

Ages 13-15

Almond, Steve

Candyfreak: A Journey through the Chocolate Underbelly of America

Former journalist Steve Almond, admitting that he has eaten a piece of candy every day of his life, writes a memoir/report/travelogue about the history of candy in America.

Armstrong, Jennifer

What a Song Can Do : 12 Riffs on the Power of Music

A collection of twelve short stories explores the theme of music's power for teenagers.

Brashares, Ann

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

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.

Cavanagh, Thomas

Head Games

When the lead singer of a popular boys' band disappears and a lucrative reward is offered by the band's manager, a retired police

detective with two ex-wives, a teenage daughter, and a brain tumor named Bob, tackles the case.

Cox, Lynne

Grayson

Seventeen-year-old long-distance swimmer Lynne Cox is training alone before dawn in the Pacific when she encounters a lost baby whale. Her true-life adventure as she tries to find the whale's mother is a testimony to athletic discipline and love of the environment.

Crutcher, Chris

Deadline

Eighteen-year-old Ben Wood has been given less than a year to live, but chooses not to tell anyone so his senior year will be as normal as possible. This surprisingly humorous story tracks that final year as Ben goes out for football, finds romance, and realizes that his secret has a serious impact on others.

Haddon, Mark

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime

An autistic boy keeps a diary of his efforts to solve the mystery of who killed his neighbor's dog. This funny, touching novel is a revealing look into the mind of an autistic person.

Herbert, Frank

Dune

The Atreides family is banished to planet Dune where the ferocious Fremen live.

Kendall, Gillian

Mr. Ding's Chicken Feet: On a Slow Boat from Shanghai to China

A young University of Houston graduate student finds she is the only woman aboard after accepting a job teaching English to the Chinese crew and officers of a seismic vessel sailing from Shanghai to Galveston.

Llewellyn, Sam

The Return of Death Eric

Death Eric was your parents' favorite rock band, but the band's leader, Eric Thrashmettle, retired because he thought he was cursed. When his bank account runs dry, Eric's children convince him and the other former band members to reunite for a blazing comeback.

Mah, Adeline Yen

Chinese Cinderella

The author recounts the cruelty she suffered from her stepmother and the callous indifference of her well-to-do father while growing up in China at the end of World War II.

Marillier, Juliet

Wildwood Dancing

Every full moon, five sisters who live with their father in Transylvania use a hidden portal to cross over into a magical world, the Wildwood, where they dance until morning with the creatures who live there.

McCall Smith, Alexander

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

Upon setting up shop in a small storefront in Botswana, Precious Ramotswe is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, follow a wayward daughter, and locate a missing boy who may have been snatched by witch doctors.

McCloud, Scott

Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga and Graphic Novels

Focusing on the storytelling aspects of drawing comics, the author's cartoon stand-in narrator uses a skillful mix of dry humor and instruction to offer insights into designing and drawing a comic strip.

Pullman, Philip

The Golden Compass

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and otherkidnapped children from becoming the subjects of gruesome experiments in the Far North. Satrapi, Marjane. Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood. In graphic novel format, Satrapi tells of her childhood growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution.

Sofer, Dalia

The Septembers of Shiraz

Following the 1981 revolution against the Shah of Iran, Isaac Amin, a Jewish gem dealer, is imprisoned because of his religion and personal wealth, and members of his family are forced to wrestle with the radical changes forced upon them.

Wright, Richard

Native Son

A young African American man is trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side finding release only in acts of violence.