on to one's humanity in such inhuman circumstances. It's a credit to Collins's skill at characterization that Katniss, like a new Theseus, is cold, calculating and still likable. She has the attributes to be a winner, where Peeta has the grace to be a good loser.It's no accident that these games are presented as pop culture. Every generation projects its fear: runaway science, communism, overpopulation, nuclear wars and, now, reality TV. The State of Panem—which needs to keep its tributaries subdued and its citizens complacent—may have created the Games, but mindless television is the real danger, the means by which society pacifies its citizens and punishes those who fail to conform. Will its connection to reality TV, ubiquitous today, date the book? It might, but for now, it makes this the right book at the right time. What happens if we choose entertainment over humanity? In Collins's world, we'll be obsessed with grooming, we'll talk funny, and all our sentences will end with the same rise as questions. When Katniss is sent to stylists to be made more telegenic before she competes, she stands naked in front of them, strangely unembarrassed. "They're no unlike people that I'm no more self-conscious than if a trio of oddly colored birds were pecking around my feet," she thinks. In order not to hate these creatures who are sending her to her death, she imagines them as pets. It isn't just the contestants who risk the loss of their humanity. It is all who watch.Katniss struggles to win not only the Games but the inherent contest for audience approval. Because this is the first book in a series, not everything is resolved, and what is left unanswered is the central question. Has she sacrificed too much? We know what she has given up to survive, but not whether the price was too high(Publishers Weekly).

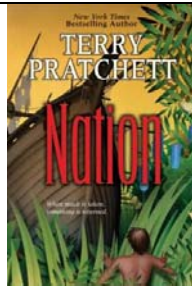
**Little Brother** by Cory Doctorow – Science Fiction – Character driven – thought provoking, Both, Grades 10-12.



**/\* Starred Review \*/ CYBIL Award, VOYA's Best Science Fiction School Library Journal Best Books...** SF author Doctorow (Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom), coeditor of the influential blog BoingBoing, tells a believable and frightening tale of a near-future San Francisco, victimized first by terrorists and then by an out-of-control Department of Homeland Security determined to turn the city into a virtual police state. Innocent of any wrongdoing beyond cutting school, high school student and techno-geek Marcus is arrested, illegally interrogated and humiliated by overzealous DHS personnel who also "disappear" his best friend, Darryl, along with hundreds of other U.S. citizens. Moved in part by a desire for revenge and in part by a passionate belief in the Bill of Rights, Marcus vows to drive the DHS out of his beloved city. Using the Internet and other technologies, he plays a dangerous game of cat and mouse, disrupting the government's attempts to create virtually universal electronic surveillance while recruiting other young people to his guerilla movement. Filled with sharp dialogue and detailed descriptions of how to counteract gait-recognition cameras, arphids (radio frequency ID tags), wireless Internet tracers and other surveillance devices, this work makes its admittedly didactic point within a tautly crafted fictional framework(Publishers Weekly).

<p><b>Graveyard Book</b> – Neil Gaiman – Fantasy – Violent, Both, Grades 5-10</p> 		<p>/* Starred Review */ <b>Newbery Medal, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, ALA Notable Children's Book, Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book...</b> Wistful, witty, wise—and creepy. Gaiman's riff on Kipling's Mowgli stories never falters, from the truly spine-tingling opening, in which a toddler accidentally escapes his family's murderer, to the melancholy, life-affirming ending. Bod (short for Nobody) finds solace and safety with the inhabitants of the local graveyard, who grant him some of the privileges and powers of the dead—he can Fade and Dreamwalk, for instance, but still needs to eat and breathe. Episodic chapters tell miniature gems of stories (one has been nominated for a Locus Award) tracing Bod's growth from a spoiled boy who runs away with the ghouls to a young man for whom the metaphor of setting out into the world becomes achingly real. Childhood fears take solid shape in the nursery-rhyme-inspired villains, while heroism is its own, often bitter, reward. Closer in tone to American Gods than to Coraline, but permeated with Bod's innocence, this needs to be read by anyone who is or has ever been a child.</p>
<p><b>Lucy</b> Laurence Gonzales – Adult Books appeals to young adults – Science fiction - Suspense</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ Masterful storyteller Gonzales (Everyday Survival, 2008, etc.) returns to fiction with a pensive meditation on a question of biology. The rise of the clone may be fast upon us, but Gonzales turns to a perhaps farther-fetched scenario with his imagining that somewhere in the Congolese jungle, not very long ago, ape and human came together to produce a child. Thus Lucy, who explains, "I'm a humanzee... Half human, half pigmy chimpanzee." Insists Jenny, a bonobo watcher who sweeps Lucy from the jungle a step ahead of murderous guerrillas in a time of civil war, "Don't ever call yourself that. You're a person." Ah, but there's the rub. Lucy, not quite a teen, is more at home in the trees than on the ground, small and agile, with "smooth tan skin" and "long dark hair standing out in a wild profusion of curls." She can hear danger coming from miles away, almost hear guns before they're fired—almost. But she can also recite Shakespeare and speak numerous languages ("French and Lingala. English, of course. Italian and Spanish. A little German. Dutch"). The humans she encounters sense that she's different, though they can't quite say why—perhaps because, even in London and Chicago, she enjoys time in the branches. Out in the human world, she both attracts and troubles them. And, as luck would have it, some of the perturbed are scientists who discover, through a neat plot twist, that Lucy isn't fully human—biologically, anyway—and may be dangerous to people, which in turn stirs up the G-men: "The presence of the human-animal hybrid within the borders of the United States...can be viewed—at least technically—as an act of terrorism." From Frankenstein on, we've seen how the presence of The Other can rattle the mob, and it is from that premise that Gonzales's story rockets into tragedy and beyond. Michael Crichton might have produced this had he had a literary sensibility. Thoroughly well-written, grounded in science and a sorrowful sense of human nature, this book is utterly memorable (Kirkus).</p>
<p><b>Thaw</b> Rick Jasper – Horror stories, Fast paced – Plot driven – Creepy – Suspenseful, Grades 7-10.</p>		<p>(The following is a combined review for Skin; Thaw; The Protectors; and ) Gr 7 Up — A high-interest, modern-day horror series. Each story features unusual teen problems that occur in a small New England town. In Skin , Nick Barry's face starts to break out in a rash while his bones feel like living ice. An extreme anger starts to pulsate within him. With the help of friends, he slowly discovers an ancient evil possessor hiding within him. In Thaw , strange and awful things start to happen as the teens start to lose their grip on reality. After Dani's best friend, Jake, is kidnapped by an infamous thawed-out cult leader, they both enter an alternate, yet dangerous reality that might cost them their lives. In The Protectors , Luke's angry stepfather works as a mortician, while his mother conducts séances. Living in a funeral home that has its own secrets starts to take its toll on Luke when his mother dies in a car accident. Sounds of screams and rattling chains plague his dreams. Is his mother really dead? He soon discovers a secret as terrifying as he once imagined. Each short book delivers an entertaining horrific tale, leaving appreciative readers gasping for breath (School Library Journal).</p>

**Nation** Terry Pratchett – Adventure Fiction – Fantasy- Funny – Though provoking, Both, Grades 7-10.



/\* Starred Review \*/ **School Library Journal Best Book, Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book, Michael L. Printz Honor Book, Publishers Weekly Best Book...** Pratchett's latest masterpiece chronicles a lad's struggle to survive, and far harder struggle to make sense of the universe, after a tsunami wipes out his entire people. Along with the lives of everyone he has ever known, the devastating wave sweeps away Mau's simple, happy soul—literally, he believes. Fortunately, though much of his angry quest to find something to replace his lost faith in the gods is internal and individual, he acquires company on his tropical island, in the form of the shipwrecked, repressed-but-not-for-long daughter of a high British government official and a ragged group of survivors from other islands who straggle in. This is no heavy-toned tale: Tears and rage there may be in plenty, but also a cast of marvelously wrought characters, humor that flies from mild to screamingly funny to out-and-out gross, incredible discoveries, profound insights into human nature and several subplots—one of which involves deeply religious cannibals. A searching exploration of good and evil, fate and free will, both as broad and as deep as anything this brilliant and, happily, prolific author has produced so far(Kirkus).

**Name of the Wind** Patrick Rothfuss (trilogy) – Adult books appeals to YA – Fantasy Fiction – Intricately plotted, Both, Adult appeals to YA.



/\* Starred Review \*/ **Quill Award, Writers of the Future...**The originality of Rothfuss's outstanding debut fantasy, the first of a trilogy, lies less in its unnamed imaginary world than in its precise execution. Kvothe ("pronounced nearly the same as 'Quothe' "), the hero and villain of a thousand tales who's presumed dead, lives as the simple proprietor of the Waystone Inn under an assumed name. Prompted by a biographer called Chronicler who realizes his true identity, Kvothe starts to tell his life story. From his upbringing as an actor in his family's traveling troupe of magicians, jugglers and jesters, the Edema Ruh, to feral child on the streets of the vast port city of Tarbean, then his education at "the University," Kvothe is driven by twin imperatives—his desire to learn the higher magic of naming and his need to discover as much as possible about the Chandrian, the demons of legend who murdered his family. As absorbing on a second reading as it is on the first, this is the type of assured, rich first novel most writers can only dream of producing. The fantasy world has a new star(Publishers Weekly).

**Thirteenth Tale** Diane Setterfield – Intricately plotted, Creepy – Atmospheric, Both, Adult appeals to YA.



**Alex Award, Dily's Award, Galaxy British Book Award, Quill Awards...** A dying writer bids a young bookshop assistant to write her biography...Margaret Lea grew up in a household of mourning, but she never knew why until the day she opened a box of papers underneath her parent's bed and found the birth and death certificates of a twin sister of whom she never knew. It is the coincidence of twins in the life of Vida Winter, Britain's most famous writer, that convinces Margaret to leave her post at her father's rare-books store and travel to the dying writer's Yorkshire estate. There, she hears a story no one else knows: who Vida Winter really is. For decades, the author has wildly fabricated answers to personal questions in interviews. Now Vida wants to tell the true story. And what a story it is, replete with madness; incest; a pair of twins who speak a private language; a devastating fire; a ghost that opens doors and closes books; a baby abandoned on a doorstep in the rain; a page torn from a turn-of-the-century edition of Jane Eyre; a cake-baking gentle giant; skeletons; topiaries; blind housekeepers; and suicide. As the master storyteller nears death, Margaret has yet to understand why she is the one Vida chose to record her tale. And is it a tall tale? One last great fiction to leave for her reading public? Only Margaret, who begins to catch glimpses of her own dead twin in the eternal gloom of the Winter estate, can sort truth from longing and lies from guilt. Setterfield has crafted an homage to the romantic heroines of du Maurier, Collins and the Brontes. But this is no postmodern revision of the genre. It is a contemporary gothic tale whose excesses and occasional implausibility (Vida's "brother" is the least convincing character) can be forgiven for the thrill of the storytelling(Kirkus).

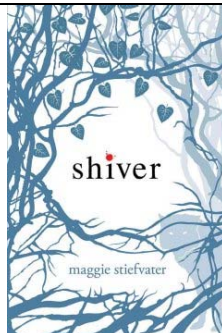
**Shiver** (trilogy) Maggie Stiefvater – Paranormal romance - Fantasy – Suspensful, Both, Grades 7-10.



Book II



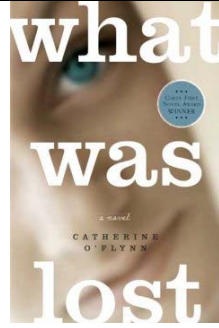
**Linger**



**ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Publishers Weekly Best Books of 2009, ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers, Indies Choice Book Award Finalist...** Grace, 17, loves the peace and tranquility of the woods behind her home. It is here during the cold winter months that she gets to see her wolf—the one with the yellow eyes. Grace is sure that he saved her from an attack by other wolves when she was nine. Over the ensuing years he has returned each season, watching her with those haunting eyes as if longing for something to happen. When a teen is killed by wolves, a hunting party decides to retaliate. Grace races through the woods and discovers a wounded boy shivering on her back porch. One look at his yellow eyes and she knows that this is her wolf in human form. Fate has finally brought Sam and Grace together, and as their love grows and intensifies, so does the reality of what awaits them. It is only a matter of time before the winter cold changes him back into a wolf, and this time he might stay that way forever. Told from alternating points of view, the narrative takes a classic Romeo & Juliet plot and transforms it into a paranormal romance that is beautiful and moving. Readers will easily identify with the strong, dynamic characters. The mythology surrounding the wolf pack is clever and so well written that it seems perfectly normal for the creatures to exist in today's world. A must-have that will give Bella and Edward a run for their money(School Library Journal).

## Mystery & Suspense Fiction

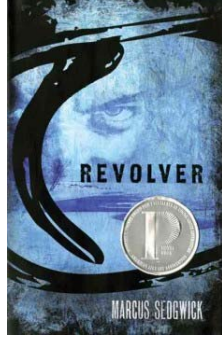
***What Was Lost*** Catherine O'Flynn – Adult books appeal to YA – Mystery-Female, Adult appeals to YA.



/\* Starred Review \*/ Costa First Book Award . Guardian First Book Award Finalist...Stirring and beautifully crafted, this debut novel recounts how the repercussions of a girl's disappearance can last for decades. In 1984, Kate Meaney is a 10-year-old loner who solves imaginary mysteries and guesses the dark secrets of the shoppers she observes at the Green Oaks mall. Kate's unlikely circle includes her always-present stuffed monkey; 22-year-old Adrian, who works at the candy shop next door; and Kate's classmate, Teresa Stanton, who hides her intelligence behind disruptive behavior. Kate's grandmother has plans for Kate: send her to boarding school. But Kate doesn't want to go. Fast forward to 2003, where it's revealed through Lisa, Adrian's sister, that Kate disappeared nearly 20 years ago, and Adrian, blamed in her disappearance, also vanished. Lisa works at a record store in Green Oaks and is drawn to Kurt, a security guard whose surveillance-camera sightings of a little girl clutching a stuffed monkey hint that he might have ties to Kate's disappearance. Teresa, meanwhile, now a detective, has her own reasons for being haunted by Kate's disappearance. Gripping to the end, the book is both a chilling mystery and a poignant examination of the effects of loss and loneliness(Publishers Weekly).

## Adventure

***Revolver*** by Marcus Sedgwick High Interest – Historical Fiction – Adventure, Male, Grades 7-12.



**Printz Honor Award, Blue Peter Book Award** Set in 1910, 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle in the Scandinavian town of Giron, this intense survival story is propelled by a relentless sense of danger and bone-chilling cold. Einar, teenage Sig's father, has died after a fall through the ice. But the harsh environment pales in comparison with the ruthless stranger, Gunther Wolff, who demands from Sig and his sister the gold their father allegedly stole from him a decade earlier in the Alaska Gold Rush. Sedgwick (My Swordhand Is Singing ) reveals the truth in riveting, gemlike scenes that juggle time periods, points of view, and the family's divided worldview, epitomized by Einar's Colt revolver. "Guns are evil. Evil, Einar," says Sig's pacifist mother, while the more pragmatic Einar believes his Colt is "the most beautiful thing in the world." In the end, the gun plays a pivotal role as Sig must shape his own view and act accordingly. Gracefully weaving in sources as diverse as the Old Testament story of Job and an 1896 ad for the revolver, Sedgwick lures his readers into deeper thinking while they savor this thrillingly told tale(Publishers Weekly).

## Graphic Novel

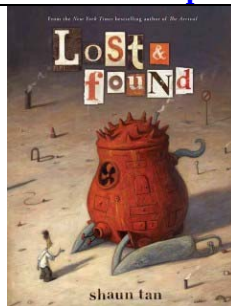
***Lost & Found*** Shaun Tan Graphic novel – Fantasy – Imagery & story, Both.

**Note: If you choose this you also must read/enjoy...**

**The Arrival**

**Tales from Outer Suburbia**

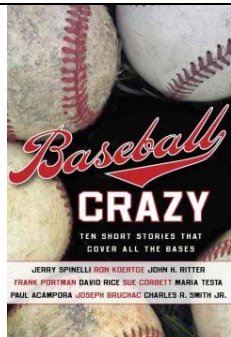
**The Memorial**



/\* Starred Review \*/ Grades 5-12 Tan may be best known in these parts for his masterful graphic novel, *The Arrival* (2007), and the eerie and unforgettable illustrated short-story collection, *Tales from Outer Suburbia* (2009), but before he was obliterating preconceived notions in those formats, he produced several astonishing picture books. Originally published in Australia, three are collected here. In *The Red Tree*, a young girl braves dark, often monstrous trials before finding a seed of hope. *The Rabbits* is a take on John Marsden's classic tale of invaders assimilating an indigenous culture. The book's standout, *The Lost Thing*, which Tan adapted into an Oscar-winning animated short, is the story of a boy who finds a most curious and inexplicable companion. Technically picture books, these pieces will appeal to a broad age range, with sophisticated page compositions and image tones that realize the narratives in subtle and powerful ways. They are also possessed of deep wisdom and a strong sense of melancholy, if not, in *The Rabbits*, downright tragedy. While they are most assuredly not for young children, these stories representing the visionary work of a master storyteller, illustrator, and designer who cares deeply about his message deserve a place in almost every collection(Booklist).

## Short Stories

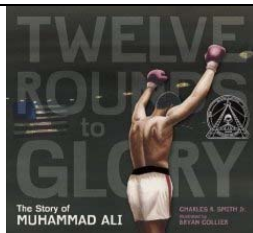
***Baseball Crazy*** (Spinelli, Koertge, Bruchac etc.) – Sports Fiction – Baseball Fiction, Male, Grades 6-9.



/\* Starred Review \*/ There's no shortage of great writing in this collection of 10 stories. Baseball unifies the entries, but there the similarities end. From Jerry Spinelli's offbeat story about a "wiseacre wet-the-bed stinky-footed" orphan experiencing his first-ever major league game to Frank Portman's amusing two-and-a-half second journey inside the mind of ill-fated fielder Mark Pang, these entries present an impressive array of voices and styles, not to mention memorable young characters. John H. Ritter introduces Frankie Alvarez, a larger-than-life pitcher who saves his team's championship victory, a sharp contrast to Paul Acampora's Jeffrey, who earns his mother's disgust when he fails to strike out a crucial batter; meanwhile, Sue Corbett's Kirby, neither the worst nor the best, learns from the only girl on the team: "Don't think. Just react." Whether "baseball born and baseball raised" or tepid fans of America's pastime, readers will be drawn in by the masterful storytelling(Publishers Weekly).

<p><b>Poison Eaters</b> Holly Black – Fantasy Fiction – Creepy – World building, Both, Grades 9-12.</p> <p>★</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ <b>Best Book for Young Adults</b>...Black's first story collection assures her place as a modern fantasy master. The two new and ten previously published tales revisit fantasy tropes (faeries, kings, werewolves and even the devil), but in the author's deft hands each of these transforms into something fresh and haunting. Dealing with magic here is a means to understanding and knowing yourself, from the man who must win back his lover, stolen by faeries, and also come out to his family ("Coat of Stars"), to girls who find empowerment, whether by beating the devil at an eating competition ("A Reversal of Fortune") or by using magic to find self-love ("Night Market"). These vampires ("The Coldest Girl in Coldtown") are the antithesis of romantic heroism, and harsh realities like drugs and homelessness coexist with unicorns and magic. The two standouts, the title story and "The Dog King," both mix horror and high fantasy into some rare magic; in other tales, plangent loss reverberates ("Virgin," "Paper Cuts Scissors" and "Going Ironside"). Sly humor, vivid characters, each word perfectly chosen: These stories deserve reading again and again(Kirkus).</p>
<p><b>Love, Football, and Other Contact Sports</b> Alden Carter – Sports Fiction – Football Fiction, Male, Grades 8-12.</p>		<p>/*Starred Review*/ Gr. 8-11. This dynamic collection of short stories, which revolves around Argyle West High Schools football team, features an ensemble cast of students during their sophomore, junior, and senior years. Some characters appear in only one story, while others appear in many. Written with sensitivity and conviction, the realistic stories are leavened with occasional, often ironic humor. Carter leads off with a witty zinger: the female editorial staff of the school literary magazine offers A Girls Guide to Football Players, which explains each position, then comments on the personality and relative intelligence typical of the player who does the job. A Football Players Guide to Love, which follows, is considerably shorter--two lines to be exact: Love. Well, you see its, uh, sort of, you know, kinda like when . . . Hey, can we talk about this later? Readers can leave their stereotypes at the door, as Carter shows the unexpected strengths and the vulnerabilities of his characters. One player becomes a hero by threatening to pulverize some bullies, but he knows he wasn't acting heroically: he just wanted to beat the crap out of somebody, anybody. Several of the selections were previously published in magazines or other anthologies, but they work with the others gathered here to create a convincing, often affecting mosaic of students today(Kirkus).</p>
<p><b>Biography</b></p>		
<p><b>Hole in my Life</b> Jack Gantos, Autobiography - Teen Literature, Candid – Compelling, Both, Grades 8-12.</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ <b>Horn Book Magazine Fanfare List Massachusetts Children's Book Award, Michael L. Printz Award Honor, Parents' Choice Award, Robert F. Sibert Award Honor, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year</b>... "We didn't so much arrive at our destinations as aim and crash into them like kamikaze yachtsmen." So Gantos describes himself as a 20-year-old about to be arrested and imprisoned for smuggling two thousand pounds of hashish from St. Croix to New York City. Young Jack seems to share with his fictional characters—Joey Pigza and Jack Henry—a blithe disregard for the consequences of wild behavior. Readers follow him from a seedy motel run by the great-great-granddaughter of Davy Crockett to a Keystone Kops adventure on the sea, from a madcap escape from FBI and Treasury agents to his arrest and trial, represented by his lawyer, Al E. Newman. This true tale of the worst year in the author's life will be a big surprise for his many fans. Gantos has the storyteller's gift of a spare prose style and a flair for the vivid simile: Davy has "brown wrinkled skin like a well-used pirate map"; a prisoner he met was "nervous as a dragonfly"; another strutted "like a bowlegged bulldog." This is a story of mistakes, dues, redemption, and finally success at what he always wanted to do: write books. The explicit descriptions of drug use and prison violence make this a work for older readers. Not the usual "How I Became A Writer" treatise, it is an honest, utterly compelling, and life-affirming chronicle of a personal journey for older teens and adults(Kirkus).</p>
<p><b>Bite of the Mango</b> Mariatu Kamara with Susan McClelland, Autobiography – Teenage Literature – Nature, Grades 9-12.</p> <p>★ <b>Social Studies</b></p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ <b>Silver Award Winner, Book of the Year, ForeWord Magazine Silver Award Winner, Nautilus Book Awards, Next Generation Indie Book Award, National Parenting Publications Award, IBBY Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2011</b>...This moving autobiography never minimizes the brutality of the civil war that wracked Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2002. Kamara's childhood abruptly ended at age 12 when she was raped by a man her elders trusted, an event that was shortly followed by a horrific, murderous attack by rebels on her village. Like many other young people, the rebels selected her for special treatment: Her hands were hacked off, a gory reminder for all who would see her in the future. Kamara later discovered that she was pregnant. After two years of begging on the streets while living in a refugee camp, she was rescued when a Canadian family paid for her to relocate there. She learned English, attended high school and is now in college in Toronto. Presented in a matter-of-fact manner that never diminishes its harrowing nature, this is a powerful commentary on one of the many costs of wars(Kirkus).</p>

**Twelve Rounds to Glory: The story of Muhammad Ali** Charles Smith illus. Bryan Collier, Male, Grades 6-12.



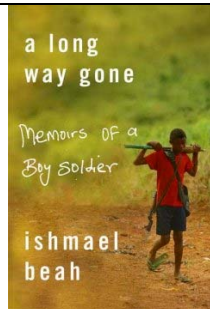
Coretta Scott King Book Awards, National Council for the Social Studies Notable Trade Book for Young People...Smith is best known for his high-energy poetry celebrating basketball and other sports, and this biography is his most ambitious undertaking yet. Rap-style cadences perfectly capture the drama that has always surrounded this boxer's life: "Louisville Lip leaps to life/just a few short years/after your first pro fight./Braggin'/and boastin'/and callin' the round./signifyin'/how your opponent would go down." From Ali's childhood as Cassius Clay, to the realization that even an Olympic gold medal would not shield him from racial injustices, to a career that included three heavyweight titles, and his life after retirement, Smith skillfully weaves together the threads of the boxer's life, including his Muslim faith and his run-ins with the American government during the Vietnam War. Each chapter, or "round," represents a specific period, and selected quotes from Ali and voice-overs from announcers provide a "you are there" feeling. Collier's compelling watercolor collages with their brown overtones beautifully portray Ali's determination and strength. Each spread seamlessly melds powerful artwork and text in a way that transcends what either could be on its own. The thorough recounting of Ali's life, along with back matter that includes a time line and key statistics, makes this a superior choice(School Library Journal).

**Nonfiction**

**Long Way Gone** Ishamel Beah – Biographical – Fleeing country, Male, Adult appeals to YA.

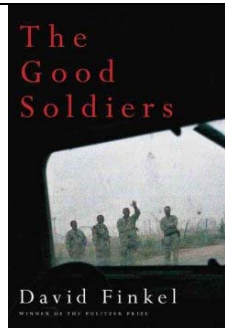


Social Studies



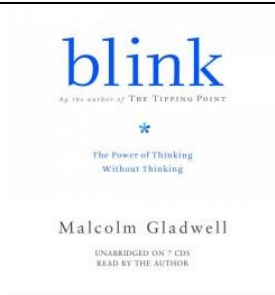
/\* Starred Review \*/ Alex Award, Quill Book Award Finalist, National Book Critic Circle Award...This absorbing account by a young man who, as a boy of 12, gets swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war goes beyond even the best journalistic efforts in revealing the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare. Beah's harrowing journey transforms him overnight from a child enthralled by American hip-hop music and dance to an internal refugee bereft of family, wandering from village to village in a country grown deeply divided by the indiscriminate atrocities of unruly, sociopathic rebel and army forces. Beah then finds himself in the army—in a drug-filled life of casual mass slaughter that lasts until he is 15, when he's brought to a rehabilitation center sponsored by UNICEF and partnering NGOs. The process marks out Beah as a gifted spokesman for the center's work after his "repatriation" to civilian life in the capital, where he lives with his family and a distant uncle. When the war finally engulfs the capital, it sends 17-year-old Beah fleeing again, this time to the U.S., where he now lives. (Beah graduated from Oberlin College in 2004.) Told in clear, accessible language by a young writer with a gifted literary voice, this memoir seems destined to become a classic firsthand account of war and the ongoing plight of child soldiers in conflicts worldwide(Publishers Weekly).

**Good Soldiers** David Finkel – Current events and politics – History, Adult book appeals to YA.



/\* Starred Review \*/ New York Times Best Book of the Year, Winner of the Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism...Success story in the headlines, the surge in Iraq was an ordeal of hard fighting and anguished trauma for the American soldiers on the ground, according to this riveting war report. Washington Post correspondent Finkel chronicles the 15-month deployment of the 2-16 Infantry Battalion in Baghdad during 2007 and 2008, when the chaos in Iraq subsided to a manageable uproar. For the 2-16, waning violence still meant wild firefights, nerve-wracking patrols through hostile neighborhoods where every trash pile could hide an IED, and dozens of comrades killed and maimed. At the fraught center of the story is Col. Ralph Kauzlarich, whose dogged can-do optimism—his motto is "It's all good"—pits itself against declining morale and whispers of mutiny. While vivid and moving, Finkel's grunt's-eye view is limited; the soldiers' perspective is one of constant improvisatory reaction to attacks and crises, and we get little sense of exactly how and why the new American counterinsurgency methods calmed the Iraqi maelstrom. Still, Finkel's keen firsthand reportage, its grit and impact only heightened by the literary polish of his prose, gives us one of the best accounts yet of the American experience in Iraq(Publishers Weekly).

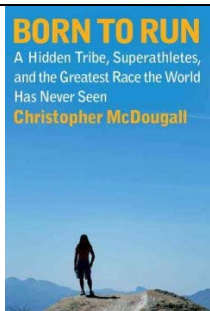
**Blink: The power of thinking without thinking** Malcolm Gladwell – Business writing - Thought-provoking – Engaging.



/\* Starred Review \*/ Journalist Gladwell (The Tipping Point ) examines the process of snap decision making. Contrary to the model of a rational process involving extensive information gathering and rational analysis, most decisions are made instantaneously and unconsciously. This works well for us much of the time because we learn to "thin-slice"—that is, to ignore extraneous input and concentrate on one or two cues. Sometimes, we don't even consciously know what these cues are, as in Gladwell's anecdote about a tennis coach who can predict when a player is going to make a rare sort of error but doesn't know how he knows. The book also explores how this process can go horribly wrong, as in the Amadou Diallo shooting. Gladwell gets the science facts right and has the journalistic skills to make them utterly engrossing. A big promo campaign is planned; for once a best seller will be more than worthy. Essential for all libraries(Library Journal).

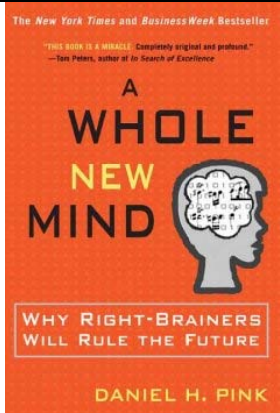
<p><b>My Sisters' Voice: Teenage girls of color speak out.</b> Iris Jacob, Compelling – Thought provoking – High interest, Female, Grade 7 up.</p> <p>★</p>		<p>Gr 7 Up/ <b>Coretta Scott King Award Best Book for Young Adults, Books for a Better Life/Suze Orman First Book Award Winner...</b>For this book, Jacob, a biracial teen, wrote letters to English teachers, organizations, and others to solicit submissions from young women across the country about their experiences as teenagers of color. The result is a moving collection of essays and poems about family, friendships, sex, love, loss, identity, racism, and oppression. It is clear from the frank and deeply personal nature of the entries that the authors write from their hearts. The pieces are each prefaced by comments from Jacob in which she relates her own experience about the topic at hand or offers a reaction to it. Readers will see themselves reflected in some writings and will be enlightened by others(School Library Journal).</p>
<p><b>Half the Sky</b> - Nicholas Kristof Cultural - Compelling – Disturbing, Female, Adult appeals to YA.</p> <p>★ <b>Social Studies</b></p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ <b>WINNER 2009 Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Lifetime Achievement, FINALIST 2010 New York Public Library Helen Bernstein Award for Excellence in Journalism...</b> New York Times columnist Kristof and his wife, WuDunn, a former Times reporter, make a brilliantly argued case for investing in the health and autonomy of women worldwide. "More girls have been killed in the last fifty years, precisely because they were girls, than men were killed in all the wars of the twentieth century," they write, detailing the rampant "gendercide" in the developing world, particularly in India and Pakistan. Far from merely making moral appeals, the authors posit that it is impossible for countries to climb out of poverty if only a fraction of women (9% in Pakistan, for example) participate in the labor force. China's meteoric rise was due to women's economic empowerment: 80% of the factory workers in the Guangdong province are female; six of the 10 richest self-made women in the world are Chinese. The authors reveal local women to be the most effective change agents: "The best role for Americans... isn't holding the microphone at the front of the rally but writing the checks," an assertion they contradict in their unnecessary profiles of American volunteers finding "compensations for the lack of shopping malls and Netflix movies" in making a difference abroad(Publishers Weekly).</p>
<p><b>No Choirboys: Murder, violence, and teenagers on death row.</b> Susan Kuklin, Narrative nonfiction, Teenage literature, gritty, thought provoking. Grades 9-12.</p> <p>★</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ Gr 9 Up/ <b>2009 Notable Books for a Global Society; Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Book of 2008, 2008 School Library Journal Best Books, Nonfiction; 2009 ALA Best Books for Young Adults; 2009 ALA Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers...</b> Kuklin tells five stories here; four are about young men who committed murder before they reached the age of 18, and one is the story of a victim's family. Each narrative presents a picture of a troubled youth who did something he later regretted, but something that could not be undone. Within these deftly painted portraits, readers also see individuals who have grown beyond the adolescents who committed the crimes. They see compassion, remorse, and lives wasted within the penal system. Some of the stories tell of poverty and life on the streets, but others are stories of young men with strong, loving families. One even asks readers not to blame his family for his act of violence. Most of the book is written in the words of the men Kuklin interviewed. Their views are compelling; they are our neighbors, our nephews, our friends' children, familiar in many ways, but unknowable in others. Kuklin depicts the penal system as biased against men of color, and any set of statistics about incarceration and death-row conviction rates will back her up. She also emphasizes that being poor is damning once a crime is committed. She finally introduces Bryan Stevenson, a lawyer who has worked on the cases of two of the interviewees, who talks about his efforts to help those who are on death row. This powerful book should be explored and discussed in high schools all across our country(School Library Journal).</p>
<p><b>Freakonomics</b> Steven Levitt – Business writing – Thought – provoking – Engaging – Accessible.</p>		<p>/* Starred Review */ Forget your image of an economist as a crusty professor worried about fluctuating interest rates: Levitt focuses his attention on more intimate real-world issues, like whether reading to your baby will make her a better student. Recognition by fellow economists as one of the best young minds in his field led to a profile in the New York Times, written by Dubner, and that original article serves as a broad outline for an expanded look at Levitt's search for the hidden incentives behind all sorts of behavior. There isn't really a grand theory of everything here, except perhaps the suggestion that self-styled experts have a vested interest in promoting conventional wisdom even when it's wrong. Instead, Dubner and Levitt deconstruct everything from the organizational structure of drug-dealing gangs to baby-naming patterns. While some chapters might seem frivolous, others touch on more serious issues, including a detailed look at Levitt's controversial linkage between the legalization of abortion and a reduced crime rate two decades later. Underlying all these research subjects is a belief that complex phenomena can be understood if we find the right perspective. Levitt has a knack for making that principle relevant to our daily lives, which could make this book a hit. Malcolm Gladwell blurbs that Levitt "has the most interesting mind in America," an invitation Gladwell's own substantial fan base will find hard to resist(Library Journal).</p>

**Born to Run** Christopher McDougall  
 – History writing – Sports  
 competition – Sports literature, Both.



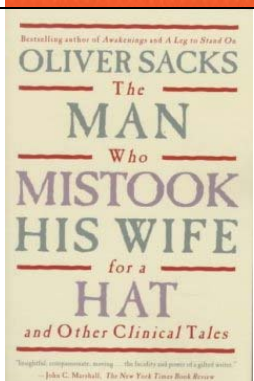
/\* Starred Review \*/ A journalist's adventures in a secluded Mexican community of the best endurance athletes in the world. On an unrelated assignment, Men's Health contributing editor McDougall (*Girl Trouble: The True Saga of Superstar Gloria Trevi, Her Svengali, and the Secret Teenage Sex Cult that Stunned the World*, 2004) uncovered the legend of the Tarahumara Indians, a tribe of astonishingly fit runners concealed deep within the Copper Canyons of Mexico. Determined to learn their secrets, McDougall braved uncharted territory and encounters with lethal drug-smugglers in search of Caballo Blanco, one of the only outsiders to befriend the bashful natives. The colorful Caballo recounts an enthralling story involving the arduous Leadville ultra marathon and Rick Fisher, a greedy, hotheaded opportunist who bribed the Tarahumara out of hiding to compete. The exploited tribesmen participated in the grueling event three times before they disappeared back to their villages for good. An inspired Caballo followed the Tarahumara back to Mexico, where he ran the local trails and lived peacefully in isolation. His dream was to draw the top American contenders to this remote locale to lock horns with the clan in the ultimate endurance exhibition, and he wanted McDougall's help to make it happen. The author returned to the Copper Canyons with a handful of prominent distance champions, including Scott Jurek and Jenn Shelton, and the story culminates in a final 50-mile showdown. McDougall's background as a magazine writer is readily apparent—his prose is light and airy, informative without being pretentious. Most passages are short and engaging with extra doses of drama and exclamatory phrases thrown in to great effect. McDougall wisely grounds the narrative in his own struggle to engage in the concluding race—he was frustrated with his tendency to get injured—and he offers insightful sidebars on a variety of topics, from the development of the modern running shoe to an evolutionary argument that humans are literally "born to run." A terrific ride, recommended for any athlete (Kirkus).

**Whole New Mind: Why right-brainers will rule the future** Daniel Pink – Science writing – Thought provoking – Persuasive, Both.



Uses two sides of the human brain as a metaphor for understanding how the information age came about throughout the course of the past generation, counseling readers on how to survive and find a place in a society that is marked by rising affluence, job outsourcing, and computer technology at the expense of inventiveness, empathy and meaning (Novelist)

**Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat: and other clinical tales.** Oliver Sacks – Science writing – Reflective – Scholarly – Thoughtful.



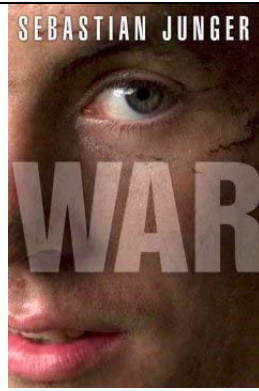
Neurologist Sacks, author of *Awakenings* and *A Leg To Stand On*, presents a series of clinical tales drawn from fascinating and unusual cases encountered during his years of medical practice. Dividing his text into four parts—“losses” of neurological function; “excesses”; “transports” involving reminiscence, altered perception, and imagination; and “the simple,” or the world of the retarded—Sacks introduces the reader to real people who suffer from a variety of neurological syndromes which include symptoms such as amnesia, uncontrolled movements, and musical hallucinations. Sacks recounts their stories in a riveting, compassionate, and thoughtful manner. Written on a somewhat scholarly level (Library Journal).

**Leaving Dirty Jersey: A Crystal Meth Memoir** James Salant, Adult books appeal to young adults – autobiography – True crime – Compelling, Adult appeals to YA.



ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, NYPL "Books for the Teen Age"... At 23, Salant enters the crowded genre of addiction memoirs with bravado, offering an account of his year as a crystal methamphetamine addict in Riverside, CA. Now clean and enjoying a sober life, Salant looks back on his period of addiction with unflinching honesty, never trying to airbrush the lowest moments of a committed junkie's life. He draws the reader into a world of convicts and would-be tough guys, like Junkie Jack and Big Manny from Fontana; "bag whores," or prostitutes, who sell their bodies for a shot or a line; and the recovered addicts who try to save them before relapsing themselves. It's a world many readers will be familiar with from other memoirs, and Salant's book does have its flaws: long stretches seem repetitive, and the female characters are dismissed with particular harshness as worthless, conniving whores while male figures are analyzed and treated with more understanding. Still, this book stands out (Library Journal).

**War** Sebastian Junger, Plot driven – Fast-paced – Compelling – Violent - Journalistic



/\* Starred Review \*/ War is insanely exciting.... Don't underestimate the power of that revelation," warns bestselling author and Vanity Fair contributing editor Junger (The Perfect Storm ). The war in Afghanistan contains brutal trauma but also transcendent purpose in this riveting combat narrative. Junger spent 14 months in 2007–2008 intermittently embedded with a platoon of the 173rd Airborne brigade in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, one of the bloodiest corners of the conflict. The soldiers are a scruffy, warped lot, with unkempt uniforms—they sometimes do battle in shorts and flip-flops—and a ritual of administering friendly beatings to new arrivals, but Junger finds them to be superlative soldiers. Junger experiences everything they do—nerve-racking patrols, terrifying roadside bombings and ambushes, stultifying weeks in camp when they long for a firefight to relieve the tedium. Despite the stress and the grief when buddies die, the author finds war to be something of an exalted state: soldiers experience an almost sexual thrill in the excitement of a firefight—a response Junger struggles to understand—and a profound sense of commitment to subordinating their self-interests to the good of the unit. Junger mixes visceral combat scenes—raptly aware of his own fear and exhaustion—with quieter reportage and insightful discussions of the physiology, social psychology, and even genetics of soldiering. The result is an unforgettable portrait of men under fire(Publishers Weekly).