

**Summer Reading List 2001
By Librarians for Librarians
Master List – Alphabetically**

Almond, David. *Skellig*. (YA)

A lonely boy who has recently moved meets a girl and bird like creature who help him to develop the courage to face his family crisis.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever 1793* (YA/Historical Fiction)

This novel is based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that wiped out 10 percent of the city's population in three months. Fourteen-year-old Matilda Cook is the plucky heroine of the story, overcoming illness and loss to become a strong, capable young woman.

Bagdasarian, Adam. *Forgotten Fire* (Adult/Historical Fiction)

It's the story of a young boy coming of age during the Armenian Holocaust. Also pairs nicely with the more complex and sophisticated *Painted Bird* by Jerzy Kosinski - story of a young boy orphaned and alone during the Nazi Holocaust in Poland. "Both are very intense. Not necessarily what I would call 'fluffy beach reading'. Both are unforgettable."

Bodkin, Odds. *Ghost of the Southern Belle: A Sea Tale*. (Elementary/ Picture book for older readers)

This is a book about two schooners in Gloucester Harbor. The captain of the *Southern Belle* is from New Orleans and has come North just to race "Yankees." The captain of the *Candace* obliges the confederate captain with a race, but a Nor'easter blows in and sinks the *Southern Belle*. The captain of the *Candace* is too afraid to risk his ship and men to go back and rescue the men of the *Southern Belle*, so everyone perishes. When the *Southern Belle* returns as a ghost ship, a series of deadly sinkings soon follow. "After the light house keeper reported sighting a pale vessel racing alongside a doomed schooner just before she sank, all of Gloucester knew the seas were haunted."

Breathnach, Sara Ban. *Simple Abundance*. (Adult)

This book features a year's worth of essays written from a woman's perspective with gentle advice about self-discovery. "It could be started at anytime."



Bryson, Bill. *A Walk in the Woods*. (Adult/Autobiography)

This book is a very humorously told, autobiographical saga of a middle-aged, out-of-shape journalist's attempt to hike the Appalachian Trail from beginning to end. "I put off reading it many times because I didn't think I would like it. Once I started, however, I found it hard to put down."

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game* (Large HS following/ SciFi)

"Normally I don't like to read Sci-Fi. but so many students and teachers were reading it that I took it out a few months ago. It is amazing."

Carlson, Laurie Winn. *A Fever in Salem: A New Interpretation of the New England Witch Trials*. (YA/Historical Fiction)

This is a fascinating and very readable account of the famous Salem witch trial period, which suggests that the fits, hallucinations, "prickings," and paralysis were not at all the work of the devil, nor of Freudian based hysteria, but rather were caused by an outbreak of *Encephalitis Lethargica*. Carlson reviews the testimony of the Salem victims, and parallels their evidence with symptoms from patients who suffered from an outbreak of this disease early in the 20th century. The author makes a compelling case. Must reading for people interested in this strange episode in our history.

Chang, Jung. *Wild Swans*. (Adult/Non-fiction)

Story of the Chinese Revolution as told through the eyes of three generations of Chinese Women.



Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. (Adult/Historical Fiction)

Through the eyes of 16-yr-old Griet, the world of 1660's Holland comes alive in this richly imagined portrait of the young woman who inspired one of Vermeer's most celebrated paintings. (Alex Award)

Clark, Mary Higgins. *On the Street Where You Live* (Adult, YA appeal/ Fiction-Mystery)

Is today's serial killer a copycat of the Spring Lake murderer of the 1890's-- or a reincarnation?

Clemens, Rod. *Just an ordinary day*. (Picture)

A silly story of a young girl you follow through two stories. The words tell a different story than the illustrations!

Colfer, Eoin. *Artimis Fowl*. (Elementary/ Fantasy)

Set in modern day Ireland, Artimis Fowl is a 12-year old criminal mastermind. Combining folklore, fantasy, mystery and technology in the world of fairies, Colfer has created a fun adventure.

Coman, Carolyn. *Many Stones*. (YA)

Berry's sister was murdered in South Africa. Now, Berry and her father travel to So. Africa to attend a memorial service. While on the trip Berry must deal with the anger she feels towards her father, for walking out on her and her mother, and the brutal death of her sister. The author uses the plot location to show the stark contrast of poverty vs. wealth in So. Africa.

Coville, Bruce. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. (Elementary/Picture for older readers)

This is a beautifully illustrated and retold tale of Shakespeare's play. It works well as an introduction to The Bard. It breaks the story down into understandable parts, while keeping the essence of Shakespeare, and I can't stress enough how beautiful the illustrations are.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale talk*. (YA/Fiction)

TJ Jones is a natural athlete without much use for the organized sports of his sports-oriented high school. But when a respected teacher asks him to start a school swimming team, TJ sees an opportunity to change the school stereotypes of what defines an athlete.

DeFelice, Cynthia. *Cold Feet*. (Picture book for older readers)

An original folktale about a shoeless Scottish bagpiper who, in the process of taking the boots off a frozen corpse he comes across, snaps the legs off too. 4th graders loved the humor, gore, & ghoulishness in this story.

de Groat, Diane. *Roses Are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink*. (Picture/Holiday)

It's almost Valentine's Day, and Gilbert has a stack of blank Valentine's Day cards to fill with nice poems for his classmates. But why, Gilbert wonders, should he write a nice poem for Lewis, who tweaked his nose, or for Margaret, who made fun of his glasses? That's when he decides to get back at Lewis and Margaret, not knowing that it will turn the whole class topsy-turvy. The pen is truly mightier than the sword in this hilarious treat of a Valentine book, with its subtle message about forgiveness and being a good friend.

Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*. (Adult/Historical)

This is my favorite classic novel. It is so well written, and so romantic. I love the characters of Lucy Manette, and Charles Darnay. The whole French Revolution history is extremely well written. You don't get bored with it since it is wrapped right into the characters' lives. Some parts I skipped over when the details got too overbearing, but on the whole I love this book.

Dickinson, Rebecca. *The 13 Nights of Halloween*. (Picture)

This is a Halloween take off of the 12 days of Christmas. The spooky, but not too spooky illustrations are really neat.

Early, Margaret. *Romeo and Juliet*. (Elementary/ Picture for older readers)

A beautifully retold and illustrated version of Shakespeare's Play. It makes a great introduction to his work.

Easley, MaryAnn. *I am the ice worm*. (Elementary/Adventure)

Allison Atwood could be the female counterpart to *Hatchet*. The setting is Alaska where she is traveling to visit her mother when her plane crashes. Coming from California she quickly learns the harsh realities of the ice cold world of her rescuer, the Inupiat. As the outsider or "ice worm" she comes to learn about this world and her old world with new eyes.

Efaw, Amy. *Battle Dress* (YA/Fiction)

About a 17 year old girl who arrives at West Point and struggles to achieve self-esteem and success.

Faulks, Sebastian. *Birdsong: A Novel of Love and War* . (Adult)

Faulks brings the life and times of the early 1900's and WWI to life. The love & romance part of the book is good, but the most compelling and unforgettable parts are in the descriptions of the war, the battles, the soldiers, and in particular, the main character's struggle to maintain his humanity amidst the horrors and atrocities of war.

Francis, Dick. *Any Title*. (Adult mystery)

Intriguing mysteries, British wit and humor, suspense, and well-drawn characterization is what to expect in any Dick Francis book. "I only wish I hadn't read them all already and could have one waiting in the wings for me for summer reading this year."

Hobb, Robin. *Live Ship Trilogy*. (Adult/Fantasy)

This is a fantasy trilogy. I can't remember the exact title of the first book, but the 2nd two titles are: *Mad Ship*, and *Ship of Destiny*. The Bing Town Traders all own live ships. These ships are made out of wizardwood. The secret to wizardwood, is that 3 family members have to die on the ship and then it comes to life, but the deeper, darker, by far more interesting thing about wizardwood is? You will have to read this trilogy to find out the answer! "I hardly ever read fantasy but this was an excellent series. I couldn't put these books down."

Gantos, Jack. *Joey Pigza Swallows the Key*. (Elementary/Adult -Professional)

This book is a must for any professional who works with children with ADHD. Yes, the books intended audience is upper elementary grade children, BUT, reading this book made me understand the students I work with daily in a much more understanding and empathetic way. Joey's first person narration of what it is like to be "wired" made me understand ADHD more than any professional book or conference I have ever attended.

Golden, Arthur. *Memoirs of a Geisha* (Adult/Historical Fiction)

Golden has created a vivid picture of the life of the Geisha, a cultural phenomena misunderstood by most Westerners. Categorized as fiction, but carefully researched.

Grealy, Lucy. *Autobiography of a Face*. (YA/Biography)

The author is disfigured at the age of ten, as the consequence of bone cancer in her jaw. The resulting surgery and treatment leaves her with a grotesque face. Grealy's matter-of-fact descriptions of the social isolation she suffered during adolescence are both graphic and touching. She becomes an oddball, and eventually does some pretty self-destructive things, but with the aid of reconstructive surgery and with the support of special friends and family, Grealy pulls through. This is a beautifully written real life story of "triumph over tragedy." Although it is an adult book, it has wide appeal for high-schoolers. (NOT middle school level).

Jeffers, Susan. *Feel The Fear Do It Anyway*. (Adult/Professional)

"Dynamic techniques for turning fear, indecision, and anger into power, action, and love." This is the book I read the summer before I became the K-4 Librarian as well as the 9-12. It helped me in innumerable ways to accept where I was at in terms of my feelings and to form a plan of action and an attitude that would help me to work through those feelings.

Johnson, Jane. *The Princess and the Painter*. (Picture)

This is a book about Diego Velazquez and his friendship with the Infanta Princess Margarita as he is painting the famous picture Las Meninas. The illustrations in this book are just incredible, and the story itself is beautiful and touching. This book makes a neat introduction to art and famous painters.

Jordan, Sherryl. *Raging Quiet*. (YA/Historical Fiction)

When an accident frees 16-year-old Marnie from a loveless marriage, she is determined to make a home for herself in her husband's small cottage. Her only friends are a priest and a boy the townspeople call "Raver" because, not realizing that he is deaf, they think he is possessed by the devil. A wonderful book which reads quickly and captures the cruelty of the times.

Joseph, Lynn. *The Color of My Words*. (Grade 5+/Multicultural Fiction)

The review from amazon.com says "Lynn Joseph paints a vibrant, colorful landscape of this Caribbean island (Dominican Republic) where love, warmth of community, and abundant natural beauty soften the kind of poverty that makes paper--and sometimes doing what you think is right--a luxury. Readers will be inspired by Ana Rosa's drive and talent, warmed by vivid stories of her close-knit family, and moved by those who fight for what's right at the greatest possible cost."

Karon, Jan. *At home in Mitford*. (Adult/ Contemporary Fiction)

Gentle stories of small-town life with deftly crafted characters. First in a series of five titles.

Kaufman PhD., Gerhen. *Shame; the power of caring*. (Adult/Professional)

"Kaufman identifies the role shame plays in connecting dysfunctional family systems, childhood sexual abuse, addiction recovery...." A book that helped me to define this condition. Every person who works with kids should read it.

Lynch, Chris. *Slot Machine* (YA/Fiction)

Elvin spends "Twentyone Nights with the Knights", a summer camp for incoming high school freshman, with his two best friends to make them athletes. Problem-his friends can play the game, he can't/won't/doesn't. Very Funny and bitter-sweet seeing how they survive.



Mah, Adeline. *Chinese Cinderella*. (Middle Grades-up/Autobiography)

"Fifth Younger Sister" or "Wu Mei," as Yen Mah was called, is only an infant when her father remarries after her mother's death. As the youngest of her five siblings, Wu Mei suffers the worst at the hands of her stepmother Niang.

Mazer, Norma Fox. *Good night Maman*. (Upper elementary –up/Historical Fiction)

Like all Jews in France during World War II, Karin and her older brother Marc are on the run from the Nazis. They are lucky enough to find places on a ship bound for the United States, but Maman is too ill for the journey and must stay behind. At the refugee camp in Oswego, New York, Karin takes comfort in writing unmailed letter after letter to her mother, as she and Marc struggle to adjust.

McCormick, Pat. *Cut*. (YA/Fiction)

While confined to a mental hospital, 15 year old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation and gradually starts to get better.

Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone With the Wind*. (Adult/Historical)

Scarlett O'Hara is ruthless, selfish, and vain, but somehow despite all that, you just can't help admiring her. You just have to respect the way she steps up to save the family plantation over and over again. She pulls her entire family through the deprivation, and starvation in the aftermath of the Civil War, and eventually you realize she does have a heart. This book took me a month to read, but it was well worth the time

Mosher, Howard Frank. *Stranger in the Kingdom* (Adult/Fiction)

Described as a Northern *To Kill a Mockingbird*. "Very well written and enjoyable."

Nielsen, Dr. Jerri. *Icebound*. (Adult/Non-fiction)

This true account of the rescue of the doctor who was stationed in Antarctica, is told by the doctor herself. She discovered she had breast cancer while at the Pole. The book has incredible descriptions of Antarctica and the tremendous effort that was made to save her life.



Park, Barbara. *The graduation of Jake Moon*. (Upper Elem/Fiction)

Jake's grandfather has Alzheimer's disease, and Jake, who once idolized him, now feels nothing but shame as he dismisses publicly, and resents privately, this helpless old man.

Perry, Anne. *Twisted Root*. (Adult/Historical Fiction (Mystery))

Perry's mysteries capture the lost world of England's Victorian age. In this story, the sudden disappearance of the bride-to-be from a garden party at the home of her fiancé begins a chilling tale of love and betrayal. Perry's well-known sleuths, William Monk and his wife Hester, lead the reader along an interesting trail as they try to unravel the secret that is deeply buried to solving this mystery.

Rennison, Louise. *Angus Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging*. (YA/Humor/Teen life)

Georgia Nicolson records the momentous events of her life in her diary which serves as a truly hilarious account of what it means to be a modern girl on the cusp of womanhood.

Robb, J. D. ... *In Death*. (Adult/Mystery)

This is an entire new set of books from an author who writes romance novels under the name Nora Roberts. All the books are something in death: *Glory in Death, Naked in Death, Ceremony in Death, Rapture in Death etc...* These books are cop/mystery/romance novels set in the future 2058. The main character is Eve Dallas and the romance/love interest is Roark. Excellent beach reads.



Rubio, Gwyn Hyman. *Icy Sparks*. (Grade 8 up/Fiction)

As a child in the 1950's, Icy Sparks is set apart from her classmates by her strange noises and mannerisms. She finally learns as an adult, that she has Tourette's Syndrome.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. (Upper Elementary – up/ Fiction)

Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of back luck. To continue the saga, Stanley is sent to a correctional "camp" in the Texas desert. There he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*. (YA)

A new girl arrives at an Arizona High School. She's fresh, different, bright and without vulnerability to peer pressures. She gives precious gifts of insight and kindness to a boy and his community. Riveting reading.

Starkey, David. *Elizabeth: The Struggle for the Throne*. (Adult/Biography)

Excellent biography of the early life of Elizabeth I, from her birth until she consolidates power. Very well-written.

Sutcliff, Rosemary. *The Minstrel and The Dragon Pup*. (Elementary/Fantasy)

This is a beautifully told and illustrated book. It is about a minstrel who walks by just as a baby dragon falls from its nest to the ground. The minstrel picks up the pup and cares for it. The minstrel and the pup become fast friends and have an interesting adventure.

Tan, Amy. *The Bonesetter's Daughter*. (Adult/Fiction)

Weaves present Chinese culture with the past while poignantly portraying the complex relationship of mothers and daughters.

Whelan, Gloria. *Homeless Bird*. (Upper Elementary)

When 13 year old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she suffers the destiny dictated by India's tradition for a daughter-in-law, until she is abandoned by her mother-in-law and left to make her own way. "This was a book I couldn't put down and was quite surprised, at the end, to discover it was set in modern times."

Woodwiss, Kathleen. *A Rose in Winter*. (Adult/Romance/Pool Read)

From the back cover: " Erienne's father had given her hand to the richest suitor. She was now Lady Saxton, mistress of a great manor all but ruined by fire, wife to a man whose mysteriously shrouded form aroused fear and pity. As she fell in love with her adoring husband, Erienne despaired of freeing her heart from the dashing handsome Yankee who couldn't forget her. Now believing her self in love with two men, Erienne has to make a choice, or so she believes!" It is my favorite romance novel.

Wynd, Oswald. *The Ginger Tree*. (Adult/Historical Fiction)


A 20-year-old girl sails to China to marry a British citizen, but soon horrifies the British community by having an affair with a young Japanese count. (Also a recent *Masterpiece Theater* production)

Yolen, Jane. *The Ballad of the Pirate Queens*. (Elementary/Picture book for older readers)

The book is about Anne Bonney and Mary Reade sailing on the pirate ship *Vanity* captained by Rackham "Calico Jack". The *Vanity* gets captured by the English navy even though Anne and Mary fight the English sailors, because the men are down below playing games.

Yolen, Jane. *Queen's Own Fool* (YA/Historical Fiction)

A 12 year old girl becomes a fool/companion to Mary, Queen of Scots.

 = Indicates a title with multiple recommendations.