

10th Graders' Suggested Summer Reading List



Azuela, Mariano. *The Underdogs*. A classic account of the Mexican Revolution of 1810. In an effort to save his family, a naïve and peace-loving rancher named Demetrio joins the revolution against dictator Porfirio Diaz.

Bagdasarian, Adam. *Forgotten Fire*. It is 1915 and Vahan Kendarian, the pampered youngest son of one of the most influential Armenian families in Turkey, is confident that his privileged world will always include the house he loves, the laughter of his brothers and sisters and a sense of belonging. His innocence reaches a swift and brutal end, however, when his father vanishes. Vahan spends the next three years as a prisoner, a beggar, a servant and a stowaway, in order to survive.

Benitez, Sandra. *A Place Where the Sea Remembers*. Set in Santiago, Mexico, this story depicts the triumphs and tragedies of common people.

Bissinger, H. G. *Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream*. HarperCollins, 1991. The author penetrates the culture of high school football as it is lived in Odessa, Texas.

Brashares, Ann. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. Delacorte, 2001. During summer break, longtime friends Lena, Tibby, Carmen, and Bridget each embark on adventures that they share with one another through a pair of jeans that they have decided will be worn by all and so will absorb all of their stories.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. In 19th Century England, Jane is an orphan, a teacher, and a governess. She is fiercely independent and moral in spirit—qualities that are tested and that ultimately bring her the happiness she has searched for.

Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. The rags-to-riches story of an orphan named Pip. After his contact with a wealthy eccentric, Pip dreams of becoming a gentleman. Pip moves to London where he learns the true measures of nobility and love.

Haskins, Don. *Glory Road: My Story of the 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship and How One Team Triumphed Against the Odds and Changed America Forever*. Hyperion, 2006. Texas coach Don Haskins forever changed college sports in 1966 when he chose to field five black players in the formerly segregated NCAA basketball tournament—and his team won.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The House of the Seven Gables*. First published 1851. Hepzibah tries to shelter her brother from the evil of Judge Pyncheon in nineteenth-century Massachusetts.

Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms*. First published 1929. A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.

Jordan, Robert. *Eye of the World*. Tor, 1990. During the Third Age, the Age of Prophecy, the world and time itself hang in the balance in danger of falling under the Shadow.

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Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki, and James D. *Farewell to Manzanar.* This is a true story of a Japanese-American family's confinement in the Manzanar internment camp in California during World War II.

Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees.* Viking, 2002. Searching for a connection to her dead mother, Lily leaves her abusive father and finds shelter with a family of African American sisters.

King, Thomas. *Truth and Bright Water.* Grove/Atlantic, 2000. A coming-of-age tale about two American Indian boys is projected against the literal and symbolic divide between them.

Knowles, John. *A Separate Peace.* Gene, the narrator, revisits the New Hampshire prep school he attended shortly after the onset of World War II. Haunted by the past, he remembers the "accident" that crippled his roommate, shattered the summer's peace, and revealed the evil in his own heart.

Markham, Beryl. *West with the Night.* A famous aviator reveals her heroic and adventurous spirit in this poetic memoir of her life. Markham became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean from east to west.

Mathabane, Mark. *Kaffir Boy.* Mark recalls growing up under apartheid in Johannesburg, South Africa in this autobiography. After Mathabane's father is arrested and subjected to farced labor on a white-owned farm, his mother is determined that her son will get an education. Mathabane demonstrates how the strength of the human spirit endures even in the face of a crushing political system.

Rosenberg, Liz, editor. *Light-Gathering Poems.* Henry Holt, 2000. Using light as a metaphor, this collection of poems brings images of light and hope into focus.

Runyon, Brent. *The Burn Journals.* Knopf, 2004. In this fast-moving and excruciatingly true story of a fourteen-year-old burn victim, Brent struggles to recover from his self-inflicted burns and psychological depression.

Stanton, Tom. *Hank Aaron and the Homerun that Changed America.* Chasing the home run record of Babe Ruth also meant chasing the legend of the "Sultan of Swat." As Hank Aaron came close to that achievement in 1973, not everyone in America was willing to accept that an African-American could overtake Babe Ruth's homerun performance. Aaron emerges as the reliable hitter, quiet and determined, a man who calmly does his job in the face of constant pressure and even threats on his life.

Uchida, Yoshiko. *Picture Bride.* The story of Hana Omiya, a Japanese woman who comes to the Untied States as a "picture bride"—a woman whose marriage is arranged by family members trough than exchange of photographs.