

Senior Recommended Reading

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. Seth Grahame-Smith
HORROR Many people know about Abe Lincoln's political successes, but few know that after his mother was killed by a vampire Old Abe became a ruthless vampire hunter.

All the Bright Places. Jennifer Niven HS ROMANCE
Theodore and Violet form an unlikely relationship in this heart-wrenching love story about a girl who learns to live from a boy who intends to die.

Angry Young Man. Chris Lynch (1) HS ADVENTURE
Eighteen year old Robert tries to help his half-brother Xan, a 17 year old misfit, to make better choices as he becomes increasingly attracted to a variety of protesters, anarchists, and the like.

The Astonishing Adventures of Fan Boy and Goth Girl. Barry Lyga HS ADVENTURE a 15 year old geek who keeps a list of the high school jocks and others who torment him, and pours his energy into creating a great graphic novel, encounters Kyra, Goth Girl, who helps change his outlook on almost everything, including himself.

Beloved. Toni Morrison HS HISTORICAL The Nobel prize-winning author's lyrical expression of the slave experience is built around Sethe, her memories of Sweet Home, and the ghost of her baby.

Black Ice. Becca Fitzpatrick HS ADVENTURE Britt goes hiking in the Grand Tetons of Wyoming with her ex-boyfriend Calvin, but trouble arises when she is caught in a blizzard, taken hostage by fugitives, finds evidence of murders, and learns who to trust and whom to love.

The Bluest Eye. Toni Morrison (1) HS GENERAL Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in.

The Coldest Girl in Coldtown. Holly Black HS ROMANCE
When 17 year old Tana wakes up following a party, she travels to Coldtown, a quarantined Massachusetts city full of vampires, with her ex-boyfriend and a mysterious vampire boy in tow.

Conversion. Katherine Howe HS MYSTERY When girls start experiencing strange tics and other mysterious symptoms at Colleen's high school, rumors lead to full-blown panic, and only Colleen connects their fate to the ill-fated Salem Village, where another group of girls suffered from a similarly bizarre epidemic three centuries ago.

The Diviners. Libba Bray HS FANTASY
Seventeen-year-old Evie O'Neill is thrilled when she is exiled from small-town Ohio to New York City in 1926, even when a rash of occult-based murders thrusts Evie and her uncle, curator of The Museum of American Folklore, Superstition, and the Occult, into the thick of the investigation.

The Dollmaker. Harriet Arnow HISTORICAL
A woman and her family struggle to keep their dignity as they move from the hills of Kentucky to the chilling indifference of a big midwestern city.

Erebos. Ursula Poznanski HS SCI-FI When 16-year-old Nick Dunmore receives a package with a mysterious computer game called Erebos, he hopes it will explain his classmates' strange behavior. Erebos watches its players and begins to manipulate their lives in frightening ways-- the game has a deadly agenda. When Nick sets out on a dangerous mission, reality and the virtual world begin to blur.

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close. Jonathan Foer HS GENERAL Oskar Schell is an inventor, Francophile, tambourine player, Shakespearean actor, jeweler, pacifist. He is nine-years-old and on an urgent, secret search through the five boroughs of New York to find the lock that fits a mysterious key belonging to his father, who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

The Fault in Our Stars. John Green HS ROMANCE
Sixteen-year-old Hazel meets Augustus at a kids-with-cancer support group and, as they fall in love, they both wonder how they will be remembered.

Follow the River. James Alexander Thom HISTORICAL
Fictional account of Mary Draper Ingles' life on the frontier plains living with the Native Americans and the challenges she faced daily.

God of Animals. Aryn Kyle GENERAL The death of a classmate haunts teen Alice Winston as she learns about love, life and death, and lost dreams as she helps her father run the family's struggling horse ranch in the midst of recurring family problems.

The Good Girl. Mary Kubica HS MYSTERY I've been following her for the past few days. I know where she buys her groceries, where she has her dry cleaning done, where she works. I don't know the color of her eyes or what they look like when she's scared. But I will.

The Iliad. Homer (2) ADVENTURE Greek drama which brings to life the ancient, long-drawn-out siege of Troy.

The Impossible Knife of Memory. Laurie Halse Anderson (1) HS GENERAL Hayley Kincaid and her father move back to their hometown to try a 'normal' life, but the horrors he saw in the war threaten to destroy their lives.

In Darkness. Nick Lake HS GENERAL In the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake, fifteen-year-old Shorty, a poor gang member from the slums of Site Soleil, is trapped in the rubble of a ruined hospital, and as he grows weaker he has visions and memories of his life of violence, his lost twin sister, and of Toussaint L'Ouverture, who liberated Haiti from French rule in the 1804.

It's Kind of a Funny Story. Ned Vizzini HS GENERAL Like many ambitious New York City teenagers, Craig Gilner sees entry into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School as the ticket to his future. Determined to succeed at life—which means getting into the right high school to get into the right college to get the right job—Craig studies night and day to ace the entrance exam, and does. That's when things start to get crazy.

Jane Eyre. Charlotte Bronte ROMANCE Jane is abused by her aunt and cousin and then attends a harsh charity school. Through it all she remains strong and determinedly refuses to allow a cruel world to crush her independence or her strength of will.

Jefferson's Sons. Kimberly Bradley HISTORICAL
A fictionalized look at the last twenty years of Thomas Jefferson's life at Monticello through the eyes of three of his slaves, including two who were his sons by his slave, Sally Hemings.

The Joy Luck Club. Amy Tan. HS GENERAL In 1949, four Chinese women—drawn together by the shadow of their past—begin meeting in San Francisco to play mah jong, invest in stocks and “say” stories. They call their gathering the Joy Luck Club—and forge a relationship that binds them for more than three decades.

Juliet Immortal. Stacey Jay HS ROMANCE
For seven hundred years, the souls of Romeo and Juliet have repeatedly inhabited the bodies of newly deceased people to battle to the death as sworn enemies, until they meet for the last time as two Southern California high school students.

The Killing Woods. Lucy Christopher. HS MYSTERY When her father, an ex-soldier suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, is arrested for murder, Emily's efforts to exonerate him take her into the mysterious woods where the victim was last seen alive.

Memory Keeper's Daughter. Kim Edwards HS GENERAL
A hastily-made decision to hide and institutionalize one half of a set of twins affects a family for twenty-five years.

Nothing. Janne Teller GENERAL When thirteen-year-old Pierre Anthon leaves school to sit in a plum tree and train for becoming part of nothing, his seventh grade classmates set out on a desperate quest for the meaning of life.

Never Let Me Go. Kazuo Ishiguro HS SCI-FI As children Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy were students at Hailsham, an exclusive boarding school secluded in the English countryside. Now, years later, Kathy is a young woman. Ruth and Tommy have reentered her life. And for the first time she is beginning to look back at their shared past and understand just what it is that makes them special—and how that gift will shape the rest of their time together.

Odyssey. Homer ADVENTURE Odysseus' reliance on his wit and williness for survival in his encounters with divine and natural forces, during his ten-year voyage home to Ithaca after the Trojan War, is at once the timeless human story and an individual test of moral endurance.

Out of Darkness. Ashley Perez HS Historical
Loosely based on a school explosion that took place in New London, Texas, in 1937, this is the story of 2 teenagers: Naomi, who is Mexican American, and Wash, who is black, and their dealings with race, segregation, love, and the forces that destroy people.

Panic. Lauren Oliver HS ADVENTURE In the poor town of Carp, New York, a group of teens enters a high-stakes game that involves a series of secretive, possibly deadly challenges throughout the summer, with the winner receiving more than \$50,000--enough money to start a new life

Period.8. Chris Crutcher HS General
Period 8 has always been a safe haven and high school senior Paulie "The Bomb" Baum a constant attendee, but as Paulie, Hannah, their friends, and a sympathetic teachers try to unravel the mystery of a missing classmate, the ultimate bully takes aim at the school.

Reconstructing Amelia. Kimberly McCreight
HS Mystery *An academic overachiever despondent over getting caught cheating has jumped to her death.* At least that's the story Grace Hall tells Kate. And clouded as she is by her guilt and grief, it is the one she forces herself to believe. Until she gets an anonymous text: *She didn't jump.*

The Round House. Louise Erdrich HS MYSTERY
In the opening scene, 13-year-old Joe Coutts and his father, a tribal judge, are working to uproot saplings that have gotten into the foundation of their home, a symbolic representation of the fragility Erdrich depicts throughout the book. Soon after, Joe's mother, Geraldine, is violently raped, and though she knows who attacked her, she's unclear exactly where it took place, leaving unresolved the question of which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction over the crime.

Schindler's List. Thomas Keneally HS HISTORICAL
A German businessman tries to save his Jewish employees from the Nazi Holocaust.

Silence of Murder. Dandi Daley Mackall HS MYSTERY
Sixteen-year-old Hope must defend her developmentally disabled brother, who has not spoken a word since he was seven years old, when he is accused of murdering a beloved high school baseball coach.

State of Fear. Michael Crichton HS MYSTERY
Agent John Kenner leads a team on a global search for eco-terrorist conspirators whose actions may destroy human existence.

The Time Traveler's Wife. Audrey Niffenegger HS SCI-FI
The love story of Henry and Claire whose lives are punctuated by Henry's disappearance to different points in time--sometimes even back to visit Claire as a young woman. When Henry meets Claire, he is twenty-eight, and she is twenty. He's a hip, handsome librarian; she is an art student with Botticelli hair. Henry has never met Claire before; Claire has known Henry since she was six...

Vanity Fair. William Thackeray GENERAL
Scorned for her lack of money and breeding, Becky must use all her wit and charm to escape her drab destiny as a governess.

The Waking Dark. Robin Wasserman HS HORROR
After a series of suicide-killings and a deadly storm, the residents of the town of Oleander, Kansas, start acting even more strangely than would be expected. Only the 5 witness of the murders retain their sound minds, and must band together to save the town from whatever has come over it.

Walden. Henry David Thoreau 818.308 THO
Thoreau's observations on nature and life were penned during his solitary stay at Walden Pond, outside Concord, Massachusetts, from 1845 to 1847.

Water for Elephants. Sara Gruen HS ROMANCE
When 23-year-old Jankowski learns that his parents have been killed in a car crash, leaving him penniless, he drops out of Cornell veterinary school and lands a job with the circus.

Why We Broke Up. Daniel Handler HS ROMANCE
Sixteen-year-old Min Green writes a letter to Ed Slaterton in which she breaks up with him, documenting their relationship and how items in the accompanying box, from bottle caps to a cookbook, foretell the end.

The Wrath & the Dawn. Renee Ahdieh (1) HS Fantasy In this reimagining of The Arabian Nights, Shahrzad plans to avenge the death of her dearest friend by volunteering to marry the murderous boy-king of Khorasan but discovers not all is as it seems with the palace.

Wuthering Heights. Emily Bronte GENERAL Classic novel of consuming passions, played out against the lonely moors of northern England, recounts the turbulent and tempestuous love story of Cathy and Heathcliff.