


## Librarians' Summer Reading List Master List 2009

 Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Wintergirls**. Young Adult.

*Summary: I got a little tired of hearing that Cassie called Lia 33 times on the night she died, but once that was over, the rest of the book dug its claws in and wouldn't let go. It's a wrenching story of both anorexia and bulimia, who wins and who loses in the battle to be thinnest. Don't believe everything you read in the reviews about Cassie committing suicide, though. You may not be convinced.*

Banks, LA et al. **The Ancestors**. Adult

*Summary: Three short stories about the supernatural. Very scary, very elegant.*

Barnes, Kim. **A Country Called Home**. Adult.

*Summary: This is a powerful and beautiful tale of two young idealists who go west in the early Sixties, seeking adventure. Their innocence soon leads to unexpected tragedy. Barnes writes lyrically, and builds the tension in the story wonderfully. Recommended for older teens.*

Bauer, Joan. **Stand Tall**. Middle Grades

*Summary: Many of you may know this one--somehow I missed it until the recent SLMS conference, when I got a free (and defective--no pp. 119-150) copy. It was definitely worth scaring up a complete copy. Lots of laughs, from the opening when Tree has to map out a battle plan across the no-man's-land of joint custody and school paperwork, to the antics of a geriatric dog, a lethargic reptile, and an obsessive-compulsive parrot. As if that weren't enough, Bauer does a lovely job with the serious plots of adolescent bullying and of Tree's Vietnam-veteran grandfather Leo, who courageously meets the consequences of his and the nation's wartime experiences.*

Blundell, Judy. **What I Saw and How I Lied**. Young Adult

*Summary: A psychological thriller set soon after the end of World War II. 16 yr. old Evie experiences first love, betrayal, and probable murder in this stylish, sly book that feels like film noire. Great writing!*

Collins, Suzanne. **The Hunger Games** Young Adult.

*Summary: An edge-of-your-seat suspenseful tale set in the future, when each of the 12 regions in our country must send 2 "tributes" between the ages of 12 and 18 to participate in the punitive Hunger Games: a survival game, to the death. Katniss is horrified to hear her younger sister's name chosen, and volunteers to go in her place, and we follow her experience with bated breath. (Sequel in Sep 09!)*

Conant, Jennet. **The Irregulars Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington**. Adult

*Summary: Roald Dahl was a spy during WWII! How could I never of heard this story. Dahl worked with Ian Flemming and other notables to get the USA involved in WWII. A great story about a much loved author.*

Davidson, Andrew. **The Gargoyle**. Adult

*Summary: While recovering from severe burns after a car accident the narrator is waiting for the day when he can go home and commit suicide. Instead he meets a beautiful woman who claims to have known him in a previous life. Beautifully written.*



- Titles which have also appeared on previous lists.



- Titles which have had multiple recommendations.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***Mercy Watson Series***. Middle Grades

*Summary: Mercy Watson is the cherished pet pig of Mr. and Mrs. Watson. Her neverending search for treats, especially toast with a great deal of butter on it, leads to all sorts of funny adventures. Loved by children, fun for adults to read.*

Ensor, Barbara. ***Cinderella (As If You Didn't Already Know the Story)***. Middle Grades

*Summary: A sassy retelling of the Cinderella Story in a chapter book form but with tons of word art and pictures. Will be loved by middle grades and young adults alike.*

Gardner, Sally. ***The Red Necklace***. Young Adult

*Summary: The French Revolution is in the making and a young man must save the girl he loves. Magic and intrigue abound.*

Gilbert, Elizabeth. ***Eat, Pray, Love***. Adult

*Summary: A tale of one woman's year long journey with faith.*

Gladwell, Malcolm. ***Outliers: the story of success***. Adult

*Summary: After reading this very short readable book you'll never look at success the same way. I led a discussion of this book at a professional development day in my district. Everyone loved it and it generated lots of conversation.*

 Green, John. ***Paper Towns***. Young Adult

*Summary: Quentin has been in love with his neighbor, Margot Roth Spiegelman, most of their childhood, though they move in different circles now. When she shows up at his bedroom window in the middle of the night a few weeks before their high school graduation to enlist his help in exacting revenge on her boyfriend and a few others, a chain of events is set into motion that he can not resist (and neither could this reader).*

Hale, Shannon. ***Book of a Thousand Days***. Middle Grades.

*Summary: Set in medieval Mongolia, this is a retelling of a Grimm's fairy tale. Dashti, a maid and her Lady Saren, are shut in a tower for 7 years since Saren refused to marry a man she despises. Lyrical told, this is a sweeping adventure with a dash of humor, romance and great drama.*

Hannah, Kristin. ***Fire Fly Lane***. Adult

*Summary: Light & airy summer read about two women whose friendship remains constant.*

 Horan, Nancy. ***Loving Frank***. Adult

*Summary: Historical fiction at its best! Through her words, this is the story of Mamah Borthwick and her relationship with Frank Lloyd Wright. Their affair caused a great scandal in Oak Park, Illinois and beyond. We see in her story a woman of great passion and intelligence, fighting a battle to maintain a life with one's soul mate while also keeping the love of her children and the need to conform. A truly exceptional read.*



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King, Laurie R. ***The Language of Bees***. Adult (suitable for high school)

*Summary: In this latest installment of her Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes series, Mary must face her own insecurities as well as the ghosts of Holmes' past. Start the series with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*. This is the newest in a while in this series and I immediately remembered why I loved the language and voice.*

Kluger, Steve. ***My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins and Fenway Park***. Young Adult

*Summary: Follow three high school freshmen as they individually discover their sexual orientation and theatrical talent and while attempting to make a deaf child's greatest wish come true. Multiple formats (instant messaging, etc). keep the pace brisk in this feel good novel full of romance, humor, friendship and baseball. You will wish you knew these kids!*

Lowry, Lois. ***The Willoughbys***. Middle Grades

*Summary: **The Willoughbys** is a fun read about 4 orphans, a foundling, neglectful and even malicious parents, and a nanny who sets it all right. A parody that references many other classic orphan novels, this novel ties up all loose ends at the conclusion when everyone gets their just deserts.*

Martin, George R.R. ***The Game of Thrones (series w/ four books +)***. Adult


*Summary: Follow the Starks as they try to survive and control the country of Westeros. This series has been picked up by HBO to be aired in the future. It is a fantasy series comprised of 4 novels and counting.*

 Meyer, Stephanie. ***Twilight Series (4 books in the series)***. Young Adult

*Summary: Follow the adventures of a klutz named Bella as she tries to survive high school, vampires and werewolves.*

Nuzum, K. A.. ***A Small White Scar***. Young Adult

*Summary: Two brothers have to learn how to grow up with a disability. It is based out West in the 1940's.*

 Paolini, Christopher. ***Eragon***. Young Adult


*Summary: Part 1 of the Inheritance trilogy. Magic and powers abound as fifteen year old Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, strive to rid Alagaësia of evil and treachery. A page turner.*


Philbrick, Rodman. ***The (mostly True) Adventures of Homer P. Figg***. Middle Grades

*Summary: This tongue-in-cheek and very funny story is set in the time of the Civil War. When Homer's older brother Harold is quite literally sold into the army by the boys' evil Uncle Squint, Homer goes on an epic journey to try and find Harold. A rollicking tale that nevertheless manages to touch on the truth and suffering of this time in US history.*

Rex, Adam. ***The True Meaning of Smekday***. Middle Grades

*Summary: Gratuity Tucci and her alien Boov sidekick take the van across the country in quest of the entire displaced population of America. Huck Finn meets a twisted update of Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee in this cheeky, multi-layered sci-fi satire.*

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Scieszka, Jon. **Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories of Growing up Scieszka**. Middle Grades

*Summary: Loved this memoir of Scieszka's growing up with his 5 brothers! It brought back lots of memories of my own childhood with 8 brothers, Catholic schools, nuns, playing outside with no more than a mudpile and a stick. This should be a great read for kids!*

Shaffer, Mary Ann and Annie Barrows. **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**. Adult

*Summary: A novel told entirely through correspondence between a young woman writer in 1946 London and the members of a literary society on the island of Guernsey, which had been occupied and isolated by the Nazis for 5 years. A bit of a love story, fascinating historical information, and a full cast of quirky, endearing characters.*

Sittenfeld, Curtis. **American Wife**. Adult

*Summary: This is an engaging, fictionalized biography of Laura Bush. Through fiction, Ms. Sittenfeld has explained so much about the Bush family and Presidency.*

Stein, Garth. **The Art of Racing in the Rain**. Adult.


*Summary: A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope—a captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it*


Weiner, Eric. **The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World**. Adult.

*Summary: This made me laugh out loud and great for a book group*

 Zusak, Markus. **The Book Thief**. Young Adult (issued as Adult in New Zealand when originally published)

*Summary: Hitler's Germany troubles the lives of a young German girl, her communist mother, who gives the girl up shortly before being arrested, her adoptive German parents, their neighbors, and a young man hidden in their basement. Death is the narrator in this book, and is perplexed but loving in his observations on humanity..*

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