

Ages 16-17

Amirrezvani, Anita

The Blood of Flowers

Following the death of her father, a fourteen-year-old girl, living in seventeenth-century Persia, is left without a dowry. She and her mother, a master storyteller, toil as servants in the home of her uncle where she becomes a skillful rug designer.

Beah, Ishmael

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

A twelve-year old boy first flees from attacking rebels with his friends, but later is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone between 1991 and 1998 and his rehabilitation.

Bodanis, David

Electric Universe

This enlightening cultural and scientific account of the discovery and development of electricity features entertaining historical and biographical vignettes.

Capote, Truman

In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences

The senseless, brutal murder of four members of the Clutter family by two psychotic young men shocked their small-town community of Holcomb, Kansas and the entire country.

Chabon, Michael

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay

Comic strip adventures are interwoven with an actual escape from war-torn Europe and the coming of age for two charming and talented young men.

Chandler, Raymond

The Long Goodbye

In this classic “hard-boiled” detective story, Philip Marlowe, private eye, deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city.

Coben, Harlan

Tell No One

After years of struggling with grief over his wife’s murder by a serial killer, Dr. David Beck receives a mysterious e-mail that includes a secret word only known to his wife and himself.

Hemingway, Ernest

A Farewell to Arms

A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.

Johnson, Steven

The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and
How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World

In 1854, when the existence of bacteria and the concept of waterborne disease are still unknown, two men, one a physician and the other a clergyman, successfully trace the source of a cholera epidemic to a contaminated well in an impoverished part of London.

Martel, Yann

The Life of Pi: A Novel

Sixteen-year-old Pi Patel, his family, and their zoo animals emigrate from India to North America aboard a cargo ship. The ship sinks, and Pi finds himself sharing a lifeboat with a 450-pound Bengal tiger.

Vonnegut, Kurt

Slaughterhouse Five

After surviving the bombing of Dresden in World War II, Billy Pilgrim spends time on the planet Tralfamador.

Wooten, Jim

We Are All the Same: A Story of a Boy's Courage and a Mother's Love

The global battle against AIDS is set against the life and death of Nkosi Johnson, a young South African boy. Having been born with AIDS, he comes to symbolize the struggle against the disease and displays the strength of the human spirit.