

Annotated Reading List

<u>Genre</u>	<u>Page</u>
Overcoming Obstacles	1
Historical Fiction	2
Sports	3
Mysteries, Suspense & Adventure	4
Science Fiction & Fantasy	5
Nonfiction	6
Biographies, Autobiographies, & Memoirs	7
Politics	9
Humor	10
Cultural Contexts	11
Award Winners	12
Classics	13
Other Good Reads	14

Overcoming Obstacles

+Buffalo Soldier by Chris Bohjalian**

Terry and Laura Sheldon try to ease their grief over the drowning deaths of their twin daughters by adopting Albert, a ten-year-old African-American boy.

Eleven Seconds by Travis Roy *

Travis Roy recounts how his life has changed since a freak accident in 1995 in his first Boston University hockey game that left him paralyzed from the neck down.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls**

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcohol father.

+A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers**

A memoir in which the author discusses the unrelated deaths of his parents within a period of months, his newly acquired responsibility for his eight-year-old brother, and his creation of a satirical magazine.

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos*

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines*

The story of a young African-American man sentenced to death for a murder he did not commit, and a teacher who tries to impart to him his learning and pride before the execution.

+My Sister's Keeper by Jody Picoult**

Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky*

Charlie, a freshman in high school, explores the dilemmas of growing up through a collection of letters he sends to an unknown receiver.

+Speak by Laurie Anderson*

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

+This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolff**

Wolff's account of his boyhood and the process of growing up includes paper routes, whiskey, scouting, fistfights, friendship, betrayal, and America in the fifties.

Historical Fiction

The Astonishing Life of Octavia Nothing: Vol. 1 The Pox Party by M.T. Anderson**

Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean Auel**

Ayla, clearly a member of the Others, is raised by the Clan of the Cave Bear, a rival race of humanoid creatures living in prehistoric Europe.

Cold Mountain by Charles Fraser**

Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier, leaves the hospital where he is being treated and determines to walk home to his sweetheart Ada, only to find the land and the girl he remembers as changed by the war as he.

Going After Cacciato by Tim O'Brien*

An American soldier in Vietnam decides to leave the war and simply walks out of the jungle, with the intent of going to Paris.

Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell **

After the Civil War sweeps away the genteel life to which she has been accustomed, Scarlett O'Hara sets about to salvage her plantation home.

Jubilee by Margaret Walker **

Fact-based novel that chronicles the experiences of Vvry, the child of a white plantation owner and his slave mistress, discussing her life as slave during the Civil War, and as a woman freed by the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara**

A fictional account of four days in July, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg discussing tactics, plans, and preparations for battle from both the Northern and Southern points of view.

+The King Must Die by Mary Renault**

Tells the story of a boy, Theseus, who must prove his manhood in a semi-barbaric society.

+Master and Commander by Patrick O'Brian**

Two men, Captain Jack Aubrey, R.N., and Stephen Maturin, ship's doctor and intelligence agent, become fast friends aboard a man-of-war ship during the Napoleonic wars.

+The Source by James Michener**

Recreates the history of the people who have lived at Makor, Israel--from 10,000 B.C.E. to the present state of Israel.

Sports

The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis**

Details the life of University of Mississippi football player Michael Oher, who was raised by a crack addicted mother and adopted at the age of sixteen by a wealthy family, and explores the rising importance and salary of the offensive left tackle in the game of football.

+Only a Game by Bill Littlefield**

National Public Radio commentator, Littlefield's sports stories from baseball Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett's untimely death, to pickup soccer games among misfit high-schoolers, to the most obscure nicknames and unusual mascots in college sports.

The Education of a Coach by David Halberstam*

Presents a look at the life and work of National Football League coach Bill Belichick, describing his childhood, his work ethic, his intelligence, and his accomplishments in coaching.

Faithful by Stewart O'Nan and Stephen King *

Two diehard Boston Red Sox fans chronicle the historic 2004 season.

Lance Armstrong's War by Daniel Boyle*

Follows champion bicyclist Lance Armstrong throughout the 2004 racing season, chronicling his quest to win his sixth Tour de France, and examines his response to charges of doping.

+My Losing Season by Pat Conroy**

The author reflects on his days at a South Carolina military college. He recalls his love of basketball and its value to him as a means of self-expression, and shares experiences that shed new light on his novel "The Great Santini."

+The Natural by Bernard Malamud**

Gifted baseball player Roy Hobbs, his career derailed by a youthful indiscretion, makes a stunning comeback in later life, but finds himself still struggling against the temptations that would bring him to ruin.

Shoeless Joe by W.P. Kinsella*

An Iowa farmer builds a baseball stadium in his cornfield, hoping his hero, Shoeless Joe Jackson, will play in it.

Values of the Game by Bill Bradley**

Contains ten essays in which former basketball player and senator Bill Bradley reflects on the qualities that separate winners from losers, focusing on the importance of shared values among team members.

Women Who Win: Female Athletes on Being the Best ed. By Lisa Taggart*

Examines the lives and accomplishments of ten women athletes, including beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor, jockey Julie Krone, and distance swimmer Lynne Cox.

Mysteries, Suspense, and Adventure

+The Crocodile Bird by Ruth Rendell**

Story of an obsessive love between a mother and daughter and its connection to a series of deaths near a remote English manor.

+Devices and Desires by P.D. James**

After being sentenced to death for a petty crime, an engineer flees the city, leaving his family behind, and seeks a terrible vengeance that will leave a trail of death and destruction in its wake.

The Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey**

Follows Alan Grant, an injured policeman currently hospitalized and bored, as he searches for the truth behind the belief that Richard III murdered the little princes in the tower.

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing*

Provides an account of the voyage undertaken by polar explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew aboard the Endurance in 1914-15.

+Gaudy Night by Dorothy Sayers**

Harriet Vane finds herself trapped in a web of romance and terror when her attendance at her Oxford is marred by a series of bizarre, threatening pranks.

+A Great Deliverance by Elizabeth George**

When a savage murder stuns the peaceful countryside of Scotland, Inspector Thomas Lynley is called in to solve the crime, but before he can do that he must find his way through the town's web of lies and secrets.

+Little Drummer Girl by John LeCarre**

Israeli intelligence agents are secretly pursued by an exceptionally dangerous and elusive Palestinian terrorist leader.

+People of Darkness by Tony Hillerman*

Sergeant Jim Chee of the Navajo Tribal Police is asked to investigate the theft of a box of keepsakes belonging to "The People of Darkness." Then people associated with the keepsakes begin dying mysteriously and a hired assassin is stalking Chee.

+The Scold's Bridle by Minette Walters**

A woman doctor in an English village finds herself the center of some nasty attention from police as well as villagers. The will of a murdered woman names her the sole beneficiary and people assume she killed her.

+The Widening Gyre by Robert Parker*

Spenser is hired by Senate candidate Meade Alexander after he is blackmailed by the mob. Spenser must get back a tape of Alexander's wife that is X-rated and could mean the end of Meade Alexander's short political career.

Science Fiction and Fantasy

+Childhood's End by Arthur C. Clarke**

When the Overlords first came to Earth, they brought peace and prosperity with them, but it soon became apparent that their purpose was the elimination of the human race.

Dune by Frank Herbert *

The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained.

+Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card*

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

+The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood**

Set in the near future, America has become a puritanical theocracy and Offred tells her story as a Handmaid under the new social order whose function is to breed.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams*

Seconds before Earth is destroyed to make room for a galactic freeway, a young man is rescued by an alien friend who whisks him away on a space-traveling adventure.

Mists of Avalon by Miriam Zimmer Bradley**

A re-creation of the Arthurian legend following the clash between Christianity and paganism that led to the demise of Camelot.

The Once and Future King by T.H. White**

Tells the story of the youth and reign of King Arthur, the establishment of the Round Table, and the search for the Holy Grail.

+Sphere by Michael Crichton*

A group of American scientists descend to the ocean floor to investigate a spaceship of phenomenal dimensions, apparently undamaged by its fall, and three hundred years old.

+Stranger in a Strange Land by Robert Heinlein**

After his arrival on Earth from his home on Mars, Valentine Michael Smith becomes the founder and pastor of a new religious sect.

+The Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula LeGuin**

A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the master wizard.

Nonfiction

Alive by Piers Paul Read**

Discusses the ordeal of the survivors of an airplane crash in 1972 in the Andes wilderness.

Common Ground by J. Anthony Lucas**

Describes events in the lives of three families during the 1968 Boston school integration crisis.

+The Guns of August by Barbara Tuchman**

Intensive study of the background of the first World War, and of the battles of Liege, Tannenberg, Mons and others fought during the first thirty days.

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser**

Traces the history of the fast food industry and discusses how it arose in postwar America.

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote**

Examines the lives and deaths of four members of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, and the two men who murdered them on November 15, 1959.

In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick***

Tells the story of the Essex, a whaleship that set sail from Nantucket in 1819 on a routine voyage, and was rammed and sunk by an enraged sperm whale in the South Pacific, setting the twenty-man crew adrift in three tiny boats.

+Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich**

Author Barbara Ehrenreich relates her experiences from 1998 to 2000, during which time joined the ranks of the working poor as a waitress, hotel housekeeper, cleaning woman, nursing home aide, and Wal-Mart clerk to see for herself how America's "unskilled" workers are able to survive on only \$6 or \$7 an hour.

The Orchid Thief by Susan Orlean**

The New Yorker reporter chronicles the 1994 crime story of John Laroche, a plant dealer who teamed up with three Seminole Indians to steal rare orchids from a southern Florida; examines the ramifications of the case and the odd world of orchid fanatics.

Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand**

Describes how three men worked together to turn a rough-hewn, undersized horse into one of the fastest horses in racing history.

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson**

Presents Rachel Carson's 1962 environmental classic "Silent Spring," which identified the dangers of indiscriminate pesticide use; and includes an introduction by biographer Linda Lear and an afterword by scientist Edward O. Wilson.

Biographies, Autobiographies, and Memoirs

Black Ice by Lorene Cary*

An autobiographical narrative of the author's days at Saint Pauls, a private prep school in New Hampshire and of her adolescent turmoil.

Girl, Interrupted by Susanna Kaysen**

The author describes her two-year stay at a psychiatric hospital renowned for its famous clientele and for its progressive methods of treatment.

Growing Up by Russell Baker**

The memoirs of the Pulitzer prizewinning columnist of the New York Times.

A Hope in the Unseen by Ron Suskind *

Follows gifted African-American student Cedric Jennings from his crime-infested high school in Washington D.C. to his junior year at Brown University, discussing the problems he encountered along the road out of the ghetto.

Hunger of Memory by Richard Rodriguez**

The author, a disadvantaged Mexican American, writes of feelings of alienation from his family as he learned English and earned a Ph.D.

Letters from Nuremberg by Christopher J. Dodd**

Presents a comprehensive collection of letters written by the author's father, Thomas J. Dodd, who served as one of the U.S. prosecutors at the 1945 Nuremberg trial.

Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard by Mawi Asgedom. *

Mawi Asgedom tells the story of how, at the age of three, he fled civil war in Ethiopia by walking with his mother and brother to a Sudanese refugee camp, and later moved to Chicago and earned a full scholarship to Harvard University.

A River Runs Through It by Norman MacLean**

Western story about the relationship between a father and his two sons, bound together by love and fly fishing.

The Road from Coorain by Jill Ker Conway*

The memoirs of Jill Conway and her journey into adulthood from a 30,000 acre sheep ranch in Coorain, Australia, to America where she became the first woman president of Smith College.

Travels with Charley by John Steinbeck*

Contains observations about life and descriptions of nature as described by Steinbeck as he traveled from coast to coast at sixty years of age with his French poodle, Charley.

Politics

Advise and Consent by Allen Drury**

Probes the drama and maneuvering surrounding the choice of an American Secretary of State.

Dreams from My Father by Barack Obama**

Barack Obama tells the story of his life as the son of a black African father and a white American mother, searching for a workable meaning to his life as an African American.

Faith of my Fathers by John McCain**

McCain's account of his father, grandfather and his own military service. Almost half the book is devoted to McCain's grueling imprisonment in Vietnam when he was tortured repeatedly and frequently locked in solitary confinement.

+From Beirut to Jerusalem by Thomas Friedman***

Examines Israeli-Palestinian relations, the PLO, Israeli politics, Lebanese factions, news reporting from the Middle East, and other issues of the Middle East.

The Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashjian*

Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

Living History by Hillary Rodham Clinton**

Hillary Rodham Clinton tells her life story, describing her dedication to social causes, her relationship with her husband, and her accomplishments and difficult periods as First Lady.

+ Master of the Senate by Robert Caro***

Chronicles Lyndon Johnson's life during the twelve years he served in the United States Senate, from 1949 to 1960, discussing his influence on a variety of controversial and influential issues.

No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt by Doris Kearns Goodwin***

Examines the distinct leadership roles of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt during the war years and discusses the dynamics of their marriage.

Parting of the Waters: America in the King Years-1954-1963 by Taylor Branch**

Chronicles the civil rights struggle from the Eisenhower years through the assassination of President Kennedy.

+The Race by Richard North Patterson**

Former Gulf War Air Force pilot Corey Grace's campaign to become the 2008 Republican presidential candidate is put in jeopardy by a secret in his past, his brother's homosexuality, and his blooming romance with an African-American Hollywood actress who supports stem cell research.

Humor

The Bear Went Over the Mountain by William Kotzwinkle*

A bear takes America by storm when he finds a book manuscript in the woods, and after reading it, decides to head for New York to seek fame and fortune in the literary world.

Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott**

A step-by-step guide on how to write and how to manage the writer's life. Tells how to get started and move beyond first drafts, and discusses writer's block, writing groups, and publication.

Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole***

This story about a young man's isolation still rings true at a time when millions interact more with computers than with other people.

+Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim by David Sedaris*

Contains a collection of twenty-seven essays by author David Sedaris as he reflects upon his childhood and presents stories of family characters, the embarrassments of adolescence, and some of the difficulties he had growing up.

+Flashman: A Novel by George MacDonald Fraser**

First-person narrative of Harry Flashman about his commissions and his fighting in India and Afghanistan in the 1840's.

+Going Postal by Terry Pratchett**

Moist von Lipwig, alias Alfred Spangler, is given a choice of either reviving the Ankh-Morpork Post Office or death, but getting the system up and running again proves to be a near-impossible task.

The Inimitable Jeeves by P.G. Wodehouse**

A young man uses the opinions of his butler Jeeves to make major life decisions.

Little Big Man by Thomas Berger**

The life story of Jack Crabb, 111 years old and the son of two fathers. He recounts his life as a Cheyenne Indian and as a white man.

+Native Tongue by Carl Hiaasen**

Disillusioned by his job in the publicity department at the Amazing Kingdom of Thrills theme park, burnt-out reporter Joe Winder finds the story of a lifetime when the last two blue-tongued mango wolves left on earth are stolen.

+A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson*

An entertaining introduction to the history and ecology of the Appalachian Trail and to some of the other hardy (or just foolhardy) folks the author meets along the way.

Cultural Contexts

Almost a Woman by Esmeralda Santiago**

Esmeralda Santiago discusses what it was like to grow up as a Puerto Rican teenager in New York and to go against the wishes of her over-protective mother and discover her true identity.

Annie John by Jamaica Kincaid*

A fictional account of a young girl's coming of age in Antigua, from a doted upon childhood to an adolescence fraught with events and alliances leading her away from mutual complacent acceptance.

Flight by Sherman Alexie*

Follows the life of a troubled teen as he is transported back and forth in time in a search for his true identity.

The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy**

On a December day in 1969 twins Rahel and Estha, born to a wealthy family living in the province of Kerala, India, find their lives changed after the death of their English cousin who was visiting for the holidays.

+The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan**

In 1949 four Chinese women began meeting in San Francisco to play mahjong. They called their gathering the Joy Luck Club. Forty years later they look back and remember.

Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha by Roddy Doyle*

It is 1968 and a ten-year-old boy growing up in Dublin faces the triumphs, indignities, warmth, and cruelty of his world, and tries to make sense of it all.

A Pale View of the Hills by Kazuo Ishiguro***

Etsuko, a Japanese woman living alone in England, contemplates the recent suicide of her eldest daughter.

The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiayama***

On the eve of World War II a young Chinese man is sent to his family's summer home in Japan to recover from tuberculosis.

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman**

Examines cultural issues in the American health care system through the case of Lia, a Hmong-American girl suffering from epilepsy whose treatment by doctors in California conflicted with the traditional healing beliefs held by her family.

The Women of Brewster Place by Gloria Naylor *

A series of vignettes focusing on seven African-American women, showing how their reactions to certain situations are affected by their backgrounds, ages, dreams, and problems.

Award Winners

American Pastoral (Pulitzer) by Philip Roth***

A former athletic star, devoted family man, and owner of a thriving glove factory, Seymour "Swede" Levov finds his life coming apart during the social disorder of the 1960s, when his beloved daughter turns revolutionary terrorist out to destroy her father's world.

+Angle of Repose (Pulitzer) by Wallace Stegner***

Novel about a wheel-chair bound retired historian who travels to California to research and write about past generations of his family including his pioneering grandparents.

+Bel Canto (PEN/Faulkner Award) by Ann Patchett**

A group of international guests, taken hostage by terrorists while attending a birthday party at the home of the vice president of a small South American country, form bonds with their captors and enter into an almost idyllic lifestyle, united by the music of Roxanne Coss, opera's most revered soprano.

+The Caine Mutiny (Pulitzer) by Herman Wouk**

This book is the account of a well-to-do man who serves on a minesweeper during World War II.

How I Live Now (Guardian Prize) by Meg Rosoff*

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land.

Independence Day (Pulitzer) by Richard Ford**

Frank Bascombe, having lost his career and his family, is selling real estate in Haddam, New Jersey, and is settling for a life of mere existence until the events of one Fourth of July weekend shock him into real contact with life.

+John Adams (Pulitzer) by David McCullough**

Chronicles the life of the second president, John Adams, describing the many conflicts he faced during his long political career.

Life of Pi (Booker) by Yann Martel**

Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.

Snow Falling on Cedars (PEN-Faulkner Award) by David Guterson**

When a newspaper journalist covers the trial of a Japanese American accused of murder, he must come to terms with his own past.

A Thousand Acres (Pulitzer) by Jane Smiley**

Dark truths and long-suppressed emotions come to the surface in 1979 when a successful Iowa farmer decides to cut one of his daughters out of his will.

Classics

Ballad of the Sad Café and other Stories by Carson McCullers**

Amelia, the proprietor of the Sad Cafe, is finally forced to deal with the husband she threw out years earlier on their wedding night when he returns and threatens to run away with the dwarf Amelia has been showering all her affection upon.

The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky***

The story of the lives of three sons of an old drunkard are used to depict Russian character and investigate the concepts of good, evil, and faith.

+Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy***

Jude Fawley, an impoverished stonemason, aspires to the ministry and fails to fulfill the opposite expectations of the two women he loves in Victorian society.

+Mill on the Floss by George Eliot***

Young Maggie Tulliver's loyalty to her beloved older brother, Tom, and to the rest of her family, is tragically tested when she falls in love with the son of her father's bitterest enemy.

+Moby Dick by Herman Melville***

The chronicle of a young seaman who joins the crew of the whaling ship Pequod, led by the fanatical Captain Ahab, a sailor whose obsession with pursuing the white whale Moby Dick threatens to lead them all to disaster.

On the Road by Jack Kerouac**

Presents a thinly fictionalized autobiography of Jack Kerouac's cross-country adventure across North America on a quest for self-knowledge.

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce***

An autobiographical novel depicting the childhood, adolescence, and early manhood of Stephen Dedalus.

Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen**

Two sisters of opposing temperaments share the pangs of tragic love, and their mutual suffering brings a closer understanding between the two sisters.

War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy***

The story of Russian society during the Napoleonic Era.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte**

Forced by a storm to spend the night at the home of the somber Heathcliff, Mr. Lockwood uncovers a tale of terror and hatred on the Yorkshire moors.

Other Good Reads

+The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon**

Joe Kavalier has managed to escape from Nazi-occupied Prague, and now he must use his cunning wits to help rescue his family from Hitler's evil plans.

+Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler**

Pearl Tull's children return to their home to watch their mother die, and while they are there, they are forced to deal with the issues they have with their mother before it is too late.

Exodus by Leon Uris*

The founding of the new nation of Israel is vividly portrayed in this novel about an American nurse and a young Israeli freedom fighter.

+Family Pictures by Sue Miller**

The story of a large family growing up in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom*

A bitter eighty-three-year-old war veteran who believes his life is meaningless dies while trying to save a little girl's life and finds himself in heaven, where five people from his past explain what his years on Earth really meant, and whether or not he succeeded in saving the child.

Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels***

Jakob Beer, a Polish war orphan who is rescued and raised by a Greek scholar, becomes the central link in three generations of men whose lives are altered by the events and effects of the Second World War.

+The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende**

Presents a novel set in an unnamed Latin American country and describes the struggles, passions, and secrets of the Trueba family that spans three generations.

How to be Good by Nick Hornby**

Just when the pair is on the verge of divorce, English doctor Katie Carr's cynical husband, David, undergoes a spiritual awakening and invites a faith healer to live with them and their two children.

The Known World by Edward P. Jones***

Henry Townsend, a African farmer and former slave, is befriended by the most powerful man in antebellum Virginia's Manchester County and becomes proprietor of his own plantation, as well as of his own slaves.

+The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver**

Nathan Price and his family move to the Belgian Congo in 1959, and the experiences they have while living in Africa affect each member of the family in a different way.

Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier**

For months after her death, the memory of Rebecca de Winter continues to dominate everyone at her former home, Manderley, one of the most famous English country houses.

Rule of the Bone by Russell Banks **

The story of a troubled fourteen-year-old boy who, upon leaving an abusive home life, lives on the edge of society, struggling to find himself.

Sophie's Choice by William Styron**

Sophie, a survivor of the Nazi camps; and Nathan, her mercurial lover, share magical, heart-warming times until doom overtakes them as Sophie's and Nathan's darkest secrets are revealed.

+We Were the Mulvaney by Joyce Carol Oates**

Tells of a seemingly ordinary, successful family who is nearly torn apart when tragedy strikes but finds a way to remain happy and loyal despite rumors, secrets and strife.

+The World According to Garp by John Irving**

The son of a famous radical feminist spends his life struggling with his diverse personal relationships and with his ambition to be a writer.

Book descriptions from Titlewave/Follett Library Resources and Novelist (Ebsco Database).