

## Suggested Reading 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Author: Philip Caputo

Title: 10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War

Description: Provides an in-depth examination of the significant events and battles of the Vietnam War, discusses the resulting social unrest in the United States, and offers profiles of the major political players of the period.

Author: Sharon Ewell Foster

Title: Ain't No River

Description: Bright, young Washington D.C. lawyer Garwin Daniels, placed on administrative leave by her racist boss, returns home to Jack's Creek, North Carolina where she attempts to save her grandmother, Meemaw, from the attentions of a much younger man, and find her way back to the right path in life.

Author: Marita Golden

Title: And Do Remember Me

Description: Tells of the friendship of two women and the men they love over twenty-five years of political and personal evolution.

Author: Patricia McKillip

Title: Alphabet of Thorn

Description: The day that the new queen of Raine is crowned, a translator working in the palace receives a book written in a strange language of thornlike characters. As Nepenthe, the translator, unlocks the language's secret, she learns of a legend from the ancient past that involves her and the queen in an intrigue that threatens the kingdom itself.

Author: Gene Luen Yang

Title: American Born Chinese

Description: A graphic novel alternating three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture.

Author: Tony Morrison

Title: Beloved

Description: Sethe, an escaped slave who now lives in post-Civil War Ohio, has borne the unthinkable and works hard at "beating back the past." She struggles to keep Beloved, an intruder, from gaining possession of her present while throwing off the legacy of her past.

Author: Jay Amberg

Title: Blackbird Singing

Description: World-famous basketball player Robert "Sky" Walker and small-town detective Tom Hopkins are caught up in an increasingly dangerous web of violence, media mania, and massive egos, when Walker's nine-year-old daughter is kidnapped by a madman who wants fame more than he wants money.

Author: Anthony Grooms

Title: Bombingham: a Novel

Description: Walter Burke is taken back to his own childhood amidst the Civil Rights Movement when he is asked to write a letter to the parents of a fallen friend and fellow soldier.

Author: Sara Lorimer

Title: Booty: Girl Pirates on the High Seas

Description: A treasure trove of high adventure and bad behavior, Booty tells the all-true tales of real women pirates who prowled the seas from the 9th to early-20th centuries in search of easy prey and easy profit.

Author: Robin McKinley

Title: Chalice

Description: A beekeeper by trade, Mirasol's life changes completely when she is named the new Chalice, the most important advisor to the new Master, a former priest of fire.

Author: Lolita Files

Title: Child of God: a Novel

Description: Generations of the Boten family find themselves facing the demons of their past when a fire takes the life of the youngest Boten.

Author: David Maraniss

Title: Clemente: The Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero

Description: A biography of major league baseball player Roberto Clemente, chronicling his childhood in Nicaragua, his eighteen distinguished season, his charity work, and his tragic death.

Author: Joseph Bruchac

Title: Code Talker

Description: After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Author: Venise Berry

Title: Colored Sugar Water

Description: Lucy Merriweather and Adel Kelly struggle to help one another deal with their mid-life issues and balance their families, friends, and careers.

Author: Alan Paton

Title: Cry, the Beloved Country

Description: Accused of murdering a white man, a young black man in South Africa is helped by his minister father and by a white attorney, but the racial problems of the country prevent justice being done.

Author: John Dickinson

Title: The Cup of the World

Description: When Phaedra, a willful daughter of a baron, decides to marry for love, she sets off an unforeseeable chain of events and a battle between good and evil.

Author: Chris Crutcher

Title: Deadline

Description: Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide known as "Hey-Soos."

Author: Edward Abbey

Title: Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness

Description: Edward Abbey chronicles his life during his three seasons as a park ranger in southeastern Utah.

Author: Elizabeth Knox

Title: Dreamhunter

Description: In a world where select people can enter "The Place" and find dreams of every kind to share with others for a fee, a fifteen-year-old girl is training to be a dreamhunter when her father disappears, leaving her to carry on his mysterious mission.

Author: Michael D'Orso

Title: Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska

Description: Set in the remote Arctic recesses of Alaska, the village of Fort Yukon is home to six hundred people. Overwhelmingly populated by Athabascan Gwich'in Natives, Fort Yukon exists almost exclusively in the margins of American culture. The tiny population and vanishing cultural heritage of this town have one powerful link to mainstream America: their high school basketball team.

Author: John Steinbeck

Title: East of Eden

Description: A novel following the intertwined destinies of two families--the Trasks and the Hamiltons--whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel.

Author: Graham Salisbury

Title: Eyes of the Emperor

Description: Following orders from the United States Army, several young Japanese American men train K-9 units to hunt Asians during World War II.

Author: Jasper Fforde

Title: The Eyre Affair

Description: In a world where one can literally get lost in literature, Thursday Next, a Special Operative in literary detection, tries to stop the world's Third Most Wanted criminal from kidnapping characters from works of literature.

Author: Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton

Title: Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna

Description: A true and informative look at growing up in a tribe of nomads in Kenya through one young man's tales of work, tradition, and survival.

Author: James Bradley

Title: Flags of Our Fathers

Description: In 1945, six young men went from innocent anonymity to sensational national icons when they marched up the side of Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima and raised a flag.

Author: Jeannette Walls

Title: The Glass Castle: a Memoir

Description: The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcohol father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.

Author: Mario Livio

Title: The Golden Ratio: The Story of Phi, the World's Most Astonishing Number

Description: Throughout history, thinkers from mathematicians to theologians have pondered the mysterious relationship between numbers and the nature of reality. In this fascinating book, Mario Livio tells the tale of a number at the heart of that mystery: phi, or 1.6180339887...

Title: Good Poems

Description: Garrison Keillor offers accessible selections for people who say they don't like poetry.

Author: R.M. Johnson

Title: The Harris Men

Description: Fifty-five-year-old Julius Harris, diagnosed with terminal cancer, vows to use the time he has left to reconcile with the three sons he walked out on twenty years before, but his children, now grown men, are not quite sure they are ready to forgive and forget.

Author: Yolanda Joe

Title: The Hatweaver's Lesson

Description: Terri has lived with Grandmother Ollie since her mother passed away in childbirth, and her grandmother's sixth sense has always been correct, so when Grandmother Ollie suspects something is not right in Terri's life, she sets out to help her granddaughter choose the right path.

Author: Chris Wooding

Title: The Haunting of Alazabel Cray

Description: Jack the Ripper meets the supernatural in this horror tale set in an alternate Victorian London.

Author: Elizabeth Marshall Thomas

Title: The Hidden Life of Dogs

Description: What do dogs want? No matter how much you think you know already, you will learn something new about dogs here.

Author: Francis Davis

Title: The History of the Blues

Description: This book, published in advance of a three-part PBS companion series, is an account of the history of the blues, a uniquely American music.

Author: Susan Provost Beller

Title: The History Puzzle: How We Know What We Know about the Past

Description: Learn about the detective work that historians use to better understand our past, including the mysteries of the Stone Age, Herculaneum and Pompeii, Noah's Ark, the Great Wall of China, the legend of King Arthur, and more.

Author: Marc Gellman

Title: How Do You Spell God?: Answers to the Big Questions From Around the World

Description: With a refreshing combination of humor and sensitivity, a rabbi and a priest show us how Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and the other great religions teach us to live. This wise and thought-provoking book shows us that each religion has its own wisdom and its own wonderful stories.

Author: Amy Tan

Title: The Hundred Secret Senses

Description: Kwan moves from China to live with her family in San Francisco and develops a relationship with her half sister Olivia, confiding in Olivia about the ghosts who advise her about love and relationships.

Author: Chris Lynch

Title: Inexcusable

Description: High school senior and football player Keir sets out to enjoy himself on graduation night, but when he attempts to comfort a friend whose date has left her stranded, things go terribly wrong.

Author: Julia Alvarez

Title: In the Time of the Butterflies

Description: Gives a fictionalized account of four sisters in the Dominican Republic under the dictatorship of General Trujillo.

Author: Jeanette Farrell

Title: Invisible Allies: Microbes That Shape Our Lives

Description: Relates the historical significance of using "friendly" microbes to preserve foods, our long-standing ambivalence about the microbes that live on and in us, and our growing understanding of their importance.

Author: Elizabeth Partridge

Title: John Lennon: All I Want is the Truth

Description: The story of one of rock's biggest legends.

Author: Bear Grylls

Title: The Kid Who Climbed Everest: The Incredible Story of a 23-Year-old's Summit of Mt. Everest

Description: Full of courage, humor, friendship, and faith, this is the remarkable story of the youngest Englishman to climb Mount Everest.

Author: Khaled Hosseini

Title: The Kite Runner

Description: Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed, in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery to a Taliban official.

Author: Linda Goldenberg

Title: Little People and a Lost World: An Anthropological Mystery

Description: Archaeologists discovered a small humanlike skull on Flores Island during a 2003 dig. Was this an ancestor to us all or just a very small human being?

Author: Spencer Dunmore

Title: Lost Subs: From the Hunley to the Kursk, the Greatest Submarines Ever Lost--And Found

Description: Beginning with a history of the first attempts at submarine invention, this book provides a chronological look at some of the best-known submarines and the men responsible for the major innovations.

Author: Edith Hamilton

Title: Mythology

Description: A collection of Greek, Roman, and Norse myths retold by the author.

Author: Richard Wright

Title: Native Son

Description: Trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, a young black man finds release only in acts of violence.

Author: Jodi Picoult

Title: Nineteen Minutes: a Novel

Description: The people of Sterling, New Hampshire, are forever changed after a shooting at the high school leaves ten people dead, and the judge presiding over the trial tries to remain unbiased, even though her daughter witnessed the events and was friends with the assailant.

Author: T.H. White

Title: The Once and Future King

Description: Arthur becomes king of the Britons under the guidance of Merlin, in this classic fantasy.

Author: Sharon Ewell Foster

Title: Passing by Samaria

Description: Eighteen-year-old African-American Alena's sheltered life on her parent's Mississippi farm has not prepared her for the truth about racism, but a shocking discovery leads her to leave her home in 1919 and travel to Chicago in search of answers and justice.

Author: Alice Walker

Title: Possessing the Secret of Joy

Description: The story of Tashi, a tribal African woman who lives much of her adult life in North America struggling to recognize her own reality.

Author: Wade Hudson

Title: Powerful Words: More Than 200 Years of Extraordinary Writing By African Americans

Description: A collection of speeches and writings by African Americans, with commentary about the time period in which each person lived, information about the speaker/writer, and public response to the words.

Author: Laurie Halse Anderson

Title: Prom

Description: Eighteen-year-old Ash wants nothing to do with senior prom, but when disaster strikes and her desperate friend, Nat, needs her help to get it back on track, Ash's involvement transforms her life.

Author: Diane Ackerman

Title: The Rarest of the Rare: Vanishing Animals, Timeless Worlds

Description: Diane Ackerman looks for answers about animals that are disappearing as their habitats are destroyed.

Author: James I. Robertson

Title: Robert E. Lee: Virginian Soldier, American Citizen

Description: Presents the life and military career of Robert E. Lee, the commander-in-chief of the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

Author: Peter Howe

Title: Shooting Under Fire: The World of the War Photographer

Description: The candid testimony and stunning photography of the men and women who go into battle armed only with a camera to show warfare as it is and where it is.

Author: Chris Crutcher

Title: The Sledding Hill

Description: Billy, recently deceased, keeps an eye on his best friend, fourteen-year-old Eddie, who has added to his home and school problems by becoming mute, and helps him stand up to a conservative minister and English teacher who is orchestrating a censorship challenge.

Author: Tony Morrison

Title: Song of Solomon

Description: After meeting his mysterious aunt Pilate, whom his father warns is a bad influence, a young African-American man named Macon "Milkman" Dead III leaves his rich, cold home in 1950s Michigan in search of his roots

Author: Mary Roach

Title: Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers

Description: Discover the amazing life-after-death adventures of human bodies in this examination of how medical and research scientists use cadavers to make our lives better.

Author: Walter Dean Myers

Title: Sunrise over Fallujah

Description: Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

Author: Khaled Hosseini

Title: A Thousand Splendid Suns

Description: A novel set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban, which tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite their nineteen-year age difference and initial rivalry as they suffer at the hand of a common enemy: their abusive husband.

Author: John Steele Gordon

Title: A Thread Across the Ocean: The Heroic Story of the Transatlantic Cable

Description: A popularizer of economic and American history, Gordon tells the tale of connecting the Old World and the New by telegraph in 1866.

Author: Nevil Shute

Title: A Town Like Alice

Description: Tells of a young woman's forced march as a prisoner of war in Southeast Asia and her life afterwards as she leaves home to find the Australian soldier who helped her.

Author: An Na

Title: Wait For Me

Description: Caught in the threads of secrets and lies, struggling for love and discovering a voice of her own, Mina finds herself torn between living her mother's dreams and living a life that's true.

Author: Judy Blundell

Title: What I Saw and How I Lied

Description: In 1947, with her jovial stepfather Joe back from the war and family life returning to normal, teenage Evie, smitten by the handsome young ex-GI who seems to have a secret hold on Joe, finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies whose devastating outcome change her life and that of her family forever.

Author: Mark Todd

Title: Whatcha Mean, What's a Zine?

Description: A complete how-to guide for teens on personal writing and self-publishing in the form of zines, this resource includes tips and tricks from creators at the forefront of the zine revolution, including John Porcellino, Dave Kiersh, and Allison Cole.

Author: Julie Otsuka

Title: When the Emperor Was Divine

Description: Otsuka researched historical sources and her own grandparents' experiences as background for this spare yet poignant first novel about the ordeal of a Japanese family sent to an internment camp during World War II.

Author: Adele Griffin

Title: Where I Want to Be

Description: Two teenaged sisters are separated by death but still connected.

Author: Ivan Doig

Title: The Whistling Season

Description: "Can't cook but doesn't bite." So begins the newspaper ad offering the services of an "A-I housekeeper, sound morals, exceptional disposition" that draws the hungry attention of widower Oliver Milliron in the fall of 1909.

Author: Milbry Polk

Title: Women of Discovery: A Celebration of Intrepid Women Who Explored the World

Description: Based on ten years of research, "Women of Discovery" honors the spirit and achievements of more than 80 heroic women, past and present, who broke boundaries in fields from anthropology to space exploration.

Author: Zac Unger

Title: Working Fire: The Making of an Accidental Fireman

Description: One man's journey from Ivy League graduate to dedicated firefighter and paramedic, discussing his training, the moments of triumph and tragedy, the harrowing and hilarious calls, his fierce passion for his work, and the camaraderie that exists among his comrades.