

<i>Go and Come Back</i>	Abelove, Joan	In a story of mutual culture shock, Alicia, a young Isabo girl in a remote area of Peru, is just as fascinated by the American anthropologists, Joanna and Margarita, as they are with the ways of her people.		South American, Female
<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>	Ablom, Mitch	Most of us, at some point in our schooling, have had a teacher who had a major impact on our thinking and the way we've lived our lives. What a treat would it be now, all these years later, to reacquaint ourselves with that treasure advisor. To learn again those lessons he or she shared when we were young. Mitch Ablom was given that opportunity. He spent several months regularly visiting his college professor, Morrie Schwartz, during the elder man's final year of life.		Non-fiction.
<i>Bastard Out of Carolina</i>	Allison, Dorothy	Bone confronts illegitimacy, poverty, the troubled marriage of her mother and stepfather, and the stigma of being considered "white trash" as she comes of age in South Carolina.		Poverty, abuse, female
<i>Feed</i>	Anderson, M.T.	In this society your brain cyberfeed provides an endless stream of information, entertainment and advertising. When Violet's feed is disrupted, she's cast adrift and everyone is forced to examine the power of the feed in his/her life.		
<i>Speak</i>	Anderson, Laurie Halse	Calling the police to a party is a tough choice, but what made Melinda call is the devastating secret that keeps her locked in silence.		
<i>Forgotten Fire</i>	Bagdasarian, Adam	Based on a true story from the Armenian Holocaust, this is an eloquent, touching and heart-wrenching portrait of pain and triumph during a time of tragedy.		Historical fiction
<i>Drink Cultura Chicanismo</i>	Buriciaga, Jose Antonio	Recommended by one of my students, the book provides historical and pop culture information on Chicanos in California.		Non-fiction, Chicano
<i>Princess Diaries</i>	Cabot, Meg	Sometimes your brain needs a rest. The Princess Diaries are a light read. Great if you love romance.		Romance, coming of age.
<i>Ender's Game</i>	Card, Orson Scott	The science fiction story of Ender Wiggin, a boy genetically engineered to be a superior military mind, bred to win Earth's long war with an alien race.		Sci-Fi, Coming of Age
<i>The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay</i>	Chabon, Michael	Local writer Chabon creates a rich tapestry detailing the lives of best friends and comic lovers coming up in Ny in the early 1900s. The story chronicles their lives against the economic backdrop of the comic book industry, and the political milieu of World War II		Fiction
<i>Postcards from No Man's Land</i>	Chambers, Aidan	Seventeen is an age of self-discovery, and Jacob has gone to Amsterdam to explore his life. His quest strangely parallels discoveries about his grandfather's life		Fiction, coming of age, European

		there during World War II.		
<i>Caramelo</i>	Cisneros, Sandra	The same author as <i>House on Mango Street</i> . Lala Reyes is Mexican American, and frequently visits her family in Mexico. LaLa learns the stories of her Awful Grandmother and weaves them into a colorful family history. The “caramelo,” a striped shawl begun by her Great-Grandmother, symbolizes their traditions. Is she Mexican, American, or something else?		Latino, female, family
<i>The Chocolate War</i>	Cormier, Robert	There isn't a happy ending in this battle of the school ground and morals. The Chocolate War is a coming of age story; a short read that leaves you uncomfortable (in a good, think hard, kind of way).		Fiction, Coming of age, male
<i>Ironman</i>	Crutcher, Chris	When one of his frequent outbursts lands him in anger management class, 17 year-old Bo interrupts his triathlon training to spend two mornings a week discussing personal issues with a group of emotionally wounded classmates. This novel doesn't strive for easy answers, but does ask many intriguing questions of its characters.		Coming of Age, Sports
<i>Running Loose</i>	Crutcher Chris	A senior in high school's picture-perfect life begins to fall apart.		Boys, sports
<i>The Silver Kiss</i>	Curtis Klause, Annette	Simon is one of the undead, a vampire, who seeks the help of Zoë to free himself from his intolerable solitude.		Fantasy
<i>The Pact</i>	Drs. Davis, Jenkins, and Hunt	Three friends make a pact to make it through high school, college, and medical school		Autobiography, African-American, male
<i>The Invisible Man</i>	Ellison, Ralph	The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of “the Brotherhood”, and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be.		Fiction, racism, African American
<i>Crackback</i>	John Coy	Sophomore football star Miles is excited about his strong team's chances in the new season. Then his favorite coach resigns, and Miles chafes under the new coach, who favors phrases such as "This isn't a democracy. This is a dictatorship, and I'm the Dick." Miles feels alienated from his teammates at school, who have turned to steroids, and also at home, with his angry father. Called a “moving, nuanced portrait of a teen struggling with adults who demand, but don't always deserve, respect.”		
<i>The Davinci</i>	Brown, Dan	Recommended by one of my students,		Mystery,

<i>Code</i>		begins with a murder in the middle of the night. Aided by the victim's cryptologist granddaughter, Langdon begins a danger-filled quest for the culprit; but the deeper he searches, the more he becomes convinced that long-festering conspiracies hold the answer to the art lover's death.		history
<i>House of Scorpion</i>	Farmer, Nancy	Alacran, or El Patron, has lived 140 years with the help of transplants from a series of clones, a common practice among rich men in this world. The intelligence of clones is usually destroyed at birth, but Matt, the latest Alacran's doubles, has been spared because he belongs to El Patron.		Science fiction, dystopia, drugs, male protagonist
<i>Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind</i>	Fisher, Suzanne	A Newberry Award Winner. The story of a young Muslim girl who lives in Pakistan, but refuses to submit to the traditional roles expected of her. Powerful writing provides insight into a very different culture.		
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Fitzgerald, F. Scott	A portrait of the Jazz Age in all of its decadence and excess, <i>Gatsby</i> captured the spirit of the author's generation and earned itself a permanent place in American mythology.		Fiction
<i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor: a Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines.</i>	Foster, Thomas	Every author leaves clues to lead readers deeper into the inner meanings of their writings. Learn how to follow literary breadcrumbs in any story.		Non-fiction
<i>Life is Funny</i>	Frank, E.R.	Growing up in New York can be agonizing, humorous, and always a challenge for the teens who tell their stories.		
<i>Better Than Running at Night</i>	Frank, Hillary	Set at a prestigious (fictional) art school, this first novel revolves around a talented college freshman wrestling with her first relationship.		
<i>My Heartbeat.</i>	Freyman-Weyr, Garret	Can Ellen get the boy who loves her brother?		
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time: A Novel</i>	Haddon, Mark	The autistic narrator, a teenager named Christopher, is accused of killing the neighbor's dog. It is an interesting, and often humorous, story with a twist on the traditional narrator.		
<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>	Haley, Alex with Malcolm X	Malcolm X is arguably one of the greatest orators and anti-racism activists in U.S. history. Outspoken and aggressive, he is often overlooked by mainstream discussions about racism in the United States. Furthermore, his conversion to Islam and the Black Muslims widens to chasm between his politics and Dr. Martin Luther Kings. An important book for any American.		Non-fiction, autobiography, race, African-American

<i>Catch-22</i>	Heller, Joseph	World War II Air Force officer (who happens to be Assyrian) confronts the insanity of war and the moral dilemmas it presents in a darkly comic tale.		Fiction, war
<i>Dune</i>	Herber, Frank	The first, and arguably best, in the Dune series. It is a story of political intrigue on a distant world.		SciFi, politics
<i>If He Hollers, Let Him Go</i>	Himes, Chester	Himes' character Bob Jones gives voice to Black Americans in Los Angeles during the 1940s. It is an angry book, in the same genus as <i>The Invisible Man</i> .		Social criticism, fiction
<i>Woman Warrior</i>	Hong Kingston, Maxine	A Chinese American woman tells of the Chinese myths, family stories, and events of her California childhood that have shaped her identity.		Chinese, women, coming of age
<i>The First Part Last</i>	Johnson, Angela	An absorbing prequel (to <i>Heaven</i>) about a single teen struggling to accept his new paternal role.		Male, coming of age, parenting
<i>Me and Orson Welles</i>	Kaplow, Robert	What would it be like to spend a week with the great Orson Welles, even sleeping in his pajamas? Richard Samuels, a budding teenage actor, gets the opportunity to see what life on stage, and behind the stage, is really like on Broadway in 1937.		
<i>Mystic River</i>	Lehane, Dennis	Not your conventional thriller, Lehane's <i>Mystic River</i> looks back at what might have been, the ways in which the past impinges on the present.		Mystery
<i>Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter</i>	Mah, Adeline	Qu Mei, also called Adeline, is the Fifth Younger Sister of her family, and the one who bears the blame for all their bad fortune. In her inspirational tale of survival in 1940's China, she triumphs against all odds.		
<i>In Country</i>	Mason, Bobbie Ann	A young woman tries to learn about her father who was killed in Vietnam.		Coming of Age, War, Family, Female
<i>The Usual Rules</i>	Maynard, Joyce	Wendy, a typical 13-year-old teenager, gets into a fight with her mother and refuses to say goodbye to her before leaving for school. The only problem is this is September 11 th and her mother is heading off to work at the World Trade Center never to return home. Find out how Wendy comes to terms with the loss of her mother.		
<i>The Lovely Bones</i>	Ann Seybold	The narrator, Susie Salmon, is in heaven when the novel opens. Salmon tells us the story of her life and death. It is a story about grief and hope.		Fiction, suspense, coming of age
<i>Maus I and II</i>	Art Spiegelman	Graphic novels that tell the story of Spiegelman's father's experience during the Holocaust. Addresses how this survivor and his family deal with the aftermath of the war.		Graphic novel, Holocaust, family
<i>Runaways</i>	Brian K. Vaughn	What would you do if your parents really were evil?		Graphic novel, family,

				fiction
<i>Handmaid's Tale</i>	Margaret Atwood	In this future, women are controlled by the government, including when and who gives birth. An interesting political view that works well with World Civilization and government systems.		Science fiction, women, politics
<i>The Giver</i>	Lois Lowry	Set in a utopian that is revealed as a dystopia, the novel addresses identity and truth in society.		Fiction, dystopia, politics, science fiction, male narrator
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	Monk Kidd, Sue	Lily Owens search for the truth about her mother's death takes her from the Florida to South Carolina. Set during the passage of the Civil Rights Act, Lily must face her own demons as those around her address their own bigotry.		Fiction, Coming of Age, Racism, Faith
<i>Way Past Cool</i>	Mowry, Jess	This is coming of age story follows the paths of two different protagonists- Lyon and Ty- as they make decisions about their lives amidst guns, gangs, and drugs in Oakland. Strong language.		Fiction, African-American males, coming of age
<i>The Interpreter of Maladies</i>	Lahiri, Jhumpa	Lahiri traces the crosscurrents sets in motion when immigrants, expatriates, and their children arrive, quite literally, at a cultural divide.		Short stories
<i>Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress</i>	Dai Sijie	Two teenage sons of Chinese intellectuals are sent to the countryside to be reeducated during the Cultural Revolution. They find a cache of forbidden novels.		Chinese, politics, male
<i>Slave</i>	Mende Nazaar	Nazaar is from northern Sudan. A black Muslim, she was captured in 1994 as a 12-year-old by Arab Muslims as sold as a slave. This is her account.		Sudan, slavery, female
<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	Khaled Hosseini	The second novel from the author of <i>The Kite Runner</i> , this time with female characters who develop an unlikely relationship that extends through the rise of the Taliban to the U.S. invasion.		Afghanistan, female, friendship, racism
<i>Water for Elephants</i>	Sarah Gruen	After his parents' death, Jacob Jankowski joins a circus. Set during the Depression, Gruen's novel gives a look at what traveling society was like at the time.		American, coming of age, male
<i>Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and life</i>	Lamott, Anne	Advice to the fledgling writer: "Just take it bird by bird." A gentle, anecdotal guide for beginning authors.		Non-fiction, writing